



# Jednota

THE UNION

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

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NUMBER 5894

Narodil Sa Kristus Pán, Veselme Sa  
Christ Our Lord is Born, We Shall Rejoice



Spišské Podhradie Narodenie (1490)



## President's 2013 Christmas Message

*Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!*

This is the last issue of the Jednota for 2013. We have reported our financial results through the 3rd quarter of 2013. Our Society has again reached new record highs of assets and surplus. I expect 2013 to be another positive year for our Members and the FCSU.

In January I will be outlining several initiatives to address our membership goals. We will also announce an exciting plan for a Memorial on our Middletown PA, Jednota Estates property.

2014 is our Convention Year and there will be more information about our plans. Please remember to follow the required By-laws to elect your delegates.

We will also start planning for two important events that will occur in 2015:

The 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Fr. Stefan Furdek, and the 50th anniversary of the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

The Chapel was commissioned, designed and paid for by our Society.

The early winter storm has already made most of us think of unpleasant weather ahead. What if winter lasted only one month, two weeks before and two weeks after Christmas? But, that is not God's current plan.

The whole issue of pre-destination (the theological idea that our lives are pre-determined by God without our ability to change it), fate, random events, and "free will" are issues that many generations have faced and debated over the centuries. Our Catholic Faith teaches that while many things in our lives, beginning with if and when we are born, until our inevitable death, are beyond our control, we do have "free will" when it comes to the ultimate



Andrew M. Rajec

*continued on page 3*



If you are a Branch or District qualified to send delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention

of the First Catholic Slovak Union: Please make sure to review your **DELEGATE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVENTION**, included on page 3 of this issue.

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## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

### FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA

### INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2013

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.20% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	2.95% APY
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.10% APY
New "Park 2 Annuity" (NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK)	2.15% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st year guarantee	1.90% APY
(new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.75% APY

If you have any questions about our Annuities or IRA's, Please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

Website: [www.FCSU.com](http://www.FCSU.com) Email: [annuity@fcsu.com](mailto:annuity@fcsu.com)

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

# Insights and Viewpoints



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

December 22, 2013

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1: 18-24

### 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.

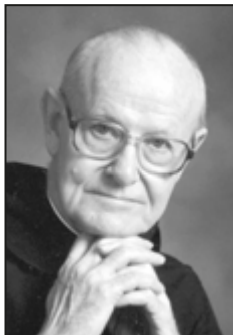
When Joseph's rather inept attempt to resolve his dilemma is cut short by a message from God, the primary point of this passage is revealed, namely, that God controls all the critical moments in the real human history, which involves God's gracious plan for human salvation. Virgin birth is an obviously 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, the ultimate 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 challenge now is 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.



Demetrius R. Dumm  
O.S.B.

*It is with great sadness that Jednota notes the passing of Father Demetrius R. Dumm, OSB, long time and cherished contributor to this newspaper. Please see his obituary on page 17.*

December 29, 2013

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.

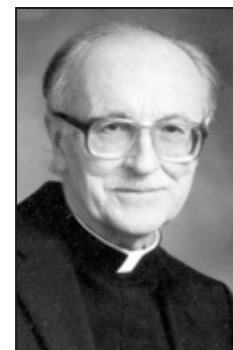
Matthew affirms that divine providence was active, often in surprising ways, throughout the long history which preceded the journey of the magi and the flight into Egypt. Thus he makes a point of including in his genealogy the "irregularities" of four women: Tamar (Gen 38), Rahab (Josh 2), Ruth (Ruth 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.



Campion P. Gavaler,  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK 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 Date
WEDNESDAY, JAN 15	MONDAY, JAN 6
WEDNESDAY, FEB 5	MONDAY, JAN 27
WEDNESDAY, FEB 19	MONDAY, FEB 10

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:  
Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com  
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"  
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398  
FAX: 216-642-4310

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## From the Office of The Executive Secretary DELEGATE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVENTION

**Please take note of the special sections highlighted so your branch or district will qualify to send delegates to the convention.**

### Bylaw Section 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

"By the end of February of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$4.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

(a) Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance sheets shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.

(b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.

(d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one (1) fraternal activity in the past year.

(e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

(f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.

(g) **Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.**

**1. Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. The district shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above by no later than February 15th of the following year.**

**2. The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than March 31st of the following year in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.**

(h) **Maintained good standing within it's district by paying current fiscal year dues and any other dues that may be outstanding from previous years."**

### Bylaw Section 11.03 QUALIFICATIONS OF DELEGATES

(c) **Election of delegates must be completed no later than ninety (90) calendar days before the opening date of the Convention. Credentials must be forwarded to the Office of the Executive Secretary and postmarked not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the election of the delegate.** Names of those elected delegates not received by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the above requirements will not be seated as delegates at the Convention.

### Bylaw Section 11.04 BRANCH REPRESENTATION AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATION:

(a) Every local branch having fifty (50) or more members and current good standing financially in its district (i.e., up to date with dues payments), may send at its own expense, one (1) of its members as a delegate to the Convention. Said delegate shall have the right to vote, but in no case, shall any delegate have more than one (1) vote. Local branches which have more than one hundred fifty (150) members are entitled to two (2) delegates and to one (1) additional delegate for each additional one hundred (100) members and so on, according to the number of their members on February 1st of the Convention year. Each District (Okres) shall be entitled to only one (1) district delegate.

(b) Any two (2) branches in the same district having less than fifty (50) members can combine if they total fifty (50) members or more. They can send one (1) delegate representing both branches at their own expense with one delegate vote.

(c) The delegate count shall be based on members as of February 1st in the Convention year. The maximum number of delegates per branch will be twenty (20).

(d) A local branch that has no delegate elected may request that a delegate already elected from another branch represent it. A delegate shall not represent more than two (2) branches, but has only one (1) vote. No National Officer shall represent any local branch.

