



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furdek
Our Founder

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NUMBER 5782

Attention Members of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District Parma, Ohio Seminar

The FCSU Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a sales Seminar on Sunday, August 17, 2008, at the St. Charles Catholic Church Parish Community Center, 5891 Ridge Road in Parma, Ohio, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

This sales seminar is available to all branch officers, District officers and recommenders in the Reverend Stephen Furdek District 10. Any First Catholic Slovak Union member interested in learning about and selling insurance and annuity products is also urged to attend this seminar. Form a car pool and get involved in sales.

Please be sure to make your reservations by calling either Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt at 1-800/533-6682 or Linda Kolesar, District 10 Vice President, at 440/886-0206 by August 11, 2008.

See you on August 17th.

Until then

Good Luck and God Bless,
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President/Chairman,
Membership & Marketing



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- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.

- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.

- Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

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Jankola Library Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Daniel F. Tanzone

The Jankola Library and Slovak Archives located at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania, celebrates an important milestone. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of one of the most important depositories of Slovak literature, culture and the arts in the United States. It houses the private collections of some of the outstanding Americans of Slovak ancestry including those of the late Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, Dr. Peter P. Hletko, Dr. Stephanie Husek among others.

Over the years, Sister M. Martina Tybor began her collection of Slovakianna. With the approval of the community, Jankola Library became a reality in the spring of 1968. The library was named for Father Matthew Jankola, founder of the congregation and pioneer Slovak religious and fraternal leader who was himself a gifted writer and author. Herself a gifted author and educator, Sister Martina, a native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, was among the most knowledgeable Americans on the history, culture and language of the Slovaks and the likely choice to head this new and important apostolate of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius whose love and support for Slovak cultural preservation was well-known. Her translations of many Slovak works of literature and poetry were classic. Her translation of Slovak works of literature and poetry as well as the lyrics of Slovak songs enabled the English speaking world to savor some of the rich culture of Slovakia.

During her long tenure as director, Sister Martina guided the expansion of the facility into one of the largest ethnic depositories in the United States. With the cooperation of the Slovak fraternal press, Jankola Library provided a much needed center for the Slovak American community scattered across all 50 states. Sister Martina had the opportunity to visit Slovakia even during the communist period. She collaborated with the Slovak Institute Rome-Cleveland and was known and respected by Slovak intellectuals and artists world-wide. She received numerous honors and awards including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor as an American of Slovak ancestry. She served as director until her retirement in 1992.

In 1992, Sister M. Mercedes Voytko was appointed the second director of Jankola library. The Hazleton, Pennsylvania native brought a wealth of scholarly study and creative genius. Under her tutelage, the collections of the library were greatly expanded. Collaborations with serious scholars such as Michael Novak, Robert Trisco, George Turner, David Washburn, Joseph M. Kirschbaum, Karol Strman and others expanded. Under her leadership, the library acquired the expansive museum of the First Catholic Slovak Union and other acquisitions were added to the archival collections. Its collections of Slovak folk songs, hymnals, works on the development of musical arts, on the contributions of leading performers and composers, as well as many music scores for solo performances and for accompaniment were increased. Tours of the facility were made available and interest in the work of Jankola Library greatly expanded. Sister Mercedes

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From the Office of the Vice-President Sales Seminar Held in New York City

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a sales seminar on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Parish Hall in New York City.

Recommenders from the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District and the Msgr. John E. Rura District were invited to attend. Among those present was National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Representing Region I was Regional Director Joseph F. Minarovich. Many thanks go to District President Maria Zakovic for making arrangements for the seminar. The seminar was well received and centered around the FCSU's insurance and annuity portfolio.

The event started with a Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. There was a buffet after the seminar where door prizes were given out.

It is the branch recommenders who play a key role in our life insurance business. People who buy insurance need to understand what they are buying and why. This is the responsibility of our recommenders. The knowledge we gain at seminars will become a practical sales tool. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we will become as recommenders.

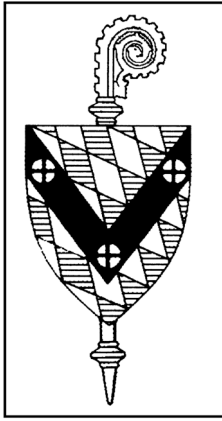
Please attend the next seminar scheduled for your area.

Until then

Good Luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President

Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Champion P. Gavaler, O.D.B.

August 17, 2008

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew

15:21-28

Gospel Summary

While Jesus is in the Gentile region of Tyre and Sidon, a Canaanite woman approaches and cries out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." Jesus' disciples ask him to send her away for she keeps crying out after them, "Lord, help me." Jesus replies with the popular saying

that it is not right to take the food of the children (Israelites) and throw it to the dogs (Gentiles). The woman replies that even dogs eat scraps that fall from the table of their masters. Jesus then says to her, "O woman, great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish." The woman's daughter was healed at that very moment.

Life Implications

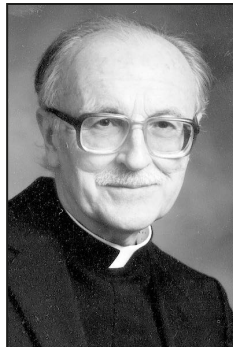
These days we are acutely aware of many conflicts in the Church, ranging from debates about church renovations to the meaning of Hinduism in God's plan. Today's gospel about the Canaanite woman's encounter with Jesus reminds us that conflict is not something new in the Church. A major and often acrimonious conflict in the very first decades of the early Church was the issue of admitting Gentiles. Church authorities at least theoretically settled the question about the observance of the Mosaic Law by Gentile converts in the 50s (Acts 15 and Gal 2). Practically, however, conflicts continued both within the Church and with synagogue authorities even through the 80s when Matthew was composing his gospel.

Even though issues of the Mosaic tradition like circumcision and dietary prohibitions no longer are sources of conflict, perhaps we can learn some useful things from the experience of those early years as we approach conflicts in the Church today. One thing seems evident: Jesus did not write a theological-canon law blueprint to resolve questions concerning the admission of Gentile converts into the Church.

What Matthew did in his gospel was to use various events in Jesus' life to show that the theology concerning the Church's universal mission of his time was in harmony with the intention of Jesus. Immediately before the episode with the Canaanite woman, Matthew tells us about the conflict between Jesus and authorities within his own Jewish community concerning various issues of the Mosaic tradition. In regard to dietary laws, Jesus argued that in respect to God's law, it is not what goes into the mouth that counts, but what comes from the heart and out of the mouth that defiles a person. These are the things that exclude people from the messianic banquet, not unclean food. Here Jesus alerts us to the necessity of distinguishing between human and divine precepts.

The question of clean and unclean pales in significance when compared with the conflict that would erupt in the early Church about who would be included among God's chosen people. In the climate of Jesus' time, the Canaanite woman represented all the excluded. The Canaanites were the ancient enemies of Israel, and thus presumably of God. Now this woman begins to break through the impassable boundary that separated her from the Jewish man she sensed was a source of life. She goes into the public square (a male domain), and takes the initiative in addressing a man—not only a man, but Jesus as the Son of David. It is no surprise that the disciples begged Jesus to get rid of her.

Jesus acknowledged that his mission, indeed, was a restricted one—to the lost sheep



**Champion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.**

of the house of Israel. Even when she came and knelt before him, he reminded her of the popular saying about throwing the food of the children to dogs. When she said that even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table, he was moved to action by his own compassion and by her faith. Matthew used this event to authenticate the early Church's universal mission. Everyone is invited to sit at the Master's family table, sharing food as his own children.

No one is to be excluded because of race or social class. Accepting the invitation by faith is what counts.

The event of the encounter with the Canaanite woman is also significant because it appears that through this experience Jesus' own horizon was significantly expanded. Matthew makes a point of this to serve as a liberating model for his own community and for our Church today. We, like Jesus, must be open to change, and not be trapped in a rigid mind-set by repeating sayings that no longer represent what God wants. Further, we learn that persons whom God chooses to enlighten us are often like the Canaanite woman. We, like Jesus' disciples, may think it best to get rid of them as quickly as possible. However, if we share Jesus' compassion for people in need, we may discover a new thing that God expects of us today.

August 24, 2008

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 16:13-20

Gospel Summary

This Sunday's passage is part of the fourth section (13:54-18:35) of Matthew's gospel in which he explains the meaning of Jesus in relation to the church. Throughout this section we learn that many people did not understand who Jesus was and even took offence at him because of their lack of belief (Mt 13:54-58). It is against this background that Jesus asks his disciples: "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon replies: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus congratulates him as blessed because the heavenly Father has revealed this truth to him. Jesus then, like Yahweh giving Abraham a new name, gives Simon a new name -- Peter, Rock. (Petros in Greek means rock.) He then states that upon this Rock he will build his church, against which no evil will prevail. Further, Jesus promises to give Simon Peter (Rock) the keys to the kingdom of heaven so that whatever he binds or looses on earth will be bound or loosed in heaven.

Life Implications

The historical, earthly Jesus is no longer present to ask us: "Who do you say that I am?" We may mistakenly be inclined to think that if we did have that first-hand experience today, it would be much easier to affirm Jesus as "Christ, the Son of the living God." The presence of the earthly Jesus, however, is not an advantage in regard to the gift of faith. As we know, most people who heard him and talked with him did not recognize his true identity.

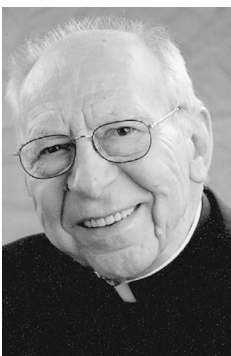
In his humanity, Jesus was a sacrament, a visible sign of the invisible divine presence. There was a double reality about him -- one visible, able to be grasped by human reason; the other, invisible, able to be grasped only when revealed by the heavenly Father and accepted in faith. The life implication for us lies in the fact that Jesus, to whom "all power in heaven and on earth has been given" (Mt 28:18), extends his meaning as sacrament of divine presence to others.

Jesus identifies Simon Peter as the Rock upon which his church will be built so that Peter's binding and loosing on earth simultaneously binds and looses in heaven. Thus the church with its visible structure of authority, through Christ's power, becomes an extension of Christ as the sacrament of his presence in history. There is as a consequence a double reality about the church through its communion with Christ -- one visible, able to be recognized by human reason; the other, invisible, able to be recognized only when revealed by the heavenly Father and accepted in faith.

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Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Way of Love (Part I)



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

"Jesus looked at him with love and told him, 'There is one thing more you must do'." (Mark 10:21) He said this to the man who kept all of the commandments since his childhood. No reprimand. No annoyance at the question.

"...a centurion approached him with this request: 'Sir, my serving boy is at home in bed paralyzed, suffering painfully.' He said to him, 'I will come and cure him'." (Matthew 8:6-7) No questions. No consideration of the centurion's pagan religion. No inquiries about his military service.

Jesus said to Peter of the penitent woman, "You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. I tell you, that is why her many sins are forgiven- because of her great love. Little is forgiven the one whose love is small." (Luke 7:46-47)

"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus very much." "When Jesus saw her (Mary) weeping, and the Jews who had accompanied her also weeping, he was troubled in spirit,

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Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for August 2008

General Intention

Respect for Creation. That the human family may know how to respect God's design for the world and thus become ever more aware of the great gift of God which creation represents for us.

Pope Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace message includes a profound meditation on the human family and the environment. "A family needs a home," he wrote, and our home is the earth. Over many millennia the human family has obeyed the Creator's commandment to "fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28), but too often with violence, greed, and waste. Our covenant with the environment should "mirror the creative love of God."

The Holy Father emphasized that we are not to dominate, abuse, or exploit the earth. Instead we are responsible to protect and cultivate it for the good of the whole human family. We need to educate ourselves, he said, to achieve sustainable development and "solidarity with future generations."

Through international agencies, we need to enter into responsible cooperation to "confront together the stewardship" of the earth, especially its energy resources. "The problems looming on the horizon are complex and time is short."

The United States and other technologically advanced countries, said the Pope, face two pressing issues.

First, we must reassess our high levels of consumption and the model of development that our consumption is based upon. Second, we must invest in the search for alternative sources of energy and greater energy efficiency.

The Holy Father spoke also to far-reaching economic and political concerns that are involved in our responsibility to care for the environment. "The emerging countries are hungry for energy, but at times this hunger is met in a way harmful to poor countries which, due to their insufficient infrastructures, including their technological infrastructures, are forced to undersell the energy resources they do possess. At times, their very political freedom is compromised by forms of protectorate or, in any case, by forms of conditioning which appears clearly humiliating."

As we pray for growing respect for the environment throughout the world, let us also seek to enhance our own awareness of our environmental responsibilities.

Reflection. Global environmental problems touch each of us personally. How can you better understand and meet your responsibility for good stewardship of the earth's resources?

Mission Intention

Call to holiness. That through discernment of gifts and commitment to spiritual formation, holiness may be promoted among the people of God.

Why in this month's prayer intention for missions is Pope Benedict asking us to pray for holiness among God's people? What does holiness have to do with missionary work?

In his message for World Youth Day last month, the Holy Father reminded young people that "we can never separate holiness from mission. Do not be afraid to become holy missionaries like Saint Francis Xavier who travelled through the Far East proclaiming the Good News until every ounce of his strength was used up, or like Saint Therese of the Child Jesus who was a missionary even though she never left the Carmelite convent. Both of these are 'Patrons of the Missions.'

"Be prepared to put your life on the line in order to enlighten the world with the truth of Christ; to respond with love to hatred and disregard for life; to proclaim the hope of the risen Christ in every corner of the earth."

Nor is holiness for missionaries alone. Everyone in the Church is called to holiness, as Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3).

We are made holy by baptism, but we must grow in the holiness we have received. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we must strive to put on mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and all the fruits of the Spirit. Holy people, said the Pope, "follows the poor Christ, the humble and cross-bearing Christ, in order to be worthy of being sharers in His glory. Every person must walk unhesitatingly according to his own personal gifts and duties in the path of living faith, which arouses hope and works through charity."

It comes down to walking in the holiness of love, for "God is Love" (1 John 4:16). We are given the Holy Spirit to help us strive each day to show love to each person we encounter, even to those who oppose us. We show our love this moment by praying for holiness among God's people.

Reflection. Rather than focusing only on our sins, St. Ignatius Loyola suggests a positive way to help us grow in holiness. At the end of each day, recall specific ways God has used you to show his love to others. How has God used you today?

Slovak Mass at the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

On Sunday, September 7, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. a Slovak Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. The Mass will be offered in the Crypt Church, which is on the street level of the Basilica.

This Mass is being celebrated to mark the 43rd anniversary of the dedication of the Mother of Sorrows Chapel. This chapel was donated to the National Shrine by the First Catholic Slovak Union in 1965. Located about half way towards the altar in the main church, it received a prize for being the most beautiful chapel in the Shrine, the only chapel to receive such an award. All persons of Slovak descent should be proud of this memorial. Persons of Slovak heritage and their relatives and friends are encouraged to attend.

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

Issue Date

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Copy Date

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

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FAX: (717) 944-3107

If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately

THINK ABOUT IT!

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

moved by the deepest emotions. 'Where have you laid him (Lazarus)?' he asked. 'Lord, come and see,' they said. Jesus began to weep, which caused the Jews to remark, 'See how much he loved him!' (John 11:5 and 11:33-36)

"Seeing his mother there with the disciple (John) whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, there is your son.' In turn he said to the disciple, 'There is your mother.' From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care." (John 19:26-27)

These quotations give us a picture of Jesus as one of us. He speaks gently with his love. His response to one in need is immediate. He values penitence to the forgiveness of all sins. He knows love and sorrow as we do.

What is this love?

Love is a spiritual quality of ours that is rooted in our soul: in our mind, in our will and in our heart. It seeks expression for we are made in the image and likeness of God whose beloved son he sent to free us from our sins. We are social creatures and seek union in accordance with God's design. "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

From such an image, there come forth male and female descendants for the succeeding generations, repeating the image and likeness of God from Adam and Eve down to our day and beyond. God has not changed his image of us and will not.

What are the qualities of the love that we seek?

The quest for love takes us out of ourselves and seeks attachment to another person. In truth, this is a spiritual search involving our mind and intellect, our freedom of choice and our heart, or better, our emotions. We are looking for compatibility, for companionship, for virtues that we admire, for someone to whom we can show affection, for someone whom we can consider ours exclusively until death do us part. We seek a bond that completes us and whose expectancies we fulfill.

We do not speak here of ownership of the beloved. Ownership means possession of a lesser personality whom we rule and who does not rise to equality with us. This in no way measures up to the virtue of love and precludes that bonding that is an essential quality of love. Love essentially is selfless for it focuses upon the beloved and derives its happiness, in part, from the appreciation it receives, the support it gives, and the bonding that makes of the lover and beloved a union that is untouchable.

Paul established the church in Corinth about the year 50 while on his second missionary journey. Then, he was filled with "fear and trepidation" because Corinth was an immoral mess, with no morality, a pagan cult and religious prostitution. While in Ephesus on his third missionary journey, he received more bad news from Corinth. Now, six years later, the community was being torn apart from within. After Paul left Corinth, an Alexandrian Judea-Christian by the name of Apollos succeeded Paul. He was great and the congregation became divided, some remaining loyal to Paul, others becoming loyal to Apollos. Still others claimed a relationship to Jesus peculiar to themselves alone, rejecting both Paul and Apollos. Paul was rejected by some as an apostle because, unlike the other apostles, he did not accept financial support from the community. Members began taking other members to pagan courts of law, religious prostitution made a comeback and women got rid of their head covering and quarreled over their right to address the assembly. What a mess!

(to be continued)

Spitkovsky District Plans baseball Outing



Members and guests are invited to the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 Baseball Outing on Sunday, August 24, 2008. At 2:00 p.m., the Joliet Jackhammers minor league baseball team will play the Gary South Shore Railcats at US Steel Yard Stadium in Gary, Indiana. US Steel Yard is located at the Broadway exit of the Indiana Toll Road in downtown Gary. There is safe and secure parking, and ample security at the ballpark. Tickets are \$10.00. If you wish to attend, please notify District 2 Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak by August 8th at 219/926-2410.



*Robert Tapak Magruder,
Recording Secretary*

August 24th Homily

continued from page 2

Today, against the background of so many diverse opinions about his identity, Jesus asks us through the sacramentality of his church: "But who do you say that I am?" We pray that, like Peter, we will be congratulated as blessed because the heavenly Father reveals to us that Jesus has kept his promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20).

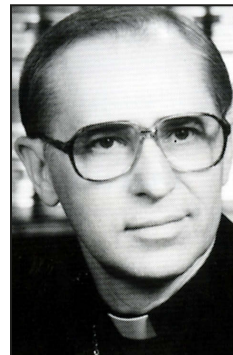
The church, by giving us Matthew's gospel, proclaims the good news that Christ is with us, and his presence may be recognized in our time just as during the time of his earthly life. Through the sacrament of baptism we become his followers and enter with him into the divine life of the Father and Holy Spirit (Mt 28:18-20). In the sacrament of the Eucharist, the Risen Lord is truly present, praying with us and giving himself to us as life-giving bread and wine (Mt 26:26-29).

We also hear the good news that Jesus is present and identifies himself with every human being, however lowly -- the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the criminal (Mt 25:31-46). This strange presence of Jesus in our midst may prove to be a stumbling-stone when we respond to the question: "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter was able to affirm Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God: but balked at the notion that Jesus would suffer and die (Mt 16:21-23). We too may affirm Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, but balk at the notion that Jesus is now present as the one in need. In fact, every human being by Christ's power becomes a double reality -- one visible, recognized by reason; the other, invisible (the presence of Christ in need), recognized only when revealed by the heavenly Father and accepted in faith.

