



Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly Jednota

THE UNION

USPS #273500 ISSN #1087-3392



Fr. Stephen Furdek
Our Founder

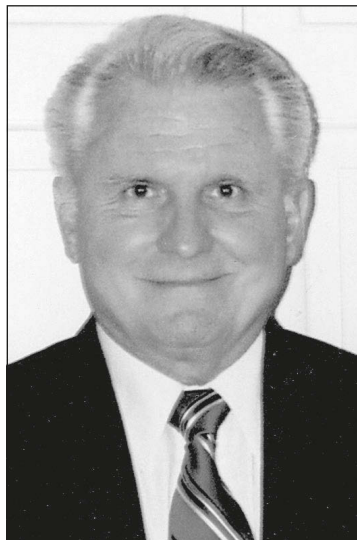
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 116

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007

Number 5768

President's Christmas Message



Andrew M. Rajec

Dear Members and Friends:

This is my first Christmas living in Cleveland, Ohio. My wife was living in Wisconsin until we recently sold our home. I have been a bachelor for eleven months. After living in Wisconsin for over sixty years, with a few years out for military service, it has been an adjustment.

I can only imagine the adjustment our young Slovak immigrants faced when they first came to America, (you may be one of them) many of them leaving wives and children or family behind until they could get established. My great advantage, of course, is I don't have the language barrier and the poverty most of them faced.

At this most special time of the year, Christmas, let us all give thanks for our ancestors who faced the unknown with courage and a deep faith in God. Without them none of us or our children or grandchildren would be here.

Different regions of Slovakia have somewhat differing Christmas customs and whether you call it a "Vilija" or "Stedry Vecer", Christmas time had and has a special meaning.

2007 showed very positive financial results for the Society, however, the slow decline in membership continues.

To counter this trend we have done several things to make our internal operation more efficient, such as, not waiting until the first of the month for policy effective dates, sending our first billing along with the newly issued policy, and many others.

We have offered the Senior Promotion Program to current and new members to provide an enhanced benefit. After the first of the year we will be sending the Jednota to thousands of our current members who have not been getting it. This will increase our communication and hopefully translate to a closer relationship to our members.

One thing that continues to amaze me is that many of our members have minimum benefit policies i.e. \$500.00; \$1,000.00 or \$1,500.00. We know that the cost of a simple funeral is \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 today. We know that many of our members or their families have mortgage loans on their homes. We know that many of our members or their family members buy insurance from various commercial companies. We know that our premium rates, especially our whole life rates, are as low or lower than most companies. What do we have to do to convince our current or potential members to do business with us? Any ideas, let me know.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts as Recommenders. Keep it up.

2008 brings a new year and as I have heard someone say before, "God protects the Jednota". With all our efforts and His help we look forward to a great year.

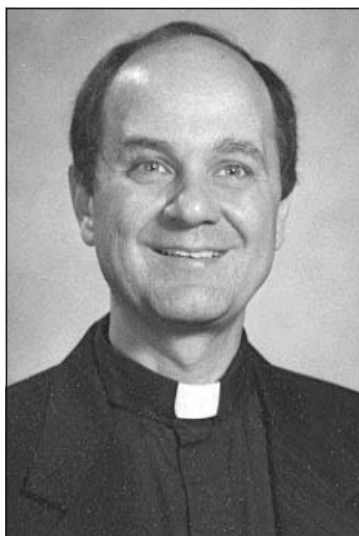
"Vesele Vianoce and Stastny Novy Rok" to you and your families from the Officers and Board of Directors and everyone at the Home Office.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

May the
Bright Star
of
Bethlehem
Guide you
Along the
Path of
Hope and
Peace to a
Deep and
Abiding
Peace



Christmas Message From Our Chaplain



Fr. Thomas A. Nasta

Dear Friends,

When we come to Mass on the Sundays of Advent, we hear homilies that center on either spiritual renewal or on joyful anticipation and preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Once we leave church, however, it is a different story. The days before Christmas are more likely days of stress and pressure. The house has to get cleaned and decorated. A trip to a shopping mall involves fewer places to park your car, crowded stores, and long waits in line. Everything is becoming more expensive. Decisions need to be made on greeting cards (how many and to whom), gifts, and who will host and prepare

Christmas Eve supper for the family.

Those who have loved ones serving their country far from home go through additional stress and anxiety. The same is true for those who continue to cope with the death of a spouse or family member.

With all that occupies our minds and emotions in the days preceding Christmas, it is good to hear the announcement made by the angels on the occasion of the birth of Jesus. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

During his public ministry, Our Lord invited all who are weary and carry heavy burdens to come to him and he will give his comfort, his rest and his peace. May Jesus, the Prince of Peace, bring these gifts to you and your families now and throughout the new year.

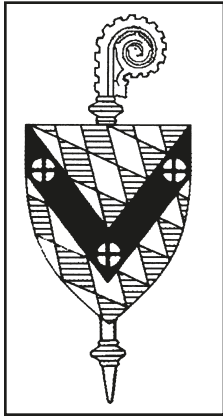
Vesele Vianoce!

Fraternaly,
Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Fr. Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B. and Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

December 23, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gospel Summary

Having sketched the human provenance of Jesus (vs. 1-17), Matthew now presents his account of Jesus' divine origins. Unlike Luke, Matthew tells the story from the perspective of Joseph. It is Joseph who is distressed over Mary's pregnancy and it is he who has a dream, which resolves the matter. As one who hears God's message in a dream, Joseph

is connected with the patriarch Joseph who communicated with God in dreams (Gen 37:1ff), for Matthew is intent on showing how the Hebrew Scriptures were fulfilled in the story of Jesus.

When Joseph's rather inept attempt to resolve his dilemma is cut short by a message from God, the primary point of this passage is revealed, namely, that God controls all the critical moments in that ultimately most real history, which involves God's gracious plan for human salvation. Virgin birth is an obviously divine act and such an intervention cancels human attempts to control everything. It also puts Mary in touch with the unnamed virgin in Isaiah (7:14) whose childbearing re-asserted God's intention of being with his people, come what may.

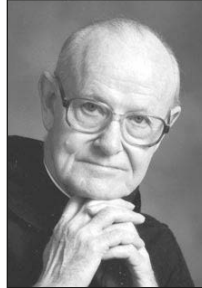
Life Implications

We are constantly being urged to take charge of our lives and to make things happen according to our wishes. If we fail, it is usually assumed that we just didn't try hard enough. In a word, our secular culture prizes control almost as much as it prizes money.

In this gospel, we learn that God takes charge in really critical situations and that we are asked to acquiesce in this assertion of divine control. For the confirmed secularist, this is really bad news. But for those of us who believe in the goodness and wisdom of God it is truly gospel, that is, good news. For it demonstrates that our history is an arena, not just for our exploits, but also for the display of God's love. It is also a reminder that there can never really be any doubt about the ultimate victory of God's goodness. It is incredibly consoling to know that a good and loving God is in charge of history.

Our task and our challenge are to trust the goodness in life so that we may be part of that victory. Joseph was confused, as we often are, but he trusted God's mysterious ways and found incredible blessing in what he had not planned. Christmas is the feast that celebrates God's love and goodness. There could hardly be a better way to prepare for Christmas on this last Sunday of Advent than to imitate Joseph in his willingness to be positive and hopeful at those times when life does not seem to make sense.

Matt. 1:18-24



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

December 30, 2007

Holy Family, Sunday in the Octave of Christmas

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Gospel Summary

The gospel continues the story of the wise men from the east, who under divine guidance came to Bethlehem to pay homage to the child Jesus. After their departure, again under divine guidance, Joseph is warned to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt because Herod plans to kill the child. The family will remain in this land of refuge until the Lord calls his son out of Egypt just as the people of Israel were once called out.

After returning to Israel, Joseph settles his family in Nazareth in Galilee because he fears Herod's son Archelaus. Matthew comments that all these things are not by chance, but in fulfillment of divine providence, here realizing obscure prophecies that the future messiah would be called a Nazorean.

Matthew composed the first two chapters of his gospel as a theological prologue to the themes he would develop to explain the meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The meaning of the prologue as a whole is to guide the interpretation of this Sunday's concluding section about the magi.

Matthew affirms that divine providence was active, often in surprising ways, throughout the long history which preceded the journey of the magi and the flight into Egypt. Thus he makes a point of including in his genealogy the "irregularities" of four women: Tamar (Gen 38), Rahab (Josh 2), Ruth (Ruth 3), and Bathsheba (2 Sam 11). Jesus is surely from earth, son of David. Just as surely, Jesus is from heaven, Son of God conceived in his mother's womb through the Holy Spirit.

Life Implications

How can this gospel be good news for us today? The unredeemed situation it addresses is as much our own as it was in for the people in Matthew's time, or for the people named in Matthew's prologue. We experience the situation when life doesn't seem to make sense, when an accident, a betrayal, a failure, a death seems to destroy meaning. And it is usually in such a circumstance that we happen upon an article asserting that science "proves" that existence has no meaning, or that meaning is no more than a subjective human construction. Often we experience a serious trial of faith.

The gospel today, even if we should be close to despair, proclaims the good news: God is with us. Every moment, every event of history, even its evil dimension, is somehow transformed by God's powerful and loving care to become a part of the divine plan.

The gospel for this Sunday's liturgy invites us to accept a gift of the same Holy Spirit which enabled Joseph and Mary to trust in God's providence and to play a role in the mysterious working out of that providence in history. It is that gift of unconditional trust in divine providence that makes our lives meaningful and full of hope even in the midst of tribulation and confusion. In this trust we can bless the Lord at all times, even when we do not understand. And we can live in the peace of Christ that is beyond understanding.

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)

REMINDERS

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057.

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.

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 26 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road

Independence OH 44131-2398

ANTHONY X. SUTHERLAND, Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: United States—\$25.00 All other countries—\$30.00

PRINTED AT: PRESS AND JOURNAL, 20 S. Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057

Telephone: (717) 944-0461 FAX: (717) 944-3107

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398

FCSU Reintroduces Senior Promotion Program

The Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union will introduce a number of programs in the coming months for the benefit of our membership. Back by popular demand is our Senior Promotion Program. This program will be available from October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Initial Program (Current Members)

The Senior Promotion Program is directed to all current members between the ages of 55 and 80. Each member in this age group, subject to current reasonably good health, may purchase the amount of Whole Life insurance that a \$200.00 annual premium will purchase, based on their current age. See the attached Life Insurance Chart. To help offset the cost for the first year, a special fraternal dividend equal to 50% of the first year premium, amounting to \$100, will be provided to each participating member. This means that if each member takes advantage of the Society's offer, they will not only increase their family's life insurance protection, but will receive a generous fraternal dividend.

Application

As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting will be waived except for serious illnesses, injury, or medical conditions, which required medical treatment or hospitalization in the last five years. This is not a guaranteed issue program. The FCSU may require the applicant to take a physical exam and /or provide additional medical information.

New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year allowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

Please allow sufficient time for your branch proposer or secretary to contact you (up to thirty (30) days.) If contact is not made by November 2007, please contact your branch proposer, branch secretary or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

In the coming months, additional programs directed to various groups of members will be introduced. Watch for announcements in future issues of our JEDNOTA.

FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE 2007

SCHEDULE 1			SCHEDULE 2		
AGE	MALE NON SMOKING	FEMALE NON SMOKING	AGE	MALE SMOKER	FEMALE SMOKER
55	6,498	7,927	55	4,988	6,928
56	6,175	7,413	56	4,760	6,605
57	5,922	7,145	57	4,598	6,359
58	5,677	6,885	58	4,439	6,122
59	5,438	6,627	59	4,282	5,893
60	5,204	6,380	60	4,129	5,671
61	4,979	6,135	61	3,981	5,456
62	4,762	5,898	62	3,839	5,247
63	4,554	5,666	63	3,702	5,043
64	4,353	5,438	64	3,571	4,845
65	4,157	5,216	65	3,444	4,652
66	3,958	4,999	66	3,317	4,465
67	3,784	4,788	67	3,193	4,283
68	3,604	4,581	68	3,069	4,105
69	3,428	4,379	69	2,946	3,932
70	3,257	4,182	70	2,824	3,766
71	3,091	3,990	71	2,704	3,606
72	2,933	3,804	72	2,588	3,451
73	2,780	3,622	73	2,474	3,301
74	2,632	3,445	74	2,365	3,158
75	2,490	3,275	75	2,253	3,018
76	2,352	3,109	76	2,146	2,883
77	2,221	2,948	77	2,043	2,751
78	2,095	2,791	78	1,943	2,623
79	1,975	2,638	79	1,848	2,497
80	1,866	2,577	80	1,758	2,378

A Christmas Message From the National Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse..."

"Here comes Santa Claus!
Here comes Santa Claus!
Right down Santa Claus Lane!"

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose,
And if you ever saw it"
You could even say it glows."

The above story and songs are known by children as young as pre-school...but how many of them know the true meaning of Christmas?

I would encourage everyone to look past all the commercialism this Christmas season and really concentrate on what is important: the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He came into this world to save all mankind and this message is sometimes lost in the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

We need to take a step back and remember what are truly important...Our Catholicism, our families, our loved ones, and the infant Jesus Christ. This is His birthday. Let us rejoice.

On behalf of my wife, Maria, my family and myself, I will pray that the graces of our Lord be with you and your loved ones this Christmas season.

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.
National Vice President

Christmas Message From George F. Matta, National Treasurer

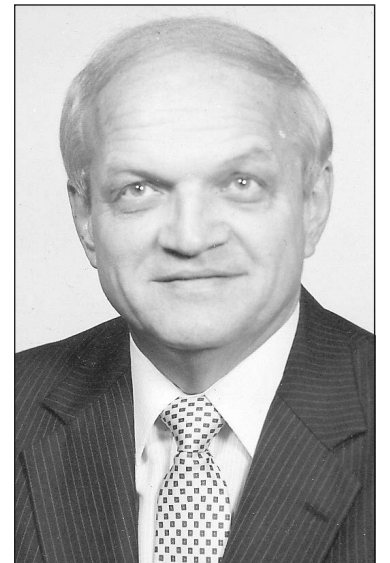
Christmas is the most beautiful and religious season of the year, the Birthday of Jesus, the Son of God.

During this Christmas Season, let us give thanks to the good Lord for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us and beseech him to continue to watch over us all and the members of our families and our friends. Take this time to spend with families and old friends.

There is no more enjoyable time than to spend time with the Lord at the church services that will be held during the Christmas Season, and to pray for our troops who are away from home and their families. Offer prayers to the good Lord to end the bloodshed and conflict in the Middle East, bring our loved ones home and bring peace to the world.

On behalf of myself, my wife Florence and my family, I extend to all of our members and friends a joyous Christmas Season and a prosperous New Year.

George F. Matta
National Treasurer



George F. Matta

A Holiday Message From the National Secretary

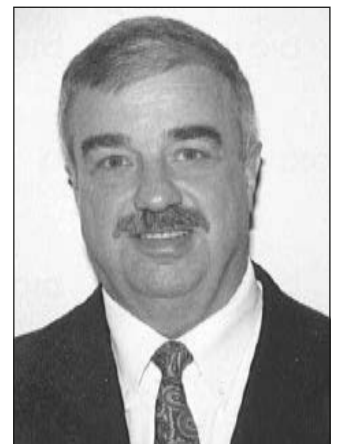
Our homes and trees are decorated. We have waited endlessly in line to pay for that special present. The baking is done. Christmas cards are in the mail. We are eagerly awaiting the biggest holiday of the year.

We are praying for snow on Christmas Eve. It's just not the same without it! As we are making our way to Midnight Mass, our minds are racing, making sure we haven't forgotten a last minute detail. As we walk into church, the "real meaning of Christmas" warms our hearts and the celebration begins.

We sing of our Savior's birth. We thank the Infant for our families, friends, and good health. Truly blessed are we. May we continue to pray for peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary



Kenneth A. Arendt



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007

HOME OFFICE ~ INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
George F. Matta, Treasurer

ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta gave a verbal report summarizing the investments for the month of September 2007 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer also reported that he reviewed our stock and bonds portfolio with our current brokers.

The Treasurer said he is planning to analyze our stocks and bonds with possibility of repositioning ourselves with some of our investments.

The Treasurer also presented the current offers for review by the Executive Committee.

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

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2007

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$340,475.06
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 56,175.11
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	-0-

The Executive Secretary presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

SALES

The Vice President led a discussion concerning the Monthly Sales Report and answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President reviewed the District Sales Production Report and Individual Agents Sales Report and answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President also led a discussion concerning our new Senior Promotion Program. A notice will be sent to all recommenders and branches and an ad will be placed on FCSU website and published in our newspaper. This program will run till end of March 2008.