(e) **Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next Convention shall be published at least twice in the Official Organ prior to the date of the next branch or district meeting.**

(f) **Any branch or district which fails to comply with article 4.05 in two (2) of the four (4) years preceding a Convention will not be permitted to send any delegates to that Convention, excluding Canada.**

## A Christmas Message from the National Vice-President

'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 of 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 is 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.**

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice-President**

## Christmas Greetings from the Executive Secretary

On Christmas, we celebrate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose birth changes everything. This year, I hope we take the time to share with one another the great gift of His Incarnation in quiet and meaningful ways. On behalf of my wife Theresa and my family, I extend from my household to yours the joy and peace that comes with Christ's light and is reflected on our many blessings of family, friends and faith.



Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce.

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**



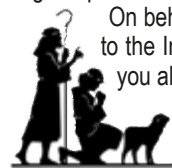
**Kenneth Arendt**

## Christmas Greeting From the National Treasurer

As the Christmas Season approaches, I am occasionally reminded of the Christmas of my youth, when Christmas Eve began with the traditional Christmas Eve dinner (Vilija). Then, later that evening we were off to church for the Christmas Eve Mass, which was always well attended.

Attending Mass gave us an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to pray for the blessings of peace in the world.

On behalf of my wife Florence, my family and myself, we pray to the Infant Jesus to bless us all with his Holy Spirit and wish you all a Merry and healthy Christmas.



Veselé Vianoce,

**George F. Matta, National Treasurer**



**George F. Matta**

## President's 2013 Christmas Message

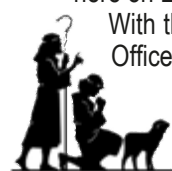
*continued from page 1*

decisions, those that impact on our "souls".

While we all ponder the mysteries of life we also continue our Christmas planning - i.e., addressing Christmas cards, Christmas dinner, what Mass to attend on Christmas, which people to invite for dinner etc.

Christmas won't be quite the same this year for my family after the recent passing of my daughter Idka. Thank you to all who expressed their condolences and offered prayers for her. I know many of you also have had great impacts to your daily lives, and yet we must continue to persevere with the knowledge that our Faith tells us that we all have a purpose here on Earth, that is to praise God and strive to reach Eternal Life. We believe!

With that knowledge and belief, on behalf of my family and all of us at the Home Office, I wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**Andrew M. Rajec  
National President**

## Attention: FCSU Mobile Members!



Use your smart phone to download a QR-code reader. Then take a photo of this icon for more information on our Society wherever you are - at home or on the go.

# *FCSU 2013 Christmas Coloring Contest*

## Dear Drummer Boy

O, precious, little drummer boy,  
I often think of you,  
For on that special, holy night  
You played a tune or two  
In honor of the newborn King  
Who in a manger lay.  
You gave the only gift you had,  
Your deep love to convey.  
Oh, surely baby Jesus slept  
More peacefully that night  
As music serenaded Him  
And stars bathed Him in light.  
Your gift - more sweet  
Than frankincense  
Or myrrh or gleaming gold -  
Was music that welled up inside,  
More than your heart could hold.  
At times in life we think our gifts  
Unworthy since they're small,  
But God knows when we sacrifice  
And give to Him our all

Written by  
Sandra Town Lytle

B



A



[www.coloringpages101.com](http://www.coloringpages101.com)

C



[www.coloringpages101.com](http://www.coloringpages101.com)

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*  
*Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok!*

**RULES**

1. 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**
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2013**.
6. Mail to:

Susan Ondrejco  
 Fraternal Activities Director  
 234 Ilion St.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2013*

Child's Name: _____	Age: _____
Certificate Number: _____	Branch Number: _____ (MUST be filled in)
Street Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone Number: _____	
Email Address: _____	

**PRIZES**

*Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jednota Fleece Blanket and \$25.00**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jednota Fleece Blanket and \$15.00**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Jednota Fleece Blanket and \$10.00**
- Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**

Editor's Note: You also can download the coloring contest pages by going to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

## From the desk of the Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt



**ATTENTION ALL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICANTS**



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program.

Seventy (70) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a ONE-TIME "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS of \$750.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application sent to the Home Office, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Single Premium Policy or \$25,000.00 or more of Annual Premium JEP Policy with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2010 to be eligible under the rules of this period.
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2014 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college acceptance must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained

from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from [www.fcsu.com/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/scholarships).

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2014.

6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of professional educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year (fall semester of 2015). Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2014.

# Check List

**PLEASE COMPLETE:**  
 (Please follow this check list to prevent mailing us an incomplete application)

- Completed and signed application
- Photo
- Official Transcript
- S.A.T. or A.C.T. test scores
- Proof of college admission
- 3 Letters of recommendation



## March for Life

The 41th Annual Right to Life March on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 in Washington, DC. Our presence there is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU and the FCSLA are once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH, for this very important trip. For the past few years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve two buses for the march. Our organizations are proud to encourage our members along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and

help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA Home Office. Her phone number is 1-800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at [Kelly@fcsla.org](mailto:Kelly@fcsla.org) for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 23th.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online at [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org) for information and transportation. If you cannot find information please call or email Kelly for assistance.