In this Sunday's liturgy we thank God that we are numbered among the blessed to whom is revealed the true identity and presence of Jesus in our midst. We also pray for a deeper, more complete faith so that we may recognize the divine presence even when it does not make sense to our human understanding, and will cost us something to respond. Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.

For the Good of the Household



Bishop Adamec

The Lord's Day

In a recent column, I wrote about my concern that our nation is slowly but surely declaring its independence from God. However, the nation is nothing other than the sum total of its citizens. Are we as individuals also declaring our independence from the Almighty? There is a simple test to find out. Review your activities of last Sunday. What did you do all day?

Too many of us have the impression that all there is to keeping the Lord's Day holy is to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy. While that is the foundation (gathering with the Assembly of Believers to thank the Lord for his blessings of the past and to be nurtured so that we might be more authentic in our life of witness in the future), the day is longer than the hour or less than we spend in church. The

whole day is to be the Lord's. That requires a change in activity.

Even the clothes we wore spoke of Sunday as a day different from the others, when I was growing up. We always dressed up in our best for Mass. When we returned home, the atmosphere was different, the talk was subdued, the food was Sunday food, and the whole atmosphere was a peaceful one. The day was actually restful.

We were not allowed to touch instruments of manual labor. Scissors were not to be used. My mother did her sewing by hand in those days. She would not pick up a needle on Sunday. In the afternoon, we just relaxed or took naps. I often read a book. Sometimes we would go visit friends or they would drop in on us. There was no such thing as waiting to be invited or announcing our coming ahead of time.

The day was spent with and for the Lord. We have lost that sense to a great degree. As if six days are not enough for us to get into difficulty with the Lord, we take his day, as well.

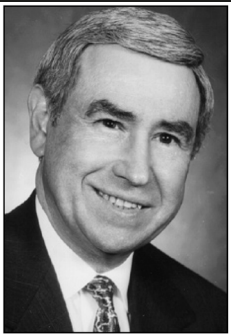
Let me confess that I am guilty, along with so many. This column is being written on Sunday. That ought not to be. It could have been written yesterday, or it could wait until tomorrow. But, like we do with so many other things, I rationalize into making myself think that it is a form of meditation or a communication with you. Actually, it is both. Nevertheless, it involves a task that I consider as work.

I am doing no more work this Lord's Day. I am in the process of reading a book entitled Christ the Lord, Out of Egypt by Anne Rice. It is my goal to finish it today. Then I plan to visit some friends and have dinner with them. Of course, they know that I am coming. I already celebrated Mass and took my nap.

Our instruments of work are different from yesterday's. For many of us, computers are the needles and scissors of our life today. For others, it can be something else. Our Sunday clothes look quite informal and ordinary, although they cost more than the Sunday best of by-gone years. Except for some families of which I am aware, special Sunday meals with the family have become almost non-existent. Paying attention to others by visiting or calling, especially the sick and forgotten, appears not to take any more precedence on Sunday than any other day.

The Lord Our God, in his infinite wisdom, knows that we need a day of re-creation. We do not do ourselves or others a favor by rejecting such a considerate gift.

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

*Certified Public Accountant
Certified Financial Planner
Personal Financial Specialist
(AICPA)*

Minimize Your Health Care Costs

The average employee contribution to health insurance has soared 143 percent since 2000. Out-of-pocket expenses such as deductibles, prescription copayments, and coinsurance for doctor and hospital visits jumped 115 percent over the same period, based on facts compiled by the National Coalition on Health Care. By taking some simple steps to limit your costs, you and your family can still afford to receive the treatment you need.

Be Tax Savvy

Don't overlook tax-advantaged options for lowering your health care costs. For example, find out if your employer offers a flexible spending account that will allow you to set aside some of your earnings tax free to cover unreimbursed medical costs, such as copayments and deductibles, as well as items that might not be included in your plan, like eye care or eyeglasses, hearing tests, chiropractic care, and the cost of prescriptions. Remember, you must use FSA contributions in the year they are made or you will lose them, although your employer can give you an additional two and one-half months to spend the funds. Therefore, perform a careful estimate of your out-of-pocket health care costs during a recent year before contributing to an FSA account.

Health savings accounts are another option, and they generally are open to people under 65 who are covered by one high-deductible health insurance plan. Contributions are tax deductible and can be used to pay for the expenses your insurance doesn't cover. Earnings accumulate tax free, and withdrawals, too, are tax free when used to pay for qualified medical expenses. You will face a 10 percent penalty if you withdraw money for another purpose.

Examine Plan Options

Be aware that the health care plan with the lowest premium may not be the best one for you. In fact, you may find that it is more expensive in the end due to the higher costs for copays or unreimbursed charges. A cheaper, bare-bones plan may cover fewer services and have fewer available providers, which means you may face more out-of-pocket costs.

When picking a plan, your family situation will be an important factor. A family with young children may do better selecting one with low copays or deductibles, even if the premiums are a little higher than other options, because of more frequent doctor visits. A younger single person or couple, on the other hand, might select a plan with lower premiums and higher copays if they rarely see the doctor outside of annual check-ups.

Be Alert for Errors

Check your medical bills for accuracy. Common hospital billing errors, for example, include duplicated charges, charging for extra days or for services that weren't tendered, or simple typos that can add to a bill. Also, review the statements you receive from your insurer to verify that the facts are correct and that you received the right reimbursements.

Appeal Decisions

Finally, if your insurance company denies coverage, you don't have to take no for an answer. You have the right to appeal their decision and try to negotiate a better outcome.

Coming Events



August 17

A Seminar and Meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District at 1:00 p.m. at Saint Charles Parish Activity Center, 15891 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio.

September 14

The Rev. Matthew Jankola District's Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

September 14

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District's Annual Summer Picnic from 10:30 a.m. to dusk at McDade Park, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

September 21

The George Onda District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the formation room at Saint Florian Church, United, Pennsylvania.

Jankola Library Celebrates

continued from page 1

with the able professional assistance of her sister, Catherine Voytko brought the work of the facility to the forefront of the American Slovak community. After 15 years of faithful service, Sister Mercedes retired in 2007.

The third and current director of Jankola Library is Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, a Chicago native. Gifted with administrative genius and a love for Slovak culture and heritage, the current director has embarked on a continued expansion of the archival facilities. Today, Jankola Library provides a wealth of information to those interested in learning about Slovak culture, language and history. Jankola provides language tapes and texts to study the Slovak language along with an expanded book list.

We congratulate Jankola Library on this milestone in its history. For the past four decades, this facility has provided invaluable service to the American Slovak community. We encourage our members to visit and use this fine facility. Tax deductible donations are much appreciated. Those interested in learning more about the facility should write: Jankola Library & Slovak Archives, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698, Phone: 570/275-5606.



Sister Martina Tybor



Sister Mercedes



Sister John Vianney



The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Table at the 2008 Indiana Slovak Day

Spitkovsky District Attends the 35th Indiana Slovak Day 2008

The Salvatorian Shrine in Merrillville, Indiana was once again the site of the Annual Indiana Slovak Day Celebration held Sunday, June 29, 2008. Chairpersons Rev. John Kalicky of St. John the Baptist Church in Whiting, Indiana and Carl and Betty Yurechko of Crown Point, Indiana once again prepared the day's activities.

The day began with the celebration of Mass. The main celebrant was Father Michael A. Kopil, a newly ordained priest from the Diocese of Gary. Concelebrants were Msgr. Joseph Semancik and Rev. Gregory Holicky. Knight Sounds Choir under the direction of John Kovach led the congregation in songs during the Mass.

Following the liturgy entertainment was provided in the main hall by the Tatra Dancers from Milwaukee and the Gene Mikrut Orchestra.

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District was well represented at this affair with a lot of visibility. National Vice President Andrew Harcar and District Financial Secretary Art Fayta set up the District table where complimentary copies of the JEDNOTA newspaper were distributed along with information on FCSU products. Homemade rozeks, Slovak nut, poppy seed and fruit filled rolls were available for sale. Posted for view was a large District banner. Among the other Slovak foods served included halusky, pirohy, klobasy with cabbage, and chicken soup. Staffing the District table was Msgr. Peter E. Bolerasky, former pastor of St. Stephen the King parish in Streator, Rev. Jeffrey Small, Andrew Harcar, Art Fayta, District Vice President Barbara Fayta, Joseph and Theresa Bugel, Edward and Shirley Uram, Albert Uram, and Edward Bach.

The day concluded with hours of dancing and merriment.

Art Fayta

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Stefina T. Mraz **Branch 200** **Ford City, Pennsylvania**

Stefina T. Mraz, 87, of Austintown, died Monday, June 9, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Stefina was born August 22, 1920 in Ford City, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Paul and Theresa (Kanka) Drahos and moved to Austintown from Ford City 15 years ago.

She was a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and a former member of the Holy Trinity Church and its Altar and Rosary Society in Ford City. Stefina was an animal lover and enjoyed being with her daughter and grandchildren. While living in Pennsylvania, she was the head cook for Cadet's Restaurant in Kittanning for 10 years.

Stefina is survived by her daughter, Patricia Cole, with whom she made her home, of Austintown; her former son-in-law, Richard Cole of Austintown; grandchildren, Christopher (Becky) Cole of Austintown, Stephanie (James) Needham of Canfield, and Shari (Frank) Costanza of Austintown; and great-grandchildren, Shaun, Brandon, and Ryan Costanza, Jessica and Christopher Cole, and Cheyanne and Cody Needham.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Christian Zanetti, whom she married October 4, 1941 and who died January 10, 1948, and George Mraz, whom she married February 27, 1964, and who died June 6, 1996; brothers, Pete and Tony Drahos; and a grandson, Robert Sirwell.

Friends were received at the Lane Funeral Home, Austintown Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Sister Mildred Minosky, VSC

Sister Mildred Minosky, a member of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA, died at the age of 80 on Thursday, July 3, 2008, at Wauchula, Florida. Sister was in the 64th year of her religious life.

Sister entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Michael Parish, Munhall, PA. Sister Mildred attended Duquesne University and earned a Bachelor Degree in Education. She continued her education and earned a Master's Degree in Education also from Duquesne University.

Sister Mildred taught in elementary schools for 28 years in Pittsburgh and Greensburg, PA, Fonthill, Ontario, and Phenix City, Alabama. She then served as Principal in elementary schools in Greensburg, Pittsburgh and Phenix City, Alabama for 17 years. From 1995 until 2000, Sister served at the Vincentian Child Care Center at the Motherhouse before going to Wauchula, Florida where she became CCD Coordinator at St. Michael Parish, the position she has held until her death.

Sister Mildred is survived by one sister, Dorothy Boross of Pittsburgh; one brother, Andrew; and nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Motherhouse on McKnight Road, Pittsburgh on Thursday, July 10, from 1:00 until 8:00 p.m. and Friday, July 11 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. after which a Mass of Christian Burial was offered in the Motherhouse Chapel. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Donations may be made to the Vincentian Sisters of Charity.

Anna Sakmar **Branch 260** **Campbell, Ohio**

Anna Sakmar, 84, passed away Sunday, June 29, 2008, at the Hospice House.

Anna was born October 4, 1923, in Youngstown, Ohio, the daughter of Joseph and Anna Dzurak, and was a lifelong resident until five years ago.

She was a 1941 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School, a homemaker, and a member of St. Elizabeth Church, Campbell, Infant Jesus of Prague Guild, Holy Rosary Society, Jednota Branch 260, and Wreath 107 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, where she was a financial secretary for many years. She also worked at the Board of Elections as presiding Judge for over 50 years.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughter, Nancy and son-in-law Ed McAtee of Youngstown; her daughter-in-law, Marge Sakmar of East Liverpool; four sisters-in-law, Mrs. Marian Dzurak of Campbell, Mrs. Helen Kicko, Mrs. Cecilia Gentile, both of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Eileen Sakmar of Florida; four step-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Sakmar, whom she married September 28, 1946, and who passed away on March 28, 1992; her son, Richard Sakmar; a brother, Andrew Dzurak; and two sisters, Mary Sciranko and Helen Dzurak.

Friends were received at the Wasko Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Elizabeth Church.

The officers of Branch 260 offer their deepest sympathy to the family of Anna. May she rest in peace.

Charles M. Terek

Helen T. Stafurik **Branch 290** **Raritan, New Jersey**

Helen T. Stafurik, 84, died peacefully on Saturday, May 17, 2008. She is survived by a sister, Theresa Bocchirie, and two brothers, Anthony and Walter Puza.

Helen was a long time member of Branch 290 in Raritan serving as a secretary for over 20 years. She attended all the conventions and took along "Dear Husband George". Helen will be greatly missed at all of the Jednota functions.

Friends were received at the Bruce Van Arsdale Funeral Home in Somerville, New Jersey where a Prayer Service was held. A Funeral mass was offered at St. Joseph Slovak Catholic Church in Raritan. May Helen rest in peace.

Joseph Minarovich

Steven J. Zakutny **Branch 7** **Houtzdale, Pennsylvania**

Steven Zakutny, 43, of Wall, New Jersey, died Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, New Jersey.

Born December 4, 1964, in Philipsburg, he was a son of John and Carol (Visnofsky) Zakutny. He was raised in Philipsburg and moved to New Jersey in 1991.

Steven was a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, main campus. He worked at Penn State in the food service department for three years. He was a pur-

chaser for Rutgers University for 17 years.

He was a coach for Neptune Little League softball and baseball, a coach for the Wall Mako Travel Baseball Team, and avid fisherman, and a member of the Shark River Surf Anglers.

Steven was a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

He is survived by his parents of Philipsburg; his wife, Christine (Shebell) Zakutny of Wall; two daughters, Dana and Emma, both of Wall; a stepson, Matthew Ford of Wall; a sister, Stephanie Showers of Philipsburg; two nieces, Abby and Angela; and a nephew, Ryan.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, July 5 at Holy Innocent Church, Neptune. Interment was in Monmouth Memorial Park, Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

The officers and members of Branch 6 extend their deepest sympathy to his wife Christine, his parents John and Carol, and his entire family. May he rest in peace.

Marie Sedlak

Louis S. Mersky **Branch 380**

Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania

Louise S. Mersky, 93, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, formerly of Houston, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, July 1, 2008, in Easy Living Estates, New Stanton.

He was born September 11, 1914, in Arden, a son of Louis S. and Pauline M. Mersky.

He operated his family-run tree and ornament shrubbery business, Mersky's Nursery, for 53 years in Houston. In addition, he was employed as a draftsman at Fort Pitt Bridge Works in Canonsburg until his retirement in 1972.

Mr. Mersky had a lifelong deep-seated Catholic faith and served for years as president of the Holy Name Society for both Miraculous Medal Church in Meadow Lands and Immaculate Conception Church in Washington, Pennsylvania. He was also a 4th Degree member of Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years,

Mary A. Mersky; four children, Michael and Ruth Mersky of Mt. Airy, Maryland, Dennis and Marybeth Mersky of Tallmadge, Ohio, Mary Lou and Robert J. Klinger of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Theresa and Robert L. Rogers of Latrobe; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Friends were received at the John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Latrobe, where Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Vincent Assembly stood as Color Guard. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Saint Vincent Basilica, Latrobe, with entombment in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Peters Township. Memorial donations may be made to Health, Welfare and Education Fund, c/o Father Earl Henry, O.S.B., St. Vincent Archabbey, 300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe, PA 15650.

Margaret Graytok

Charles K. Krempasky **Branch 199**

Hostetter, Pennsylvania

Charles K. Krempasky, 95, of Youngstown, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, July 15, 2008, in Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital.

Born November 4, 1912, he was a son of the late Charles and Maria Krempasky. He retired from the inspection lab at Latrobe Steel.

Mr. Krempasky was a member of St. John the Evangelist Church, Jednota Branch 199, White Eagles of Latrobe, and United Steel Workers Local 1537.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Steve and Sam Krempasky, and two sisters, Mary Kelley and Anna Muka. He is survived by his wife, Rose (Kontor) Krempasky; and three sisters, Regina Devanzo of Wyano, Malvina Drost of McKeesport, and Helen Podgorsky of Greensburg.

Friends were received at the Frederick Funeral Home, Latrobe. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. John the Evangelist, Latrobe with the Rev. Thomas M. Lukac as celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Latrobe.

Sophie Pipak



Annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit **Set for November 2**

The annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio. Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, entertainment and Slovak auction will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will be honoring Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B. on his retirement, and welcoming the new Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B. Catering will be provided by Tom's Country Place. Ticket prices begin at \$65.00 for an individual ticket. Additional sponsorships including a \$100.00 Honor a Monk level are available. If you need additional information, please contact Marie A. Golias at 216/228-8179 or Bill Andrews at 216/721-5300 x 252.



Slovak Masses in Chicago

A Slovak Mass will be celebrated each Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at St. Genevieve Church, Altgeld Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. This weekly Mass will be celebrated by the Reverend Marek Sitar, a Catholic priest sent to the United States by Archbishop Jan Sokol. Presently, there is no church in the Chicago area with a Slovak priest. Hopefully a Slovak parish will be established soon and a Slovak priest permanently assigned to that parish.

Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Install New Leadership Team

On July 2, 2008, the Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius was installed at a Eucharistic Celebration in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, Pennsylvania. Sister Linda Marie Bolinski was elected to serve a second term as General Superior. Assistant to the General Superior is Sister Jeanne Ambre. The following are the other members of the Leadership Team: Sister Michael Ann Orlik, Sister Pamela Smith and Sister Susan Pontz.

The Basilica chaplain, the Rev. Gerard Heintzelmann, was the principal celebrant. The following were concelebrants: Msgr. Thomas Kujovsky, Msgr. William Waltercheid, the Rev. Joseph Fennessy, the Rev. Andrew Hvozovic, the Rev. Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P., the Rev. Albert Oldfield, the Rev. Cyril Rable, and the Rev. Alfred Sceski, who was also the homilist. Deacon of the Word was Thomas Baranoski and Deacon of the Eucharist, Thomas Conlin. Master of ceremonies was Michael Heinlein.

Sister Linda Marie is a former parishioner of St. John the Baptist Church in Pittston, Pennsylvania and completed her elementary education at the parish school. Later she graduated from St. Cyril Academy. After receiving her B.A. from Alvernia College, she went on to receive graduate degrees from St. Charles Seminary, Philadelphia,

and Villanova University, and did additional graduate work at The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina. She taught on both the elementary and secondary levels and served the congregations as Director of Vocations. From 1979 to 1988, Sister Linda was Assistant Superintendent of Religious Education in the Harrisburg Diocesan Office. She was principal of St. Columba School, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and for 15 years served as principal of Blessed Sacrament School, Charleston, South Carolina.

Sister Jeanne Ambre, who served as third councilor on the previous Leadership Team, was elected Assistant to the General Superior. She is also the Director of Pastoral and Social Activities at Maria Hall and does art and design for congregational publications. She is a graduate of Holy Angels School, Gary, Indiana, and Andean High School, Merrillville, Indiana. After receiving a B.A. and an M.A., she taught in parish schools and the following high schools: St. Cyril Academy, Danville; St. Pius X High, Pottstown; and her alma mater Andean. She was Formation Director from 1992 to 2008.

The Second Councilor, Sister Michael Ann Orlik, is a former parishioner of Holy Trinity Parish, Perth Amboy, New Jersey. A graduate of St. Cyril Academy, she received a B.A. in history and an M.S. in Elementary Admin-

istration. Sister has taught Grades 5 and 8 in parish schools and has served as principal at St. Joseph School in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania for 27 years. She has chaired the congregation committee on peace and social justice.