The Vice President also led a discussion regarding putting a "Question and Answer" page in newspaper and website. This will pertain to the most frequently asked questions addressed to our Home Office.

The Executive Secretary also informed the Committee that he will continue to put advertisements in the premium notices, annuity statements, paid up addition statements etc.

The Vice President led a discussion concerning current 3-tier payment plan.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to accept the Vice President's report as presented. Motion carried.

MIDDLETOWN**Printery**

The President updated the Executive Committee on leasing of our Printery Building in Middletown, PA. He stated that he and the Executive Secretary signed the Lease Agreement with a local leasing company.

The President will update the Executive Committee as more information on progress of the lease becomes available.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the status of having a newspaper delivered in every member's household. The current plan is to start this at the beginning of next year. This will help us in reaching more members and with marketing our insurance products.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORTBranch Mergers & Individual Transfers

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee about the completion of Branch mergers that were pending. The Executive Secretary further informed the Executive Committee that all the individual transfers have been completed.

Digital Scanning Process & Data Storage

The Executive Secretary updated about a new program that was developed in-house. The microfilm will no longer be used, instead we will use the new digital scanning system.

The Executive Secretary explained the processing program and answered the Committee's questions regarding the cost of implementing this program.

Mileage and expense guidelines

The Executive Secretary updated the Committee about new guide lines to be used on

travel vouchers.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President stated that our Fraternal Activities Director had a meeting with a Fraternal Activities Director of another organization regarding joint events in 2008. The President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

CANADA BUSINESS

The President stated that he will inform the Board of Directors concerning the results of research done by our General Counsel regarding this matter.

THE SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN HOLMDEL, NJ

The President stated that he, Andrew Harcar and Joseph Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1, attended the 30th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival in Holmdel, NJ on September 23, 2007. The FCSU had a booth and passed out the Jednota newspaper and information about the products our Society offers.

The President also stated that they estimated that the attendance was about 6000-8000 and we had a good response.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President informed the Executive Committee meeting that we will have a presentation given by Steven Luc from Data Management concerning the possibility of improving our marketing strategy.

The President stated that he and the Executive Secretary met with our actuary to review the billing.

The President further stated that he received an e-mail from the Director of Fraternal Activities regarding the reimbursement procedures of Branches for their fraternal activities.

The President gave a report about the possibility of moving Fr. Furdek's statue to Cleveland. He will keep the Executive Board updated.

The President also said he received a request for the FCSU to sponsor a soccer team. He said he is expecting to receive more information regarding this matter and will present it at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The President further informed the Executive Committee that George Matta and Regis Brekosky attended the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress.

The President also brought up his intention of placing glass display cases at the Home Office to display Slovak articles.

It was also discussed that at our next Convention we set aside one day for displaying our Slovak history and culture (cooking, costumes etc.) This will be discussed further at a later date.

REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE) 6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131 PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-3107 DECEMBER 15, 2007

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2007.

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 14, 2007.

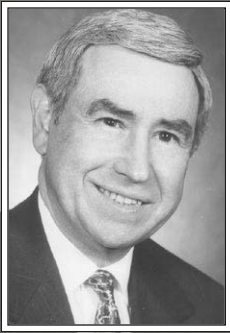
Officers who are required to give reports at the Quarterly Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary at the Home Office located at 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131, on or before December 12, 2007.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to December 12, 2007. For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



The Big Decision: When to Start Collecting Social Security

Most retirees face the question of whether to take Social Security benefits early, wait until full retirement age, or possibly wait even longer. Unfortunately, there is no one right answer. Below is an overview of Social Security payment options and several factors to consider when making a decision that is right for you.

When to Collect

A person can begin collecting Social Security benefits as early as age 62. However, when collecting that early the monthly benefit is reduced to offset the longer period over which benefits will be received. For example, if you elect to remove benefits at age 62 in 2007, the benefit reduction is about 25 percent. Keep in mind that the reduced amount is permanent, so the benefit will not increase once full retirement age is reached.

The retirement age for collecting full Social Security benefits gradually increases. Under current law, for those born in 1937 and earlier, 65 is the retirement age for collecting full benefits. Those born between 1938 and 1942, the retirement age increases by a few months per year. The retirement age for people born from 1943 through 1954 is 66, increasing by a few months per year for those born up to 1959. Those born in 1960 won't receive full benefits until they are 67.

Delayed Benefits

Should one delay collecting Social Security benefits beyond the full retirement age? "Delayed retirement credits" can be earned, increasing the monthly benefit eventually received. For each year that payments are delayed after normal retirement age, monthly payments can increase by as much as 8 percent. Delayed retirement credits stop accruing at age 70.

Which Option is Best for You?

All three options are designed to eventually pay out roughly the same amount, there are some instances when one alternative might make more sense than another.

Health and life expectancy-One important factor is life expectancy. Many life expectancy calculators are available online, but be sure to take into consideration personal health and family history. If, for example, your health is relatively good and your parents and grandparents lived into their 80s or 90s, you might want to consider delaying benefits until full retirement age or later, if you can afford to do so. On the other hand, if your health is not good, you might opt for early benefits.

Work Plans- If one plans to continue working after retirement, taking early benefits would be a mistake. There is an "earnings cap" penalty on Social Security benefits paid prior to retirement age. If you begin collecting benefits early and your job brings in more than the cap--\$12,960 for 2007--you would lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 earned over the annual limit. Once you reach the set retirement age, there is no loss of Social Security benefits, regardless of earnings.

Providing for Survivors

A surviving spouse is entitled to 100 percent of the primary wage earner's benefits. To leave the most income for a surviving spouse, one should consider waiting until the established retirement age or later to start receiving benefits.



Gerry James and Amelia Rogalin.



Joe and Emily Janusek.



Kelly Bobo with mother Melody.



Tom Rusinak, Beverly Rusinak and Jacki Becker.



Branch Financial Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder and Recording Secretary Val Vesely.



Pete Turner and Don Cummings.

Chicago Branch Hosts Semiannual Meeting and Luncheon

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, Chicago, Illinois, held its Semiannual Meeting and Autumn Luncheon on Saturday, September 29, 2007. Sixteen members were in attendance. After the 2:00 p.m. meeting everyone enjoyed a delicious family style dinner at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont, Illinois.

Robert Tapak Magruder

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	Copy Deadline
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26	MONDAY, DECEMBER 17
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23	MONDAY, JANUARY 14

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.

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Anthony Sutherland, Editor
"JEDNOTA"
1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835
FAX: (717) 944-3107

"PARK 2 ANNUITY" – NOW PAYING 4.75%

Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- 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.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

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

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Thomas Biros Sr. Branch 493 Chicago, Illinois

Thomas Biros, 92, a member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, Illinois, died September 20, 2007.

Mr. Biros was born on a farm in Braceville, Grundy County, Illinois, the second youngest of nine children. His parents were immigrants from Slovakia. At age 12, his family moved to the neighborhood around Assumption B.V.M. Slovak Catholic Parish in the South Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest Side. He attended Harrison High School and worked as a draftsman for many years in Chicago. In 1984, he and his wife Anne retired to Harlington, Texas. His wife of 62 years, Anne Biros, died in 2002. Thomas then moved to Beaver City, Nebraska in 2004 to live with his son Tom and his wife Doty. In February 2007 he moved to the Manor Assisted Living facility.

In addition to his son Thomas, he is survived by a daughter Susan Onderisin and her husband, Richard, and four grandchildren, Michael Biros, Katy Brosnihan, Dylan and Lara.

His family is grateful that Thomas had a long, happy life. May he rest in peace.

Robert Tapak Magruder

Sister M. Sophie Tarhanich, OSF (formerly Sister M. Veronica Tarhanich)

Sister M. Sophie Tarhanich, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis of the U.S. Province for 76 years, died Monday, November 26, 2007, at Monocacy Manor at the age of 94. Sister Sophie entered the community from Holy Trinity Church in Simpson, Pennsylvania in 1929 and professed her first vows in 1931 at Mount Assisi Convent in Pittsburgh. She spent many years cooking for the sisters and also taught kindergarten in some of the schools. She performed her ministries in various convents and schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. In 1963 Sister Sophie was transferred to Monocacy, the motherhouse of the former Bethlehem Province. From 1964 she continued her domestic duties for the sisters and taught kindergarten in the diocese of Allentown, Paterson and Newark until 1977. From 1978 until 2002, Sister Sophie continued her domestic duties and for some years helped as a development office aide at SS. Cyril and Methodius Convent in Bethlehem. Because of her age and failing health, she was transferred to Villa Clare at Monocacy where she spent the last seven years of her life in her ministry of prayer.

She was the daughter of the late John Tarhanich and Mary Anna Danko. She was preceded in death by one brother and five sisters.

A viewing was held at Monocacy Manor on Tuesday, November 27. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, November 28 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem.

Anne V. Bartos Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio

Anne V. Bartos, 78, passed away on Friday, November 23, 2007, at Forum Health Northside Medical Center.

Mrs. Bartos was born February 20, 1929

in New Castle, Pennsylvania, a daughter of the late John and Anna Vargo Lucas.

She was a nurse at Northside Hospital and had taught at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing. Anna was a member of St. Elizabeth Church and the Catholic Nurses Association.

Anna was a 1947 graduate of New Castle High School, a graduate of St. Francis School of Nursing in New Castle, and a graduate of Youngstown State University with a B.S. Degree

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Bartos, whom she married January 6, 1951; a son, Thomas (Barbara) of Boardman, Ohio; a sister, Joan White of Tionesta, Pennsylvania; a brother, Thomas Lucas of Tucson, Arizona; a daughter-in-law, Debra Bartos of Crestview, Florida; five grandchildren, Rebecca, Vikki, David, Michele, and A.J.; and two great-grandchildren, Nick and Katie.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, James, and two brothers, John and Robert

The family received friends at the Wasko Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Elizabeth Church in Campbell.

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, and its officers offer their deepest sympathy to husband Tom and Family. May she rest in peace.

Charles M. Terek

Barbara Liska Branch 789 Windsor, Ontario

It is with deep sorrow that Branch 789 in Windsor, Ontario, announces the death of Barbara Liska. She was the oldest member of the St. Anthony Society, Branch 798 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

On October 6, 2007, members of Branch 789 visited Barbara at the Extended Care Nursing Home to extend to her best wishes on her 105th birthday. During the weeks that followed that festive occasion her health failed and she passed away quietly on Monday, November 19, 2007.

Barbara Liska was the beloved wife of Steve Liska, who died in 1969. She was the youngest of six sisters who resided in Slovakia and have since all passed away. She was the dear aunt of the late Stephen Vamos of Pennsylvania and is survived by his wife, Anna May Vamos. She is also survived by many great-nieces and great-nephews in Slovakia and the United States. Barbara is mourned in Windsor by her dearest friend, Anne Marcinko Bendzak and many friends.

Barbara Liska was a member of Jednota Branch 789, the Canadian Slovak League, and the Holy Rosary Society. She was a pioneer member of St. Michael Slovak Byzantine Catholic Church and a lifelong member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Windsor, Ontario.

Prayers were offered in her memory at the Windsor Chapel Funeral Home by Mary Boldizar Jacko, President of Branch 789. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. Martin Vavrek in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Barbara was buried beside her husband in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

May our faithful member Barbara Liska rest in peace.

Mary Boldizar Jacko



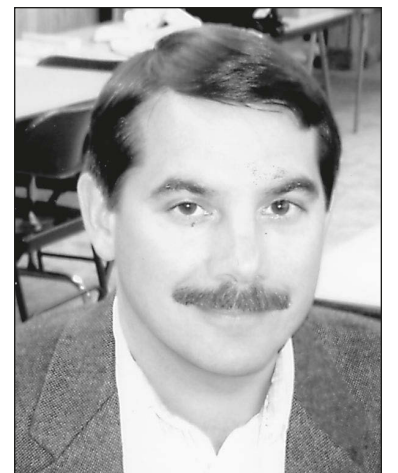
National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. goes over FCSU insurance and annuity products.



Officers of the Msgr. John E. Rura District, L-R Mary Kapitan, Financial Secretary; Joseph Poll, President; Stephen Minarovich, Treasurer; and Rev. John Stec, Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Church.



Regional Director Joseph and Lillian Minarovich.



Stephen Minarovich, Treasurer of the Msgr. John E. Rura District.

From the Office of the Vice President **New Jersey Seminar**

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a sales seminar on Sunday, October 14, 2007 at Sacred Heart Church Hall in Carteret, New Jersey.

Recommenders from the Rev. Matthew Jankola, Msgr John E. Rura and Msgr. Stephen Krasula Districts were invited to attend.

The seminar was administered by National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Representing Region 1, was Regional Director Joseph F. Minarovich.

The seminar was well received by everyone present and centered around FCSU's insurance and annuity portfolio and new products being formulated.

After the seminar, a buffet was enjoyed by everyone present. Door prizes were given out. The Membership and Marketing Committee would like to thank Mr. Joseph Poll, President of the Msgr. John E. Rura District, and his fellow officers for setting up and hosting the event. Again, many thanks.

The purpose of our seminars is to acquaint our recommenders on our society's products. If one is scheduled for your area, please attend.

*Until next time,
Good Luck and God Bless,
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President
Membership and Marketing Chairman*

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Andrew G. Jacobs achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on July 12, 2007. Andrew is a member of Boy Scout Troop 146 chartered to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in the Erie Shores Council in Toledo, Ohio. He is the son of Michael and Bernadine (Lucansky) Jacobs. Andrew was presented with the Eagle Scout Badge at a Court of Honor on October 6 hosted by Boy Scout Troop 146.

Andrew's Eagle Scout project benefitted the Good Samaritan Outreach Center on Broadway in South Toledo. The Center provides meals and clothing to the needy in the area. Andrew raised the needed funds from seven businesses, and recruited a team of 13 volunteers to build a much needed food pantry. The basement was also cleaned and painted, which now can be used for storage of larger items, and the outside of the building was painted giving the 1896 building a face-lift. A total of 126 man hours were put into the project.

In achieving Eagle Scout rank, Andrew earned 29 merit badges, and is the recipient of the prestigious World Conservation Award, the Light of Christ Roman Catholic Award and the Parvuli Dei Roman Catholic Award. As Senior Patrol Leader, Andrew led his Troop in earning the Baden Powell award which for many years had eluded his Troop. Andrew has been in scouting for 12 years beginning as a Tiger Cub.

He is a senior at St. John's Jesuit High School where he is a member of the Ambassador Society serving as a core team member. He is also involved in Christian Services and Campus Ministry, and has been a teen volunteer at Hospice of Northwest Ohio for two years.. Andrew is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. His grandparents, Andrew and Elvira Lucansky and Mary Jacobs, reside in Youngstown, Ohio, along with uncle and aunt, Adam and Loretta (Lucansky) Richards, and aunt, Mary Lou Jacobs.



Andrew G. Jacobs



Branch 493 Secretary Val Vesely and Financial Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder present Andrea Coutu with her college grant.

FCSU Scholarship Winner

Andrea Coutu, a freshman at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, is a 2007 FCSU Scholarship Winner. The members of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, are very proud of her, and have voted to award her a \$50.00 college grant. Andrea plans on majoring in pre-Law and attending law school after college. She was also awarded a \$100.00 college grant from the Bishop Stefan Moyses Scholarship Fund of the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II. Best wishes to our future Slovak American advokat.



Christmas Inspirational Spot...

On Christmas, how many will sing hymns, and how many will cry with hopelessness? Lord, help me to be generous, to reach out to help at least one of Your children, so that one more voice will sing in Your birthday choir this year.

What does Christ want at His crib? More donkeys? More shepherds? More gold and frankincense?