# The Best of the Best!

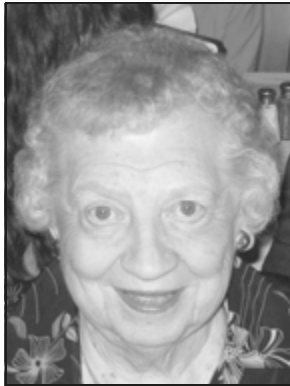
## Top Guns Thru Oct. 2013



**James Robert Marmol**  
First Place



**Henry J. Pochily**  
Second Place



**Dorothy J. Petrus**  
Third Place



**Edward Fibbi**  
First Place



**Frances Tarquinio**  
Second Place



**Andrew R. Harcar**  
Third Place

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance
Marmol, James Robert	162	358,423
Pochily, Henry J.	769	305,000
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	290,000
Sandy, Cluey	322	200,000
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	115,000
Barnes, Karianne R.	628	115,000
Sprock, Florence M.	181	110,000
Schaub, Vicki Lynn	200	105,000
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	100,000
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	100,000
Voytek, Diana	367	100,000

### TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

Name	Branch	Points
Fibbi, Edward	587	532
Tarquinio, Frances	320	381
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	342
Marmol, James Robert	162	329
Schaub, Vicki Lynn	200	286
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	268
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	247
Sandy, Cluey	322	166
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	163
Matta, Florence K.	38	163



**Edward Fibbi**  
First Place



**Andrew R. Harcar**  
Third Place



**Audrey J. Balazik**  
Third Place

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Fibbi, Edward	587	425,438.63
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	285,000.00
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	200,000.00
Soltis, Roger T.	410	132,826.14
Matta, Florence	38	130,234.66
Bobby, Jaquelyn	731	130,000.00
Yuricek, George J.	764	118,200.00
Fedor, William Lawrence		116,000.00
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	89,324.10
Kopco, Robert J.	24	88,972.05

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

**Jerry Costello for The Christophers**

### A Modern Heir to St. Nicholas

Father Joseph Marquis, not surprisingly, knows all about Christmas. But—and this is the part that might surprise you a little bit—he knows all about Santa Claus, too. At a time when many in the church downplay the role of Santa and the gifting tradition as symbols of all that's gone wrong with Christmas, Father Marquis is something else. Not only does he embrace the concept of Santa Claus, but he makes use of the idea as a true teaching moment—about the real message of Christmas. Here's how it all came about...

As a five-year-old boy growing up in Michigan, Joseph Marquis had a disappointing experience with a department store Santa. When his mother told him that it wasn't the real Santa he'd seen but only one of his helpers, young Joseph had a ready answer: "Someday I will be Santa's helper too."

And that's just what happened. He became a department store Santa himself, and he went at it in a big way—he also appeared in parades, wrote and illustrated a book about Santa, collected awards for the way he played the role, and finally made the Santa Claus Hall of Fame. But there was something else, too. He became a hospital chaplain and grew ever more interested in the church. At first he served as deacon, then entered the seminary, and today, at 63, he's a priest—the pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, Michigan.

Through it all he never lost interest in Santa or in his real-life counterpart, St. Nicholas of Myra. Finally, last year he launched an institute that provided professional Santa Claus training, in the spirit of St. Nicholas. As he told Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller, who wrote his story in *Our Sunday Visitor*, he did so because St. Nicholas embodies the love and grace with joy envisioned in the call of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for a Year of Faith, the ultimate inspiration for the course.

"Many of the 17 men who came to the symposium will probably never portray the historical figure," Father Marquis said. "But for the first time in their lives they realized what they were entrusted with."

He noted that St. Nicholas, a bishop known for giving gifts and who is the patron saint of children, served as the exemplar for the core values of the institute. Thought of as "the real Santa Claus," St. Nicholas showed true compassion for the poor and forgotten, Father Marquis added. Thus the participants in the course (as Eidemiller wrote) should "treat children with the same integrity, sensitivity and unconditional love that characterizes jolly old St. Nicholas."

Father Marquis said he hoped that all the professional Santas who came to the symposium would remain prayerfully open to the real spirit of Christmas. At its conclusion he blessed the participants and gave each one a replica of a bishop's ring.

"In the prayer, I said that each was entrusted with the legacy of St. Nicholas and that while they are not shepherding a huge flock, they are shepherding small children, and that's a very serious obligation," the priest said.

"They all got choked up. It's funny how St. Nicholas can read into the hearts of people."

## Christmas Oplatky 2013

*Oplatky*, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 21 until December 18, 2013.

The *Oplatky*, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$4.00. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$5.75 and upwards depending upon the number of packets ordered and the rising cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to **Jankola Library** is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place and order contact:

Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

For a free copy of the *Christopher News Note*, *YOUR CAREER COUNTS*, write: *The Christophers*, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: [mail@christophers.org](mailto:mail@christophers.org)



# OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



## 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
- Poppyseed Rolls
- Pirohy

## PIROHY

- 1 cup flour
- About 4 tablespoons water
- 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 salt
- Mix together
- Potato Filling
- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter
- (Optional-grated cheese to taste)

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 1/8 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 degrees for 1 hour.

Note: The second part of this dough will be use 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 degrees 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 poppyseed 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 oleo or crisco
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm milk. Stir well. Add sugar, shortening and salt to rest of the milk and cool. Beat egg slightly and add to mixtures, 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 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 place on greased baking sheet and let rise about 1 hour and bake in 350 degrees over 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)

## PAGAČ

- 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 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 or 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 filling 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 AND 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 - blend well.

Divide dough in four parts. Let rise 30 minutes. Roll each part thin 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 degrees.

## NUT FILLING

- 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.

## POPPYSEED FILLING

- 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 2/3 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 2 round loaves; let rise again until it doubles. Brush with beaten eggs. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes at 450 degrees then turn to 350 degrees and continue baking for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

## MUSHROOM 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 oleo
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- For Sauce and Brown Gravy
- 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 oleo until soft, add to mushrooms, rice. Season to taste. 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 the remaining kraut. Fill pot with water, to top off the rolls. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

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

## MUSHROOM SOUP (MAČANKA)

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.

### Zapaška (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 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 oleo
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 3 cups water
- 3 tablespoons flour

Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion and cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend into 3 cups cold water and bring to boil, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.