Sister Pamela Smith served as second councilor on the previous team and was also General Superior from 2000-2004. A former parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Berwick, Pennsylvania, she is a graduate of Berwick High School. Sister Pamela received a B.S., two Masters, and a Ph.D. in Theology. After teaching on the high school level, she taught theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan, where she was also Associate Dean. For four years she was the congregation's Vocation Director. Her books on spirituality and environment issues are well-known. Currently Sister Pamela is Parish Director of Administration at St. Gregory the Great Church, Bluffton, South Carolina. She is also Diocesan Catechetical Consultant.

The fourth Councilor is Sister Susan Pontz, a native of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, where she attended Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and graduated from the parish school. After graduating from Lebanon Catholic, she received a B.A. from

Shippensburg University. Sister taught on the elementary level and also at St. Cyril Academy, Danville. She received a Master's in Instructional Technology from Bloomsburg University and went on to receive a Doctor of Education in Instructional Technology from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, where she was also an instructor. In 2007, Sister was honored as Doctoral Student of the Year. She instructed the faculty and staff of St. Claire of Montefalco Catholic Community, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, on the effective integration of technology into their ministry and also gave workshops on the use of the Internet and technology in church ministry throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit. Currently she is Instructional Theology Director at the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas. Sister Susan is the webmaster for the SSCM website and has served as Chairman of the congregation's Summer Festival for fifteen years.

Following the installation of the Leadership Team, the congregation began its General Chapter which focused on "Vowed identity for the Life of the World." As part of the reflection on this theme, the Reverend Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I. addressed aspects of the vows.



The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, in Exeter, Pennsylvania, presented check to members who received a FCSU Scholarship. In the photo Leonard Zavada, President of Branch 5P, presents a scholarship check to Linda Rubino of Wyoming, Pennsylvania. Linda graduated cum laude from Wyoming Area High School in Exeter. Linda also wrote and sang the "Class Song" for class day and at commencement. She plans to attend Lock Haven University in the fall.



Participating in the Join Hands Day Project were: 1st row L-R, David Tarantini, Noreen Foti, Karina Graham, Kathleen and Joseph Richie with son Hunter, Mary Jean Tarantini and Joseph Pugh. 2nd row L-R: Jordan Choman, Michael Horvath, John Dinis, Mary Ann Petrenchak, Audrey Graham, Theresa Chupka, Mary Ann Usaitis, Carl Ungvarsky, Pauline Dinis, Anna Dougher, Magdalen I. Iskra, Mary Ellen Myers, and Nancy Balent, Martha Iskra, Rachel Nichol and Francis Pugh. Absent from the photo are Frank Wassil, Joe Baloga and Msgr. John Sempa..

Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.com.

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; Fax: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation Holds Join Hands Day Project

The Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation joined hands with members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union in a community project. The project consisted in cleaning of the grounds at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and the former school and convent located on North Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. This clean up was done in preparation of the 100th anniversary Mass of the dedication of the church on May 30, 2008. At the completion of the project, Branch 7 of the FCSLA served hoagies and beverages to the volunteers. Frank Wassil and Joe Baloga served as chairmen of the project.

Youngstown Sister City Board Member's Return to His Roots

When Brian Petruska joined the Youngstown Sister Cities Board several years ago, we were delighted to have a member of the "next generation" involved in Slovakia. He has written of his experience in "returning to his roots." Bernie Demechko, Secretary.

HOMELAND

In the summer of 2000, I had just graduated from Muskingum College and was hesitantly set to embark on a ten-day vacation/mission with my father and two older brothers. Our mission: to reconnect with never before seen family members still living in Slovakia. You see, all of my grandparents had been born in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire,...aka...Czechoslovakia. From my mother's side of the family there are family names such as Rakocy (my mother's maiden name), Pavlansky, and Sefcik. I had been raised to understand that I was somewhat of a thoroughbred, albeit one born in the States. This was all well and good as I have always been proud of my heritage, instilled in me by my father (Robert Petruska). The question remained: What was a green fresh-out-of-college 22 year old going to do in the *old* country?

But I must digress. It is from my father that I learned our Petruska family history...or at least as far back as my grandfather. My family is originally from the Spis region of Slovakia. My grandfather immigrated to the United States when he was about 16 years old. He was from Jamnik, a small village not far from Spisska Nova Ves on the eastern end of the country. It was his dream to one-day return "home" with his eldest son (my dad). He unfortunately never had the opportunity.

This desire to return to the motherland fell on my father, and it became somewhat of a passion of his. This passion did not go unnoticed with our family and over the years we would receive letters from the old country. My father managed to get in touch with a woman who could translate letters for and from our family. As time rolled on, my father's yearning to make *THE* trip continued. It was late 1999 when my dad proposed his idea to my brothers and me; let's go to Slovakia and meet the family. Our reactions had a wide range. My oldest brother Ken's response was something to the effect of "this will be the trip of a lifetime." Albeit, he still, to this day, refers to himself as the "prince" due to his being the *first-born* male. My middle brother Rob's response was a little more subdued with a simple, "Ok." And then came my response, keeping in mind that I had literally just graduated and was soon to pursue another degree. Money was not exactly an ally of mine, which prompted my response to be, "If you pay, I'll go," not expecting much.

After many months of preparation, our journey began. My father and I left from Pittsburgh. My brothers left from Indianapolis, Ken via Germany and Rob via Amsterdam. I must say that we all were extremely surprised and excited in the fact that we actually met up in Prague around the same time. This was our first mini-family reunion of the trip. It was official: We were not in the States anymore. A comment that seemed to creep up throughout our trip and to borrow a line from The Wizard of Oz: "We're not in Kansas anymore!"

Without a doubt, I could give a day-by-day account of the entire trip due to our video diary, but I think it prudent to hit on just a few of the highlights. The superficial trip included the typical sightseeing including the Spis Castle, the High Tatras, Levoca, and many other sights. We learned not to tip too much at the local restaurants and a family of four could comfortably enjoy a meal for under \$20.00. But the part that hooked us all (and especially me) was our family and their reaction to our visit.

At this point in the story I'll speak only for myself. Quite simply, I fell in love with the people and the country as a whole. The graciousness of our family for our merely being in their country was incredible. They were so honored. This in and of itself amazed me. Here we stood in their living rooms, eating their food and drinking their drinks and *they* were honored to have us! They wanted for nothing and had so little by American standards. What an eye-opener! I left Slovakia with a renewed sense of what matters in life. I returned home and actually felt homesick.

In the far reaches of my mind I have been looking for a way back ever since this experience and have continued to look for the joy in little things. The answer to the question, "What was a green, fresh-out-of-college 22 year old going to do in the *old* country?" was fall in love with it!

Fast-forwarding eight years into the future and I am now married (to Kara, an adventurous, intelligent, beautiful, and supportive woman) and I am a high school science teacher with quite possibly the opportunity of a lifetime, teaching in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Through a rather remarkable series of events (namely being on the Board of Directors with my father for the Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Program), I was fortunate enough to meet the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, Rastislav Kacer, in early 2007. In speaking with him, he rekindled that Slovak desire of mine.

After many discussions and a lot of soul-searching, my wife and I decided to seriously look into opportunities in Slovakia. We had our sights set on Bratislava due to its size and easy accessibility to the rest of Europe. After a most gracious invitation and visit to the Ambassador's home in Washington, D.C., our minds were made up. We were now on our way to Slovakia! Our only problem was that neither one of us had secured our employment.

After months of searching I found myself reading an online recruitment fair advertisement of Quality Schools International (QSI). An appointment was made, an interview was held, and two weeks later, Kara and I were elated! It was official! I had gained employment with QSI Bratislava as a secondary science teacher.

As I conclude writing this very sentence, our excitement grows. We realize the gravity of moving to a different continent has not quite hit us yet but our anticipation for our departure mounts nonetheless.



Kara and Brian Petruska, soon to be teaching in Bratislava, Slovakia, with Ambassador Rastislav Kacer, and Mary Louse and Bob Petruska. Brian and Bob serve on the Board of Directors, Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities, Inc.

What is a *still* green 30-year old semi-seasoned teacher and his wife going to do in the *old* country?.....fall in love all over again! And we can't wait to do it!

P.S. We hope that Brian will write another article for us – on his experience in Slovakia beginning this August 2008. Bernie

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Youngstown, Oh 44502
bdemechko@aol.com

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)

Under the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity, you may make periodic payments into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at, or greater than, the guaranteed rate. You can open the account with as little as \$500.00 and make additional deposits (\$25.00 minimum) as your financial situation allows. Additional deposits are not mandatory.

At the retirement age you choose, the funds accumulated in the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity may be withdrawn using any of the FCSU's lump sum or periodic income settlement options.

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

News From Slovakia

Andy Warhol Museum in Medzilaborce to Display 60 New Works

Around 60 new art works produced by pop-art king Andy Warhol have been acquired by the Andy Warhol Museum in Medzilaborce, the museum curator Martin Cubjak told Slovakia recently.

The Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art intends to display the new works to mark the 80th anniversary of the artist's birth. "We're planning to invite art collectors as well as Warhol's family from the United States to the inauguration of the artworks and the party afterwards, so it is still difficult to say what the exact day of this event will be," said Cubjak, adding that the date should be set within the next two weeks.

The museum obtained the new paintings mainly from four Slovak businessmen active in the United States who bought the artworks and have lent them to the museum for an unspecified period.

The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and the Medzilaborce museum are the only two Warhol museums in the world. The museum in Medzilaborce now has 230 Warhol originals at its disposal.

Andy Warhol was born on August 6, 1928 in Pittsburgh to parents who had emigrated from the village of Mikova near Medzilaborce. He died on February 22, 1987, at the age of 58.

TASR

Cardinal Schonborn Reminds Pilgrims of the Importance of Motherhood

In a homily during the ceremonial Mass marking the end of the Levoca Pilgrimage to Marianska Hora on Sunday, July 6, Vienna Archbishop Cardinal Christoph Schonborn emphasized the importance of motherhood and family.

Schonborn reminded the nearly half-million believers who gathered at Marianska Hora, one of the twenty most important pilgrimage places in Europe, how important it is to protect life from conception. He pointed to Mother Teresa, who appealed to women not to kill children, but rather give them to her. She saved thousands of human lives.

According to the cardinal, "it's not necessary to judge and assess, but rather help wisely so that as many mothers who have conceived can give birth to their children."

In the homily, the cardinal also touched on the problems of the unified Europe, which provides hope for people, as well as 'Marian' respect, which unites the faithful of Europe and brings them together in pilgrimage places from Fatima (Portugal) to Levoca. Cardinal Schonborn supported the idea that Europe should also have the courage to say yes to life, and no to abortions.

At the beginning of the homily, the Vienna archbishop addressed the pilgrims in Slovak, and at the end he praised the 'Marian' respect of Slovaks. "On Saturday and Sunday more believers confessed here than in Vienna during a whole year." He also spoke about the participation of the late Pope John Paul II at the Levoca Pilgrimage in July 1995, where 650,000 pilgrims attended.

The Levoca Pilgrimage is the largest pilgrimage in Slovakia. The faithful come to Marianska Hora throughout the week. The main ceremony began on Saturday evening, continued throughout the night, and ended with a ceremonial service on Sunday.

The first pilgrimage to Marianska Hora in Levoca began more than 760 years ago. The current Basilica Minor, which is the fourth church at Marianska Hora, was completed 86 years ago. Levoca Pilgrimage on the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary continued without interruption even under the Communist regime.

TASR

Fico and Kalinak Celebrates Anniversary of Slovak Language Codification

Prime Minister Robert Fico and Interior Minister Robert Kalinak took part in celebrations on Saturday, July 13, to mark the 165th anniversary of the codification of the Slovak language in Hbloke, Slovakia.

Fico and Kalinak laid wreaths at the Jozef Hurban monument. Hurban along with Ludovit Stur and Michael Miloslav Hodza codified a new form of the Slovak written language based on the central Slovak dialect at Hurban's residence in Hlboke between July 11-16, 1843.

TASR

Record Number of Students at Slovak Universities in 2007

There were 220,059 students at Slovak universities in 2007, which is a new record number and represents a growth of 5 percent, according to the annual report on the state of universities in 2007.

As many as 37.8 percent of Slovak university students were studying off campus in 2007. While there were 9,792 Slovak post-graduate students at Slovak universities, another 573 post-graduate students were from abroad.

"One of the shortcomings of the current situation includes the persistent low mobility of students and university staff, as well as the low ratio of foreign students at our universities. However, the trend has been positive over the past few years," the Education Ministry states in the report.

According to the report, the average income of an employee of a public university in Slovakia in 2007 was 22,256 crowns (734 euros) a month. The average income of a university teacher was 28,822 crowns (951 euros), and the average income of a professor was 41,245 crowns (1,361 euros).

In 2007 university education in Slovakia was being provided by 20 public, 10 private, and three state universities. No new university was established in 2007.

TASR



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATES

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Effective July 1, 2008

The annual yield on existing

First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium
Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual

Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity
is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity and Six Year Fixed
Rate Annuity IRA is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

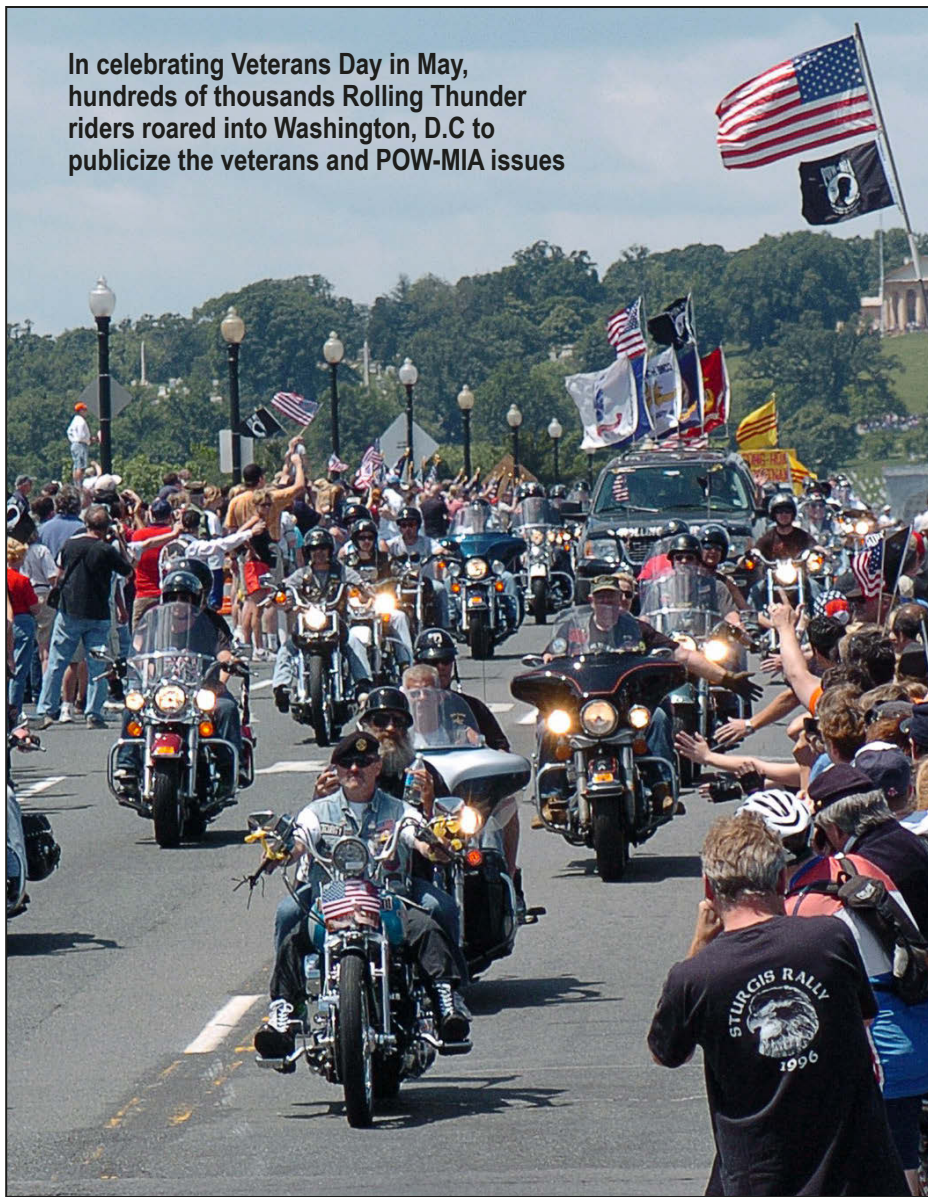
The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash
Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or
IRAs, please contact the Home Office at

1-800-JEDNOTA or your local Branch Officer.

*THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008*

Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary

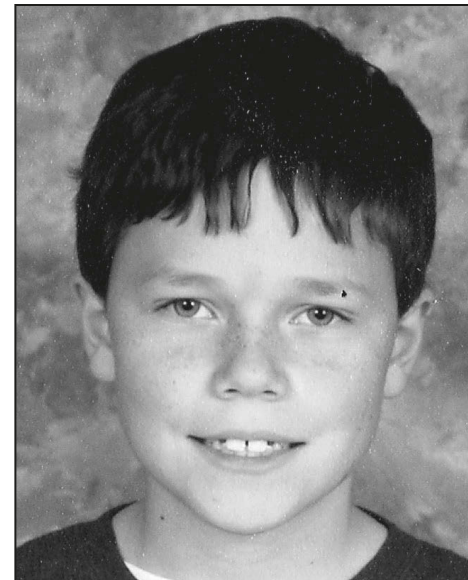


In celebrating Veterans Day in May, hundreds of thousands Rolling Thunder riders roared into Washington, D.C to publicize the veterans and POW-MIA issues

YOUTH ROUND-UP



Stephanie Anne Peppe



Noah Allen

Stephanie Anne Peppe graduated from Immaculate Conception School in Somerville, New Jersey. Graduation exercises took place in Immaculate Conception Church on June 10, 2008. Stephanie is the daughter of Richard and Joanne (Minarovich) Peppe of Bridgewater, New Jersey, and a lifetime member of Branch 290 in Raritan. She is also the granddaughter of Regional Director Joseph and Lillian Minarovich.

Stephanie will continue her education at Immaculata High School in Somerville.

Noah Allen, a fifth grade student at Mt. Nebo Elementary School in Mt. Nebo, West Virginia, is a member of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320 in Stockdale, Pennsylvania. Noah is an honor student and has received numerous academic awards. He won first place at the Nicholas County, West Virginia Math Field Day. He placed second at the RESA IV Division Math Field Day and thirteenth in the West Virginia State Mathematics Field Day. Noah won first place in the Geography Bee at his school this year and he participated in the National Geographic Bee. He received an invitation to attend the 2008 People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Students receive these invitations via academic recommendations of valued and respected educators. Noah was also honored with the Super Scholar Award for high academic honors in fourth grade.

In addition to all of his academic honors, Noah is involved in other activities. He is a member of the Cub Scout Troop in Mt. Nebo, West Virginia and he enjoys attending summer camps with the scouts. He is also a sports enthusiast. He especially likes football.

Noah is the son of Eric and Cindy Allen and a brother of Nicholas Allen. His maternal grandparents are Paul and Agnes Braunegg of Charleroi, Pennsylvania. Noah's family is very proud of him and look forward to his future accomplishments and endeavors.