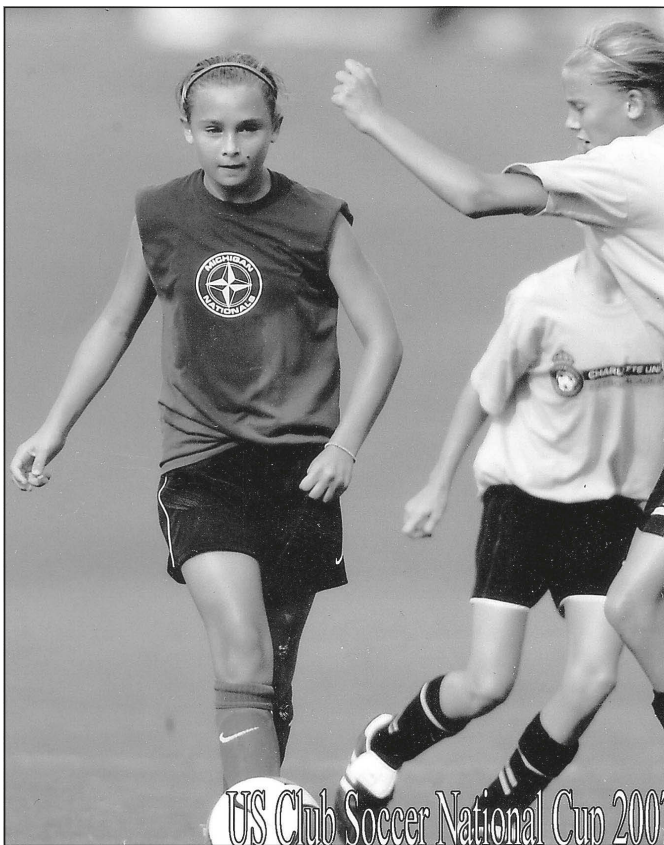
Actually, Christ wants you at His crib, and He wants you with a heart filled with faith and love.

Born in a stable. A choice He made. Simplicity and poverty. A choice no temporal power or influence would have ever suggested.

A choice- God became man in a way no would have ever guessed. Do you suppose He was trying to tell us something?

Dear God, grant strength to all who must endure the Christmas season in personal sorrow, loneliness or depression.

I offer to You on behalf of those who suffer during these times any pain or disappointment I may experience during the celebration of Your birth this Christmas. Amen



Danielle Glogovsky, Midfield position soccer player on the Michigan Nationals Team eludes the opposition on the way to scoring a goal in the finals of the U12 U.S. Club Soccer National Cup held in Indianapolis, Indiana this past soccer season. In addition to representing the Okemos, Michigan TNT U12 team on the Michigan Nationals, Danielle Glogovsky represented Okemos, Michigan on the 3 other Mid-Michigan League teams in the U12 age bracket and scored the most goals in the Michigan State Championship in competition in Petosky, Michigan. She also represented and played on the TNT Mid-Michigan soccer team as leading scorer against other teams in

Cleveland, Ohio. Danielle also played point guard and was the leading scorer on the Okemos Middle School basketball team that went undefeated. Okemos, Michigan competes in the East Lansing, Okemos, Michigan Middle School basketball competition.

Danielle is the daughter of Todd and Dr. Joan Glogovsky of Okemos, Michigan, a member of Jednota Branch 686, and granddaughter of Rudolph and Anita Glogovsky of Huntley, Illinois. Her grandfather serves as Director of Region 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Bowling
April 25-27
Wedgewood Lanes ~ Youngstown, Ohio

Golf
July 12-13
Tam O'Shanter ~ Canton, Ohio

From the desk of the ...

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Exciting news!!

Now you are able to receive life insurance quotes on all our products from our website!! Our website address is www.fcsu.com. To assist you with quotes, click on quotes and then follow the directions, fill in the blanks and you will immediately know the information you are seeking. All Branch Officers, Recommenders and Proposers should take advantage of this useful tool available to everyone now.

If you have any questions, please contact our Home Office at 800-533-6682.

the *Book Corner*

With Christmas fast approaching, our thoughts turn towards finding that unique gift for that special person. Why not consider a book as a gift. It is something that will be appreciated long after Christmas. Here are a few books reviewed in our paper in this past year and others mentioned in previous years.

THE HISTORY OF SLOVAKS IN AMERICA by Konstantin Culen. This book was originally published in two volumes in Slovak in 1942 and now has been translated into English. To order, send \$49.50 (postpaid) to CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International, P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225.

THE FOREIGNER'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN SLOVAKIA by Margaret Hurn covers the social, economic, historic and traditional influences on the life and culture of Slovakia. The book sells for \$16.95 and is available through bookstores and internet book sellers.

SLOVAK FOLK CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, originally written by Martin and Rudolf Bosak of Slovakia, was translated into English and edited by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast Pennsylvania. To order a copy, send \$30.00 payable to the Slovak Society of N.E. PA to Elaine Palischak, 1340 W. Mountain Rd., Plymouth, PA 18651. For more information call 570/779-1694.

TALES FROM SLOVAK CASTLES BY Sylvia M. Lorinc contains 15 stories that surround fifteen castles in Slovakia. The price of the book with map is \$11.95. It is currently sold at La Boheme in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Call 412/561-3717 or 877/892-8900 for further information.

MY SLOVAKIA; AN AMERICAN'S VIEW by Lil Junas, is a 56-page, hard cover book with 80 of the author's photographs. The book is an introspective view of history, tradition, culture, with anecdotal prose, reflecting on her childhood in Pennsylvania and experiences with lifestyles and customs in Slovakia during the 1990s. The book sells for \$15.00 including postage. To order, send \$15.00 to Lil Junas, 936 Peace St., Hazleton, PA 18201, Phone: 570/454-1660.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS by Anne Lucas Ryba, is the story of a Slovak American family from its ancestral home in Slovakia to life in the coal mining town of Grassflat, Pennsylvania. The 242-page paperback book sells for \$22.00 including postage. Make checks payable to Anne H. Ryba and mail to: Anne Lucas Ryba, 7436 Willow Woods Dr., North Olmsted, OH 44070, Phone: 440/427-8872 or e-mail: Rybaanne@aol.com.

SLOVAKS ON THE HUDSON by Thomas J. Shelley, is a detailed book about the history of the Slovak Catholic community in Yonkers, New York. To order, send \$34.95 plus \$5.00 for postage to: The Catholic University of America Press, Hopkins Fulfillment Service, P.O. Box 50370, Baltimore, MD 21211.

The following books are offered by the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Ohio:

HISTORY OF SLOVAKS IN CLEVELAND & LAKEWOOD by Jan Pankuch (\$24.00)

THE NIGHT OF THE BARBARIANS by Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec, S.J. (\$28.00)

LET'S LEARN SLOVAK, by Philip Hrobak (\$5.00).

SLOVAK SONGS AND DANCES by Michael Sinchak (original 1942 edition, \$7.00).

Large map of Slovakia (\$10.00)

To order any of the above four titles send a check plus \$2.00 for postage to: Slovak Institute & Reference Library, St. Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Rd., Cleveland, OH 44104. The institute also offers Slovak Christmas cards for sale. A box of ten cards cost \$10.00 (\$12.00 to Canada). Christmas Oplatky (1 envelope of 3 pieces) is available for purchase for \$1.00.

Coming Events

JANUARY

13 – The Msgr. Michael Shuba District's Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario.

From the Office of the Vice President

The Membership and Marketing Committee of "FCSU Life" is offering agent contracts to anyone in the following states who has a "state department of insurance producer's license" (state license) and wishes to sell our insurance and annuity products.

Colorado	Massachusetts	New York
Connecticut	Michigan	Ohio
Florida	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Missouri	West Virginia
Indiana	New Jersey	Wisconsin

Please send your resume and copy of your state license to:

Andrew R. Harcar Sr
National Vice President
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131

New U.S. Ambassador to Slovak Republic



Honorary Consul Joseph Senko and his wife Albina congratulate Vincent Obsitnik (center) on his new appointment as Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

On Friday, November 9, 2007, Vincent Obsitnik was sworn in as the sixth U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic. Mr. Obsitnik is the first Ambassador to Slovakia who is of Slovak heritage. He was born in Moravany, a small village in Eastern Slovakia. In 1938, at age of three months, he emigrated with his parents to Nanty Glo, Pennsylvania. He later moved to New Jersey. He has lived in Connecticut, New York, Virginia, Georgia and Florida.

Mr. Obsitnik also served as a Deacon at Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church.

Mr. Obsitnik and his brother and two of his four sons are graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy. He received his master's degree from American University. He and his wife, Annemarie, have 12 grandchildren. Mr. Obsitnik also served as a Deacon at Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church. His business career included Director of Manufacturing for Latin America at the IBM Corporation, President of the System Development Division at Unisys/Loval Corporation, and Vice President of International Development at Litton/PRC Corporation. Recently, he served as a member of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. In this position, he helped raise funds for the restoration of wooden churches in Eastern Slovakia.

◆◆◆ *Slovak Songs in Latin, Slovak, and English*

A Source of Pride for Slovaks

The CD Resonantia Tatrae, consisting of 47 songs sung by Schola Cantorum Joannis Pauli II-Vajnori is available as a special holiday treat. The songs on the CD represent an excellent selection from the book, *Slovak Songs in Latin, Slovak, and English*, also called *Cantus Populi Slavaci*.

The forthcoming book, *Slovak Songs in Latin, Slovak, and English*, contains 170 Slovak hymns and folk songs—in Latin, Slovak, and English—with 170 music scores. The folk songs have been newly edited in Slovak. The whole collection is a unique package of melodies, ethnography, and music information.

The Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation (SAICF), a not-for-profit educational foundation that takes the initiative to create, produce, publish, and promote books about significant aspects of Slovak culture, history, and ethnography and to showcase Slovak art, is proud to have sponsored this important CD and book. The Foundation is pleased to present another gift of Slovakia's culture and tradition that will enrich the world and be treasured forever.

For the holiday season, SAICF is offering a 25% discount until December 31, 2007. To order these Slovak treasures, please send a check made out to SAICF at: 1000 Brown St., Wauconda, IL 60084

Slovak Songs in Latin, Slovak, English

Paperback ISBN 978-0-86516-0 \$33 Now only \$24.75

Audio CD ISBN -29218-00006 \$29 Now only \$21.75

Shipping & handling \$7 for 1st item, \$1 for each additional item.

One copy each title, prepaid, no returns, not available to distributors.

This offer expires December 31, 2007

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

Holiday Hours

The Home Office will be closed on the following days during the holidays:

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 24 and 25, 2007

New Years Eve and New Years Day

December 31, 2007 and January 1, 2008

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Thru October 31, 2007

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS



Florence K. Matta
First Place



Dorothy J. Petrus
Second Place



Andrew R. Harcar
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD



Roger T. Soltis
First Place



Thomas M. Hricik
Second Place



Mary Lou Krna
Third Place

TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

	Branch	Total Points
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	675
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	492
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	290
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	272
Mary J. Kapitan, Edison, New Jersey	746	201
Joseph E. Rura, Coral, Pennsylvania	484	168
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	163
Lisa Ann Trifiletti-Palos, Lorain, Ohio	228	160
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	156
George J. Kacsanek, Akron, Ohio	553	132

TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD

	Branch	Amount
Roger T. Soltis, Massilon, Ohio	410	\$100,800.00
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$80,903.59
Mary Lou Krna, Binghamton, New York	166	\$65,000.00
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$45,451.43
Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$45,000.00
Steven G. Luca, Lorain, Ohio	228	\$31,497.43
Edward Fibbi, Monongahela, Pennsylvania	587	\$28,810.10
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$25,978.77
Theresa R. Chupka, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania	173	\$24,956.65
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$24,413.33

TOP PROPOSERS BY INSURANCE SOLD



Dorothy J. Petrus
First Place



Frances Tarquinio
Third Place



George A. Sprock
Third Place

TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$675,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$388,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$355,000
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$336,000
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$335,000
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$252,000
James Robert Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	\$210,000
Regis P. Brekosky, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania	738	\$200,000
Mary Ann Eckard, Cumberland, Maryland	333	\$190,000
Margaret M. Perla, McKeesport, Pennsylvania	60	\$165,000

FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Fall Special

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren now through December 31, 2007 and receive a ***FREE GIFT** to present with the certificate.

Pay one premium and have fully paid-up insurance. Issued in any amount (\$5,000 or more) subject to current FCSU Life non-medical limits. Excellent gift for children or grandchildren.



Example – Newborn Male		Example – Newborn Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$500
Example – Age 5 Male		Example – Age 5 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$290
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$680	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$580
Example – Age 10 Male		Example – Age 10 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$400	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$800	\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$680
Example – Age 15 Male		Example – Age 15 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$480	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$405
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$960	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$810

Contact your branch office or to learn more call the FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682

*Children 8 and under receive a stuffed Jednota Bear. Children 9-18 receive a gift card!

From the desk of the Executive Secretary –
Visit our web site! www.fcsu.com

Exciting News – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site

Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is fcsu@aol.com if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements such as our special 2% bonus now being offered through our annuity program, special offers on our insurance products, trips to Slovakia, and our Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet.

WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com

If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately.
Think About It!

FCSU 2007 Christmas Coloring Contest



The First Christmas Eve

© Russell E. Coate

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the Inn,
Not a creature was stirring,
Except little Ben.

A trav'ler had told him
Of a beautiful sight -
A manger, a mother,
A babe born that night.

The story had touched him,
Sunk deep in his heart,
And he thought of it, pondered it,
Savored each part.

The trav'ler had told of
A very great star,
And wise men had seen it
From countries afar.

And shepherds abiding that night
With their sheep,
Had heard angels tell
Of the new babe asleep.

All had followed the star
To the manger of hay,
And shepherds and wise men
Had knelt down to pray.

For the poor little babe
Was a tiny new King,
Bringing hope and great joy
To the children of men!

The wise men had brought for Him
Myrrh, Frankincense, Gold,
And a shepherd boy offered
A wee lamb from his fold.

But what could a small boy
Like Ben give a King?
No rubies, no diamonds,
And he had no gold ring.

And none of Ben's own toys
Would do for a King,
Not the slingshot, the marbles,
The whistle, or string!

Ben slipped from his bed
And walked out through the yard.
The moon was aglow,
And how bright were the stars!

It seemed like the heavens
Were beaming with joy
At the news of the birth
Of the new baby boy.

Ben followed a path
To the back of the Inn.
"The Child lies back there,"
Said one of the men.

Then Ben saw the stable
In the dim lantern light.
He saw cattle and sheep there,
Bedded down for the night.

And there in a manger
Lay the new baby King,
With Mary and Joseph there,
Calm and serene.

Then Ben knew the gift
That he would impart,
And he softly whispered,
"I'll give you my heart."

Then he knelt by the manger
So crude for a King,
And worshipped the Holy One,
SAVIOUR OF MEN!



RULES

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 - 6 year olds - picture C 7 - 9 year olds - picture A
10 - 12 year olds - picture B
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Children MUST be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child to the Fraternal Activities Director must be postmarked by **January 2, 2008**.

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Please submit this form with your child's entry by January 2, 2008

PRIZES
Winners in each age group will receive the following:

1ST PLACE
Jednota Duffle Bag and \$25.00

2ND PLACE
Jednota Duffle Bag and \$15.00

3RD PLACE
Jednota Duffle Bag and \$10.00

HONORABLE MENTION
\$5 Gift Card

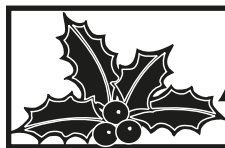
Child's Name _____ Date of Birth: _____

Certificate Number: _____ Regional Director: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____



A TYPICAL SLOVAK CHRISTMAS EVE MENU



Oplatky • Wine • Honey • Garlic • Dried Peas • Mushroom Soup • Pagach
 • Bobalky • Stewed Prunes • Mushroom Soup (Machanka) • Caraway Soup
 • Mushroom Stuffed Cabbage • Bread for Christmas Eve • Christmas Bread
 • (Figs, Dates, Oranges, Apples, Tangerines) • Mixed Nuts • Nut Rolls
 • Poppy Seed Rolls • Pirohy

PIROHY

1 cup flour
 4 tablespoons water (approximately)
 1 egg

Mix flour and egg with enough water to make a soft dough; knead well. Roll out on floured board until thin. Cut into squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square. Fold in half, making a triangle. Pinch edges well to keep filling inside. Drop into boiling salted water and cook until they rise to surface. Cook 5 minutes longer. Rinse in colander with hot water. Drain. Pour melted butter over pirohy and serve.

Cheese Filling:

1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
 1 egg yolk
 1 teaspoon butter
 Pinch of salt
 Mix together.

Potato Filling:

1 large potato cooked and mashed
 1 tablespoon butter
 Grated cheese to taste (optional)

Lekvar may be used as filling. Cooked sauerkraut may also be used as filling. Drain and rinse sauerkraut in cold water. Brown diced onion in shortening, add sauerkraut. Cook for a few minutes.

BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

1 package dry yeast
 1/2 cup lukewarm water
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon sugar
 4 tablespoons sugar
 6 cups flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 4 tablespoons salad oil

Dissolve yeast in warm water with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. Set in warm place to rise. Sift 6 cups flour in deep bowl, add 2 cups warm water, 4 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons salad oil. Knead well and set aside to rise. When double in bulk, punch down, let rise second time until double. Punch down. Divide dough in two. Shape one part into round bread, cover and let stand 20 minutes. Punch down and reshape. Place in greased pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. *Note:* The second part of this dough will be used for Bobalky.

CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

Use other half of above dough for bobalky. Knead and roll on floured board into rope. Cut and roll into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on floured pan, let rise 15 minutes. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes or until just slightly brown. Cook, then place in deep bowl, pour boiling water over just to soak a little. Drain in colander. Then place in serving dish, heat honey with a little water, pour over bobalky. Mix 1/2 cup ground poppy seed and 1/4 cup sugar and then add to bobalky. Let stand several hours in cool place (or refrigerator) for several hours before serving. *Note:* Some bobalky are served with sweet cabbage or sauerkraut. Sautee cabbage or sauerkraut with onion in salad oil, then mix with bobalky.

NUT ROLLS

8 cups flour
 2 cups milk (scalded)
 4 egg yolks
 1 cup sugar
 1 large yeast or 3 envelopes dry yeast
 1/2 pound butter
 1/2 pound shortening
 1 tablespoon salt
 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm milk. Stir well. Add sugar, shortening and salt to the rest of the milk and cool. Beat egg slightly and add to mixture, then add the yeast mixture to the rest of the lukewarm mixture. Put half of the flour in a bowl and add the above mixture a little at a time. Mix well. Add remainder of flour to make soft dough using just enough flour to knead without sticking. Cover. Let rise to double in bulk.

Keep in warm place. Takes about 2 hours to rise. Knead down a little to get out puffiness. Divide into 6 parts and let stand 10 minutes. Roll out and spread with nut mixture. Roll tightly and placed on greased baking sheet and let rise about 1 hour and bake in 350° oven for 35 to 40 minutes. Brush each roll with slightly beaten egg before baking. Brush with melted butter after baked.

Nut Mixture:

4 pounds nuts (ground)
 4 cups sugar
 1 stick butter (melted)
 1/4 cup milk (enough to moisten nut mixture)

PAGACH

10 cups flour
 2 yeast cakes (or 2 packages dry yeast)
 2 sticks margarine
 2 eggs, beaten
 2 tablespoons salt
 1/4 cup sugar
 2-1/2 cups milk (or more if necessary)

Knead all together until well blended as for bread dough. Let rise double in bulk in warm place. Punch down, let rise once again. Turn out on floured board, separate into 8 to 10 portions. Let rise until light. With rolling pin flatten enough to place about 1 cup of filling in center of each mound of dough. Bring dough up over mound and pinch together to shape a round ball. Let rest about 1/2 hour with filing then carefully roll out as thin as you want it. Place on cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown then butter on both sides. Rounds should be about 14 inches in diameter or as thin as you like them.

Filling:

Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

TWO HOUR NUT & POPPYSEED ROLLS

6 cups sifted flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 3 tablespoons sugar
 2 packages dry yeast
 1/2 cup warm milk
 1/4 pound butter
 1/2 cup vegetable shortening
 3 eggs (beaten)
 1 cup sour cream

Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Sift together flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and butter.

Mix as for pie crust. Add beaten eggs and sour cream. Add yeast and blend well.

Divide dough in four parts. Let rise 30 minutes. Roll each part then as for jelly roll. Spread with one of the following fillings. Roll and place on greased pan and allow to rise for one hour or until double in bulk. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 350°.

Nut Filing

1/2 pound chopped nuts
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1/4 cup scalded milk
 1 teaspoon melted butter
 Melt butter. Add walnuts, sugar and vanilla. Add scalded milk. Mix well.
 1/2 pound ground poppyseed
 3/4 cup sugar
 1/2 cup scalded milk
 1 tablespoon melted butter
 Combine all ingredients, mix well.

CHRISTMAS BREAD

1 cup sugar
 1/2 cup shortening
 2 teaspoons salt
 2 cups scalded milk
 1 cup warm water (NOT HOT)
 2 packages dry or compressed yeast
 2 eggs, beaten
 8 cups flour
 1 cup seedless raisins

Put sugar, shortening, salt and scalded milk in a large bowl; stir until shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Pour warm water into small bowl; sprinkle or crumble in yeast, stir until dissolved. Add eggs and yeast to lukewarm milk mixture and blend. Add 1/3 of flour and beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining flour, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and turn out on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic; place in greased bowl. Brush with melted shortening, cover, and let rise in warm place until it doubles (about 1-1/2 hours). Punch down; divide into 3 equal portions. Shape into 3 round loaves; let rise again until it doubles. Brush with beaten eggs. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes at 450° then turn to 350° and continue baking for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

MUSHROOM STUFFED CABBAGE

1 head cabbage (about 3 pounds)
 1 large can sauerkraut
 1 cup ground mushrooms
 (either canned, dry or frozen)
 1 cup rice (uncooked)
 2 tablespoons shortening
 1 medium onion
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Brown Gravy Sauce:

1 tablespoon shortening
 1 tablespoon flour

Cut core out of cabbage to loosen leaves. Place cabbage into boiling water for a few minutes. Remove leaves, cut away the thick rib from cabbage leaves. Fry the onions in the shortening until soft, add to mushrooms, rice. Season to a test. Place about 1 teaspoon in each cabbage leaf and roll. Drain sauerkraut, use about half the kraut in the bottom of the pot. Arrange rolls over the kraut, cover with remaining kraut. Fill pot with water, to top the rolls. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

Sauce: Brown flour in shortening. Add about a cup of water. Bring to a boil, then pour over the cabbage rolls. Cook for just about 5 more minutes.

MUSHROOM SOUP (MACHANKA)

Wash dried mushrooms. Soak overnight. In morning cook mushrooms in the water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cook slowly for 2 hours or more.

Zaprashka (Soup thickening)

Brown 1 chopped onion in 2 tablespoons salad oil, add browned onion to mushroom soup. To remaining oil add 2 tablespoons flour slowly, brown and then add to mushroom soup to thicken. Cook for a few minutes and serve hot.

MUSHROOM SOUP

7 cups fresh mushrooms (chopped)
 3 quarts water
 1 quart sauerkraut juice
 Salt and pepper (to taste)

1 small onion
 3 tablespoons butter
 3 tablespoons flour

Cook mushrooms in water about 1 hour. Brown butter and onion; add flour and brown well. Add sauerkraut juice and boil this for 5 minutes. Add to soup and boil 1/2 hour longer.

CARAWAY SOUP

3 tablespoons shortening
 1/2 cup chopped onion
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
 3 cups boiling water
 3 tablespoons flour

Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend a cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.

'The King'

Over two thousand years ago
 a king was born.

He wasn't born in a mansion
 with a big fancy bed.

He was born in a manger
 where the animals were fed.

A halo took the place of
 a crown for his little head.

The angels were rejoicing
 a star was shining bright

it lit up the sky and led the
 shepherds and the wise men to

where the little king Jesus lie.

This great king still lives today.

We celebrate His birth every
 year with happiness and love.

We thank this great king and
 we know that He is watching

as He sends us blessings and
 grace from His home above.

Have a Blessed Christmas

LuLu Ann Bernardich



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at 25 Commemorated

By John Karch

Amid domestic differences and international turmoil, one senses a kind of malaise in commemorating significant national holidays, especially those involving war and peace, including the millions of veterans and their families. Why do we still hear of the "forgotten war" in reference to the Korean conflict? And why do Vietnam veterans (VV) and their families even now feel the pains of rejection?

The VV commemorated their 25th anniversary of the much-visited "Memorial Wall" on Saturday, November 10, its massive parade was known nationally and yet an observer of media coverage could conclude, sadly, that overall the news reports were minimal and disappointing to the VV. The VV were even victimized by the National Veterans Day held the next day, a Sunday. There were exceptions, of course, and poignant moments at "The Wall."

In its November 11 issue, the NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER printed a front page story with a newspaper-wide photo of The Wall. On top of The Wall were two Color Guard groups and, below them, men and women who represented veterans organizations. There, Marine Corps GEN Peter Pace, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left cards at the Memorial, one for each of the Marines he lost in combat in Vietnam, with four stars attached. He wrote: "These are yours, not mine! With love and respect, your platoon leader, Peter Pace."

There are people, millions of people, especially veterans of all wars and conflicts, and their families, who do care. Thus, the emotional 25th anniversary of "The Wall" was commemorated, in varying degrees, nationally, in counties and municipalities across America.

Locally, for example, the November 4 Bulletin of the St. James Catholic Church of Falls Church, VA informed its parishioners that the Catholic War Veterans (CWV) would have a float in the parade and invited all veterans to join them in celebrating and riding on the float. Detailed information for November 10 was given. At the November 11 Falls Church

Veterans Day Ceremony, Vietnam veteran Marvin McFeaters, Commander of CWV Post 1652 and Chairman of the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council, referred to the VV Memorial and said: "This was an historic momentous salute to the men and women who served in the Vietnam War."

Memorial Wall

Relying on their experience, the VV maintain that in the aftermath of America's longest war, "It seemed as if the nation simply wanted to forget the war had ever happened. Throughout the 1970s, VV were cast aside and forgotten by the country for which they had fought and died."

Then, a group of VV and their supporters took steps to "right this injustice." Led by Jan Scruggs (the Grand Marshal of the 25th Anniversary VV Memorial Parade), they succeeded in erecting a national memorial "honoring those who served and sacrificed in Vietnam."

Designed by Maya Lin, a youthful architecture student, The Wall is "stark and powerful simple black granite etched with the names of, now, the 58,256 Americans who lost their lives in the war or remained missing." To make it more personal, a statue of three soldiers was added.

"Today, the once-controversial Wall is widely recognized as one of the most moving memorials in the nation, if not the world. Every memorial since The Wall was built, has been inspired by its beauty, and the power of its message."

The Program

The 10-11 A.M. Program on 7th Street, began with a Welcome by Master of Ceremonies Don Buzzey, followed by The National Capitol Region U.S. Army Color Guard; Pledge Allegiance by Veterans Against Drugs Troupe; the National Anthem by U.S. Naval Academy Band; Invocation by Rev. Jackson Day, MD State Council Chaplain and former Chaplain to the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam; POW/MIA by Richard Perricone (POW 1967-73); We Remember by Tony Cordero, Co-Founder and Chairman of Sons and Daughters in Touch; Greetings by John Rowan, President of VVA; Grand Marshall



Gene Castellano 2007

Photo courtesy of Michael Keating, Vietnam Veterans of America

"These Colors Don't Run"

Jan Scruggs, Founder and President of VV Memorial Fund; Remarks by Diane Carlson Evans, Founder and President of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation; U-Haul Area Field Manager Jay Rocourt also made comments; Closing remarks were by Paul Bucha, Medal of Honor Recipient. The Program ended with a Musical Tribute by the United We Stand Troupe.

Keynote Speaker

Medal of Honor recipient Paul "Buddy" Bucha has a reputation as an impassioned orator. The themes are that veterans, most emphatically Vietnam veterans, must take charge of their destiny and that they are duty-bound to address the needs of less fortunate veterans. At one event he called on VVA leaders to go back to their communities across the nation and "rekindle the flame of Vietnam Veterans' activism" in the name of those who died in Vietnam." Also, he said, VV "are the conscience of this country. We can change the world."

We Remember

With deep feeling, the Co-Founder and Chairman of Sons and Daughters in Touch, Tony Cordero spoke as follows: "Look who we've grown to become: We are responsible citizens, from every corner of the country and from every background imaginable—just like our dads....Our nation sent your generation to Vietnam, and in its aftermath, no one demanded that you look out for the well-being of your buddies' children. But in supporting SDIT, that's exactly what you have done...."

We're often asked, he said, "what is the difference for families today compared to the Vietnam era?" Look at all the communities and corporations stepping forward to create scholarship programs for the new 'sons and daughters,' others are providing counseling and financial assistance to the families in need at places like Camp Pendleton and Fort Benning. That's the difference...."

The Parade

The VVA and the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund (VAAF) were the producers of the Parade in celebration of 25 years of "The Wall," reflecting "honor and respect"

deserved by the fallen brothers and sisters. Beginning at 11 A.M., about 10,000 participants, largely in the parade, took about two-and-a-half hours to pass.

In his letter to "Dear Veterans and friends," VVA National President John Rowan said the parade would be the "welcome home" that many brother and sister veterans never had. "As you march along Constitution Avenue," he wrote, "we hope that you will remember all of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country....The names on the 'Wall' are America. Every race, color, creed, ethnic background, and both sexes are included on the 'Wall.' Many of them were not citizens, yet they gave their life for their adopted country. Whatever their background, they are joined together forever to be remembered by all who visit the 'Wall.' While their names may not be listed, the 'Wall' also commemorates the sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans."

Parade Participants

Numerous groups participated: "The price of freedom is visible here." The Parade escort consisted of the Metropolitan Police District of Columbia Ceremonial Unit, the U.S. Park Police Motorcycle Unit, and the U.S. Park Police Honor Guard. The Motorcycle Division included the famed Rolling Thunder National and Chapters from MD, VA, NY, the VV Motorcycle Club of PA, and the Veteran Trail Riders of Alaska; Executives included the Armed Forces Color Guard, U.S. Naval Academy Band, Honored Dignitaries, and VVA and VAAF Board of Directors.

Divisions I-VII consisted of many VVA state Councils and chapters; five Associated Organizations (Orgs) of Family Members, such as Gold Star Members of America; five Veterans of Foreign Wars; three American Legion; three Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks; Unions and veterans; 25 units included the Vietnam Security Police Association, Disabled American Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans for the Community; 37 Orgs from various states, including the Military Order of the Purple Heart of NC and the Catholic War Veterans of the USA;

continued on page 14



Photo courtesy of Evelyne McFeaters

Catholic War Veterans Float

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 1— CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold a Christmas Party and Get-together on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Lakewood, Ohio. Officers will be elected at this time. All members are welcome to attend and enjoy the festivities.

Mary Dubber, Secretary

Branch 2 — PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 2, will hold a Family Holiday Get Together on Sunday, January 6, 2008. All members are encouraged to make plans to attend. It will be free to members and will include refreshments and entertainment. More details will be sent to your homes or you may contact Recording Secretary Regina Ondrejco at 412/421-1204 for more information.

Hope to see many of you on Sunday, January 6, 2008.

Regina Ondrejco, Secretary

Branch 3P — HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 6P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 30, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church cafeteria, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2008 will be conducted followed by a short update on local branch activities. New ideas for branch activities will be entertained and any changes of address or beneficiaries can be submitted at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and get involved.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

Branch 10 — OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, held its Annual Meeting, Audit, and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at the home of the Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania. The following officers were elected to serve in 2008: Daniel Spegar, President; Gaza Mika, Vice President; William Spegar, Secretary-Treasurer; William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary; and Michael Antonik and Florence M. Nalevanko, Auditors. Donations in the amount of \$8,750 were approved for distribution in 2008 to the following: Michael Bosak Society, Slovakia; LaSalle Academy, Jessup, PA; Holy Ghost Church and the Lackawanna County Health Care Center, Olyphant; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund and Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, PA; Valley Community Library, Peckville, PA; Slovak Catholic Federation, Hazleton, PA; Alison Butash Scholarship, and St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Scranton.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, June 22, 2008 following the 8:00 a.m. Mass in Holy Ghost Church. This Mass will be offered for all the living and deceased members of the Branch.

Finally, the officers and members of Branch 10 wish to extend best wishes to everyone for a Happy and Holy Christmas Season and a Joyful New Year.

**William A. Nalevanko
Recording Secretary**

Branch 23 — JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Our Son's Family Restaurant, 800 Broad Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2008 and a review of scholarship applications. A luncheon will be served. All members are invited to attend.

Branch 23 will hold a Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at Our Son's Family Restaurant, 800 Broad Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. A luncheon will be served. All members are invited to attend.

Lawrence Fenimore, President

Branch 24 — CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Karlin Club, 5304 Fleet Avenue. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of the Senior Promotion Program. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Bob Kopco, President

Branch 35 — BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Slovak Society, Branch 35, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 5, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 15 Sumner Avenue, Forest Hills, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a discussion of insurance marketing, and the election of officers for the new year. All members are urged to attend.

Joseph Yuros, Financial Secretary

Branch 38 — DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday evening, January 4, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the Secretary/Treasurer, 3409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports, financial reports, election of officers, and a discussion of branch activities for the year 2008. All members are urged to attend.

The officers of Branch 38 wish all of our members a Blessed and Healthy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 40 — STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington Street, Streator, Illinois. If you plan to attend, please call Maria Harcar at 815/672-6682 by Friday, December 14, 2006.