## 50th Anniversary of Pontifical Slovak Institute in Rome Commemorated

### Rev. Martin Kramara

On Sunday, November 17, 2013, the Slovak and Italian faithful commemorated the 50th anniversary of Slovak Institute in the Chapel of St. Cyril and Methodius at the Pontifical Slovak College in Rome. Archbishop Beniamino Stella, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, celebrated the votive holy mass, together with Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, metropolitan archbishop of Bratislava, Mons. Gino Reali, the local diocesan bishop, Mons. Štefan Sečka, the bishop of Spiš, Mons. Stanislav Stolárik, auxiliary bishop of the Košice and Mons. Jozef Haľko, auxiliary bishop of Bratislava and delegate of the Slovak Bishops' Conference for the Pontifical Slovak College in Rome. Among the guests, ambassador of Slovakia to the Holy See Peter Sopko and Slovak ambassador to Italy Mária Krasnohorska attended the celebration.

Mons. Vladimír Stahovec, rector of the Slovak college, welcomed the guests, in the first place H.E. Cardinal Jozef Tomko, who had significantly contributed to the foundation and development of the Pontifical Slovak Institute in Rome. Mons. Stahovec emphasized that the celebration takes place in the context of the 1150th anniversary of St. Cyril and Methodius' arrival to Great Moravia. The rector noted that all the Slovaks who had lived and worked in the Slovak Institute in Rome, dedicated their lives to one main goal: the spiritual and religious benefit of the Slovak people.

In the homily, the prefect of the Congregation for Clergy,

Mons. Beniamino Stella, drew attention to the fact that the Slovak Institute of St. Cyril and Methodius was built thanks to the faith and sacrifices of many Slovak faithful living all around the world - especially thanks to the American Slovaks, some of which visited the college this Spring. "Lives of several priests and bishops who worked in silence and sacrifice, but also in suffering and humiliation, are part of the history of this place: they worked inspired by God and Gospel." Mons. Stella expressed his conviction that it's most useful to commemorate the history of the Slovak college, because it shows the picture of Christian life and Christian sanctity, in which cross and sacrifice are central. "Without sacrifice and cross, in Christian life there is no spiritual fecundity. The Lord uses our talents for his works, but if these talents are purely human, not inspired by the faith, they are not enough. Human accomplishments often lose their significance, sometimes even collapse. But the virtue and sanctity of life is what appeals to God." Mons. Stella asked everyone to follow the example of sacrifice and sanctity visible in the life of many priests and faithful, whose lives were connected to the history of the Pontifical Slovak College in Rome.

Mons. Gino Reali, bishop of the diocese Porto Santa Rufina, on the territory of which the Slovak Institute is built, addressed the assembly, too. He expressed his thankfulness to the priests living in the college - for the pastoral work they had been doing for the good of the Italian faithful; Reali also highlighted some exceptional personalities who had



lived and worked in the Slovak Institute in the past, especially bishops Štefan Vrablec and Dominik Hrušovský.

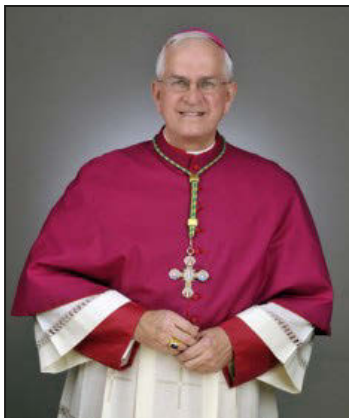
At the end of the celebration, Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, President of the Slovak Bishops' Conference, expressed his thanks and continuous support to the Pontifical Slovak College in Rome. The metropolitan archbishop of Bratislava also read out the letter sent by Vatican State Secretary Pietro Parolin in the name of the Holy Father. In this congratulatory letter, Pope Francis expressed his wish that the Pontifical Slovak College might "continue the precious work for good and development of religious community, as well as social society" and sent all the present his Apostolic blessing.

## Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz Elected President of U.S. Bishops

### Dan Tanzone, Slovak Catholic Sokol Editor and Branch 41 Member

On November 12, 2013, during their annual fall general assembly in Baltimore, MD, the Bishops of the United States elected the Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville, KY, as their new president. Archbishop Kurtz, who is of Slovak ancestry, is a member of the Conference of Slovak Clergy of the United States. The Archbishop is a native of Mahanoy City, located in the heart of the hard coal region of northeastern Pennsylvania. He was born there August 18, 1946, son of the late George E. and Stella Zmijewski Kurtz. His paternal grandparents were natives of the village of Brekov located on the Laborec River near Humenne in the Zemplin region of eastern Slovakia. His maternal grandparents emigrated from Poland. Archbishop Kurtz was baptized and raised in the former Slovak parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Mahanoy City and attended its parish school. In his biography, he credits the strong faith of his family as well as the wonderful traditions of the Slovak parish for instilling in him a strong faith and a desire to become a priest.

He studied for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia and was ordained a priest of the Allentown Diocese on March 18, 1972 at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena by the late Bishop Joseph McShea, then Bishop of Allentown. He celebrated his first solemn Mass



**Msgr. Kurtz, the Archbishop of Louisville, KY, has recently been elected president of the Bishops of the United States.**

at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Slovak Church in Mahanoy City. Following ordination, then Father Kurtz served in several assignments in the Diocese of Allentown. He received a Master's degree in social work from the Marywood School of Social Work in Scranton, PA, in 1976. He served as president of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities in the Allentown Diocese. From 1996 to 1999, he served as pastor of Notre Dame Parish in Bethlehem, PA. Blessed Pope John Paul II named him a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor in 1986.

On October 26, 1999, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States announced that Blessed Pope John Paul II named Msgr. Kurtz as the second Bishop

of Knoxville, TN. He was consecrated a bishop on December 8, 1999. Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as the fourth Archbishop and ninth bishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, on June 12, 2007. He was installed as Archbishop of Louisville on August 15, 2007. He served as treasurer of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and was a member of the executive and administrative committees of that body. In 2010, he was elected vice president of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops. Archbishop Kurtz succeeds New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan as president of the U.S. bishops.