Elizabeth Anne Reicherter

Elizabeth Anne Reicherter Earns Doctorate degree

On May 10, 2008, Elizabeth Anne Reicherter, a 1981 Homer City graduate, received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Psychology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Currently, Elizabeth Anne is an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at Howard University and lives in Edgewater, Maryland with her husband Frank and their two children Franky and Sofia.

Elizabeth Anne is the daughter of Lois and Joe Rura of Coral, Pennsylvania. She and her entire family are members of Branch 484 in Coral. Her father, Joe Rura, serves as Financial Secretary of Branch 484.

ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2008 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2008 Scholarship Program.

**THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO
TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS**

TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official copy of applicant's high school transcript, which indicates applicant's high school grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT and SAT scores.
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant.
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing

For applications, please contact:
First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131
Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310
E-mail: fcsu@aol.com - Website: www.fcsu.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 3, 2008

*Family members of members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Skydivers Honor Stefan Banic at Skydive Dallas

By John Karch

The 17th Annual Stefan Banic Memorial Celebration was held at SKYDIVE DALLAS, about 50 miles north of Slavo Mulik's residence in Dallas, Texas. JEDNOTA Readers may remember that my last article about the Banic Skydiving Festivals was on August 13, 2003. For that July 18-20, 2003 event, State Senator Robert (Bob) Robbins (R-50th District of PA) sponsored a Resolution, as he had done annually, which was co-sponsored by Senator Michael O'Pake and others, honoring Stefan Banic, the recipient of the first U.S. patent to a parachute inventor. Resolution 99 was adopted unanimously by the Senate of the Commonwealth of PA. "....Resolved that the Senate honor the memory of Stefan Banic and encourage the preservation, study, celebration, and sharing of Slovak heritage, and be it further Resolved that the Senate declare the week of July 14 through 20, 2003, 'as Slovak heritage week' in PA."

Appropriately, the 12th Annual Stefan Banic Skydiving Festival and the 4th Annual PA State Parachuting Championships were held at the Greenville Municipal Airport. The approximately 5,500 attendees, including the children, were in awe and delighted. There were Slovak displays, music, and food. Among the attendees were U.S. political leaders, members of the Banic family, representatives from the Slovak Embassy, Alena Boerrigter of the Netherlands, and two youths from Slovakia with Honorary Consul Joseph Senko.

Stefan Banic, Parachutist

For new readers who may not be familiar with the Parachutist, Stefan Banic was born in 1870 in Slovakia and died in 1941 in Slovakia. As many Slovaks, during those decades under oppressive Hungarian overlords, he emigrated to America in 1907 and settled in Greenville, PA where he became a coal miner and worked in other jobs. Significantly, he was free to pursue his invention instincts, resulting in a parachute which he demonstrated in Washington, D.C., jumping from a tall building. On August 25, 1914 he received the FIRST PATENT from the U.S. Patent Office for his parachute. Banic donated his patent to the newly established

U.S. Army Signal Corps (later and today the U.S. Air Force). His invention must be considered as an outstanding, historic contribution to the safety of aviation in war and peace. "Stephan" Banic returned to Smolenice in 1921, regained his name "Stefan", and died there twenty years later.

Although proper recognition was generally slow in developing, American Slovaks and, more recently, Slovakia have come to honor him and his remarkable achievement. In the latter 1980s American Slovak activists began a program of honoring Stefan Banic. The initiator was Dr. Edward Tuleya, Curator of FCSU's Slovak Museum and Archives, and Docent John J. Kovalic, both promoting the accomplishment of the inventor. Practitioners of the art of skydiving were led by Slavo Mulik who was already well-known as a patriotic Slovak by the international community of skydivers. Of the non-Slovaks, highly-regarded Senator Robbins, a West Point grad, Vietnam veteran (two tours), state legislator, and skydiving enthusiast, with spouse Cindy, impressed many in honoring Stefan Banic and appreciating Slovakia and its people. Another leader is Rear Admiral George Worthington, USN, Ret., of San Diego, CA who is a regular Banic skydiver.

JEDNOTA can be cited as the engine of promotion with the numerous articles it published, at first mostly by Dr. Tuleya and John Kovalic. The latter headlined Slavo Mulik as "The Parachutist from Slovakia" (1989) and "The Slovak Good Will Ambassador" (1997). FCSU President Thomas Hricik characterized Slavo as an outstanding Slovak American. For example, in 1989 Dr. Tuleya wrote about "The First Workable Parachute and a Stefan Banic Connection." Articles by Kovalic included Slavo's "Historic Parachute Jump With Slovak Flag at Bratislava Castle" with Slavo flying over Petralka and the Danube, and landing at the Castle flag in hand.

The Banic Patent

In his July 30, 2004 letter to me, Senator Robbins wrote that "Through the efforts of Dr. Tuleya [in Bratislava that year] two copies were made from the original Patent issued to Stefan Banic...." The Banic relatives have the original. One copy was presented to the Greenville Museum and the second is intended for an appropriate Museum in the U.S. Dr. Tuleya and COL Stephen Matula are in contact with the U.S. Parachute Association about the possibility of donating it to its new Museum and having Senator Robbins do the honors.

The original patent has been seen by U.S. and Slovak visitors to Smolenice. In 2001, Senator Robbins, together with Slovakia's Army Major General Emil Vestenicky visited the Banic gravesite and monument; the group included Smolenice Mayor Pavlina Hornackova and Dr. Jozef Markus of Matica Slovenska. Smolenice has become a Sister-City of Greenville. Senator Robbins presented the Mayor with a key to the Borough of Greenville. The opposite key presentation was performed later.

MG Vestenicky, now retired and Member of Parliament, drove this writer to Smolenice and we paid a call on the Banic family, viewed the Patent, and visited the gravesite.

The Banic Foundation

At the May 24-25, 1997 Stefan Banic Memorial event at Decatur, Texas, Slavo Mulik announced the establishment of the Stefan Banic Parachute Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is "to recognize and honor individuals, groups, and corporations who



Slavo Mulik (left) with Dr. Lee and Carol Schlichtemeier

have made significant contributions and/or achievements towards the betterment of the sport of skydiving. Through recognition of achievements, the Foundation's goal is to enhance and promote the sport created by the inventor of the parachute in 1914, Stefan Banic."

On May 15 Slovak Ambassador Branislav Lichardus sent a congratulatory message to Slavo "It was a pleasure to learn about your tireless efforts to bring the Stefan Banic Parachute Foundation to light. I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate you on a successful opening of the Foundation....The legacy of Stefan Banic has gone almost unnoticed for a long period of time. I am very pleased that your effort will revive his contribution to the world of science, safe air travel and skydiving...." A Banic Monument has been erected at the Bratislava Airport as well.

SkyDive Dallas

Expenses for skydiving festivals are both financial and human. After a number of years at Greenville, PA, both were waning seriously. However, the desire and importance of continuing to hold the "Banic Boogie" was unquestioned. Thus the move to SkyDive Dallas and other skydiving sites appeared promising. Regarding the Banic festivals at Greenville, Foundation Chairman Mulik's 2006 letter to FCSU President Thomas Hricik reflected the Board's feeling: "On behalf of the Stefan Banic Board of Directors, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to Senator Bob Robbins, SkyDive Pennsylvania, Greenville Municipal Airport and to the city of Greenville, Pennsylvania for their outstanding contributions towards making this event successful for many years in their great state."

The five years of the Banic Festivals at SkyDive Dallas have been, in comparison, modest but supported by Dr. Lee and Carol Schlichtemeier who are Members of the Board of the Banic Foundation and owners of SKYDIVE DALLAS. Last year, Slavo presented Silver Medals to them for supporting the Stefan Banic festivals over the years, before Greenville and since 2004.

On June 26 of this year, the 17th Annual Banic Skydiving Festival was held at SkyDive Dallas, more modest still because, according to Slavo, it was "very hot." Thus, only two rounds, rather than the usual four, were held. Three teams, each with 9 skydivers, competed and only about 100 specta-

tors, including skydivers who did not jump, observed the competitors.

The cumulative time of the winning team—9 Way Speed Star—was 46 seconds. Each member of the winning team received a trophy which was designed, with Stefan Banic data, and purchased by Slavo Mulik. There were no trophies for the other teams, nor T-shirts normally presented.

Gold Medal to Coker

Slavo presented the Stefan Banic Gold Medal to Bobby Coker "for his contribution to the skydiving community for the past 32 years as parachute rigger, instructor, and Tandem Master." Slavo added that one "needs to serve the skydiving community for at least 30-35 years to earn such an award as the Stefan Banic Gold Medal." He has known Bobby Coker since 1976 "when he repacked my reserve chute."

Slovaks, "who care and respect our Slovak heroes and who were not skydivers, came from the Netherlands and Florida," Slavo said, and added that these were in Greenville in 2001 as well.

NOTE: Last year, Slavo Mulik was diagnosed with lung cancer. He is in remission now, still undergoing procedures but, as Slavo would, continues to be active.



Slavo Mulik, in Texas in 1997



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.
The President asked the Vice President to lead the prayer.

The President began the meeting by introducing Mike Wade and Paul Winoker from the Fraternal Consultant Response Team (FCRT) of the National Fraternal Congress Association (NFCA). Mr. Wade is Past CEO of Gleaner Life Insurance and Past Chair of the National Fraternal Congress Association (NFCA). Mr. Winoker, FSA, FCIA, MAAA, is Past Senior Vice President at Foresters. The President stated that one of the NFCA's goals is to help its member societies. The FCRT, a no cost benefit available to NFCA members, is composed of retired fraternal insurance executives who meet with NFCA member companies and offer their expertise based on their years of experience. The primary reason for inviting Mr. Wade and Mr. Winoker to this meeting was to seek their advice on improving the First Catholic Slovak Union's sales and marketing efforts.

Mr. Wade said that participating in the FCRT program can help us identify the steps our society can take to enhance its overall strength. At a roundtable discussion, the meeting consisted of reviewing audited financial statements, analyzing investment policies, and sales and marketing plans and results. The group met through lunch until 2:00 P.M. The Executive Committee thanked Mr. Wade and Mr. Winoker for their insights, ideas and suggestions.

At the conclusion of that meeting, the Executive Committee meeting followed.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending:

Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel, by invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAY MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the May, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta gave a detailed written report (see page 19) summarizing our investments for the month of May, 2008 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee also reviewed our sweep accounts with Key Bank and Merrill Lynch. The Treasurer also led a discussion regarding a proposed investment in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

At this time, Joseph Mitrik from the Home Office Accounting department of the Home Office was invited to the meeting and addressed the Executive Committee regarding a study he did concerning different investment scenarios and how we may take advantage of them.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The Treasurer also led a discussion concerning the annuity rates for the third quarter of 2008. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to keep the same rates as in the second quarter:

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – 5%
Park 2 Annuity – 4.5%
Fixed Rate 6-year Annuity – 4.5%.

The above rates will be valid thru September 30, 2008 unless market conditions require otherwise. Motion carried.

JEDNOTA NEWSPAPER

The President informed the Executive Committee that starting with the July 9, 2008 issue, our Jednota newspaper will be sent to 25,000 households instead of 14,000. The President stated that this would improve communication between the Home Office and our members and in marketing our products.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our Sales Production Report in different Regions and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the status of independent agents who contacted him and are interested in becoming independent agents for the F.C.S.U. He stated further that he sent out contracts and sales kits to 20 potential independent agents. He will update the Executive Committee about his progress.

The Vice President further led a discussion concerning seminars for the remainder of 2008. He stated that the seminar held in New York on June 1, 2008 was well attended and well received. He also updated the Executive Committee about the upcoming seminars:

1. August 17, 2008 – Cleveland
2. October 13 or 19, 2008 – Pittsburgh area.

The Vice President led a discussion about possible new programs:

1. Conversion Program

2. Return of Premium Policy

He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

The Vice President also stated that in the near future, the F.C.S.U., as a fraternal benefit, will offer a program that will provide anyone between the ages of 30 and 65 who purchases a \$10,000.00 or more annual pay or 20 pay Whole Life Insurance Policy, a \$25,000.00 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) benefit for as long as the annual premium is paid. Term and Single Premium Whole Life Insurance would not be included. Additional AD&D would be available for every member at an additional cost.

More information and outlines of this new policy will be published in Jednota and sent to Branches.

ADVERTISING

The Executive Secretary stated that information concerning our products is being mailed out with all the mailing from the Home Office and that there will be more advertisement in the Jednota newspaper.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

General Counsel Gary Matta led a discussion regarding his review of the contract with Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. He stated that he has some questions regarding the "Resolution" to be signed by him in his capacity as the General Counsel. but after he contacted the Federal Home Loan Bank, this issue was resolved. He further stated that he and our consultant, Ed DePersis, will be in contact with the Ohio Department of Insurance for final approval.

UNDERWRITING/MEDICAL EXAMS

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the progress of Hooper Holmes/Portamedic, the outside company who gives our prospective insurance applicants their medical exams. As of this time, all is going very well.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of May for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

Executive Secretary Arendt reported the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of May:

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2008:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$194,525.92
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 65,185.23
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ -0-
Trust Fund	\$ -0-

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to adjourn the meeting. The Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk
www.travelguide.sk
kosice.region.sk
www.slovakia.org
www.vtetry.sk
www.tetry.net
www.hotel-net.sk
www.skonline.sk
www.kultura.sk
www.snm.sk
www.savba.sk
www.government.gov.sk
www.snd.sk
www.stv.sk
www.nbs.sk

Slovakia Travel Guide
Hotel and Spa Guide
Kosice-City Travel Guide
Bratislava-Information about the City
Useful Information about the High Tatras
Complete Information on Tatra Region
Tourist Accommodation
Slovakia On-Line (general information)
Slovak cultural calendar
Slovak National Museum
Slovak Academy of Sciences
Government of the Slovak Republic
Slovak National Theater
Slovak Television
National Bank of Slovakia

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3P- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend. Please spread the word to fellow members.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5, 240, 263 & 419- OLYPHANT, NANTICOKE, DUPONT AND WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branches 5, 240, 263 and 419 will hold a joint Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, August 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Joseph Obester, 500 Brown Street, Apartment #316, Duryea, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend. A buffet will follow the meeting.

Joseph Obester, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 7- HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, August 10, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23- JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at Our Son's Family Restaurant, 800 Broad Street in the Cambria City section of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of community involvement, promotion of FCSU insurance and annuity products, and general information. All members will be invited to a luncheon following the meeting.

Lawrence Fenimore, President

BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, August 10, 2008, at DeBlasio's Restaurant located in the Virginia Manor Shops on Greentree Road. On the agenda will be a discussion of mid-year business topics. All members are requested to attend. Lunch will be provided for all who attend.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 266- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 10:15 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 410- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's Restaurant, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit,
Recording Secretary/Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 595- MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 595, will have its first meeting of the fall on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Tatra Hall. Other meetings will be held on October 19, November 16 and December 21 (election of officers).

Several events are scheduled for this fall. There will be Polka Dancing on Sunday, September 7 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Rodney Beyers Polka Pals. There will be a Halloween dance on Saturday, October 18 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with music provided by the Grabinski Orchestra. The Stan Morz Polka band will perform on Sunday, November 2, and The Old Time Polka Band will perform on Sunday, December 7. All dances are from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and are free with an offering at the door. Also, do not forget that there will be Breakfast served starting in September. It's time for all members to support Branch 595.

**Louis A. Kollar,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, is planning a baseball outing to cheer on the Mahoning Valley Scrappers baseball team on Saturday, August 16, 2008, at the East-

wood Field, Niles, Ohio. The Scrappers will host the Jamestown Jammers at 7:00 p.m. At the game there will also be a tribute given to the World Middleweight Boxing Champion Kelly Pavlik.

Branch 731 members attending will receive a complimentary box seat ticket, hot dog, chips and soft drink. Nonmembers are also welcome to join us at a cost of \$13.00. The deadline for ticket orders is Friday, July 25, 2008. Please call Grace Kavulic at 330/539-4886 for a reservation.

Jim Bobby, Secretary

Robert Kosko, President

BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The Branch 746 picnic planned for August 17 in Lincoln Memorial Park has been cancelled. Please join us at the next meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 769- ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the

residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, New York. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

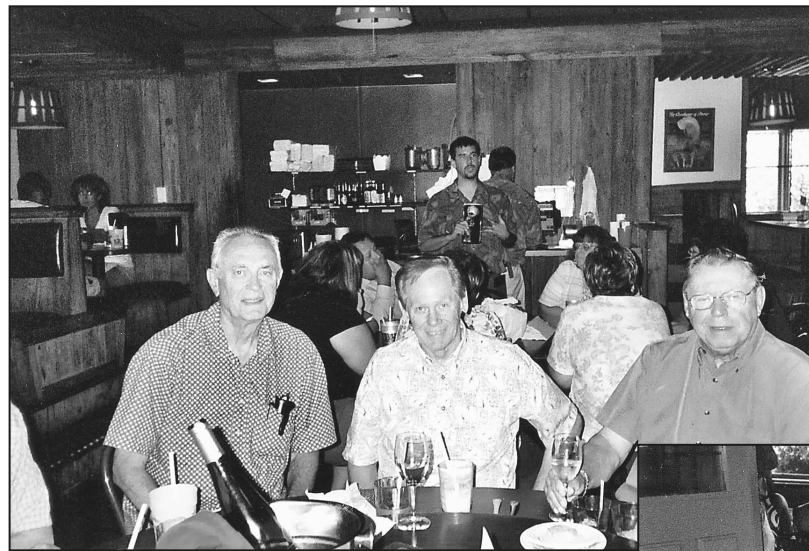
The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, has elected an interim President and Vice President at a recent Executive Board meeting. The new President is Matthew Kuniak and the Vice President is Melvin Persun. Their terms will run until nominations are held in November.

Kathleen Persun, Secretary

BRANCH 856- WASHINGTON, D.C., MARYLAND, AND VIRGINIA

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting, Policies and efforts to get new members, and the results of a branch survey requesting members' desires for branch activities. All members are urged to attend. For further information, call Stephen C. Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

Stephen C. Matula, President



L-R John Jurcenko, Ken La Porte, and Rudy Bernath.



L-R Dorothy Jurcenko, Joan Maxwell, and Dale Maxwell.



L-R Peggy Bernath, Bob Bernath, Liz Bernath, and Pat La Porte

CHICAGO BRANCH 153 HOLD MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, held its semiannual meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. After the meeting, the members enjoyed a fraternal luncheon at a local restaurant. All had an enjoyable time. A few members who came to the meeting were unable to attend the luncheon.

Dorothy Jurcenko

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 14-15, 2008 • HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

FIRST SESSION

Friday Morning, March 14, 2008

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Director, to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, Slovakia and the recitation of the Pledge of the Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain;
Andrew M. Rajec, National President;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President;
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary;
George F. Matta, National Treasurer;
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors;
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel;
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1;
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2;
Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3;
George Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4;
Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5;
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6;
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 & 9.

READING OF THE CALL

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Annual Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 15, 2007 (TELECONFERENCE)

A motion was made by Rudolf Glogovsky and seconded by Regis Brekosky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Sprock to accept the agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. The President said he will add two more items to the agenda :

- Report of the Regional Directors
- Convention 2010

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The President appointed the following committees:

DONATIONS COMMITTEE

George Matta
Damian Nasta

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Reverend Thomas Nasta
Gary Matta
Sue Ondrejco

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President read his welcome to the Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

President Rajec turned the meeting over to Vice President Andrew Harcar, who recognized President Rajec. President Rajec read his annual report. At the conclusion of the President's Report, a motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta for its acceptance. Motion carried. (The President's Report to be published in the Jednota newspaper).