Maria M. Harcar, Financial Secretary

Branch 85 — JESSUP, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. We hope our members will take advantage of this meeting and join us.

B. Skovira

Branch 153 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

At the annual meeting of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, members approved a motion to give a Christmas Gift to our younger members. Members age 14 and under will receive a gift during the coming Christmas holidays.

We wish a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all our members.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

Branch 157 — NORTH CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs room at the Jednota Slovak Center, 5th and Grove Streets, North Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place and future events and meetings will be discussed. All members are urged to attend.

The officers of Branch 157 wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday.

Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary

Branch 162 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed and the election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

Branch 173 — WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area, will hold its Annual Meeting on December 13, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The meeting will be for general business. If you have any questions or plan to attend, please contact Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, 15 Grove St., Mountaintop, PA 18707, Phone 570/403-2067, or e-mail at chumley4@prodigy.net, so that arrangements can be made.

Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President

Branch 199 — HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Home of Frances Pipak. The election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

Sophie Pipak

Branch 266 — HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 226, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 30, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2008 will take place. There will also be a discussion of branch activities for next year. Please spread the word so more of our members will attend and become more involved in branch activities. Please plan to attend.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

Branch 290 — RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch

290, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, December 14, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of the new insurance programs. Please call Joe after 6:30 p.m. at 732/469-5256 for the location of the meeting.

Joseph Minarovich, President

Branch 292 — WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania. All members are asked to attend this meeting. The Christmas Party will follow the meeting.

The officers of Branch 292 extend to all wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ed Surkosky, President

Branch 313 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 5, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at the Mother of Sorrows Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion on ways to find new membership for the branch.

We are trying to locate the addresses for the following members: Kenneth W. Michalik, Charles Morince, Phyllis Morince, Barbara E. Perkins, Kimberly Rozema, Thaddeus Rozema, Robert Ruby, Josephine Ruzon, Angela Schandor, Lorna Talaby, and Sandra Tatkus. If you have an address or telephone number for any of these members please call Joseph Bugel at 708/349-7873.

**Joseph M. Bugel,
President-Financial Secretary**

Branch 327 — POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 327, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 9:15 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church Social Hall, 370 South Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Elmer C. Pollock, President

Branch 372 — BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Spirit Church Hall, Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2008 and a discussion of other insurance topics will be on the agenda. Members are urged to attend.

Michael P. Hudak, Vice President

Branch 565 — DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Dominic Society, Branch 565, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 30, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at 522 Second Street, Donora, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. Important business will be discussed. Refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Rudinec, Financial Secretary

Branch 567 — ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Church Social

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend and to take an interest in all our endeavors. On the agenda will be the annual report and the election and swearing in of officers. Our Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner was a big success. Everyone enjoyed the dinner and the Polka Mass.

We wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Vesele Vianoce and Stastlivy Novy Rok.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

Branch 581 — GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 581, will hold its end of year meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Pruzin Funeral Home, 6360 Broadway, Merrillville, Indiana. The election of officers will be held. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of our new FCSU Senior Promotion. This includes a \$200 annual premium with a \$100.00 rebate for the first year, to add up to \$6,500 more insurance. If you cannot attend, contact me at 219/926-2410 for more information on this promo. It is for ages 55 to 80.

George Kelchak, Financial Secretary

Branch 595 — MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 595, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in the Tatra Hall. The election of officers for 2008 will be conducted. All members are urged to attend.

Louis A. Kollar,

Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Branch 628 — HOMESTEAD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 628, will be held on Sunday, December 30, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at 821 Laura Avenue, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include a review of branch activities and the election of new officers for the New Year.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

Branch 731 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Matthias Rectory. Plans for activities in 2008 will be discussed at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

James Bobby, Secretary

Branch 746 — LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs room in Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2008 and a discussion and planning of events for the coming year. Final prepara-

tions for the planned spring bus trip to the Sand Castle Winery will be finalized. Please bring your suggestions. A holiday get-together will follow.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 762 — WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 762, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of John Vrlík, 1234 121st Street, Whiting, Indiana.

John J. Vrlík, Financial Secretary

Branch 769 — ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, 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 785 — TORONTO, ONTARIO

The St. John Society, Branch 785, will hold a joint Annual Meeting with the Msgr. Michael Shuba District on Sunday, January 13, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. The election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

Milos Mitro, Regional Director

Branch 831 — TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will distribute the Children's Christmas treats on Thursday, December 20, 2007, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the home of Kathleen Persun, 158 Davidson Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. To be eligible, children must 12 years of age and under and have their insurance paid to date.

The following officers will serve in 2008: Larry Kuniak, President; Kathleen Persun, Secretary; and Rose Kuniak, Treasurer.

The officers of Branch 831 wish all the Members a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kathleen Persun, Secretary

Branch 853 — ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, will celebrate the Christmas season with the Annual Holiday Spaghetti Lunch on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at Rego's Restaurant, Charleroi, Pennsylvania. There will be no charge for Branch members. Nonmembers attending will be charged \$14.00 per person. Payment will be made that day. For a seating count, make your reservations by December 8 by calling 412/341-1537. Leave your name and the number of people attending. Also leave the name and ages of any Branch children attending.

The officers and members of Branch 853 wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season.

Monica Rodacy-Boone, President

Vietnam Veterans

continued from page 12

Military and business vehicles. There were six visiting marching bands from MS, NY, OH (2), PA, and WV.

Catholic War Veterans

The Catholic Veterans of America (CWV) participated with a national float, provided by CWV Post 1652 of Falls Church, VA. Present on the float were Gerald Kryznieski, National Commander of N.J.; Jose M. Garcia, Past National Commander and now Executive Director of TX; Marvin McFeaters, National Deputy Executive Director and Commander of Post 1652; Anna Rose Muzika, Auxiliary National President; and other members.

The CWV is a national organization with posts in many states. Founded in 1935, recognized officially as a Veterans Organization by the Veterans Administration in 1940, it was chartered by an act of Congress in 1984. The CWV, the only Catholic organization to be so honored, is dedicated to veterans affairs, with emphasis on God, country, and home. This group included veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf Wars, Iraq

and Afghanistan.

Public Honor and Respect

Along the way, the CWV and the other groups were greeted by the men, women and children with applause and shouts of "Thanks for serving" or similar responses. What a difference 25 years make! During and post-Vietnam when veterans returned home it was depressing—protesters shouted against the war, employers rejected the Vets seeking employment. These Vets felt anger, shame, stigma and trauma. And their families suffered with them.

As others, The Wall tells a story. It has been said that a lot of healing takes place for the veterans and families coming to the Wall. A moving part of the commemoration was the 65-hour reading of names of the over 58,000 VV—in chronological order of their death. The amplified reading was by many volunteers, organized over several months, some only of a family member. The reading began Wednesday at 4 P.M. and ended at midnight, then Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the hours were 5 A.M. to midnight.

Cookbooks Available

The "Carpathian Cookery" cookbook, now in its 12th printing, having sold over 10,000 copies, is again available for sale. The 330-page cookbook now has a new look and features a protective plastic cover and includes sections on Christmas Customs and recipes (and Easter customs and recipes), traditional Rusyn and Slovak foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried and true recipes of Saint John's parishioners. It contains many paska and kolachi recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great fast as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the book is \$13.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. If ordering from Canada, please send a \$20.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order, send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 185 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call 724/438-6027 for more information.



FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007

Effective April 1, 2007, 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 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR). Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Oplatky Available for Christmas

Oplatky are available once again through the services of the Jankola Library. They are generally sold in packages of six for \$3.00. Postage and handling are additional.

Other items related to Slovak faith and culture are available. To inquire, call 570/275-3581 or write to: Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M., Director, Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT — Toronto, Ontario

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District will hold a joint Annual Meeting with Branch 785 on Sunday, January 13, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. The election of officers will take place. All members are encouraged to attend.

Milos Mitro, Regional Director

Christmas in our Slovak-American Home during the 1960s

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

When I was a very young child, I already knew that Christmas Eve was very, very special. My Slovak-born mother worked very hard to prepare the home for that wonderful day. Mom would make one of the most unique and memorable meals of the year. But she never really explained the meaning of many of the details behind all the fuss.

Traditionally, Christmas Eve is the biggest annual event in a home in Slovakia. The same also holds true for many Slovak-Americans who endeavor to keep some of the customs of their forefathers. The entire family gathers for the traditional Slovak meal, prays together, and solidifies the bonds that make them one. The birth of Jesus is the occasion that prompts this occasion, a celebration of the family that Christ himself was born into.

Known as Štedrý Vecer (shetdree vecher) in Slovak, Christmas Eve finds some of its traditions in the traditional Jewish celebration of Passover. It is a sacred time, and one filled with ritual and symbolism.

Another common name for Christmas Eve is vilija (vee-lee-yah), which derives from the Latin "vigilia" or "night watch." The name implies the joyful anticipation in waiting for the arrival of the Christ Child.

When we were children during the 1960s, our house underwent a thorough preparation for the holy days. We rejoiced when Christmas vacation from school started, and our father usually took off work for a couple days before Christmas. So it was a special time that our family could spend together.

The male children helped our father decorate the outside of the house with those great big Christmas lights that the stores used to sell. Regardless of the weather, Dad was out on a ladder hanging those lights, and hoping they all worked after a year of sitting in the attic. On the door we placed a Santa, and inside our home, we decorated the windows and hung a mistletoe in the hallway.

A couple days before Christmas, Dad typically shopped for a tree for a dollar or two, for the tree sellers were trying to get rid their last few left before Christmas. He always seemed to find just the right tree. We all assisted in decorating the tree with Christmas lights and bulbs, and its beauty radiated our living room. And we always had a beautiful Christmas crib, which my father had made out of wood in his workshop.

One of the things that my brother Jim and I looked forward to was the electric choo-choo train that circled our Christmas tree. We painstakingly put together the tracks for the train, and sometimes made the pattern a challenge for our locomotive to run on. The train got its juice from a transformer, and it was always a trick to get it working right, plus we had to be sure the transformer did not get too hot from overuse. We spent many joyful hours playing with that train, including a lot of harrowing wrecks when the train ran too fast around the curves around the tree.

Our mother busied herself cleaning the house and obtaining the necessary ingredients for the vilija meal and bought a big juicy ham for Christmas. With so much to do, we dare not get in her way, except to offer some occasional help. The several

days before Christmas, we could smell the tantalizing aroma of fresh-baked kolace (nut and poppyseed rolls). While in Slovakia gingerbread cookies were more customary, our mom baked Christmas sugar cookies, and we children helped form some of the shapes – angels, Santa Clauses, stars, snowmen, etc. We always tried to sneak a few cookies, but usually could only get away with eating the ones that were slightly burned or partially disfigured. They still tasted great!

On Christmas Eve itself, preparations began early, and mother was always very busy in the kitchen from very early in the morning. The aroma of mushroom soup (hubová polievka) permeated the house, and closer to evening, our noses would catch the scent of pirohy, sušené slivky (prunes). We ate very little that day, knowing that the great evening meal lay ahead. But traditionally, Christmas Eve was a fast day for Slovak Catholics, at least until the evening meal.

The table was always set very carefully, and very formally, with our Father sitting at the head of the table. A Christmas tablecloth provided color, and a candle symbolizing Christ as the Light of the world, glowed brightly. Traditionally, Slovaks would also put a piece of straw under the tablecloth in order to remind us of the reason for the season.

There was also a bottle of Mogen David wine on the table. Christmas Eve was the only time that we children were allowed to have an alcoholic beverage, and we liked that particular brand of wine because it had a sweet, fruity taste.

According to Slovak custom, the evening meal begins once the first star is sighted at dusk, symbolizing the star that hovered over the scene of the Nativity of Jesus. We usually started the meal around 5 p.m.

Everyone took at seat at the table, and our father always led us with an opening prayer. We always said the sign of the cross in Slovak, and then recited an Our Father, Hail Mary, and a Glory Be in English. Then Dad would thank the Lord for his goodness and our being together as a family. No one was supposed to leave the table until the meal was completed, and since then, I have found out that a Slovak custom holds that leaving early can forebode an early death.

Slovak families typically share oplatky (unleavened wafers) at the Christmas Eve meal. Originally, our family did not do this, but then carried on the tradition once we were able to obtain oplatky from a local Slovak church. Slovak custom has it that the father blesses the oplatky and then all partake of it with a little med (honey), and sometimes some garlic, to remind us of the sweet and bitter aspects of life.

Then we ate our mushroom soup, the best soup one could ever hope for. It contained lots of big fresh mushrooms, potatoes, and was a little sour from the sauerkraut juice my mother added – a sign of the bitter parts of life. Mom added halušky noodles (dumplings) to the soup, and so that was special too. Words cannot begin to describe how great it tasted, and most everyone always had several helpings.

Traditionally, Slovaks have fish (usually carp) as their main course, but for some reason, our mother baked a ham for Christ-

mas Eve. In pre-Vatican II days in Slovakia, Christmas Eve was a day of abstinence from meat. But today our family always has fish, in keeping with the Slovak custom.

Our Mom also made the best pirohy, and I have never tasted cheese pirohy like hers. They were larger than most people make them, but the taste was exquisite! Between the soup and the pirohy smothered with onions and butter, one could easily eat one's fill.

We always had nuts on the table, and stewed prunes were a mainstay, even though we did not like them as much until we grew a little older. Our mother never made bobalky or opekance (baked balls of bread dough in poppyseeds (mak), milk, and honey). But there was always fresh baked bread and lots of fruit and koláce for dessert.

Unlike most American families, we did not open gifts on Christmas morning, but on Christmas Eve. We were sent to bed, and told if we were good and quiet, and tried to sleep, Santa Claus would come. We would listen carefully to hear if we could hear the old man coming down the chimney. Then we would be roused from our slumber and open our presents.

Slovak custom has it that Ježíško (Little Jesus) brings gifts for children, but the more Americanized model of Santa was part of our family tradition. Mother said that when she lived in Slovakia she would get an orange or an apple for Christmas, and some koláce. There were no toys for them to enjoy. Times were tough in that poor country during the Depression.

We finished our Christmas Eve playing with our gifts and talking, sometimes singing with my sister, Bernadine, who played the accordion. We always took an annual family picture with everybody present. My parents often played Slovak Christmas songs, particularly from the Red Album, which St. Matthias Choir had produced during the 1960s. Though we did not know much Slovak, all of us children were familiar with the Slovak music, and so when I learned Slovak as a

young man, I already knew many of the tunes before I learned the words.

When we were little, we would go to Holy Mass on Christmas morning, but when we became a little older, we started sometimes going to Midnight Mass. Our church was St. Edward, not a Slovak parish, so we did not have Slovak singing at Mass.

During the afternoon of Christmas Day, we always went to Baba's (grandmother) house. We always gave her and Dzeda (grandfather) a big kiss. Dzeda always received bottles of whiskey and a carton of Camel cigarettes for Christmas. Our grandparents never knew much English, and living in a Slovak colony near Holy Name of Jesus Church on the Westside of Youngstown, she never had a need to learn much English.

My father would always greet other Slovak-American adults with a vinš (an extensive Christmas wish) in Slovak, but we could not understand it. My aunts and uncles and cousins were all there, and Baba always had homemade chicken soup with homemade noodles for us to enjoy. Baba always had pagac (pastry with potato and cheese) for us to eat and there was plenty of kolác. And she had ginger ale too, for we did not get soda pop very often when we were children.

Our parents and their siblings babbled on in Slovak while we children played with our cousins and shared information about what we got for Christmas. In the background, we could hear the victrola (the word used for a record player back then) from the next room playing Slovak Christmas Carols.

By late afternoon, we typically left Baba's, all said our s Bohom's (God be with you!) in Slovak, and then visited a couple of our aunts and uncles. There the language switched to English, unless the adults did not want us to know something about a touchy subject. But the hospitality was Slovak, as were many of the pastries.

We took it all for granted, but those were wonderful times. They flew by so quickly, and now they are just a distant memory. But a very dear one indeed.

NEW
FOR 2007
HOLIDAY PARTIES

Any branch or region that holds a holiday party from November 15th to January 15th is eligible to receive \$2.00 per member for children age 10 and under who participate.

To qualify, you must:

Register the event by having the host branch or district request a registration form from the Fraternal Activities Director.

234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
(412) 421-7967

Return the registration form to the Fraternal Activities Director by January 31, 2008.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Volume 116

STREDA, 12. DECEMBER 2007

Číslo 5768

Vianočné posolstvo hlavného predsedu Andreja M. Rajeca

Milé členstvo IKSJ a priatelia:

To sú moje prvé Vianoce, ktoré prežívam v Clevelande, Ohio. Pokiaľ sme nedávno nepredali náš dom, moja manželka žila vo Wisconsin. Počas týchto 11 mesiacov bol som starým mládencom. Po 60. rokoch, ktoré som prežil vo Wisconsin, s výnimkou pár rokov u vojska, bola to pre mňa veľká zmena na ktorú si trebalo privykať.