In a response to the election, The American Life League had this to say about him: "With his experience in social programs, we hope that Archbishop Kurtz will take the reins of social justice programs at USCCB to advance this important work of the Church. His leadership in this area will assure that social justice is not separated from social morality.... but as St. Paul the Apostle wrote, No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength."

What a marvelous gift on the occasion of the close of the 1150th jubilee year of SS. Cyril and Methodius - an heir of the Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith elected to serve as president of the Bishops of the United States. All Americans of Slovak ancestry extend prayerful best wishes to Archbishop Kurtz at this time. May God continue to bless his ministry among us. Ad multos, gloriosque annos!

## Free Advent & Christmas Mobile App from Family Rosary

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it can be difficult keeping Christ in Christmas. However, thanks to a free mobile app from Family Rosary, it's a lot easier.

Family Rosary created the Advent & Christmas mobile app to help people stay focused on keeping Christ in Christmas. Featuring meditative music with scripture and reflections, this app, for iPhones, iPads, Androids, and all other Smartphones, is the perfect spiritual aid while standing in line to buy presents or trekking to stores in the wee hours for that midnight madness sale. Starting with Advent on Sunday, Dec. 1, the mobile app features a new prayer each day to help keep the focus right where it needs to be.

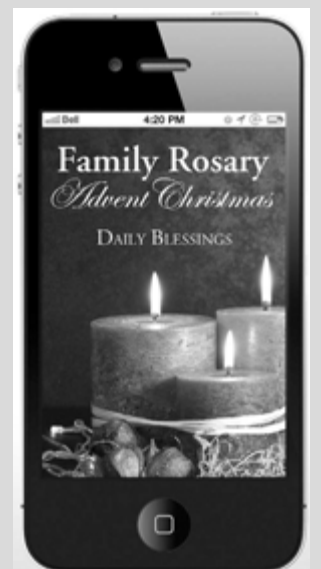
Best of all, the Advent & Christmas App from Family Rosary is free! It's a great way to start each day during both Advent and the Christmas season with a moment of reflection on the spiritual significance of the seasons.

For links to all app formats go to [www.FamilyRosary.org/MobileXmas](http://www.FamilyRosary.org/MobileXmas).

This is the third mobile app offered by Family Rosary. The first - Pray the Rosary - has already topped 50,000 in downloads at iTunes.

Family Rosary, which celebrates more than 70 years of serving families, is a member ministry Holy Cross Family Ministries, which was founded by Servant of God Patrick Peyton in 1942. A candidate for sainthood, Father Peyton was one of the most influential American Catholic priests of the 20th century. Known as the "Rosary Priest," he encouraged millions of people to pray the Rosary daily.

In the spirit of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, Holy Cross Family Ministries encourages family prayer, especially the Rosary, to support the spiritual well-being of the family. For more information, call 800-299-7729 or visit [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org).



# Slovak Radio on the Internet: Websites for 2013

## Part II

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.**  
**University of Maryland University College**

*Editor's Note: The first part of this article covered some of the best websites the author found for listening to general broadcasts of Slovak music and news on the Internet. That article was published in the November 20, 2103 edition of Jednota, page 10. Here, Dr. Kopanic explores additional sites, including those for religious programming and Slovak broadcast programs in the United States.*

### Catholic Slovak Radio

For those preferring Catholic Slovak religious programming, including daily Holy Mass in Slovak at 12 noon (EST), one may try Radio Lumen(Radio Light – from Latin): <http://www.lumen.sk/live.php>. Again, in order to listen, one needs to click on “Živé vysielanie” (Live broadcast), and then click on Windows Media player or MP3. The noon broadcast on Saturdays usually features the Greek Catholic (Byzantine rite) Mass with a Slavonic liturgy, which would appeal especially to our fellow Rusyn Americans.

I find this a great site for attending daily Mass in Slovak. Most of the songs come from the Jednotný katolícky spevník(United Slovak Hymnal), and the numbers are announced before each Mass just before noon. One may then refer to the following website to follow the words of the songs, and even sing along: <http://www.spevník.szm.com/>. The songs can be searched by title (first words) or by number. Occasionally, a hymn is not on this site, and then one should try this link which lists songs by number and title: <http://sk.gloria.tv/?media=289102>.

For Scripture readings, one may then go to the official website of the Catholic Church in Slovakia: <http://lc.kbs.sk/>. One may compare the Slovak readings with the English versions that the US Catholic Conference of Bishops' site offers at: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/111113.cfm>.

To listen to any archived broadcasts, including Mass from previous days, click on the Archív: <http://www.lumen.sk/live.php>. Download and listen at one's convenience to Masses from months or even years ago. I usually download Christmas and Easter Masses, and some special programs since I love the Slovak hymns. There is also daily rosary in Slovak around 1:30 in the afternoon (EDT) and in the evening around 9:30 pm.

For those interested in Slovak folk music, the archive of Radio Lumen has Fajarôčka moja (My Fajara), which is broadcast every Sunday and archived the next day. Here I also found much information on Slovak customs for some of my columns in Jednota and other publications.

### Other Slovak Radio Sites

There are a host of other channels on the site, but many of them play mainly English language songs, so I tend to shy away from those. But there is something for everyone. For those wishing to hear modern popular Slovak music with mainly many English language songs as well, I would also recommend exploring this website: <http://www.digitalne.sk/zoznam/media/radia-zive-online-vysiela-nie.html>.

I used to listen to Radio Hej (Yes Radio), which broadcasts only Slovak and occasionally some Czech songs. The station's motto was “music you can understand,” meaning for Slovak speaking listeners. It has revamped its website over the past couple years, and I could not get that to work most recently, so I am not offering a website; it seems to want to just sell various audio equipment. But I do listen to Radio Hej when traveling by car in Slovakia.