OUTSIDE AUDITOR'S REPORT

On behalf of the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP., Mr. Ed Mertz presented a written report and answered the Board of Directors' questions. Mr. Mertz stated that he found all financial reports in good order and that he received excellent cooperation from the Home Office staff. He stated he would give a clear audit opinion on behalf of the FCSU.

A motion was made by George Matta, seconded by Carl Ungvarsky, to accept the outside auditor's report. Motion carried.

ACTUARIAL REPORT

Mr. Edward DePersis of the actuarial firm Bruce and Bruce presented the actuarial report for 2007. Mr. DePersis stated that since each Board Member received a copy of the report, he will not read the entire report, but will just give some highlights.

Mr. DePersis, during his presentation, suggested that the Society should explore the possibility of expanding into the states it does not do business.

President Rajec presented the following Resolution to the Board of Directors:

RESOLUTION

The Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA and Canada recognizes that the Society should expand its operations to additional states in the United States

in order to more fully serve the Fraternal/insurance needs of Slovak and Catholics and by this resolution, authorizes the officers of the Society to seek Life/Annuity licenses in those states in which the Society is not currently licensed.

By action of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA and Canada, at its board meeting, this 15th day of March 2008.

Executive Secretary

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

President

Andrew M. Rajec, President

A motion was made by Rudy Glogovsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the Resolution as presented. Motion passed.

At this time the President presented Ms. Olivia Buydos, Miss Ohio Czech-Slovak Queen, whose family are F.C.S.U. members and who will represent the state of Ohio at a pageant in Nebraska.

The President also presented her with a \$3,000.00 paid up policy and invited her to attend our Mass and lunch.

RECESS OF SESSION

At this time the Board of Directors broke for Mass and lunch.

SECOND SESSION

Friday Afternoon, March 14, 2008

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec opened the afternoon session with a prayer and call to order. The Executive Secretary stated that all members are present.

Ed DePersis continued with his report summarizing the financial status for 2007.

2007 Annual Statement

Mr. DePersis stated that the Annual Statement reflects growth for the FCSU, especially in surplus and assets. Mr. DePersis stated that 2007 was a very profitable year for the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Dividends

The Actuary recommends that a dividend be paid to the members.

Board Action to Pay Dividend

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by George Sprock to pay a dividend for 2008 with a maximum of \$400,000.00. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2007Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth A. Arendt presented the 2007 Financial Report and answered the Board Members' questions. At this time the Executive Secretary asked to defer its acceptance until Saturday to allow the Board additional time to review his Financial Report. He stated that his report would be published in our Jednota newspaper.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented her report and answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Chairman of Auditors' Report as presented. Motion carried.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer George F. Matta presented his report. After Mr. Matta's report, he answered all of the Board's questions. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt, seconded by Father Thomas Nasta to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. (Treasurer's Report to be published in the Jednota newspaper).

At this time the President led a discussion regarding the existing Section 7.05 (e) of the Bylaws. The President asked the Board to review the following Resolution for its acceptance at the Saturday's meeting (see resolution below).

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING CLARIFICATION ON THE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS OF THE F.C.S.U.

Whereas, the Executive Committee has discussed its concerns with the entire Board of Directors regarding the current state of volatility of investments in the United States and the entire world, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors understands that the investments of the Society are important to the Executive Board, and must be actively managed to obtain the highest possible returns consistent with safety and within the rules of the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Whereas, the Board of Directors, has reviewed the Bylaws of the Society and specifically reviewed section 7.05 (e) regarding the limit of \$5,000,000.00 to be held in all savings accounts, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors, after extensive discussion, believes that section 7.05 (e) of the Bylaws is only applicable to the savings accounts that are located in various Banks and Savings and Loans, and

Whereas, modern investments and banking practices have materially changed over the years, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors does not believe that section 7.05 (e) is applicable to the investment and institutional accounts of the F.C.S.U., and

continued on page 15

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

continued from page 14

Whereas, the Board of Directors expects the Executive Committee to make certain that the investment and institutional accounts of the Society are invested at the highest rate of return available in the market during the time of the investment with the assurance that the investments are secure, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors also expects the Executive Committee to continue to obtain investments in the bond and stock market that will yield maximum rates of return consistent within the rules of the Ohio Department of Insurance Code on investments and in the best interest of the Society.

Therefore it is resolved on this 15th day of March, 2008, that the Board of Directors of the F.C.S.U. acknowledges that existence of section 7.05 (e) of the Bylaws and also acknowledges the investments and accounts used by the Executive Committee are not applicable or inconsistent with the conditions set forth in Section 7.05 (e).

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco gave a PowerPoint report to the Board and answered all their questions. A motion was made by Damian Nasta, seconded by Joseph Minarovich, to accept the report. Motion carried.

HOME OFFICE BUILDING

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the maintenance and the lease of our Home Office Building and answered the Board's questions.

BRANCH REPORT

The President led a discussion regarding the condition of our Branches. He stated that he is in process of personally contacting the Branches. He already contacted over 100 Branch Officers and will continue in his effort. He will update the Board of Directors as he gathers more information. By the end of 2008 he with the Executive Secretary after consultation with Regional Directors will present a plan of Branch mergers or consolidation.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At this time the President turned over the meeting to Vice President Harcar, who turned it over to the Executive Secretary.

The Executive Secretary recognized the Vice President, who presented his Annual Report to the Board of Directors and to answer the Board's questions. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Karen Hunka to accept the Vice President's report. Motion carried. (The Vice President's Report to be published in the Jednota newspaper).

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Father Thomas Nasta read his report to the Board of Directors. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Chaplain's report. Motion carried. (The Chaplain's Report to be published in the Jednota newspaper).

ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct for today, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Regis Brekosky, to adjourn. Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

THIRD SESSION

Saturday Morning, March 15, 2008

OPEN

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Regional Director Regis Brekosky led a prayer.

ROLL CALL

The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call. He stated that everybody is present except Father Nasta, who is absent and excused.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Membership

The Vice President distributed a written report to the Board of Directors. The report contained a listing of the top proposers of insurance and annuity sales, a detailed report of sales production by districts and a five year comparison report broken down by districts.

He also stated that we will have a Conversion Program for our members later this year. He will update the Board as more information becomes available.

At this time the Executive Secretary led a discussion concerning Portamedic (an outside medical company) who will be doing our medical examinations and answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary further stated that once everything is in place and internal testing is completed, he will notify our recommenders and inform them about the proper procedures.

The Vice President led a discussion regarding seminars in the year 2008.

He will look into new and better ways of presenting the seminars.

A motion was made by Rudolf Glogovsky and seconded by Henry Hassay to accept the Vice President's report. Motion carried.

Executive Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Regis Brekosky to accept the Executive Secretary's report. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Executive Committee did meet monthly, and whenever necessary to take care of business.

Pension Committee The Executive Secretary gave an update on the FCSU Pension Plan. He stated that we are in full compliance of all federal regulations and answered the Board's questions. The President stated that he plans to have a meeting with the Pension Board in early months of 2008.

Scholarship Committee The Executive Secretary gave a report on Scholarship Committee. The applications for FCSU Scholarships are being processed and will be sent to the

Scholarship Committee. He also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

A motion was made by Regis Brekosky and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the reports. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE ACTUARIES FOR 2008

President Rajec led a discussion regarding the outside actuaries. He stated that he referred this action to the Executive Committee for review and asked the Committee members to report back with their recommendations.

APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE AUDITORS FOR 2008

The Executive Secretary stated that Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP. are in the second year of their 3 year contract.

APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE LAW FIRM FOR 2008

The President led a discussion concerning the outside law firms. He stated that he will retain Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs, LLP. and Thompson, Hine and Flory Law Firms as and if the need occurs. A motion was made by Rudolph Glogovsky and seconded by George Matta to accept the President's proposal. Motion carried by a vote of 12 to 2.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Each Regional Director presented an Annual Report to the Board of Directors. Their reports will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota, Inc. The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions.

Jednota Properties Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., presented his report and answered questions.

The reports of Jednota Inc. and Jednota Properties are informational in nature.

ESTATES

Printery leasing The President led a discussion regarding the leasing of our Printery building. He will keep the Board updated as more information becomes available.

Development of Land The President stated that he has been in contact with several developers in the Harrisburg and Middletown area concerning what new development is being planned for the area. The President will keep the Board updated as he receives further information.

CANADA BUSINESS

The President led a discussion regarding a legal opinion drafted by our General Counsel concerning Canadian residents doing business with FCSU.

2010 CONVENTION

The President stated that he and the Executive Secretary met with a convention Planner. The President said that the planner was given outlines of our needs for the convention. The planner is to report back with the best possible locations.

A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky to authorize the Executive Committee to meet with the convention planner to work out the details. The Executive Committee will keep the Board of Directors updated on their progress. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE DONATIONS COMMITTEE

George Matta made the report of the Donations Committee. All requests were reviewed and acted upon. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the recommendations of the Donations Committee as presented. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

General Counsel Gary Matta gave the report of the Resolutions Committee.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Regis Brekosky to accept the Resolutions Committee's recommendation. Motion carried.

BOARD MEETINGS

The President led a discussion regarding the June and September 2008 Board of Directors meetings. He stated that he is planning to have the June meeting telephonically on Saturday, June 28, 2008. The September meeting is planned for Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27, 2008 at the Home Office.

MISCELLANEOUS

George Matta and Gary Matta will meet with Merrill Lynch to review our contract and will report back to the Board of Directors.

Gary Matta led a discussion regarding professional liability insurance for General Counsel. The Executive Secretary will look into this matter and will report back to the Board of Directors.

The President led a discussion regarding a letter he wrote to the Slovak Catholic Federation.

A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the Resolution concerning Section 7.05 (e) of the Bylaws.. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

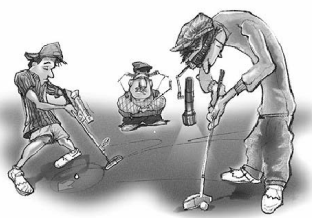
A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by George Matta to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

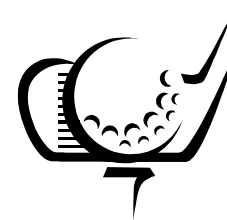
There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to adjourn. Motion carried. The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Accent on Activities



2008 International Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament was held Saturday and Sunday, July 12 - 13, at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Canton, OH. Through the generosity of our social sponsors, a hospitality room allowed the golfers to mingle with their out-of-town friends before the competition began on Friday night.

The beautiful weather on Saturday allowed the golfers to play their best on the Dales course. The drizzle Sunday morning blew over for a beautiful afternoon drive home. The results of the tournament are posted at www.fcsu.com and are listed on another page of this issue.

The golfers enjoyed a shotgun start both Saturday and Sunday. Through the generosity of one of our sponsors, Theresa Hutchinson of the BPU Investment Group, a hole-in-one contest occurred both days. On Saturday, one shot was within 2 feet of the hole and on Sunday, a golfer hit the pin. The \$7500 cash prize was within grasp.

Saturday night, National Chaplain, Fr. Tom Nasta, celebrated Mass at the Courtyard Marriott hotel. Afterwards, a tasty buffet dinner and a hilarious Murder Mystery took place. The lucky winner received a radio/cooler combo and a \$25 gift card to Applebee's.

After the golfers finished their round on Sunday, a picnic was held in the Pavilion at the Hills course of Tam O'Shanter. Golfers had the opportunity to socialize with each other before heading back home.

National President Rajec and National Secretary Arendt attended the Saturday night banquet.



August 2008

So Close, but yet So Far from that Hole in One!

Phil Smith, Bill Quinn, Lou Falbo, and Don Bolby



Hoping to win the big money are Paul Adzema, Len and Ray Gmerek, and George Smith



Robert and Larry Plavcan



Anne Mitro, Mary Jane Firment, Janice Jacobelli, and Cathy Szabo



Paul Gbur, Longest Putt on Saturday, with his Picnic Combo Prize and National Fraternal Activities Director, Susan Ondrejco



50/50 Winner – Frank Miscovich

Skins Winners

Saturday

- Cathy Szabo – 2 skins
- Janice Jacobelli – 7 skins
- Don Olenick – Birdie #6
- Lou Falbo – Birdie #16
- Kevin Firment – Birdie #18

Sunday

- Janice Jacobelli – 8 skins
- David Garver – Birdie #4
- Gene Krenicky – Birdie #13
- Bill Quinn – Birdie #16

Skill Prize Winners

Saturday

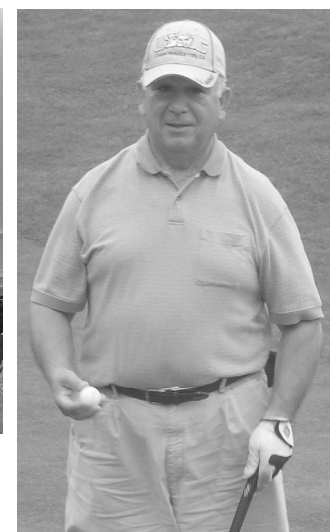
Longest Putt – Paul Gbur

Sunday

Closest to the Pin – Frank Miscovich
Longest Drive – Rich Putka

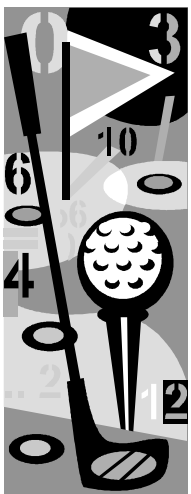


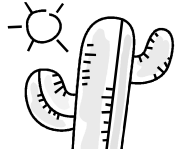
Who did it – London Marriott, a Hotel Heiress, The Volunteer, the Hapless Volunteer, or Judge Jerry Lawless, the Judge?



2008 International Golf Tournament Results

Last	First	Division	HDCP	SAT GROSS	SAT TOTAL	SUN GROSS	SUN TOTAL	FINAL SCORE	PLACE	AMT
Plavcan	Robert	65+	19	79	60	80	61	121	First	\$160.00
Zedo	Ed	65+	38	99	61	99	61	122	Second	\$130.00
Brekosky	Larry	65+	21	84	63	85	64	127	Third & Fourth	\$95.00
Kavulic	John	65+	26	90	64	89	63	127	Third & Fourth	\$95.00
Olenick	Joe	65+	29	95	66	92	63	129		
Gbur	Paul	65+	23	86	63	92	69	132		
Garver	David	65+	21	90	69	84	63	132		
Albrecht	Mike	65+	35	101	66	104	69	135		
Brekosky	James	65+	16	82	66	85	69	135		
Gmerek	Leonard	65+	24	94	70	89	65	135		
Krenicky	Eugene	65+	18	92	74	82	64	138		
Olenick	Don	65+	18	86	68	89	71	139		
Gmerek	Ray	65+	18	91	73	88	70	143		
Putka	Richard	65+	15	87	72	87	72	144		
Firment	George	65+	21	96	75	91	70	145		
Vargo	Stephen	65+	17	85	68	95	78	146		
Alesius	Ed	65+	20	93	73	95	75	148		
Brekosky	Regis	65+	41	107	66	124	83	149		
Matula	Steve	65+	31	106	75	110	79	154		
Ulishney	Alfred	65+	19	96	77	101	82	159		
Falbo	Lou	A	12	73	61	77	65	126	First	\$174.00
Hudec	Bob	A	11	77	66	75	64	130	Second	\$143.00
Nemcheck	Mike	A	19	81	62	90	71	133	Third	\$118.00
Firment	Kevin	A	3	71	68	70	67	135	Fourth	\$93.00
Piper	Rick	A	17	85	68	85	68	136		
Yokopenic	Jim	A	18	86	68	88	70	138		
Collins	Jim	A	19	85	66	93	74	140		
Groner	Rusty	A	17	87	70	87	70	140		
Brekosky	Robert	A	16	84	68	89	73	141		
Yokopenic	Steve	A	9	78	69	81	72	141		
Menich	Tony	A	6	77	71	76	70	141		
Szabo	Jim	A	10	80	70	84	74	144		
Quinn	Patrick	A	9	77	68	86	77	145		
Lako	Raymond	A	12	85	73	85	73	146		
Barron	Joe	A	18	92	74	91	73	147		
Torok	Gene	A	17	94	77	93	76	153		
Bolby	Don	A	8	82	74	88	80	154		
Quinn	Bill	A	12	91	79	88	76	155		
Yokopenic	Richard	A	10	87	77	92	82	159		
Harr	Scott	A	12	79	67	DNF				
Metarko	John	A	12	85	73	DNF				
Halula	Barry	A	16	93	77	DNF				
Collins	Greg	B	31	91	60	99	68	128	First	\$171.00
Plavcan	Larry	B	23	85	62	91	68	130	Second	\$143.00
Ferrance	Jerome	B	34	101	67	98	64	131	Third	\$118.00
Burkhart	Joe	B	47	114	67	113	66	133		
Collins	Dave	B	22	90	68	94	72	140		
Smith	George	B	37	105	68	110	73	141		
Tokarsky	John	B	21	91	70	92	71	141		
Shank	Clarence	B	26	98	72	95	69	141		
Nasta	Damian	B	48	122	74	116	68	142		
Bischak	Frank	B	41	116	75	108	67	142		
Nasta	Fr. Tom	B	42	110	68	118	76	144		
Brekosky	David	B	23	93	70	97	74	144		
Johnston	Derek	B	32	105	73	103	71	144		
Mitro	Milos	B	23	103	80	90	67	147		
Ferrance	George	B	28	98	70	106	78	148		
Johnston	Lynn	B	24	97	73	99	75	148		
Vargo	Dan	B	26	100	74	101	75	149		
Lako	Mike	B	31	116	85	112	81	166		
Miscovich	Frank	CAL	CAL	78	72	79	73	145	First	\$107.00
Felus	Bruno	CAL	CAL	88	74	90	74	148	Second	\$85.00
Miller	Roy	CAL	CAL	87	76	84	73	149		
Smith	Philip	CAL	CAL	104	76	98	76	152		
Columbus	Mike	CAL	CAL	128	77	124	76	153		
Adzema	Paul	CAL	CAL	99	78	96	75	153		
Guarino	John	CAL	CAL	98	79	92	74	153		
Malosky	Robert	CAL	CAL	102	79	DNF				
Mitro	Anne	W	52	117	65	121	69	134	First	\$96.00
Firment	Mary	W	32	105	73	103	71	144		
Jacobelli	Janice	W	16	90	74	86	70	144		
Szabo	Cathy	W	32	102	70	114	82	152		





UR_space.jrs

Friends

Events

Sports

Culture

Trivia

Activities

Activities Space



August 2008

Desert Plane Crash

The Situation

It is approximately 10 AM on August 15. You have just crash landed in the Sonora Desert in the southwestern United States. The twin engine plane, containing the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot, has completely burned. Only the air frame remains. None of the rest of you have been injured.

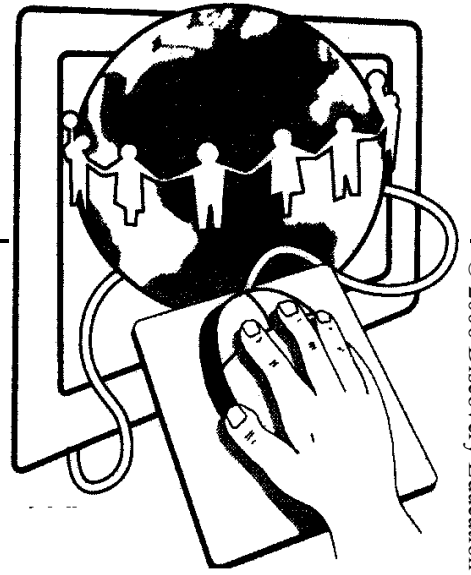
The pilot was unable to notify anyone of your position before the crash. He did tell your group before impact that were 70 miles south-southwest from a mining camp. It is the nearest habitation. He also informed you that you were approximately 65 miles off the course that was filed in the Flight Plan.