Môžem sa len domnievať ako sa museli prispôbovať naši slovenskí mladí emigranti, keď prišli do Ameriky (môžeš byť jedným z nich). Mnohí z nich, pokiaľ sa neusadili zanechali za sebou v kraji manželky, deti a rodiny. Ja samozrejme mám veľkú výhodu, že nemusím zápasit' s jazykovou bariérou a biedou, akou tomu čelili naši emigranti.

V tomto opravdu radostnom čase roka Vianoc, vzdajme vďaka našim predkom, ktorí s odvahou a hlbokou vierou v Boha vzdorovali neznámemu svetu.

Bez nich by nikto z nás tu nebol, ani naše deti a vnúčatá. V rôznych krajoch Slovenska sa viacmenej líšia vianočné zvyky, a či ich voláme "Vilija, alebo "Štedrý večer, Vianoce vždy mali a majú svoj neobyčajný význam.

Za rok 2007 naša Jednota vykázala pozitívne finančné výsledky, ale predsa slabý pokles v členstve pokračuje. Aby sme potlačili tento trend, upravili sme niekoľko vnútorných viac účinnějších postupov, ako napríklad nevyčkávať na prvý deň v mesiaci, kedy nadobúda platnosť poisťka, posielat' naše prvé účty spolu s novými vychádzajúcimi poisťkami a mnoho ďalších iných.

S cieľom zabezpečiť a zvýšiť podporu našim súčasným a novým členom, ponúkli sme im Senior Promotion Program. V novom roku začneme posielat' naše noviny Jednota tisíckam našich súčasných členov, ktorí ju nedostávali. Týmto sa zvýši komunikácia a dúfajúc i užšia spolupráca s našim členstvom.

Jednú vec neprestajne obdivujem, že mnoho z našich členov má minimálnu podporu \$500.00 alebo \$1,500.00. Vieme, že v dnešnej dobe jednoduchý pohreb stojí \$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00 Vieme, že mnoho z našich členov alebo ich rodiny sú zaviazaní hypotékou domu. Vieme, že mnoho z našich členov a ich rodinných príslušníkov kupujú poisťky od rozličných obchodných spoločností. Vieme, že naša sadzba poplatkov, zvlášť celoživotná sadzba je nízka, dokonca nižšia ako u väčšiny spoločností. Čo musíme robiť aby sme presvedčili našich súčasných a potencionalných členov aby obchodovali s nami? Ak máte nejaké nové nápady, dajte mi prosím vedieť.

Ďakujem všetkým odporúčateľom za ich úsilie. Naďalej pokračujte v dobrej práci! Prichádza nový rok 2008 a ako som niekoho predtým počul povedať, "Boh ochraňuje našu Jednotu". S úsilím nás všetkých a Jeho pomocou tešíme sa na úspešný rok.

"Veselé Vianoce a šťastný Nový rok" želajú Vám a Vaším rodinám Zbor riaditeľov Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a všetci pracovníci Hlavného úradu.

Nový veľvyslanec USA v SR pricestoval na Slovensko

Bratislava (TASR) – Nový veľvyslanec USA v SR Vincent Obsitnik pricestoval 6. decembra 2007 na Slovensko. Pri jeho príchode z viedenského letiska Schwechat na hraničný priechod Jarovce - Kittsee ho privítali zástupcovia slovenského ministerstva zahraničných vecí aj americkej ambasády v Bratislave.

Obsitnik má slovenský pôvod a vo funkcii nahradí doterajšieho veľvyslanca Rodolpha M. Valleeho, ktorý bol veľvyslancom od augusta 2005 a Slovensko opustil 5. decembra. Americký prezident George W. Bush chcel Obsitnika pôvodne vyslať za veľvyslanca do Slovinska, neskôr svoj zámer zmenil.

Senát USA jeho nomináciu na diplomatický post v Bratislave schválil 26. októbra. Nový veľvyslanec, ktorého sprevádza manželka, sa prostredníctvom TASR po slovensky prihovoril občanom SR v osobnom vyhlásení:



Vincent Obsitnik

Pokračovanie na str. 19

VIANOCE 2007



*Sviatky narodenia Božieho Syna, Ježiša
nech Vás naplnia radosťou,
prameňom z povedomia, že Boh Vás miluje.
Nech Vás zaplavia láskou k všetkým ľuďom,
v ktorej sa rodí pokoj tvoriaci z nás jednu rodinu
Božích detí.*

*Nech sú prameňom požehnaní
sprevádzajúcich každý krok Vášho života v budúcom roku
a po všetky veky.*

Vianočné posolstvo Juraja F. Mattu, hlavného pokladníka IKSJ

Vianoce sú najkrajšie sviatky a nábožné obdobie roka, Narodenie Ježiša, Syna Božieho. Počas tohto vianočného obdobia, vzdajme vďaka dobrému Pánovi za všetky požehnanie, ktorými nás obdaroval a nech nás naďalej bedlivo stráži ako aj všetkých našich členov rodín a priateľov. Práve v tomto období venujme sa svojim rodinám a starým priateľom. Nieto krajších chvíľ ako zúčastniť sa vianočných obradov a obetovať modlitby za našich vojakov, ktorých delí vzdialenosť od svojich domovov a rodín. Našmu dobrému Pánovi obetujeme modlitby za skončenie krviprelievania na Strednom východe, za skorý návrat našich najmilších do svojich príbytkov a za pokoj na celom svete.

Všetkým členom našej organizácie a priateľom želim ako aj v mene mojej manželky Florence a našej rodiny,

Radostné vianočné sviatky a Nový rok plný zdravia a úspechov.



Juraj F. Matta

František Košťák na večnosti

V pondelok 29. októbra 2007 v Port Reading, N.J. skonal rodolub, ktorý perom i slovom slabikoval najsvätejšie túžby slovenského národa, František Košťák. Bol 80-ročný. Správa nami otriasla i keď sme vedeli, že v posledných rokoch vzdoroval zákernej chorobe - Alzheimer.

On už má svoj ťažký osud za sebou. Zastal čas nad jeho srdcom, prešiel ticho do mlčania Boha a cez prah do Nebies prešla vyhnancová noha.

Mali sme ho radi. Lakomá smrť nám ho vzala. Tak veľmi by sa chceli požalovať nebu. Ale do hrobu to je cieľ, ku ktorému putuje každé telo. To je medza, ktorú nevoľno prekročiť nikomu.

V pohrebnom ústave Chubenko, Port Reading sa so zosnulým rozlúčili jeho priatelia, známi a rodina. Medzi fotografiami a vencami výrazne vynikla slovenská zástava. Zádušná sv. omša bola odslúžená v rímsko-katolíckom kostole St. Anthony of Padua, Port Reading. Osadný kňaz v homílii vystihol život zosnulého - život plný zápasov a bôľu. Pochovali ho na cintoríne St. Gertrude, Colonia. Skormutená manželka hodila do hrobu hŕstku slovenskej zeme, ktorú doniesla dcéra Mirka zo Slovenska. Rakvu niesli synovia, švagrovia a vnuk nebohého.

František Košťák sa narodil 13. apríla 1927 vo Fridešove pri Mukačeve (Podkarpatská Rus). Mal veľmi rušný život poznačený búrlivými udalosťami vojnových a povojnových rokov. Stredoškolské štúdiá nemohol dokončiť. Bol zamestnaný ako úradník v Košiciach a popri tom sa venoval literárnej a novinárskej činnosti. V roku 1949 odišiel zo Slovenska do americkej zóny Nemecka. Zdržoval sa vo viacerých utečeneckých táborech (Eichstadt, Murnau, Nimeck, Norimberg (Valka). Na ukrajinskom gymnáziu v Mníchove si dokončil stredoškolské štúdiá a tam aj zmaturoval. V roku 1952 vyemigroval do Austrálie kde bol činný v politickom a spolkovom živote austrálskych Slovákov. V roku 1958 prišiel z Austrálie do Spojených štátov a usadil sa v Port Reading, N.J. Oženil sa s Annou Didykovou. Ich manželstvo bolo požehnané piatimi deťmi (Mirka, Ľudmila, František, Gabriela a Viktor).

Literárna a publicistická činnosť Fera Košťáka je bohatá, mnohoznačná a ukazuje ho ako mimoriadne nadaného obhajcu odvekých aspirácií slovenského národa. Už na Slovensku písal verše, novely, fejtóny a politické úvahy. Na čas pracoval aj v redakcii Bojovník. Jeho drámu Preklínam vojnu mu výbor kultúrnych pracovníkov v Košiciach zamietol pre "nedostatok socialistického zmysľania".

V emigrácii vyšla jeho pozoruhodná zbierka nábožensko-nacionálnych veršov - Ďaleká cesta duše k duši. Písal do americko-slovenských časopisov (Katolícka Jednota, Slovák v Amerike, Slovenský štít, Slobodné Slovensko, Rím, Život, Mladý katolík). Pseudonymi - Pacan, Ľudomil, Milan Hájník. Básnický talent nebohého zdedili jeho dcéry.

Bol členom Svetového kongresu Slovákov, Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Katolíckeho Sokola, Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska a Únie slovenských spisovateľov a umelcov. V Amerike bol dlhé roky zamestnaný ako supervisor v závode Watson Metals v Kenilworth.

V kostole St. Anthony of Padua bol eucharistickým ministrom. Miestne noviny Home News Tribune z 31. októbra 2007 v Obituaries opísali jeho činnosť v USA ako i odchod do večnosti.

František Košťák bol hlboko náboženský, čestný, skromný, ale aj žartovný človek. Verný manžel a starostlivý otec. Prvýkrát som sa zoznámil s ním v Západnom Nemecku v tábore Valka v Norimberku. Tu sme spolu zakladali Združenie slovenskej mládeže. To bol začiatok nášho priateľstva. Fero za krátky čas emigroval do Austrálie. Ale keď prišiel do Ameriky, boli sme priateľmi až do konca jeho života. Spolu s manželkami sme chodievali na kongresy Svetového kongresu Slovákov, Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a mnohé národné, kultúrne a zábavné podujatia. Vždy sme mali o čom rozprávať. Predebatovali sme slovenský život v Amerike a jeho vedúcich činiteľov. Fero mal mnoho dobrých myšlienok a návrhov, ktoré ale za nepriaznivých podmienok nebolo možné realizovať.

Odchod Fera Košťáka zvierá srdce a spôsobuje žiaľ. Viazu nás dlhé roky priateľstva a úsilia za slobodu a samostatnosť slovenského národa. Nemal som bratov ani sestier. Fero bol môj adoptovaný brat.

Keď zornica vzkriesenia zasvieti ponad hroby, polia hrobov sa premenia na rajské záhrady. V tom čase sa Fero Košťák zobudí. No, zatiaľ zo stánkov anjelských z hviezdnatého sklepenia nám odosiela pozdravenie. Pozdravenie viery, lásky a nádeje. Spí sladko drahý priateľu!

Skormútenej manželke a celej rodine zosnulého i touto cestou vyslovujeme s manželkou našu úprimnú a precitnú sústrasť. Nech Vám Všemohúci dopraje skoré uspokojenie.

Rudo Greguš

Tradícia jasličiek a betlehemov

Jasličky a scéna betlehema sú pre katolíckych veriacich významným symbolom obdobia Vianoc až do sviatku Zjavenia Pána - Troch kráľov. Betlehemy s jasličkami, postavami Svätej rodiny - Ježiša, Márie a Jozefa, troch mudrcov z Východu, ktorí sa prišli Ježiškovi pokloniť a priniesli mu dary, anjelov, pastierov i rôznych zvierat, dotvárajú v tomto období atmosféru v katolíckych kostoloch i domácnostiach. Pri betlehemoch v kostoloch sa aj v súčasnosti konajú počas sviatkov jasličkové pobožnosti či trojkráľové scény, približujúce deťom a mládeži udalosti v Betleheme.

Tradícia jasličiek a betlehemov je prastará. Vo Svätom písme sa jasle spomínajú v súvislosti s narodením Ježiša. Podľa niektorých prameňov v roku 354 priniesli jasličky z Betlehema do Ríma a pápež Liberius ich slávnostne posvätil v Kostole Santa Maria Maggiore. Jasličky a neskôr betlehemy s mnohými postavami ako symbol Narodenia Ježiša Krista majú dávnu tradíciu nielen v Taliansku, ale i v Španielsku, Nemecku a iných európskych krajinách. Rozširovali sa najmä v 17. a 18. storočí, ľudia ich vyrezávali a zostavovali z rôznych materiálov. Na



Slovensku došlo k veľkému rozmachu tvorby betlehemov od konca 18. storočia. Najrozšírenejším materiálom, z ktorého ich ľudia zhotovovali, bolo drevo. Známe sú aj betlehemy maľované na skle, vyrobené z papiera, keramiky, šúpolia, cesta, vosku, sádry a iných materiálov, ako aj betlehemy z okolia banských miest na Slovensku, predovšetkým Banskej Štiavnice. Tradíciu majú aj prenosné betlehemy, s ktorými v minulosti predvádzali betlehemske hry. Mnohé krásne betlehemy ľudových umelcov z rôznych oblastí Slovenska sa nachádzajú v múzeách. Betlehemy z najrozličnejších materiálov a rôznych veľkostí vyrábajú ľudoví majstri na Slovensku i v súčasnosti.

TASR

Advent

Advent je bránou k Vianociam, ktoré prichádzajú každý rok, aby pripomenuli ľudom ten istý sľub lásky. Za štyrmi adventnými nedeľami je Betlehem, očakávaný nocou vekov, najstaršími večtami, stále prichádzajúcimi prorokmi. Anjel, ktorý bude zvestovať blahozvesť pastierom v Judei, je celý zahalený svetlom adventu. Pokora je vždy najbližšia opravdivej veľkosti.

Advent každým rokom otvára zlaté brány kresťanského života, ktorý je večnou mladosťou, ožiarený slnkom pravdy, spravodlivosti a lásky. I keď sme už možno ďaleko pokročili v rokoch, môžeme znovu prežívať poéziu dávneho detstva. I keď sa nám zdá, že naše slnko pomaly zapadá, môžeme sa ešte znovuzrodiť v našich samých.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Spev vianočných kolied Okresu Princa Pribinu, Los Angeles, Kalifornia

V nedeľu 16. decembra o 18:00 hodine pripravujeme v Slovensko-americkom centre spev vianočných kolied. O podrobnostiach podujatia sa dohovorte so svojím zástupcom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

Funkcionári Okresu Princa Pribinu prajú všetkým členom IKSJ požehnané vianočné sviatky.

Paul Skuben, predseda

Štedrovečerná večera - Vigília v New Yorku

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City pozýva svojich farníkov a slovenskú verejnosť v okolí na Štedrovečernú večeru - Vigíliu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 16. decembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Str. N. Y. C. Vstupné je \$20.00 v čom je započítaná aj večera. Lístky na Vigíliu si môžete objednať na Farskom úrade kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón: (212) 734-4613; Jozef Bilík: (718) 463-2084.

Ponuka Slovenského inštitútu v Clevelande

Slovenský inštitút, ktorý sídli v Opátstve sv. Andreja Svorada v Clevelande, OH, má na predaj nasledovné predmety: podrobnú mapu Slovenska (cena \$10.00); slovenské vianočné karty, 10 v balíčku (cena \$10.00); vianočné obľátky, 3 v balíčku (\$1.00); veľkú slovenskú zástavu (\$20.00); malú slovenskú zástavu (\$4.00). Na predaj je aj bohatý výber slovenských kníh. Ich zoznam si záujemcovia môžu vyžiadať priamo na inštitúte: Slovak Institute 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH 44104, alebo prostredníctvom internetu na adrese: www.slovakinstitute.com

Za každý objednaný predmet pridajte \$2.00 za poštovné.

Vianočná ponuka z Jankolovej knižnice

Jankolova knižnica, ktorá sa nachádza v Materskom dome sestier sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, PA, ponúka nasledovné produkty:

Slovenské vianočné oplátky - v jednom balíku je šesť oplátiek - \$4.00.

Knihy slovenských vianočných piesní s anglickým prekladom - "Bethlehem Carols" - \$4.00; Our Favorite Slovak Folk Songs - \$7.00 plus \$ 2.00 za poštovné.

Okrem toho má knižnica na predaj aj výber slovenských kníh a magnetofónových pásiiek. Ich zoznam si záujemcovia môžu vyžiadať písomne alebo telefonicky.