### USA Slovak Radio Online

If one wishes to listen to Slovak radio programs broadcast in the USA, there are three programs with internet access that I regularly listen to, which I will list here; all broadcast on Sundays. The Cleveland Slovak program on WERE 1490 AM airs on Sunday mornings at 11 am, though it had previously aired at 8 am for many years. It is the longest Slovak radio program that has been continually broadcasting in the USA. Milan Kobulsky, a native of eastern Slovakia, serves as the principle announcer. The website is <http://tinyurl.com/6mxxe8c>

Another Slovak program airs on WPIT 730 am in Pittsburgh and is hosted by the well known couple from the Pittsburgh area, Rudy and Sue Ondrejco; it may be heard at 3-4 pm on Sundays. Sue does a fantastic job explaining various Slovak customs, and Rudy supplements her with his excellent Slovak.

The WPIT Slovak Program is preceded by a very good Rusyn program hosted by Dean Poloka from 2:30 - 3:00pm. The Carpatho-Rusyn Society offers an archived list of the programs, so one may listen even if a computer or mobile device is not handy: <http://www.c-rs.org/RadioPgm/>. The show features music from all places where Rusyns live and occasionally turns up some rare old phonograph recordings.

Yet another Slovak radio program airs in Cleveland on WCPN 90.3 FM on Sundays from 5:05-6 pm. Vladimir and Gerry Mlynek host the show and offer a wide variety of Slovak music, with some very original old tunes from in their collection. To access the site, go to <http://www.wcpn.org/>.

Finally, Dennis Spisak hosts a Slovak Radio Program in the Youngstown, OH area. Broadcast from WKTL FM 90.7 as a public service from Struthers, OH, Dennis offers many traditional Slovak polkas and čardašes as well as current news about the local Slovak community of the Mahoning and Shenango

**(L - R) Rudy Ondrejco, Miroslav Puškár, Sue Ondrejco, and Erika Kopanic**



**Vladimir (seated) and Gerald (standing) Mlynek**



**(L - R) Standing: Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., and Dennis Spisak. Seated: Michael Kopanic, Sr.**



**(R - L) Milan Kobulsky with Anita Anderko**

valleys. He is always willing to dedicate songs to listeners and my 95 year-old father, Michael Kopanic, Sr., ranks among his most faithful listeners. The program does not offer a listening site on the internet, but can be heard as far away as the outer suburbs of Akron and Pittsburgh.

All these Slovak programs are well worth listening to, and for the American Slovak programs, I would recommend that listeners send a donation, so they can continue in the future as we try to preserve our Slovak heritage.

Hopefully, this article will expose more of our readers to the rich array of Slovak programs broadcasted from Slovakia on the internet, available at no cost. If you have any questions, or know of a Slovak program not mentioned and worth bringing to our readers, feel free to e-mail me at: [mko-panic@faculty.umuc.edu](mailto:mko-panic@faculty.umuc.edu).



**Some 50 member of the St. Simon Slovak Community, led by Fr. Kristian Libant, CM, made the pilgrimage on All Souls' Day, Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013.**

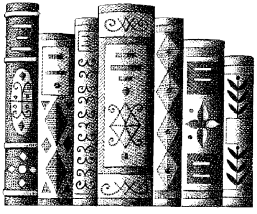


**Our Lady of Sorrows Statue and Cemetery, site of the memorial mass and devotions for the deceased, is located within Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Illinois.**

## St. Simon Slovak Community's All Souls' Day Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Sorrows Cemetery

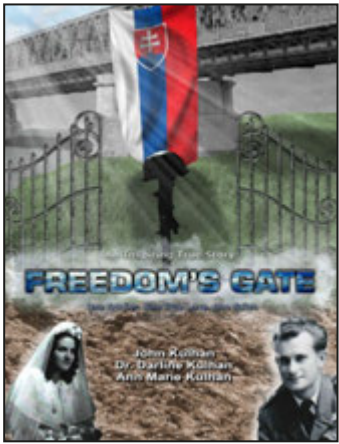
On Saturday, November 2, 2013, approximately 50 members of the St. Simon Slovak Community, led by Fr. Kristián Libant, CM, made a pilgrimage in their Slovak tradition to Our Lady of Sorrows Slovak Catholic Cemetery for an All Souls' Day Memorial Mass and devotions to the deceased. The Queen of Heaven Mausoleum Chapel in Hillside, IL was the location for the Mass. After the mass, the group made their way to the Our Lady of Sorrows Statue and Cemetery located within Queen of Heaven's cemetery, for Prayers and Devotions to the deceased. Afterwards, several members visited individual graves for their own personal remembrances. Consecrated in 1923, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Cemetery serves the Slovak Catholic Community and continues in this role, while being administered by the office of Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Its creation was largely due to the efforts of Monsignor Victor Blahunka, Pastor of Sacred Heart Slovak Parish in Chicago.

- Submitted by Fr. Kristián Libant, CM



## Book Corner

### Freedom's Gate Available in Hard or Soft Cover



Freedom's Gate is an historical autobiography by Scarsdale, NY author John Kulhan; and his daughters, Dr. Darline Kulhan and Ann Marie Kulhan. It tells of a Slovak freedom fighter, Mr. Kulhan, who survived one of the bloodiest battles of WWII - Dukla Pass. It is also a story about the miracles that led this decorated war hero and his family to play a pivotal role in St. Faustina's canonization. Freedom's Gate, which was made into a documentary in 2008, was nominated for Best Short Film Documentary at the 2009 Queens International Film Festival as well as featured at the Indie Fest 2009 and at the Beverly Hills Hi-Def Film Festival 2009.

Readers of Freedom's Gate's have commented that it is a tale which reflects a love of life and freedom, and of finding one's way during times of absolute darkness:

"A man's unswerving adherence by faith to his God and with deep love to his wife, motivating her reciprocal devotion and steadfast trust in her husband in the midst of uncommon and dangerous situations during WWII in Eastern Europe..." FR. SERAPHIM MICHALENKO, MIC – RECTOR-EMERITUS OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

You may learn more about Freedom's Gate, or if you wish to order the book in hardcover or paperback at: [www.freedomsgatestory.com](http://www.freedomsgatestory.com).