The immediate area is quite flat and, except for an occasional barrel and saguaro cactus, appears rather barren. The last weather report indicated the temperature would reach 110°. You are dressed in light-weight clothing - short sleeve shirt, pants, socks, and street shoes. Everyone has a handkerchief. Collectively, your pockets contain \$2.83 in change, \$85.00 in bills, and a ball point pen.

Your Task

Before the plane caught fire, your group salvaged the 15 items listed to the right of this box. Your task is to rank these items according to their importance to your survival. Start with "1" the most important, to "15" the least important. Send your rankings to the address shown below. The ranking that matches the closest to the Survival Expert will win a prize!

You may assume you are the actual people in the situation and all the items are in good and working condition.



© 2006 Discovery Education

- Flashlight (4 battery size)
- Jack Knife
- Sectional air map of the area
- Plastic raincoat (large size)
- Magnetic compass
- Compress kit with gauze
- 0.45 caliber pistol (loaded)
- Parachute (red and white)
- Bottle of salt tablets (1000)
- 1 quart of water per person
- A book entitled, Edible Animals of the Desert
- A pair of sunglasses per person
- 2 quarts of Vodka
- 1 top coat per person
- A cosmetic mirror

Mail Space



Dear Suzy,
Thank you for allowing me to be in your contest. I had fun. I was excited to hear I was an "honorable mention". The target card was a big surprise. I am

so happy. I bought a Nerf dartboard. It has lights and whistles! I love being slovak. ☺
Sincerely
Joseph Hawes
(excited)



Challenge Space

Have Some Fun With Your 411

What's in a number? A lot, apparently! Take our phone number challenge and see how your seven digits add up.

What to do:

1. Multiply the first three digits of your phone number (not your area code) by 80.
2. Add 1.
3. Multiply by 250.
4. Add the number formed by the last four digits of your phone number.
5. Add that four-digit number again.
6. Subtract 250.
7. Divide by 2.

What number did you get?

Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR_Space.jrs
234 Ilion St.
Pgh., PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com

Dear Susan,
We are using our bags for beach things and the other one is for our hermit crab when we take him on trips. We also used the money we won for college.
Sincerely,
Maura & Roseanna

DEAR SUSAN ONDREJCO,
THANK YOU FOR AWARDING ME FIRST PLACE IN THE 2007 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST.
I ALREADY USED MY BAG FOR MY CLOTHES AND CRAYONS TO VISIT MY GRANDPARENTS, KEN & LISA MARINIK, IN THEIR HOTEL WHEN I STAYED OVERNIGHT WITH THEM. I'LL USE THE \$25 TO BUY MORE CRAYONS FOR MORE PRACTICE!
THANK YOU.
ZOE MARINIK

**MAY 2008 TREASURER'S REPORT
PREPARED BY GEORGE F. MATTA
NATIONAL TREASURER**

MERRILL LYNCH

AA2/AA	BANK OF AMERICA PREFERRED	8.20	25.00	8.20	500K	
		CALLABLE 5-01-13				
A3/A+	PRUDENTIAL FIN	6.00	05-15-19		100.00	6.00 300K
		CALLABLE 5-15-10				
AA2/AA	PRINCIPAL LIFE	6.00	06-15-18		100.00	6.00 300K
		CALLABLE 6-15-10				

FERRIS BAKER WATTS

AA-/AA3	MORGAN STANLEY STEP-UP	6.00	04-14-23		100.00	6.00 500K
		CALLABLE 6-14-11 AT 6.00 – CALLABLE 6-14-14 AT 6.25				
		CALLABLE 6-14-17 AT 6.50 – CALLABLE 6-14-20 AT 6.75				
		CALLABLE 06-14-23 AT 7.00 – THIS IS AT LEAST A 3YR CALL PROTECTION				

SMITH BARNEY

A2/A-	MFG & TRADERS BANK	5.585	12-28-20		92.65	6.45 300K
		NON CALL				
A1/A	PNC BANK	6.875	04-01-18		105.53	6.10 500K
		NON CALL				
Aa3/ 300K	CO	PASS BANK	6.40	10-01-17	98.7	6.579
		NON CALL				
A2/a	ESTEE LAUDER	5.55	05-15-17		100.00	5.55 400K
		NON CALL				

BPU INVESTMENT

Aa2/AA-	WACHOVIA SECURITIES	5.60	03-15-16		99.25	5.72 500K
		NON CALL				

WACHOVIA SECURITIES

AA3/AA-	MORGAN STANLEY- STEP-UP	6.00	5-19-23		100.00	6.00 500K
		CALLABLE 5-19-11 @ 6.00 CALLABLE 5-19-14 @ 6.25				
		CALLABLE 5-19-17 @ 6.50 CALLABLE 5-19-20 @ 6.50				
		CALLABLE 5-19-23 @ 7.00				
A1/A	COMPASS BANK	6.40	10-01-17		99.27	6.504 300K
		NON CALL				



Allentown Parish to Hold “Dinner Meat Bingo”

The St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church is sponsoring a “Dinner Meat Bingo” on Sunday, August 17, 2008, in the church social hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Doors open at 12:00 noon, bingo starts at 1:00 p.m. Donation is \$15.00 for 25 games plus specials. For information call Bill Drost at 610/432-3505 or Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614. Refreshments will be available.



The Annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar

The Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor its annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse, 2601 West Marquette Road, Chicago, Illinois.

Susan Marcinkus will present a 45 minute DVD on Slovakia. After the showing of “Pictures of the Old Country”, a question and answer session will be held. The seminar will begin at 1:00 p.m. At 1:45 p.m. Geraldine Hletko will welcome the participants and introduce the speaker. A buffet luncheon will be served at 3:00 p.m.

The offering for this event is \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. Prepaid registration can be arranged through John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 no later than September 17, 2008. For further information, call Geraldine Hletko at 708/387-7812.

Jednota, Inc and Subsidiaries Consolidated Balance Sheets Demember 31, 2007 and 2006

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 79,313	\$ 236,434
Accounts Receivable	52,620	14,455
Prepaid Taxes	<u>25,236</u>	<u>12,287</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>157,169</u>	<u>263,176</u>
Investment		
FCSU Branch Agreement at Market Value	<u>101,537</u>	<u>166,551</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	162,000	162,000
Land Improvements	73,554	73,554
Building	2,846,326	2,846,326
Leasehold Improvements	<u>385,032</u>	<u>249,515</u>
	3,466,912	3,331,395
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,355,067)</u>	<u>(1,227,994)</u>
Property and Equipment - Net	<u>2,111,845</u>	<u>2,103,401</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,370,551</u>	<u>\$ 2,533,128</u>

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold a meeting on Sunday, August 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Saint Charles Parish Activity Center, 15891 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio.

National Vice President Andrew Harcar will conduct the Ohio Seminar in conjunction with the District meeting. Please contact Linda Hanko at 330/706-0151 or email her at lhanko@neo.rr.com and give her the number of members from your branch who will be attending this event. We encourage all branch members to attend this meeting and seminar and learn more about the First Catholic Slovak Union and its products.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in the formation room of Saint Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, Pennsylvania. Please note that this meeting is being held at an earlier date to give us more time to organize and advertise our annual Stedry Vecer. Representatives of each branch are requested to attend.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

REV. MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT-BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The Rev. Matthew Jankola District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now called “The Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The election of District officers will be held at this meeting. Members of the various branches are encouraged to attend this Annual Meeting.

Jacqueline Zack, Secretary

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT-LACKAWANNA & LUZERNE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA, AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its Annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, September 14, 2008, from 10:30 a.m. to dusk at McDade Park, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The event will begin with a continental breakfast sponsored by Branch 382 of Scranton and Branch 166 of Binghamton. A catered lunch featuring Slovak foods will be served at 12:45 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be grilled to order in the afternoon. Snacks will be available throughout the afternoon until the end of the picnic at dusk.

Admission is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 10 years of age. Reservations are required. To make reservations, contact District 17 Fraternal Activities Director Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570/344-3854 before Friday, September 5, 2008.

Members and friends of the FCSU are cordially invited.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai

**If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately**

THINK ABOUT IT!



14 detí zoskupených z našej farnosti počas Prvého prijímania v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.



Otec Štefan Chanas počas príprav detí na Prvé sväté prijímanie.



Mišelka Vida, najmladšia členka Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ.



Magnalene Joob.

Nechajte maličkých prísť ku mne...

“Nechajte maličkých prísť ku mne, lebo ich je Kráľovstvo Nebeské...”

V Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku v mesiaci máji sa uskutočnilo niekoľko radostných podujatí. V prvom rade to bolo v nedeľu 11. mája 2008 Prvé sväté prijímanie, ku ktorému pristúpilo 14 detí našej farnosti. Medzi prvoprijímajúcimi deťmi bola aj naša najmladšia členka Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Mišelka Vida. V túto sviatočnú nedeľu o 11. hodine predpoludním do vyzdobeného chrámu vchádzali deti za doprovodu krásnej piesne “Prijmí Matka v náruč dieťky, čo Ti prišli pred oltár...” Vďaka patrí predovšetkým nášmu farárovi Martinovi Svitaňovi a otcovi Štefanovi Chanásovi, ktorý deti už od januára tohto roku pripravoval na túto radostnú udalosť. Nie jedni rodičia, starí rodičia a krstní rodičia vyronili slzy radosti.

Druhou peknou udalosťou, ktorá sa odohrala v našej farnosti bola oslava narodenín našej najstaršej farničky Magnalene Joob, ktorá sa ešte vďaka Bohu teší dobrému zdraviu. Pochádza z Liptova a bola organizovaná v rôznych slovenských spolkoch ako je Ružencový spolok a Ženská jednota.

Henrieta Daitová

Benedikt XVI. mladým

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

nich.” Viem, že ste tu nielen tí, ktorí aktívne prežívajú svoju vieru, ale aj mnohí hľadajúci a tí, ktorí ste dokonca na okraji farností, či spoločnosti. Chcem vám povedať, že farnosti sa môžu stať vašim domovom. Nikto nie je nútený stať mimo.” - povedal doslova pápež. Pozdrav poslal i tým, ktorí nemôžu byť na Barangaroo- chorým- telesne i duševne, ba dokonca i tým, ktorí sú vo väzení alebo sa odcudzili Cirkvi. Tieto slová sa stretli s mohutným ohlasom mladých. Pápež sa dotkol aj otázok spojených s ochranou prírody. S mladými pútnikmi sa podelil o svoje zážitky z letu do Austrálie, ktorý bol síce namáhavý, no umožnil mu obdivovať krásu stvorenia, na vrchole ktorého stojí človek. Ten má podľa pápeža úlohu a povinnosť starať sa o zverené stvorenie. Pápež zároveň mladých varoval pred falošnými prorokmi, ktorí sú nositeľmi myšlienok relativizmu a sekularizmu. “Snažia sa vás presvedčiť, že objektívna pravda neexistuje a že Cirkev a náboženský život patria iba do súkromného života. Táto cesta nevedie k šťastiu a slobode, ale naopak k otroctvu.” - povedal Benedikt XVI. Svet je podľa pápeža unavený egoizmom, nezaujmom a neúctou voči životu. “Práve naopak, je potrebné vaše svedectvo o úcte voči životu, budovanie spoločenských a solidaritných. To je ovocie Ducha Svätého, ktorého ste svedkami.” - povedal na záver svojho úvodného príhovoru Benedikt XVI.

Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

Easy Expressions

English	Slovak	Pronunciation
Yes	Áno, hej	Ano, hey)
No	Nie	(nYYe)
Yes, sir	Áno, prosím	(Ano, proseem)
Are you Slovak?	Ste Slovák?	(stYe slovAK)
Are you Slovak?	Ste Slovenka?	(stYe slovenka)
Do you speak English?	Hovoríte anglicky?	(hovoreet Ye anglitski)
Do you speak Slovak?	Hovoríte slovensky?	(hovoreet Ye slovenski)
A little	Málo	(mAló)
Very well	veľmi dobre	(veLYmi dobre)
Do you understand?	Rozumiete?	(rozum Yet Ye)
I do not understand	Nerazumiem	(nYerozum Yem)
What do you want?	Čo chcete?	(cho Xtset Ye)
Nothing	Nič	(nYich)
Give me-	Dajte mi-	(daYtYe mi-)
Give me some bread	Dajte mi chleba	(daYtYe mi XlYeba)
Give me some water	Dajte mi vody	(da YtYe mi voda)
Give me something to eat	Dajte mi jest'	(daYtYe mi YestY)
What did you say?	Čo hovoríte?	(cho hovoreet Ye)
What did you say? (formal)	Čo ste hovorili?	(cho stYe hovorili)
How do you do?	Ako sa máte?	(Ako sa mAttYe)
How are you?	Ako sa máte	(Akosa MatYe)
Who? What	Kto? Čo?	(kto cho)
I am glad of it	Teší ma to	(tYeshee ma to)
Sir!	Pane!	(panYe)
It is a pity	To je škoda	(toYe shkoda)

To be continued

Slovensko za dva roky zbohatlo o viac ako 21 %

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovenská koruna od 4. júla 2006 doteraz, teda počas dvoch rokov pôsobenia súčasnej vlády, posilnila o viac ako 21 %. Z úrovne takmer 38.50 SKK/EUR sa jej kurz dostal na dnešných pár halierov nad 30 SKK/EUR. Povedal predseda vlády SR Robert Fico na margo oficiálneho vyhlásenia 8. júla konverzného kurzu slovenskej koruny voči euru v Bruseli.

„Je neodškriepiteľným faktom, že za dva roky sa vláde SR a jej politikám v oblasti hospodárstva, financií, rozpočtu, daní, dotácií cien, podpory investícií a v ďalších ekonomických oblastiach podarilo dosiahnuť zhodnotenie alebo zbohatnutie Slovenska o viac ako 21 percent,“ spresnil premiér.

Konverzným kurzom sa podľa jeho slov už navždy bude prepočítavať hodnota našej meny - slovenskej koruny na spoločnú európsku menu euro a nielen od 1. januára, ale kedykoľvek v budúcnosti cenný majetok a záväzky, ak budú ešte vedené v slovenských korunách, budú prerátavané týmto konverzným kurzom.

Rozvodovosť má na Slovensku dlhodobý rastúci trend

Bratislava (TASR) - Vývoj rozvodovosti na Slovensku má rastúci trend. Historicky najvyšší počet rozvodov bol zatiaľ v roku 2006 (12,716). V roku 2007 počet rozvodov mierne klesol na 12,174. Vyplýva to z Informatívnej správy Štatistického úradu (ŠÚ) SR. Údaje naznačujú, že prudké zvýšenie v roku 2006 bolo extrémom, nie nadpriemerným zrýchlením trendu zvyšovania rozvodovosti. „Závažným faktom je, že dochádza k rastu počtu konaní ukončených rozvodom. Kým v roku 1993 skončilo rozvodom necelých 74 percent konaní, v roku 2007 to bolo až 93 percent,“ informovala Zuzana Podmanická z odboru štatistiky obyvateľstva ŠÚ SR na tlačovej besede v Bratislave.

Podmanická upozornila na ďalší trend, ktorým je posun rozvodov do vyššieho veku. „Stúpajú rozvody u manželstiev s dlhším trvaním. Rozvody po 25 rokoch trvania manželstva vzrástli za posledných 15 rokov takmer štvornásobne.“ Vysoký počet rozvodov sa premieta i do ostatných súvisiacich ukazovateľov. Hrubá miera rozvodovosti vzrástla na 2.3 percenta. V roku 2007 bol najvyšší počet rozvádžajúcich sa vo vekovej skupine 30-34-ročných mužov (21 percent) i žien (24 percent), potom nasleduje skupina 35-39-ročných. Príčiny rozvodov sú podľa Podmanickej rôzne, ale prevláda prevažne rozdielnosť pováh, názorov, záujmov, ale aj alkoholizmus a nevera.



Euro príde na Slovensko 1. januára 2009

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

jej meny dvakrát. Príslušná národná mena sa pritom musí pohybovať v rozpätí 15 % okolo oficiálne stanoveného stredového kurzu, tzv. centrálnej parity. Slovenská koruna vstúpila do ERM II v novembri 2005 s paritou na úrovni 38.455 SKK/EUR. Sústavné posilňovanie slovenskej meny však napokon v marci minulého roka podniklo prvú zmenu centrálnej parity, ktorá revalvovala o 8.5% na úroveň 35.4424 SKK/EUR. Posun koruny na stále silnejšie hodnoty sa však nezastavil a výrazne sa zrýchľil v máji tohto roka po tom, ako Európska komisia (EK) kladne zhodnotila pripravenosť Slovenska na vstup do eurozóny v plánovanom termíne 1. januára 2009. Vo chvíli, keď sa kurz slovenskej meny tesne priblížil spodnej hranici povoleného pásma pohybu 30.126 SKK/EUR, došlo 28. mája k druhej revalvácii stredového kurzu v mechanizme ERM II práve na túto spodnú úroveň. Počas pobytu v mechanizme ERM II nerealizovala dve zmeny ešte doteraz žiadna z súčasných 15 členských krajín eurozóny. Väčšina z nich svoj stredový kurz nemenila vôbec, k jednej zmene pristúpilo len Írsko a Grécko. S korunou sa bude do konca tohto roka aj naďalej obchodovať. S blížiacim sa koncom roka by sa mal aj trhovú kurz stále viac približovať k hodnote 30.1260 EUR/SKK



Nikto nespája národy Európy tak ako Mária

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

V sobotu sa tak na Máriinom vršku zliali v jednu rodinu tristotisíc a v nedeľu vyše pol milióna pútnikov. „Prichádzajú hľadať pomoc a ochranu Panny Márie, ktorá ešte nikoho nesklamala,“ vníma dianie levočský dekan František Dluhoš.

Tá tohtoročná pripomínala jednak mužov z minulosti: 130. výročie narodenia biskupa Vojtašáka a 70 rokov od smrti spišského profesora kňaza Jána Čarnogurského. No pozornosť priťahli aj osobnosti dneška: fatimský biskup Antonio Marto a viedenský arcibiskup kardinál Christoph Schönborn. Biskup Marto sa zúčastnil na programe fatimskej soboty: jeden desiatok ruženca sa pomodlil dokonca v portugálčine, slúžil svätú omšu a večer sa modlil aj s mladými. „Veľké množstvo ľudí sa prišlo povzbudiť vo viere skrze Máriu. V dnešnej dobe, keď sme bombardovaní kritickými a neprajnými vyjadreniami proti Cirkvi a proti kresťanským hodnotám, je to veľmi dôležité,“ povzbudil veriacich biskup František Tondra. „Boh môže oslovovať človeka viditeľne – ako oslovil Máriu anjel Gabriel, alebo vnútorným osvetením – ako v prípade Alžbety,“ dodáva.

Duchovným vrcholom bola nedeľná slávnostná svätá omša. Nezvyčajná, keďže ju slúžil viedenský kardinál s lámanou slovenčinou, s latinskou prefáciou, kánonom a Otčenášom a príhovorom v nemčine.