Objednávky so šekom pošlite na adresu: Jankola Library, Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M., director; Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. Tel. č. do knižnice: (570) 275-5606; do Materského domu: (570) 275-3581.

Láska Božia nádej naša ...

Zdvihni rúčku, Jezuliatko,
a požehnaj celý svet!
bo bez Tvojho požehnanja
lásky, šťastia na ňom niet.

Moc Božia nech Vás
stále posilňuje;
ruka Božia nech Vás
všade ochraňuje.

Žehnaj všetkých mojich milých,
ktorých dnes pozdravujem,
keď im na Tvoje Narodenie
všetko dobré vinšujem.

Slovo Božie vo všetkom
riadi a spravuje;
láska Božia nech Vás
stále potešuje.

Anna Trojčáková

Spoločnosť Slovenských archivárov

Vyhlasenie výboru Spoločnosti slovenských archivárov zo dňa 21. 11. 2007 ku kritickej situácii v ochrane archívneho dedičstva Slovenskej republiky

Po opakovanej neúspešnej komunikácii s Ministerstvom vnútra SR si dovoľujeme obrátiť sa aj na verejnosť s naliehavou výzvou o pomoc pri riešení havarijnej situácie v sieti štátnych archívov v SR. V súčasnosti sa v štátnych archívoch, ktoré sú súčasťou Sekcie verejnej správy MV SR, pripravuje ďalšia vlna prepúšťania a do konca roka 2007 by malo tieto archívy opustiť spolu 20 percent odborných pracovníkov.

Dovoľujeme si naliehavo upozorniť, že archívy patria medzi pamäťové inštitúcie a spravujú významnú časť nášho národného kultúrneho dedičstva. Archívy denne bojujú o záchranu archívnych dokumentov, ktorých hodnotu si na Slovensku uvedomuje len málokto a sprístupňujú ich verejnosti. Oproti roku 1990 sa množstvo v nich uložených archívnych dokumentov zvýšilo o vyše 15,000 bežných metrov, čo v priemernom prepočte znamená takmer 81 miliónov strán dokumentov. Počet pracovníkov v archívoch sa paradoxne neustále znižoval. Z 502 pracovníkov v roku 1990 klesol na 440 v roku 2007. Po ukončení prepúšťania by mal koncom roku 2007 celkový počet pracovníkov v archívoch klesnúť na číslo 362. Každý prepustený archivár, ktorého pracovné miesto sa zruší, znamená pomalšie vybavovanie žiadostí, spomalenie preberania a sprístupňovania dokumentov, horšiu komunikáciu s verejnosťou a prehľbovanie nášho zaostávania za ostatnými štátmi Európy. Úplne šokujúce je už dnes zaostávanie v oblasti digitalizácie archívnych dokumentov, v ktorej Slovensko predstihujú aj niektoré africké krajiny. Odstrašujúcim príkladom prístupu štátu k ochrane archívnych dokumentov je situácia Archívu hlavného mesta SR Bratislavy, ktorý vlastní najbohatšiu zbierku stredovekých listín v strednej Európe a je akútne ohrozený. Po vystaňovaní z pôvodných priestorov je už niekoľko rokov uzatvorený pre bádateľskú verejnosť a sídli v provizórnych a pre archív úplne nevhodných podmienkach. Plánovaná nová účelová budova archívu je v nedohľadne. Že to ide aj inak, dokumentujú príklady z okolitých štátov, kde je situácia diametrálne odlišná a postupne sa zlepšuje.

Slovenské archívy sú dlhodobo výrazne personálne poddimenzované a materiálne zanedbané. Archivári sa napriek svojmu vysoko špecializovanému vzdelaniu (napr. história, diplomatika, genealógia a heraldika, paleografia), a jazykovej príprave (latinčina, stredoveká nemčina, maďarčina), stali prioritne úradníkmi vybavujúcimi, na hraniciach svojich možností a na úkor iných odborných činností, administratívnu agendu. V súčasnosti reálne hrozí, že už nebude mať kto vybavovať ani tú. Parametre prepúšťania sú totiž pre archívy likvidačné. Priamo sú ohrození aj občania. Pre mnohých z nich archívy predstavujú poslednú nádej pri riešení ich oprávnených nárokov.

Apelujeme preto na verejnosť, aby vyjadrila svoj nesúhlas so znefunkčnením siete archívov a pripojila sa k tejto výzve.

Výbor Spoločnosti slovenských archivárov

Drotárska cesta 42, 817 01 Bratislava 11, Slovak Republic

Slovenské vydanie kníh Benedikta XVI.

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenské vydanie kníh kardinála Josepha Ratzingera a pápeža Benedikta XVI. - Ježiš Nazaretský a Úvod do kresťanstva - prezentovali v druhej polovici novembra v Univerzitnom pastoračnom centre (UPC) sv. Jozefa Freinademetza v Bratislave za účasti kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca, biskupa Františka Rábeka a ďalších hostí. Obidve diela vyšli vo vydavateľstve Dobrá kniha v Trnave.

Knihu Ježiš Nazaretský dopísal Benedikt XVI. už za svojho pontifikátu. V nemeckom a talianskom jazyku vyšla v apríli tohto roku pri príležitosti 80. narodenín Josepha Ratzingera. Len do začiatku októbra sa jej na celom svete predalo okolo dvoch miliónov výtlačkov. Slovenský preklad tohto diela vydalo vydavateľstvo Dobrá kniha začiatkom novembra 2007. Autor sa v knihe snaží zrozumiteľným spôsobom pretlmočiť a odovzdať čitateľovi podstatné časti kresťanskej viery. So svojím osobným pohľadom na toto dielo sa s prítomnými podelil kardinál Korec.

Ježiš Nazaretský - I. diel obsahuje rozprávanie o Ježišovi od krstu v Jordane po premenenie, opisuje pokúšania na púšti, či voľbu apoštolov. Osobitnú pozornosť venuje obsahu známej reči na vrchu, kde sa Boh ako človek prihovára ľuďom. Obsahovo bohatý výklad podobností, ktoré sú stredobodom Ježišovho kázania, najmä podobností a milosrdnom Samaritánovi a tiež vysvetlenie prosieb, ktoré tvoria modlitbu Otčenáš, napísal o knihe páter František Sočufka. Publikácia s názvom Úvod do kresťanstva obsahuje prednášky profesora Josepha Ratzingera na univerzite v Tubingene v akademickom roku 1967/68. Ide o prednášky, ktoré fundované a zrozumiteľným spôsobom približujú apoštolské vyznanie viery. Knihu prezentoval biskup František Rábek, ktorý ju preložil do slovenského jazyka. Vo vydavateľstve Dobrá kniha vyšlo doteraz päť kníh Josepha Ratzingera. Okrem nedávno prezentovaných sú to autobiografia Ž môjho života, Duch liturgie a zasiahnutý neviditeľným.

Na medzinárodnej výstave betlehemov v Ríme aj umelci zo Slovenska

Rím (TASR) – Za účasti pomocného biskupa rímskej diecézy Mons. Ernesta Mandaru 23. novembra v Ríme slávnostne otvorili 32. ročník medzinárodnej výstavy Sto jasličiek, ktorá sa tradične koná v Bramanteho sieňach baziliky Panny Márie. Výstava sa uskutočňuje pod záštitou talianskeho prezidenta a pod patronátom Talianskej biskupskej konferencie. V slovenskej expozícii, ktorú pripravilo Veľvyslanectvo SR pri Svätej stolici v spolupráci s Medzinárodným domom umenia pre deti Bibiana v Bratislave, predsta-

vujú svoje práce ľudoví remeselníci a umelci. V kategórii detských betlehemov sa budú uchádzať o priazeň návštevníkov diela malých umelcov zo Sniny, ktoré vytvorili v rámci projektu Chave Kamoro (Deti slnka) pod vedením radovej sestry Stellamaris. Medzinárodná výstava, na ktorej je možné vidieť viac ako 160 betlehemov z 15 talianskych regiónov a 30 krajín sveta, potrvá do 6. januára 2008. Informoval o tom Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR.

Vianočná vôňa

Každoročne prežívame poéziu Vianoc. Rozžiaria sa detské oči, zachvejú sa srdcia dospelých. V domácnostiach i v kostoloch svietia a voňajú vianočné stromčeky. Celé čaro Vianoc je vyvolané nepochopiteľným tajomstvom Božej lásky.

Prvé Vianoce však neboli takéto očarujúce a voňavé. Na ich prahu stál rímsky cisár Augustus. Chcel vedieť, aký je bohatý a mocný. Preto nariadil sčítanie ľudu v celej svojej ríši. Každý musel ísť zapísať sa do mesta, z ktorého pochádzal jeho rod. Jozef a Mária teda podstúpili namáhavú cestu do Betlehema. Podobne tvrdo sa voči nim zachovali aj obyvatelia Betlehema, keď ich neprijali do svojich príbytkov. Nepochopenie, nevšímavosť a bezcitnosť ľudských srdc boli charakteristické znaky, ktoré bezprostredne predchádzali prvé Vianoce. Toto všetko Boh vzal na seba, aby väčšmi vynikla jeho láska a milosrdenstvo. V dieťati Ježišovi sa stal jedným z nás. My si toto Dieťa zobrazujeme s nádychom romantiky v jasličkách v maštaľke. Treba však otvorene povedať, že to bola skutočná maštaľ s typickým obsahom a zápachom. A práve odtiaľ nám zaznieva pravé posolstvo Vianoc.

Dieťa v jasliach hlása lásku tým, ktorí nie sú voči sebe dobrí. Tým, ktorí druhým ubližujú, hlása miernosť a odpušťanie, nie násilie. Tým, ktorí si zakladajú na sláve a materiálnych hodnotách, hlása skromnosť. Od nikoho si nevynucuje lásku. Prišiel, aby nás miloval. Nie ako mocný panovník, nie v prepychovom rúchu. Prišiel ako bezmocné chudobné dieťa. Tak nám ukázal, že jeho láska nie je falošná. Voní krajšie než všetky kvety na svete. Vôňa jeho lásky prerazila aj zápach maštale. A už dve tisícročia táto vôňa naplňa milióny ľudských srdc. Toto je pravá vianočná vôňa, ktorá zvlášť v týchto dňoch má zavládnuť v našich srdciach.

Žiaľ, z nejedného ľudského srdca aj cez Vianoce vychádza nepríjemný zápach hnevu, nenávisť, závisť, nepriateľstva, krutosti. Tento zápach môže preraziť jedine vôňa lásky. Nechajme sa ňou celkom preniknúť, vyžarujme ju do svojho okolia. Nech každý, kto sa s nami stretne, sa pri nás príjemne cíti. A nech od nás vdychuje najkrajšiu vianočnú vôňu.

Anton Kováčik



FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Anjelikov zo šúpolia vyrobili 3. decembra 2007 žiaci Základnej školy Jána Lipského v Trenčianskych Stankovciach. Zapojenie žiakov do prípravy Vianoc realizuje škola v rámci vlastného projektu Vianočné rozjímajcie. "Je to už ôsmy ročník tohto projektu a jeho cieľom je, aby sa deti podieľali na príprave najkrajších sviatkov roka a neboli iba ich konzumentmi. Tieto výrobky prinesú do svojich domovov, zažijú vôňu ihličia, medovníkov alebo šúpolia," povedala učiteľka matematiky a technických prác Hana Culáková. Každý rok škola pripraví inú tému Vianoc. Mali už Vianoce starej mamy, Vianoce u nás doma, v tomto roku vyrábajú ozdoby na tému Anjeli zleteli.

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RODINU**

Nové vedenie Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v N.Y.

V nedeľu 11. novembra t.r. v spoločenskej miestnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku sa konalo valné zhromaždenie Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska (SAKS). Funkcionári jednotlivých odborov podávali správy o činnosti za minulé obdobie. Zo správ sa dalo posúdiť, že činnosť bola na výške a hospodárenie príkladné po každej stránke.

Z viacerých akcií hodno spomenúť zbierku pre gymnázium sv. Františka v Žiline, finančná pomoc Slovensku tým, ktorí sú postihnutí nemocou celebrál palsy (paralýza), štipendium pre dvoch slovenských univerzitných študentov a hodnotné lekárske knihy, ktoré SAKS poslalo na Slovensko oddeleniu na srdcové choroby. Mimo toho SAKS zorganizoval exhibície dvoch slovenských maliarov - Viola Motyl a Koloman Sokol. Cez leto zase piknik v Greenwich, Connecticut a Slovenský ples v New York Athletic Club v New Yorku. Čistý zisk z tohto reprezentačného plesu každý rok ide na štipendium dvom slovenským študentom.

Po správach a diskusii bola voľba funkcionárov na ďalšie obdobie. Výsledok volieb je nasledovný: Predsedníčka B. Fabrici, I. podpredseda M. Čulen, 2. podpredseda L. Markovič, tajomníčka S. Sabatos, pokladník S. Krčmár, revizori J. Lepko a R. Gaba. Pre kultúru a umenie E. Jendrek, šport J. Zoričák, zábavný výbor G. Hlavinka, veda dr. M. Gašparik, publikácia R. Greguš.

Prítomní ohodnotili prácu celého odstupujúceho výboru, zvlášť prácu pokladníčky Judy Lepko a prácu predsedu Matúša Čulena.

Čo sa týka plánov do budúcnosti, môžeme už teraz oznámiť slovenskej verejnosti, že Slovenský ples bude 2. februára 2008 v New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South (na rohu 59. ulice a 7. Ave.) v New Yorku. Na programe sú aj iné podujatia, o ktorých budeme postupne informovať slovenskú verejnosť.

Schôdzi sa zúčastnila aj členka z Úradu pre zahraničných Slovákov dr. L. Bartalská, ktorá prehovorila, vyzdvihla prácu Kultúrneho strediska a povzbudila všetkých do ďalšej tvorivej činnosti. Nasledovalo bohaté osvieženie, ktoré pripravili obetavé pracovníčky SAKS.

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku koná záslužnú prácu, ktorá môže byť príkladom pre spolky a organizácie v slovenskej Amerike. Činnosť Kultúrneho strediska si všimajú kultúrni a národní činitelia na Slovensku a udržiujú kontakty s ním. Na slovenské plesy prichádzajú nielen Slováci, ale aj Američania a príslušníci iných národností. Funkcionári SAKS nemajú platy alebo nejaké výhody. Prácu konajú z lásky ku slovenskej kultúre. Úspešné podniky a akcie sú jedinou odmenou pre Kultúrne stredisko.

Rudo L. Greguš

Reprezentatívna publikácia Klenot gotiky

Bratislava (TASR) – Reprezentatívnu publikáciu o najväčšom gotickom oltári sveta - diele Majstra Pavla z Levoče 21. novembra slávnostne predstavili v Zrkadlovej sieni bratislavského Primaciálneho paláca. "Je to skromný hold unikátnemu dielu," konštatoval pred zaplnenou sálou autor fotografií Karol Kallay. Podľa autora textu Mariána Gavendu čitateľovi priblížil oltár z rôznych uhlov pohľadu i detailnými zábermi tak, ako ho návštevník farského Kostola sv. Jakuba zo 14. storočia nemá možnosť vidieť. Spoločne vytvorili harmóniu svetského a duchovného. Najdôležitejšie časti 18.5 metrov vysokého dreveného oltára krídlového typu sú rezbárskym dielom Majstra Pavla. Hlavný oltár je s veľkými postavami Madony a svätými Jakubom a Jánom. Okrem zobrazenia poslednej večere sú po bokoch oltára sv. Anny, Mikuláša, Panny Márie Snežnej, Petra a Pavla, oltár štyroch Jánov a Virdolorum.

Takmer stostránová kniha Klenot gotiky vydavateľstva Slovart unikátny oltár zvyrazňuje aj netradične vysokým formátom.

Historický objav v skúmaní kmeňových buniek

Vatikán RV/CNC – "Posledné štúdie, ukazujúce, že bunky z ľudskej kože môžu byť modifikované, aby fungovali ako kmeňové bunky, naznačujú, že vedecký pokrok môže byť dosiahnutý bez porušenia základných etických noriem," uviedol predseda Pápežskej akadémie pre život Mons. Elio Sgreccia a dodal: "Ak by táto technika bola potvrdená, bol by to historický objav." Dve osobitné štúdie tímov z Japonska a USA, týkajúce sa vytvárania kmeňových buniek bez použitia a ničenia ľudských

embryí, boli publikované 20. novembra on-line vedeckými časopismi. Pridaním štyroch génov k bunkám z ľudskej kože boli vedci schopní vytvoriť kmeňové bunky, ktoré majú schopnosť stať sa akýmkoľvek z 220 typov buniek v ľudskom tele. "Cirkev podporovala túto snahu z etických dôvodov, povzbudzujúc vedcov v pokračovaní využívania dospelých kmeňových buniek a vyhlásiac ničenie embryí za protiprávne," uviedol biskup Sgreccia.