## Holiday Slavic Cookbook Available

The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 15th printing, having sold over 15,000 copies, is available for sale. This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) 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 cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (\$17.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$25.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost.

To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 438-6027 for more information. You may contact us at: [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).



## Branch 213's Michael Campayno in NBC's Sound of Music

Michael Campayno, a triple threat newcomer and native of Pittsburgh, PA, makes his television debut as Rolf in NBC's "The Sound of Music." The live three-hour telecast is based on the original 1959 Broadway musical and stars Carrie Underwood as Maria. The production airs on NBC on December 5, 2013 at 8PM, 7PM Central.

Michael is a senior at Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. His many credits include Billy Bigelow in Carousel, Gene Kelly in S'Wonderful, and multiple performances at the Civic Light Opera (CLO) in Pittsburgh, such as Gabe in "Next to Normal" where he received a Gene Kelly Award.

Michael is a member of Branch 213 along with his siblings, Rhea, Jesse, Nathan, Ian and Abby. He is the son of Jesse and Aimee Campayno and the grandson of Joe and Mary Belechak of Branch 213 of Valencia, PA.

Michael was also a recipient of the 2008 Jednota Scholarship Program.

- Submitted by proud grandmother Mary Belechak



## Year of Faith: Missionary Activity of the Church, Part III

Dear Friends,

This is a continuation of the summary of the Decree on Missionary Activity (*Ad gentes*) from the Second Vatican Council.

Because young churches are very often located in very poor areas of the world, they suffer from a serious lack of priests and material support. Therefore, the missionary activity of the entire church needs to continue offering those resources that can enable these young churches to grow. In addition, young churches should launch a common pastoral effort and suitable works to increase the number of vocations to the diocesan clergy and religious institutes among their own people.

Young churches should participate in the universal missionary work of the church by sending their own missionaries to evangelize in other lands, even though they themselves have an insufficient number of priests. When young churches themselves take an active part in missionary zeal toward other nations, they will experience a communion or solidarity with the universal church.

The church has not really been founded, is not yet fully alive, nor is a perfect sign of Christ among people, unless there is a laity working along with the hierarchy. The Gospel cannot be deeply grounded in the abilities, life and work of any people without the active presence of laymen. Therefore, even at the very founding of a Church, great attention is to be paid to establishing a mature, Christian laity.

The next chapter is dedicated to missionaries themselves. Although all disciples of Christ have the duty of spreading the Faith, Christ the Lord always calls whomever He wills from His disciples to be with him and to be sent by Him to preach to the nations. Therefore, by the Holy Spirit, He inspires the missionary vocation in the hearts of individuals.

One who is called to a vocation as a missionary is to possess certain qualities or characteristics. The future missionary is to have a spirit of initiative and steadfastness in carrying out what is begun. The future missionary must learn to persevere in difficulties, to be patient and strong of heart in bearing with loneliness, fatigue, and fruitless labor, to adapt to the people's foreign way of doing things and to changing circumstances. The future missionary is to be nourished by the spiritual life and be a person of prayer.

All priests, religious brothers and sisters, and laity who respond to the call to be missionaries should be prepared and trained, each according to his or her own state. Training is to be given, even if one's missionary activity is to be temporary. In addition to being educated in church doctrine and teachings, candidates for the missions should undergo other studies that would prove beneficial in their work. They ought to be trained in the general knowledge of the peoples to whom they are being sent to evangelize, including their culture, language, history, customs, and religious precepts. Future missionaries are to know the teachings and norms of the church regarding missionary activity, and methods of evangelization, both used in past centuries and contemporary.

The summary of *Ad gentes* will conclude in the next issue of the *Jednota*.



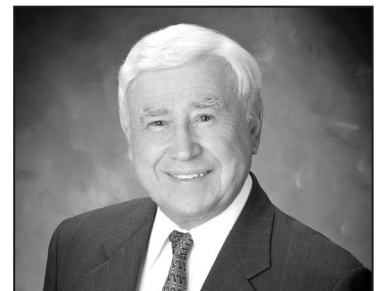
Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain

## Branch 254's Joseph Senko Appointed Treasurer of Mt. Lebanon, PA

Joseph T. Senko, CPA, CFP, was appointed Treasurer of Mt. Lebanon, a municipality in Western Pennsylvania with 33,000 residents. He and his staff are responsible for collecting over \$85,000,000 in tax revenue and fees. Joe is also the Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania as well as a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 254.



## Happy 65th Anniversary Joseph and Anna Petty



Joseph and Anna (Tkach) Petty, of Hollywood Florida, recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on October 2, 2013.

Although originally from neighboring villages in Slovakia, Joe and Ann met when they immigrated to the USA, and both settled in Linden, NJ. They were married at St. Joseph's Church in Elizabeth, NJ. and attended Holy Family Church in Linden for many years, until they relocated to Florida.

Joe and Anna are blessed with four children, seven grandsons, a great grandson, great granddaughter, and many nephews and nieces. Both are members of Branch 746.

# Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Tour



**GET READY, GET SET, LET'S GO TO SLOVAKIA!**

**July 7 - 21, 2014**

The time is **NOW** to get ready to go to Slovakia with the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage tour set for July 7 - 21, 2014. Once again the tour will be hosted by Jim and Kay Bench of Derry, PA.

Start talking with your grandparents or older members of your family to get information on your ancestral home in Slovakia. You will have a wonderful feeling walking the streets of the village of your ancestors.

Enjoy rafting on the Dunajec, visit Litmanova where there were sightings of the Blessed Mother in the 1990's, visit Nitra and the oldest church in Slovakia, the fairy tale castle Bojnice, enjoy museums, kolibas, traditional Slovak food, folk groups and attend the Kezmarek fair and watch craftsmen make their wares. These are just a few of the highlights of the tour.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench at [jmbench@yahoo.com](mailto:jmbench@yahoo.com) or phone 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 for further information. Paul Hudak at Adventure International Travel will be making travel arrangements. He can be reached at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174.