„Všetci sme raz boli v lone svojej matky. Dnes môžeme ďakovať všetkým našim matkám, že povedali áno,“ vyzýval otec kardinál a matky postavil do radu najvýznamnejších osôb hneď za Máriu. „No modliť sa máme aj za iné ženy. Tie, ktoré nemali toľko odvahy. V Európe je ich veľa a je to veľmi bolestná rana. No Kristus neodsudzuje žiadnu z nich. Je pripravený odpustiť, keď poprosí o odpustenie. Máme nie súdiť a odsudzovať, ale múdro a prakticky pomáhať.“

Keď pútnici schádzali z Mariánskej hory, rezonovali v nich myšlienky ako veľká výzva: „Nikto nespája národy Európy tak ako Mária, pretože prináša Ježiša ku všetkým. Prosme ju teda o pomoc, aby Európa mala odvalu povedať životu a jeho ochrane svoje veľké áno.“

JANA VÍZNEROVÁ, Katolícke noviny

Kvapka pre dušu

„Mučeníctvo nás spája so všetkými veriacimi v Krista, tak na Východe, ako aj na Západe, s ktorými ešte stále očakávame plné cirkevné spoločenstvo.“

JÁN PAVOL II.

Do čínskej metropoly pôjde najmenšia slovenská výprava v histórii letných olympiád

Bratislava (TASR) - Na Hrách XXIX. olympiády v Pekingu (8.-24. augusta) sa predstaví 56 slovenských športovcov. Nominácia na OH 2008 dostala definitívnu podobu na sobotňajšom XXXV. Valnom zhromaždení Slovenského olympijského výboru v bratislavskom hoteli Holiday Inn. Po zasadnutí exekutívy SOV malo účasť v Pekingu istú 49 športovcov, ktorí do bodky splnili všetky kritéria. Valné zhromaždenie schválilo v piatich prípadoch výnimky z plnenia nominačných kritérií SOV. Do Pekingu tak pocestujú aj plavec Ľuboš Križko a kvarteto atlétovej Zuzana Tomas, Miriam Bobková, Peter Horák, Miloslav Konopka. V Číne nebudú chýbať ani tenisti Daniela Hantuchová s Dominikom Hrbatým, hoci nesplnili podmienku preukázania dvoch dopingových kontrol.

Do čínskej metropoly pôjde najmenšia slovenská výprava v histórii letných olympiád, čo spôsobil najmä totálny neúspech na poli kolektívnych športov. Pred štyrmi rokmi v Aténach reprezentovalo 65 športovcov spod Tatier. Na OH 2000 v Sydney vyslalo Slovensko 112 športovcov a na letnej olympijskej premiére v Atlante v roku 1996 reprezentovalo 71 pretekárov. Najpočetnejšiu časť výpravy v Pekingu budú tvoriť atléti (17), po nich nasledujú kanoisti (12 - rýchlostní 7 + vodný slalom 5). Po prvý raz v histórii bude mať Slovensko pod piatimi kruhmi svoje zastúpenie v bedmintonne (Eva Sládeková) a triatlone (Pavol Šimko).



Otcov náhrobný pomník na cintoríne v Černom, dnes Vranov nad Topľou. V pozadí Aninka a Pavol Bindas.

Spomienka na otca

Pamätám na to dávno dávne aprílové ráno,
Na otcov mocný stisk mojej mladej ruky,
Keď ma privinul k svojej hrudi a povedal:
Nežiaľ synku, veď ja sa vrátim v piatom roku,
buď dobrý, poslúchaj svoju starostlivú mamku.
Sadnul na vlak, bolestne zavolať z bohom
a odišiel do Nového sveta za mäkkším chlebom
a slzy rosili starú zem pod slovenským nebom.

Päť rokov minuli i ďalšie k ním pribudli,
otec sa nevrátil, len domov odkázal:
Nie ja tam, ale vy tu žiť v pokoji a mieri,
pokiaľ svet neohluší Európa horí.

Vitajte! Ženo, deti v dobrej zemi slobody,
snáď dá Boh, že sa ešte domov vrátíme,
až minie zloba a za stôl nová nádej sadne.

Matka po domove túžila, návratu sa nedožila,
svojet, dom a úrodné polia viac nespatriła,
mrcha choroba jej nádejný život zmárnila.
Otec odišiel, do lona rodiny viac sa nevrátil,
tam v jeho domovine osud život mu skrátil.
Hľa, aká to života nevyspytateľná irónia
matka tu a otec tam už dlhé roky prachnivia.

Krajan môj, pohľadni na otcov hrobný pomník
a pod ním na symbol s javorovým listom,
bo tam odpočívá v tvrdej zemi rodnej hrudy
Tvoj navrátený brat z ďalekej Kanady.

Štefan Hreha
Montréal 2008

Slovenská bryndza je zapísaná do registra vedeného Európskou komisiou (EK)

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenská bryndza je tak už tretím výrobkom s chráneným zemepisným označením na Slovensku. Úradne sa proces registrácie zavŕšil, keď 17. júla bolo vo vestníku EÚ zverejnené nariadenie Komisie (ES) č. 676/2008 zo 16. júla 2008, ktorým sa do Registra chránených označení pôvodu a chránených zemepisných označení zapisujú určité názvy a medzi nimi i slovenská bryndza. Nariadenie nadobudne účinnosť dvadsiatym dňom po jeho uverejnení.

Prihlasovateľom typicky slovenského výrobku o zápis zemepisného označenia bol Cech bryndziarov ešte v roku 2004 - žiadosť bola v SR podaná 16. februára a zapísaná 27. apríla a následne do evidencie žiadostí EK o ochranu so zemepisným značením 13. októbra. Slovenská bryndza je prírodný biely, jemne roztierateľný zrejúci syr s ojedinelými krupičkami, vyrobený tradičným spôsobom mletím vyzretého ovčieho hrudkového syra alebo zmesi ovčieho a kravského hrudkového syra. Podiel ovčieho hrudkového syra je väčší ako 50 %. Jeho vôňa a chuť je lahodná, príjemne kyslá po ovčom syre, mierne pikantná a slaná. Žiadosť o zápis zemepisného označenia Slovenská bryndza je tak založená na reputácii výrobku a tradícii, ako aj na špecifickej kvalite a vlastnostiach.

O Slovenskej bryndzi sa hovorí ako o prvom slovenskom vynáleze, ktorého autorom je Ján Vagač. Vymyslel ju, keď hľadal riešenie, ako konzervovať ovčí syr. Tak vznikla v roku 1787 prvá slovenská bryndziareň v Detve. O reputácii Slovenskej bryndze svedčí aj jej vývoz. Pred I. svetovou vojnou sa vyrobilo priemerne 3.5 milióna kg Slovenskej bryndze, z čoho sa viac ako dve tretiny vyviezli mimo územia Slovenska, najviac do Rakúska a Maďarska.

Dôkazom tradície Slovenskej bryndze je aj jej používanie pri príprave tradičných slovenských špecialít. Špecifická kvalita a vlastnosti Slovenskej bryndze sú dané jej prípravou - drvením a mletím vyzretého ovčieho hrudkového syra alebo zmesi ovčieho a kravského hrudkového syra v ježkovom mlyne a následne valcovom mlyne. Informáciu poskytol Komunikačný odbor Ministerstva pôdohospodárstva (MP) SR.



Do expozičného fondu múzea pribudlo 60 diel Andyho Warhola

Medzilaborce (TASR) - Zhruba 60 nových diel kráľa pop-artu Andyho Warhola pribudlo do expozičného fondu múzea nesúceho meno umelca v Medzilaborciach. Múzeum moderného umenia A. Warhola ich vystaví pri príležitosti nedožitých 80. narodenín umelca svetového mena v auguste.

„Na plánovanú inauguráciu diel chceme pozvať zberateľov týchto diel aj príbuzných z USA uviedol 11. júla kurátor múzea Martin Cubjak.

Nové obrazy získalo múzeum hlavne od štyroch slovenských podnikateľov pôsobiacich v zahraničí, ktorí ich zakúpili a medzilaboreckej kultúrnej inštitúcii prepožičali na dobu neurčitú. „V múzeu, ktoré je vedľa Warholovho rodiska Pittsburghu jedným z dvoch na svete, tak už bude 230 originálov z ateliéru extravagantného umelca. Pribudne nám portfólio Goetheho, Katedrály v Cologne, Kamufláže a pod.“ doplnil Cubjak. Andy Warhol sa narodil 6. augusta. Umelec, ktorého rodičia pochádzali z Mikovej na východnom Slovensku, zomrel ako 58-ročný.



Druhá časť Diecézneho múzea v Nitre otvorená

Nitra (TK KBS) – Na slávnosť sv. Cyrila a Metoda dňa 5. júla 2008 prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič, primátor mesta Nitra Jozef Dvonč a nitriansky diecézny biskup Mons. Viliam Judák slávnostne otvorili druhú časť Diecézneho múzea – klenotnicu. Je v nej inštalovaný chrámový poklad Nitrianskej katedrály a Biskupského úradu v Nitre. Nachádzajú sa tam bohoslužobné sakrálné predmety – kalichy, monštrancie, svietniky a pod., ktoré tak jedinečným spôsobom dotvárajú celý projekt Diecézneho múzea, ktorý osobne inicioval Mons. Viliam Judák. Diecézne múzeum v Nitre tak poskytuje svojim návštevníkom popri poznávacích a náboženských informáciách i zážitok umelecký a kultúrny.



Bratislava je 45. najdrahším mestom sveta

Bratislava (TASR) - Bratislava je 45. najdrahším mestom na svete. V roku 2007 sa pritom umiestnila na 31. mieste. Najdrahším mestom na svete zostala aj tento rok Moskva.

Ako ďalej informovala konzultačná agentúra Mercer, poradie zahŕňa 143 miest sveta a je založené na porovnaní výdavkov na bývanie, dopravu, jedlo, oblečenie a zábavu. Výskum sa zameriava na zahraničných zamestnancov a pomáha zamestnávateľom určovať výšku plátov v príslušných krajinách.

V Moskve sú náklady na život 1.5-krát vyššie ako v New Yorku, ktoré je referenčným mestom. New York je najdrahším americkým mestom a zároveň jediným mestom Severnej Ameriky, ktoré sa dostalo do prvej päťdesiatky. Druhú priečku obsadilo Tokio a na tretej pozícii sa nachádza Londýn. V prvej desiatke dominujú európske a ázijské mestá.

Financial Times: Fico si užíva najvyšší hospodársky rast

Londýn/Bratislava (TASR) - Dva roky po uchopení moci si slovenský premiér Robert Fico užíva vládu v krajine, ktorá zaznamenáva najvyšší hospodársky rast v Európe a ani na jeho stranu Smer sa už v Európskom parlamente nepozerajú cez prsty tak ako predtým. Konštatoval to 23. júla britský hospodársky denník Financial Times v špeciálnej prílohe venovanej Slovensku. Ako pripomínajú noviny, pred dvoma rokmi, keď Fico utvoril "čudnú koalíciu s xenofóbov a bývalým diktátorom, jeho víťazstvo bolo Európou prijímané s obavami a neistotu pociťovali najmä ekonómovia a podnikatelia, obávajúci sa, že pokazi reformy, ktoré zo Slovenska spravili úspešnú krajinu.

Financial Times pripomínajú, že Fico počas predvolebnej kampane v roku 2006 odmietavo reagoval na všetky reformy vtedajšieho premiéra Mikuláša Dzurindu, ktorý zaviedol 19-percentnú rovnú daň, sprivatizoval väčšinu štátnych firiem, zreformoval zdravotnícky a dôchodkový systém a vyviedol Slovensko z medzinárodnej izolácie, keď sa zaslúžil o prijatie krajiny do NATO a EÚ.

Napriek odporu k Dzurindovým reformám sa však Fico "uchýlil iba k populistickým heslám proti nepopulárnym opatreniam a zastavil výber malých poplatkov, ktoré občania platili za zdravotnú starostlivosť.

Analytik UniCredit Bank Slovakia Viliam Pätoprstý spresnil, že "vláda sa prezentuje ako ľavicová, bez toho, aby robila nejaké podstatné zmeny... Neurobila nič, aby destabilizovala krajinu alebo pokazila reputáciu Slovenska ako krajiny s dobrým podnikateľským prostredím."

Nemenovaný zahraničný diplomat pre Financial Times dodal, že "Fico to uhral skvele. Je skutočne najlepším politikom v krajine. Opozícia neexistuje a Fico presadí všetko, čo navrhne."

Slovensko získalo miesto pri najexkluzívnejšom európskom stole

Pred desiatimi rokmi bolo Slovensko na "okraji" Európy, a hrozilo, že z európskej mapy úplne vypadne. Zaostávalo za ambicióznymi susedmi - Poľskom, Maďarskom a Českou republikou, ktorí sa ponáhľali do NATO a Európskej únie, zatiaľ čo "autoritárska" vláda v Bratislave sa orientovala na Moskvu.

Dnes je ale všetko inak. Slovensko predbehlo svojich susedov. Ako prvé splnilo všetky náročné kritériá, takže sa 1. januára stane členom eurozóny, jedného z najexkluzívnejších klubov na svete. Konštatoval v júli britský hospodársky denník Financial Times.

Noviny pripomínajú, že vlni sa Slovensko stalo členom Schengenského priestoru a jeho východná hranica je zároveň vonkajšou hranicou Európskej únie.

Čo sa týka ekonomickej situácie, úverová kríza, ktorá zasiahla Spojené štáty a západnú Európu sa Slovenska takmer nedotkla a tunajší trh s nehnuteľnosťami prežíva rozmach. Napriek tomu, že objem úverov stúpa, banky majú dostatok likvidity a nemusia si požičiavať na medzinárodných trhoch.

Pomer úverov ku vkladom je takmer 70 %. Slováci už začínajú skupovať domy aj za hranicami, v susednom Rakúsku a v Maďarsku a developerské spoločnosti budujú obrovské projekty v Bratislave a v okolí.

Ekonomika krajiny vlni expandovala o 10.4 %. Rýchly hospodársky rast a nízke mzdy sa stali magnetom pre zahraničných investorov. Tento rok vláda očakáva 2.7 miliardy USD priamych zahraničných investícií. Väčšina z nich smeruje do výrobných odvetví, ako je automobilový či elektrotechnický priemysel. Slovensko sa po príchode zahraničných automobiliek stalo z hľadiska počtu vyrobených áut na obyvateľov najväčším producentom na svete.

Vďaka investíciám do výroby sa krajine darí zvyšovať produktivitu a znižovať rozpočtový deficit. Pre porovnanie, tri pobaltské štáty, ktoré sú z hľadiska rozlohy a počtu obyvateľov podobné Slovensku, využili väčšinu priamych zahraničných investícií na výstavbu nehnuteľností. Táto bublina však praskla a dnes ich ekonomiky prudko spomaľujú.

Aj Slovensko však musí čeliť mnohým výzvam: hrubý domáci produkt (HDP) na obyvateľa dosahuje zatiaľ len 70 % priemeru HDP v Európskej únii. Okrem toho tu existujú veľké regionálne rozdiely medzi rýchlo sa rozvíjajúcou západnou časťou krajiny a chudobnejším východným Slovenskom, ktoré trpí vysoká nezamestnanosť.

"Je potrebné zlepšiť stav ciest a železničnú dopravu smerom na východ," uviedol Andreas Tostmann, predseda predstavenstva Volkswagen Slovakia. Aj systém vzdelávania je podľa FT prinajlepšom bezvýrazný, čo je nebezpečné pre krajinu, ktorá už dlho nebude môcť ťažiť z toho, že má lacnú pracovnú silu. Denník upozorňuje, že turistický priemysel sa zatiaľ nerozvinul natoľko, aby dokázal ťažiť z Vysokých Tatier a zabezpečiť výrazný prílev financií.

Ekonomike krajiny dominujú zahraniční investori, ktorí majú pod kontrolou bankový sektor, ako aj najdôležitejšie priemyselné odvetvia. Z domácich firiem sú najúspešnejšie finančné skupiny Penta a J&T.

Slovenská vláda premiéra Roberta Fica zmenila pro-americký kurz predchádzajúceho kabinetu. Zatiaľ čo susedné Česko a Poľsko, ktoré súhlasili s umiestnením amerického protiraketového systému na svojom území s obavami sledujú narastajúcu silu Ruska, Slovensko ostáva relatívne pokojné v súvislosti s energetickou závislosťou na ruskej ropе a plyne. Sebavedomie Slovenska odráža aj skutočnosť, že len 15 rokov po získaní samostatnosti sa táto malá krajina, ktorá má len 5.4 milióna obyvateľov, onedlho pripojí k eurozóne a zasadne k vrcholnému európskemu stolu.

PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Slovensko má od 8. júla konverzný kurz pre novú menu a vyšší medzinárodný rating. Občanov podľa analytikov teraz čaká šok z prepočítavania slovenských korún na eurá a porovnávanie cien s inými krajinami. Napríklad najlepšie plateným politikom od januára 2009 zmiznú z výplatnej pásky dve nuly. Už dnes je jasné, že slovenskí verejní činitelia nepatria v Európe medzi najbohatších, po prepočte na eurá však bude rozdiel ešte očividnejší. Plat hlavy štátu sa zmení z dnešných 250-tisíc korún na necelých 8-tisíc eur. V štúdiu americkej konzultačnej firmy Hay Group, ktorá pred dvoma rokmi vyhodnocovala príjmy trinástich európskych predsedov vlád, skončil vtedajší premiér Mikuláš Dzurinda s príjmom 3, 260 eur mesačne na poslednom mieste. Najlepšie zarábajúcim predsedom vlády vtedy bol Tony Blair s mesačným príjmom 22-tisíc eur. Šok z prepočítavania korún na eura postihne podľa politológa Petra Horvátha nielen politickú špičku, ale aj bežných občanov a najmä dôchodcov. „Bude to uvedomenie si, ako výrazne zaostávame za inými členskými krajinami EÚ, hoci sa tu máme relatívne dobre,“ povedal Horváth.

„**Rakúske** špeciálne policajné jednotky COBRA v spolupráci so slovenskými budú do konca tohto roka zabezpečovať prepravu 188 miliónov kusov eurobankoviek z Viedne na Slovensko. Informovali o tom 15. júla minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák a rakúska ministerka vnútra Maria Fekterová na spoločnej tlačovej konferencii, ktorá sa uskutočnila na bývalom hraničnom priechode Jarovce – Kittsee. Ich hodnota predstavuje približne sedem miliárd eur (211 miliárd Sk). Skutočnú nominálnu hodnotu však eurobankovky nadobudnú až po tom, ako ich vydá Národná banka Slovenska.

Spoločnosť Kia Motors Sales Slovensko predala počas júna tohto roka na trhu v SR 521 vozidiel, čo predstavuje 15.3-% medziročný nárast. Značka Kia v tomto mesiaci dosiahla tržový podiel 5.80 %, čo je 6. miesto v slovenskom rebríčku predaja. Od začiatku roka 2008 tak Kia zaznamenala podiel 6.05 %. Najpredávanejším modelom bola aj tento mesiac Kia cee'd. Uplynulý mesiac sa predalo 266 vozidiel Kia cee'd, čo predstavuje 10-% podiel v nižšej strednej triede. Druhým najpredávanejším vozidlom je Kia Rio, ktorá zaznamenala 176 predaných kusov s 5.6-% podielom v B-segmente. Prvú trojicu uzatvára slovenský Sportage zo segmentu SUV v počte 43 predaných vozidiel, čo je 15.9-% podiel v C-SUV segmente. Kia Motors Sales Slovensko, s. r. o., je výhradným distribútorom automobilov značky Kia na Slovensku, kde pôsobí od októbra 2005.