TK KBS

Vianoce 2007

Zase si prišiel k nám, tak ako to predpovedali proroci. Ako smutne to znie, že nebolo miesta pre Teba v hostinci, že si sa musel, Ty Syn Boží, narodiť v studenej maštali. Pastierov v Betleheme, zobudil hlas anjelov, hlas boží, vraj malé, nebeské dieťa, tam v jaslách, na slame leží. Sláva Bohu na výsostiach a pokoj ľuďom dobrej vôle. Radujte sa, vesel'te sa, dnes sa vám narodil Spasiteľ, sveta Vykupiteľ.



Bože a kto sa z nás narodil v studenej maštali?! Na koho z nás, zvieratá, ovce, osol, dýchali?! My, zavinutí v teplej perinke, sme prežili, teplom srdca mamy, naše šťastné chvíle, naše prvé dni. Nuž, aspoň ty, slovenská matka, dcéra, nevesta, pokľakni a zaspievaj, Synovi Božiemu, našu krásnu uspávanku a povedz celému svetu, ako sme Ho vítali, my na Slovensku. Vzdajme Mu, všetci úctu a chválu a uvoime z modlitieb teplú perinku.

Jozef Smák

Košice predstavili svoju kandidatúru na európsku metropolu kultúry

Brusel (TASR) – Východoslovenská metropola Košice spolu s francúzskym Lyonom predstavili v druhej polovici novembra svoju kandidatúru na titul Európske hlavné mesto kultúry roku 2013. V uvedenom roku sa bude o tento titul deliť jedno slovenské a jedno francúzske mesto. Podľa zástupcov Košíc a Lyonu majú obe mestá viacero spoločných charakteristík, ktoré sú výborným predpokladom aj pre takúto spoluprácu. V oboch prípadoch ide o druhé najväčšie mesto krajiny s bohatou históriou a sídlom univerzity. Košice i Lyon sú takisto priemyselnými centrami a v minulosti boli tiež armádnymi mestami. O titul Európske hlavné mesto kultúry majú okrem Košíc záujem aj ďalšie slovenské mestá vrátane Bratislavy, Prešova, Martina, Nitry a Banskej

Bystrice.

Titul Európske hlavné mesto kultúry sa udeľuje od roku 1985 a prvým takýmto mestom boli Atény. Minulý rok to bol grécky prístav Patras, tento rok kraľuje európskej kultúre Luxemburg spolu s rumunským Sibiu, na budúci rok to bude britský Liverpool s nórskeym Stavangerom, v roku 2009 litovská metropola Vilnius a rakúsky Linz, v roku 2010 maďarský Pécs, nemecké mesto Essen a turecký Istanbul. Ministri kultúry členských krajín Európskej únie nedávno potvrdili rozhodnutie osobitnej komisie, ktorá odporučila, aby sa o titul v roku 2011 delila estónska metropola Tallinn s juhofínskym Turku. V roku 2012 bude metropolou európskej kultúry niektoré portugalské a slovenské mesto.

Stretnutie v Pápežskom slovenskom ústave

Posledná nedeľa liturgického roka, keď Cirkev vyzýva Krista ako kráľa sveta a ľudských srdc, sa stala príležitosťou pre Slovákov v Ríme na stretnutie v Pápežskom slovenskom ústave sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Na ich každoročné pravidelné stretnutie zavítal košický arcibiskup Mons. Alojz Tkáč. Ako na úvod svätej omše povedal rektor kolégia Mons. Vladimír Stahovec, zúčastnení chceli stretnutím tiež poďakovať za desaťročné existencie Pápežského slovenského kolégia, ktoré dekrétom z 15. septembra 1997 zriadila Kongregácia pre katolícku výchovu. Vzácnymi hosťami na slávnosti boli okrem arcibiskupa Tkáča apoštolský pronotár Mons. Jozef Kráľ a veľvyslanec SR pri Svätej stolici Jozef Dravecký. Arcibiskup Tkáč sa v homílii dotkol boľavých tém manželstva a kňazstva. Podľa jeho slov keď sú pevné a zdravé, môžu byť miestom "panovania kráľovstva lásky a pokoja".

Stretnutie Slovákov pokračovalo v priestoroch kolégia, kde zavítal aj kardinál Jozef Tomko. Povedal, že Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda sa sústreďoval najmä na vydávanie náboženskej literatúry a vedenie malého gymnázia. Zároveň sa staral o slovenských pútnikov v Ríme a o slovenské misie po svete. "Myslím si, že kolégium bolo založené preto, aby bolo jasné, že dnes v ňom pôsobia kňazi slovenských diecéz, ktorí si dopĺňajú vyššie vzdelanie," dodal. Udalosť umocnil príchod Gino Realio, biskupa diecézy Porto-Santa Rufina, na ktorej území sa nachádza Pápežské kolégium. Podľa Mons. Stahovca jeho srdečný vzťah k Slovákom vyplýva aj z toho, že bol viackrát na Slovensku a inicioval príchod šiestich slovenských bohoslovcov do Talianska, z ktorých dnes piati pôsobia tamojších farnosťach.

Rudolf Smoter, Katolícke noviny

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Až 1.5 milióna korún sa podarilo získať na dobročinnosť počas 17. Vianočného bazáru Medzinárodného klubu žien (IWCB), ktorý sa konal v polovici novembra v Bratislave. Zisk pochádza zo sponzorských darov, predaja tovaru, predaja vstupeniek a lístkov do tomboly. Bazár ponúkal exotické pokrmy z Ázie a Južnej Ameriky, ale aj tradičné špeciality z Európy. Stánok Slovenskej republiky lákal najmä na domácu štrúdlu. Toho roku pribudli stánky maďarskej, talianskej a egyptskej veľvyslankyne.

Významnú investíciu pre Slovensko a najmä jeho východný región v objeme približne 300 miliónov EUR predstavuje nový závod na výrobu prevodoviek, ktorý v Priemyselnom parku v Kechenci v okrese Košice - okolie 22. novembra oficiálne otvoril celosvetový výrobca prevodoviek Getrag Ford Transmissions (GFT). S využitím najmodernejšej technológie s vysokou pridanou hodnotou bude kechnecký závod GFT Slovakia, zamestnávajúci 450 ľudí, produkovať ročne 110,000 najmodernejších dvojspojkových automobilových prevodoviek. Výrobná kapacita by do roku 2010 mala dosiahnuť 220,000 prevodoviek PowerShift ročne. V rovnakom čase by v závode malo vzniknúť ďalších 300 pracovných príležitostí, najmä technického zamerania. Na svetový trh pre popredných výrobcov automobilov - spoločností Volvo, Ford a Mitsubishi by sa mali dostať začiatkom budúceho roka.

Považské múzeum v Žiline otvorilo v typickej slovenskej drotárskej drevenici v areáli Budatínskeho hradu návštevnícke centrum, obchod so suvenírmi a výstavnú miestnosť s cieľom preklenúť obdobie uzatvorenia hradu počas rekonštrukcie. Infocentrum je v štýlovej drevenici, obchod pod bývalými hradbami a výstavná miestnosť v bývalých skladových priestoroch múzea. Na ich vybudovanie získalo múzeum približne tri milióny korún.

Priority šesťmesačného predsedníctva Slovenska vo Výbore ministrov Rady Európy (RE) predstavil v Bratislave minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš za prítomnosti Renehho van der Lindena, predsedu Parlamentného zhromaždenia (PZ) RE, poradného orgánu organizácie. Predsedom výboru sa stal Ján Kubiš, keď Slovensko prvýkrát prevzalo jeho riadenie 12. novembra tohto roku od Srbska. Za hlavné priority svojej práce vo výbore si Slovensko zvolilo tri okruhy: Európa občanom, transparentná a efektívna RE, podpora spoločných základných hodnôt (ako ľudské práva, právny štát a demokracia). Výbor ministrov je výkonným orgánom RE a tvoria ho ministri zahraničných vecí členských štátov RE, ktorí sa v ňom striedajú podľa anglickej abecedy.

Novou Miss European Union Slovakia 2007 sa stala v sobotu 24. novembra v bratislavskom hoteli Danube 18-ročná Mária Wozniakova z Pezinka, ktorá obstála v konkurencii 41 dievčat z celého Slovenska. Víťazka bude reprezentovať Slovensko vo finále Miss European Union 2007, ktoré bude 15. decembra 2007 v Ríme. Súťaž sa po prvý raz uskutočnila v roku 2004 v Budapešti, v rokoch 2005 a 2006 v Ríme. Tento rok bude konkurencia ešte väčšia, keďže počet členských krajín sa rozšíril na 27 o Bulharsko a Rumunsko.

Slováci musia za zdravím a záchranou života často cestovať, pretože slovenskí lekári im nedokážu pomôcť. Zdravotné poisťovne tento rok odsúhlasili 460 zákrokov v zahraničí. Lekári však väčšinou nezlyhávajú ako odborníci, chýba im najmä vybavenie a zázemie. Medzi najčastejšie zákroky, za ktorými treba vycestovať patria podrobné genetické vyšetrenia tehotných žien, transplantácia pečene a pľúc a rôzne náročné operácie.

Francúzsky senát sa stal koncom novembra hosťiteľom primátorov, ktorí diskutovali o sociálnej súdržnosti. Medzi nimi bol aj primátor Košíc František Knapík, ktorý prijal pozvanie na parížske spoločné stretnutie predstaviteľov miestnych samospráv štátov Európskej únie, Latinskej Ameriky a Karibiku. Témou stretnutia, ktoré predchádzalo summitu uvedených štátov, bola teritoriálna kohézia a základné úlohy miest a regiónov týchto oblastí. Hosťiteľom bol prezident Francúzskeho senátu Christian Poncelet. Fórum, ktoré malo svetovú premiéru iniciovalo Francúzsko, Španielsko a Taliansko. V Paríži ho pripravoval riadiaci výbor, pozostávajúci zo senátorov týchto krajín, za aktívnej účasti národných, regionálnych a svetových združení miestnych volených predstaviteľov.

Historicky prvými účastníkmi zo Slovenska na Medzinárodnej olympiáde astronómie a astrofyziky (IOAA) v Thajsku bola začiatkom decembra delegácia s dvoma študentmi z Kysuckého Nového Mesta a z Košíc. Delegáciu viedol predseda Výkonného výboru Astronomickej olympiády na Slovensku Ladislav Hric. "Miroslav Kubala a Robert Barsa dostali túto možnosť vďaka umiestneniu na prvých dvoch miestach v kategórii študentov stredných škôl na Astronomickej olympiáde, ktorej finálové kolo bolo 25.-27. júna 2007 na Astronomickom ústave Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) v Tatranskej Lomnici, na pracovisku v Starej Lesnej," uviedol Hric. Druhý ročník Astronomickej olympiády na Slovensku budú organizátori odštartovať v januári 2008.

Holandská spoločnosť Darc Leisure plánuje na ploche 450 hektárov neďaleko Humenného vybudovať tematický zábavný park Vtáčie údolie. Celková investícia sa odhaduje na 125 miliónov eur. S výstavbou chce začať v máji 2008, o rok neskôr by mala byť otvorená prvá jeho časť. Zámerom investora je, aby sa Prešovský smosprávny kraj stal partnerom a išlo o projekt verejno-súkromného partnerstva. PSK by mal poskytnúť pozemky, zabezpečiť potrebnú infraštruktúru aj inú pomoc. Projekt predstavia na zastupiteľstve PSK a definitívne o ňom rozhodnú poslanci.

Kolorektálny karcinóm (KRCa), teda rakovinu hrubého čreva a konečníka, pozná na Slovensku ešte stále málo ľudí. Vyplýva to z výskumu občianskeho združenia Europacolón Slovensko, ktorá sa snaží zintenzívniť komunikačný priestor na túto tému. Vo výskume, na ktorom sa zúčastnilo celkom 583 respondentov, sa medzi druhmi rakoviny, ktorú vymenovali respondenti spontánne ako prvú, nachádzala až na 6 miestom. Pritom podľa Tomáša Šáleka, Riaditeľa Národného onkologického ústavu, úmrtnosť na KRCa patrí k najčastejším úmrtiam na rakovinové ochorenia vôbec. KRCa vzniká transformáciou polypu sliznice konečníka. Tento proces sa dá však včas odhaliť a to najmä vďaka preventívnym vyšetreniam. Prevenciou je aj zmena životosprávy, najmä strava bohatá na vlákninu a chudobnejšia na živočíšne tuky.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Gašparovič podpísal zákon o Andrejovi Hlinkovi

Bratislava (TASR) – Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič 19. novembra podpísal zákon o zásluhách Andreja Hlinku o štátotvorný národ a Slovenskú republiku. Tento zákon z dieľne poslancov Slovenskej národnej strany (SNS) schválila Národná rada SR po širokej diskusii 26. októbra 2007. Zákonodarcovia ho schválili s pozmeňovacími návrhmi, ktoré zrušili označenie Andreja Hlinku ako otca národa. Zo zákona vypadla aj možnosť postihovať poškodzovanie Hlinkovho dobrého mena na verejnosti. Zákon konštatuje, že Hlinka sa zaslúžil o slovenský národ a Slovenskú republiku.



FOTO TASR - Milan Kapusta

"Stromček pod stromček" je názov projektu, ktorým Lesy Slovenskej republiky, š.p. obdarúvajú deti v detských domovoch vianočnými stromčekmi. Tohto roku začala celoslovenská akcia v prešovskom zariadení detského domova Slon v Šarišských Michalovciach. Takmer 500 voňavých vianočných stromčekov vo všetkých kútoch Slovenska viac ako 10,000 deťom v detských domovoch tak spríjemní tohtoročné vianočné sviatky. Na snímkach "Sloničatá" ozdobia svoj stromček.

Nový veľvyslanec USA v SR pricestoval na Slovensko

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

"Moja manželka Annamarie a ja vám ďakujeme za milé privítanie. Obaja sme veľmi radi, že sme tu na Slovensku. Sme naozaj nadšení, že sme v Bratislave. Je to pre mňa veľká česť, že ma náš prezident George Bush vymenoval za veľvyslancu do Slovenskej republiky. Teším sa, že budem zastupovať nášho prezidenta a Spojené štáty americké práve v krajine, v ktorej som sa narodil. Môžete ma teda pokladať za svojho rodáka. Rád a často som sem cestoval, či služobne alebo na návštevu svojich príbuzných, ktorí zväčša žijú na východnom Slovensku. Vďaka tomu som spoznal slovenský ľud. Môj nový úrad mi dáva príležitosť bližšie spoznať slovenský ľud a budem sa usilovať, aby sa naše dve krajiny naďalej zblížovali. Už sa na tú úlohu teším a ďakujem, že ste prišli."

Obsitník pre TASR uviedol, že jeho zámerom v oblasti diplomacie a politiky na Slovensku je pokúsiť sa ešte viac posilniť doterajšie vzájomné vzťahy SR a USA. "Mojím hlavným cieľom je veľmi jasne vysvetľovať Slovákom americkú zahraničnú politiku, aby chápali konanie našej krajiny a aj to, prečo náš prezident robí také rozhodnutia, aké robí, ale takisto spolupracovať so Slovenskom v otázkach akou je bezvízový styk. Veľmi usilovne pracujeme na tom, aby sme pomohli Slovensku a aby sa kvalifikovalo na bezvízový styk. Takisto by sme chceli viac rozbehnúť výmenné vzdelávacie projekty a rozvinúť podnikanie medzi Slovenskom a USA," priblížil nový veľvyslanec svoje poslanie.

Obsitník pochádzajúci z Virginie nie je kariérom diplomatom, predtým pôsobil ako viceprezident pre medzinárodný rozvoj spoločnosti Litton/PRC. V minulosti pracoval aj v riadiacich funkciách vo firmách Unisys/Loral a IBM. Aktívny bol takisto ako člen komisie Spojených štátov na záchranu amerického dedičstva v zahraničí.

Vincent Obsitník ďalej povedal, že sa narodil v Moravanoch neďaleko Michaloviec. Ako dvojmesačný sa s rodinou odsťahoval do USA. Na Slovensko sa potom vrátil prvýkrát v roku 1970, keď navštívil rodinu. V našej krajine bol častým hosťom a prichádzal k nám raz - dva razy do roka.