Vatra zvrchovanosti vzbĺkla 17. júla večer aj v športovom areáli obce Bánov v Nitrianskom kraji. Zapálil ju predseda vlády SR Robert Fico za prítomnosti ministra vnútra Roberta Kaliňáka. V hustom daždi sa k prítomným asi trom stovkám občanov prihovril premiér s odkazom na výnimočnosť historickej udalosti vyhlásenia Deklarácie o zvrchovanosti SR. „Jej prijatie otvorilo cestu k našej nezávislosti. Úcta k rozhodujúcim historickým udalostiam a osobnostiam patrí do výbavy každého moderného európskeho národa. Lebo iba to je cesta k budovaniu trvalej pamäti národa. Každá ľahostajnosť samých voči sebe, aj voči vlastným dejinám a osobnostiam sa národu vypomstí. Musíme budovať vzťah Slovákov k histórii, k slovenským historickým osobnostiam“, uviedol Fico. „Snažíme sa účasťou na takýchto podujatiach dávať jasne najavo náš vzťah k slovenskej histórii. V takýchto veciach by mali ísť politici príkladom“, povedal Robert Fico. Deň prijatia Deklarácie o zvrchovanosti SR je na základe zákona z 20. októbra 1993 pamätným dňom. Slovenská národná rada schválila túto deklaráciu v roku 1992 v rámci bývalej Českej a Slovenskej federatívnej republiky a vyhlásila ňou zvrchovanosť Slovenskej republiky. Na oslavách tohto Pamätného dňa SR sa každoročne stretávajú občania pri vatrách, ktoré dostali názov Vatra zvrchovanosti.

Rekonštrukcia Bratislavského hradu je v plnom prúde. Dokončujú sa búracie práce a šachta na výťah, ktorý bude spájať západnú terasu s priestormi hradu. V severnej časti areálu vyrastú pôvodné objekty ako záhradný pavilón Oranžérie a budova Zimnej jazdiarne, ktoré zhoreli pri požiari Hradu v roku 1811. Práce na obnove Hradu si vyžiadali aj presťahovanie depozitára Slovenského národného múzea a jeho expozícií.

Do zavedenia amerického bezvízového režimu pre Slovensko chýba len pol roka. Veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone Rastislav Káčer pre denník PRAVDA vyjadril názor, že „od januára alebo februára 2009 už nebude potrebné vybavovať víza do USA“. Pád vízovej bariéry súvisí s úsilím Georgea W. Busha zapísať sa do pamäti ľudí z východnej a strednej Európy ako prezident, počas éry ktorého toto obmedzenie padne. Dôkazom, že sa na zmluvách - ktoré umožnia ukončiť vízový režim - pracuje vo Washingtone i v Bratislave je aktuálna návšteva amerických vyjednávačov na Slovensku. Rokujú o výmene bezpečnostných informácií medzi oboma štátmi. USA sa zaujímajú o protiteroristické opatrenia a dôraz kladú aj na oznamovanie ukradnutých pasov.

„**Bohatí** Slováci investujú do viníc“, informoval denník PRAVDA. Peniaze na veľkorysú investíciu zarobili inde, napríklad v energetike či telekomunikáciách. Vinári sa tak musia pripraviť na konkurenciu. Ide o firmy In Vino s hlavným vinárskym stanom v Modre a firmu Vinidí, ktorá má pôdu a závod v Bábě pri Nitre. Ide o investície za stamilióny korún. Nováčikovia prinášajú nadčasové technológie, napríklad sadia vinohrady pomocou lasera. Súčasne skupujú najlepších vinárskych majstrov od Malých Karpát až po Tokaj. Firmu In Vino buduje Igor Ledecký, ktorý v deväťdesiatych rokoch pracoval pre jedného z najbohatších mužov v Čechách Petra Kellnera a investičnú skupinu PPF. Kapitál na budovanie moderného vinárstva v rozsahu sto miliónov prichádza do ďalšej firmy Vinidí zo spoločnosti Fertilagri Trading. Tá zarobila peniaze na obchode so zeleninou. Za vzostupom firmy je rodina Šidalovcov.

Zobrať si na dovolenku do obľúbených destinácií euro ako vreckové odporúčajú klientom v ostatných rokoch aj slovenské cestovné kancelárie. Aj keď v mimoeurópskych destináciách, ako napríklad v Egypte alebo Tunisku, ale aj v Turecku, mal americký dolár lepšie meno, v ostatných rokoch sa situácia mení. Aj v tých štátoch si uvedomujú lepšiu stabilitu eura a prijímajú ho čoraz radšej. Pre slovenských turistov je lepšie si vybrať na dovolenku eurá, ak nechcú používať platobnú kartu, lebo prípadný zvyšok peňazí si môžu ponechať. Odpadne im spätné zamieňanie zostatku vreckového a nadobudnú aj zručnosť s používaním eura.

Slovensko je v hre o výrobný závod tretieho najväčšieho svetového výrobcu LCD panelov AU Optronics. Ten podľa dostupných informácií plánuje investovať v strednej Európe

a rozhoduje sa medzi Českom, Poľskom a Slovenskom. Ak by sa však firma rozhodla investovať na Slovensku, išlo by o druhú najväčšiu investíciu v elektronike hneď po kórejskej spoločnosti Samsung. Jej veľkosť je odhadovaná na viac ako šesť miliárd korún (takmer 200 miliónov eur). Závod by mal zamestnať okolo tritisíc ľudí. Prvé predpoklady hovorili o investícii na východnom Slovensku, kde je lepšia dostupnosť pracovnej sily a menšie mzdové náklady.

Priblížiť slovanskú kultúru Britom bolo ambíciou festivalu SlavFest, ktorý sa konal cez víkend (19.-20. júla) v anglickom Londýne. V jarmočnej časti festivalu sa predstavili ľudoví remeselníci ako napríklad kováči, prútikári, sklári, výrobcovia fujár, hrnčiari a ďalší, ktorí zároveň umožnili návštevníkom vyskúšať si to-ktoré remeslo vlastnými rukami. Celkovo 100 vystavovateľov a umelcov predstavilo svoje umenie v stánkoch, na tanečnej scéne a pódiiach. Zaujalo vystúpenie Túlavého divadla, hudobnej formácie Banda, Good Fancy či tanečnej skupiny Jumbo dance. K zlatým klincom programu patrili koncert najvýraznejšej slovenskej jazzovej osobnosti Petra Lipu. Cigánski diabli zasa očarili obecensťvo originálnymi kompozíciami. Akciu, ktorá mala za cieľ prezentovať slovanskú kultúru a tradičný spôsob života britskej verejnosti, špeciálne v čase, keď sa britská kráľovná Alžbeta II. pripravuje na oficiálnu návštevu Slovenska na jeseň tohto roku, organizovalo Slovenské centrum v Londýne a NadliN UK.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Oslava geniálnych a obetavých bratov zo Solúna

Sviatok slovanských vierozvestcov svätých Cyrila a Metoda, spolupatrónov Európy, si 5. júla pripomenulo celé Slovensko. Kardinál Korec v príhovore na Devíne vyzdvihol genialitu a obetavosť Cyrila a Metoda. Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič pred tisícami veriacich v Nitre aj na Devíne prečítal telegram, ktorý mu pri príležitosti sviatku slovanských vierozvestcov poslal pápež Benedikt XVI.

Niekoľkotisíc katolíckych veriacich sa zišlo na slávnosť svätých vierozvestcov Cyrila a Metoda na národnej púti v Nitre. Hlavným celebrantom bol emeritný arcibiskup Mons. Dominik Hrušovský. „Ďakujem Bohu za úžasné zdedené bohatstvo, ktoré má trvalú hodnotu,“ povedal v homílii. Ďalej hovoril o pokoji, zhode a jednote (podľa slov sv. Cyriána) ako o hodnotách, ktoré v modlitbe pre našich predkov i pre nás vyprosival sv. Cyril. Arcibiskup Hrušovský pripomenul, že začiatky našej kultúry boli „u Boha a v modlitbe“ a dodal, že „korene oboch častí nášho kontinentu sú hlboko zakorenené v kresťanstve“. Podľa jeho slov tak, ako si nemožno predstaviť kresťanstvo Západu bez sv. Benedikta z Nursie, tak kresťanstvo Východu zasa bez svätých Cyrila a Metoda. Prítomných vyzval, aby nehľadali jednotu tam, kde nie je, ale aby sa o ňu usilovali prostredníctvom pokornej modlitby. Homíliu zakončil slovami, ktoré často na prvej návšteve Slovenska opakoval

Pavol II: „Nebojte sa!“

Súčasťou Cyrilo-metodských dní v Nitre bola aj medzinárodná vedecká konferencia na pôde Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa o kultúrnom dedičstve svätých solúnskych bratov a benefičný koncert Večer ľudí dobrej vôle.

Pozdrav od Svätého Otca

Po svätej omši v Nitre prečítal prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič telegram, ktorý mu pri príležitosti sviatku svätých Cyrila a Metoda poslal pápež Benedikt XVI. Okrem iného sa v telegrame píše: „Modlím sa, aby Pán inšpiroval vo všetkých túžbu po spoločnosti zomknutejšej, bratskejšej, venujúcej sľachetnú pozornosť jej najzraniteľnejším členom. Vašej Excelencii i obyvateľom vašej krajiny vyprosujem ochranu a Božie požehnanie.“

Nekonvenčným spôsobom vzdali úctu slovanským vierozvestcom účastníci Cyrilo-metodskej orolskej púte do Nitry. V sobotu ráno sa vydali pelotóny z Hrušovian, Nových Zámkov a Veľkých Vozokán do Nitry, kde sa cyklisti stretli s ďalšími účastníkmi orolskej cyklopúte.

Katolícke noviny

Reštaurátori už takmer štyri roky objavujú krásu unikátnych fresiek z 15. storočia v kostole Nanebovzatia Panny Márie v Turni nad Bodvou v okrese Košice-okolie. Posledná odborná správa historika umenia z Budapešti potvrdila mimoriadnu kvalitu malieb porovnateľnú s oltárnymi tabuľovými maľbami z obdobia vrcholnej gotiky 15. storočia. K odhaleniu fresiek došlo počas prípravných fáz na rekonštrukciu kostola. Objav podnietil investora, miestny rímskokatolícky farský úrad uvažovať o podstatne veľkorysejšej rekonštrukcii. Umelecko - historický potenciál ho predurčuje k prezentácii reprezentatívneho súboru sakrálneho umenia tejto časti Slovenska európskeho významu. Objavný prieskum urobili reštaurátori Peter Gomboš a Ľubomír Čáp. Na snímke architekt Ján Krcho počas dokumentačných prác pri freskách 16. júla 2008 v Turni nad Bodvou.

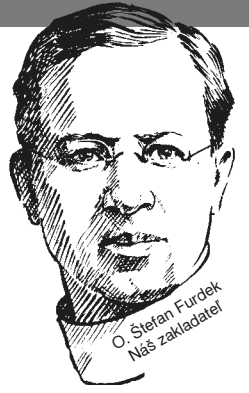


FOTO TASR - František Iván



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



ÚRADNÝ ORGÁN PRVEJ KATOLÍCKEJ SLOVENSKEJ JEDNOTY V SPOJENÝCH ŠTÁTOCH A V KANADE

Ročník 117

STREDA, 6. AUGUST, 2008

Číslo 5782



FOTO TASR/AP

Sydney – Na snímke vľavo pápež Benedikt XVI. zdraví 17. júla 2008 pútnikov na Svetových dňoch mládeže v Sydney – najväčšom festivale katolíckej mládeže, ktorý prilákal viac ako 250,000 mladých veriacich z viac ako 170 krajín.

Benedikt XVI. mladým: Nenechajte sa zneužiť a oklamať

Austrália (TK KBS) - V popoludňajších hodinách sa prístav Barangaroo a nábřeží oceánu zaplnili pútnikmi i obyvateľmi Sydney. Na veľkej lodi priplával do Sydney Benedikt XVI. Sprevádzalo ho 16 mladých ľudí, z ktorých 12 bolo zástupcov všetkých kontinentov a 4 boli domáci Austrálčania, ktorí pápežovi priblížili objekty a výhľad počas plavby. Okrem pápežovej lode sa zátokami Sydney plavilo aj ďalších zhruba 2000 mladých na 20 sprievodných plavidlách. Benedikta XVI. privítali ako prví pôvodní obyvatelia Austrálie- Aborigenci. Osobitne pre neho pripravili starobylé tance. Aj v samotnom prístave Barangaroo, kde na pápeža čakalo viac ako 200 tisíc mladých ľudí, privítali vzácneho hosťa najskôr starí pôvodní obyvatelia, ktorí ho následne predstavili mladej generácii ako priateľa a duchovného otca.

Mladí z Austrálie i z celého sveta pripravili Benediktovi XVI. veľkolepé prijatie v podobe kultúrneho i duchovného programu. Pri výstupe z lode zneli piesne zo známej opery Tu es Petrus. Počas ich tónov prešiel Petrov nástupca po prístave Barangaroo v papamobile. Benedikt XVI. sa mladým pútnikom z tribúny prihovoril a privítal každého jedného z

Pokračovanie na str. 20



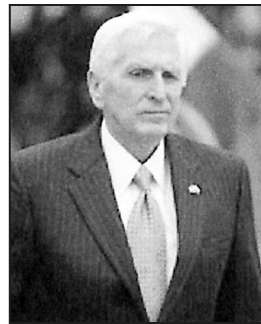
Euro príde na Slovensko 1. januára 2009

Bratislava (TASR) - Euro na Slovensko definitívne príde 1. januára 2009. Poslednú bodku za niekoľkoročným procesom prijímania novej meny dala v Bruseli prvý júlový týždeň Rada ministrov financií (ECOFIN) stanovením a vyhlásením neodvolateľného kurzu koruny voči euru na úrovni 30.1260 SKK/EUR. V tomto pomere sa od 1. januára budú uskutočňovať všetky finančné operácie a občania SR si zamenia slovenské koruny za svoju novú európsku menu. Slovensko sa zároveň stane 16. členom eurozóny, teda členských krajín Európskej únie so spoločnou menou. Prvým januárom 2009 sa začína aj koniec národnej meny - slovenskej koruny. Jej relatívne krátku 15-ročnú históriu sprevádzali tak pokojné chvíle, ako aj turbulencie vyvolané či už politickými, ekonomickými, alebo čiste špekulatívnymi dôvodmi. Obdobie jej oslabovania striedali dni posilňovania.

Kým k 1. januáru 1999, teda k zavedeniu spoločnej európskej menovej jednotky používanej najskôr na bezhotovostné formy platieb a finančných operácií, bol kurz slovenskej koruny voči euru 43.097, vo volebnom roku 2002 to už bolo v letných mesiacoch 44.524 korún za euro. Nasledovali mesiace pozvoľného posilňovania slovenskej koruny. Ďalším medzníkom na ceste Slovenska k spoločnej európskej mene bol jeho vstup do Európskej únie k 1. máju 2004. Súčasťou členstva je aj záväzok prijať euro ako národnú menu. Jeho prijatiu však predchádza vážny krok - absolvovať tzv. čakáreň na euro, to jest vstup do ERM II. Je to mechanizmus výmenných kurzov krajín eurozóny a každý potenciálny člen musí byť jeho súčasťou najmenej dva roky pred vstupom do eurozóny. Slovensko doň vstúpilo v roku 2005. Na svojej ceste do eurozóny vytvorila SR viacero precedensov. Jedným z nich je aj skutočnosť, že ako prvá krajina v histórii zmenila centrálnu paritu svo-

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Obsitník pracuje za skoré zrušenie víz



Vincent Obsitník

Bratislava (TASR) - Pred rokom neexistovala žiadna legislatíva, ktorá by umožňovala Slovákom cestovať bezpečne a bez víz do USA. „Nielenže už existuje právny základ na bezvízové cestovanie, ale boli sme svedkami bilaterálnych stretnutí a v priebehu dvoch mesiacov očakávame podpísanie záverečných dohôd,“ vyhlásil 3. júla na recepcii pri príležitosti Dňa nezávislosti veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Vincent Obsitník. Podľa neho sa obidve strany maximálne snažia, aby mohli slovenskí občania do USA cestovať bez víz. „Osobne sa snažím, aby sme to dosiahli pred koncom roka,“ podčiarkol Obsitník. Slovensko za svojich 15 rokov „nezávislosti“ spravilo veľké kroky - stalo sa členom Európskej únie, NATO, Schengenu a v blízkej budúcnosti vstúpi

do eurozóny. „Počas tohto obdobia sa vzájomné vzťahy medzi USA a Slovenskom zosilnili,“ dodal.

Obsitník sa narodil v Moravanoch na východnom Slovensku a je prvým slovensko-americkým veľvyslancom, ktorý slúži v Bratislave. Ako povedal, aj preto je preňho dôležité zosilňovať vzájomné väzby na poli hospodárstva a kultúry. Slovensko a USA sú podľa veľvyslanca veľmi dobrými ekonomickými partnermi. Od roku 1993 USA na Slovensku investovali vyše štyri miliardy dolárov a zamestnávajú viac ako 50 tisíc občanov. „Sú to úctyhodné čísla, ktoré hovoria o tom, že Slovensko má kvalifikovanú pracovnú silu a nachádza sa v dobrej lokalite,“ vysvetlil. Spojené štáty prešli počas 232 rokov svojej nezávislosti dlhou cestou. Veľvyslanec zaspomínal na kľúčové momenty z histórie USA, 11. september i vojnu s terorizmom. V tejto súvislosti spomenul záväzok Slovenska na zvýšenie počtu vojakov v misiách ISAF v Afganistane. Ako zdôraznil, aj preto je rád, že Deň nezávislosti môže osláviť v krajine, ktorá je spojencom USA. Zagrátulovať veľvyslanecovi k významnému sviatku prišiel premiér Robert Fico, predseda parlamentu Pavol Paška, minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš, ďalší predstavitelia štátu a ambasád. Na podujatí nechýbali ani zástupcovia opozičných strán.

Nikto nespája národy Európy tak ako Mária



FOTO TASR- Lukáš Furčo

Mariánska púť v Levoči vyvrcholila 6. júla 2008 slávnostnou omšou, ktorú celebroid viedenský arcibiskup kardinál Christoph Schönborn. Na snímke čestná stráž, slovenskí a poľskí vojaci pred bazilikou Navštívenia Panny Márie na Mariánskej hore.

Levočská púť na Mariánskej hore pri Kostole Navštevy Panny Márie spojila prvý júlový víkend vyše pol milióna veriacich. Hlavným celebrantom nedeľnej svätej omše bol viedenský arcibiskup Christoph Schönborn.

„Cesta pred Levočou je uzavretá! Predstavte si, pre náboženskú púť!“ oznámil redaktor istého rádia do éteru 4. júla. Určite veľmi mladý, keď sa levočskej púti čudoval.

Na Mariánsku horu prichádzajú hojné zástupy už osem storočí. Druhá synoda Spišskej diecézy o nej konštatuje: „Levoča je maják viery – oddávna, v totalite aj dnes. Núka nielen orientáciu (ako maják), ale aj priťahuje zvláštnym mariánskym magnetizmom.“ Cez víkend sa cesta na horu zmenila na živú ľudskú ríavu starších, mladých i detí. No centrom pozornosti sa stali i najmenší, ba aj tí počatí. Na púť smerovali rôzne skupiny: mladí z Muráňa, cyklisti, skauti. Najmladší ešte na rukách mamy. Beliansky farár Peter Petrek začal chodiť na púte tiež s mamou: „Mám 42 rokov, no na hôrku putujem už po štyridsiaty tretí raz,“ vysvetľuje. Členovia Kruciáty oslobodenia človeka kráčali zo Starej Ľubovne. Nechýbali ani vojaci so svojimi rodinami.

Pokračovanie na str. 21