Also unique to our tour is an informative luncheon meeting with the tour participants regarding tips on currency, dos and don'ts, luggage preparations, clothing and other related tour items.

We fly out of Washington Dulles Airport to Vienna. A Mercedes Benz air-conditioned bus with a rest room awaits us there. Watch for the highlights of our very successful 2013 tour. Hope you will join us.

**Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour Itinerary is now available - including prices and how to register. Go to [fcsu.com](http://fcsu.com) and click on the Slovakia and the World tab to download the information.**

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours  
The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office  
will be closed on the following days:



In observance of Christmas:  
Monday, December 23 –  
Wednesday, December 25, 2013

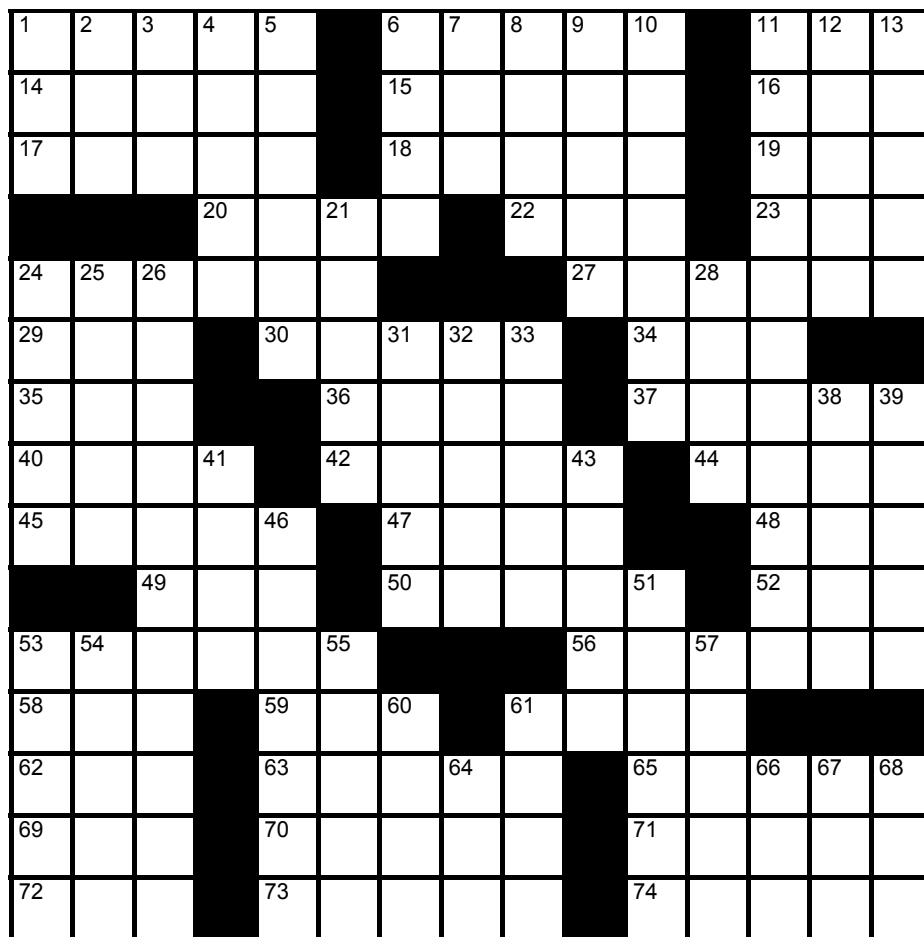


In observance of New Year's –  
Wednesday, January 1, 2014

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2014

Issue Date	Deadline
January 15	January 6
February 5	January 27
February 19	February 10
March 5	February 24
March 19	March 10
April 2	March 24
April 16	April 7
April 30	April 21
May 7	April 28
May 21	May 12
June 11	June 2
July 2	June 23
July 23	July 14
August 6	July 28
Sept 17	Sept 8
October 15	October 6
November 5	October 27
November 19	November 10
December 3	November 24

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Bores out
- 6 Stadium walkways
- 11 Spigot
- 14 Comet's path
- 15 Wagner work
- 16 Arles article
- 17 Where Minos ruled
- 18 Honeydew, e.g.
- 19 Blast maker
- 20 O.K. Corral lawman
- 22 Little bit
- 23 Egyptian boy king
- 24 Perturbation
- 27 Mt Etna location
- 29 Quantity (Abbr.)
- 30 Cut down
- 34 Brownie
- 35 Uncle (Sp.)
- 36 Not working
- 37 Harder to find
- 40 Freudian topics
- 42 Nickels and dimes
- 44 Beach feature
- 45 Puppets
- 47 Like some emotions: \_\_\_ up
- 48 NFL stats
- 49 Goat god
- 50 Hiker's path
- 52 Asian holiday
- 53 Whine
- 56 River currents
- 58 Child's game
- 59 Goal
- 61 To be (Lat.)
- 62 High card
- 63 Scoundrel
- 65 Indian lodge
- 69 Favoring
- 70 1950's Ford flop

- 71 Arouse
- 72 Bidly
- 73 Values
- 74 Hinder

**Down**

- 1 *Arabian Nights* menace
- 2 Goof
- 3 Honest \_\_\_
- 4 Minute arachnids
- 5 Purloins
- 6 Cavort
- 7 *Tarzan* extra
- 8 Defrost
- 9 Outriggers
- 10 More light-haired
- 11 Ice cream flavor
- 12 Invalidate
- 13 Minor
- 21 Museum piece
- 24 Detested
- 25 Compadre
- 26 Informer
- 28 Attired
- 31 Take as one's own
- 32 More artful
- 33 Reddish brown
- 38 Terminated
- 39 Breathers
- 41 Croat, e.g.
- 43 Mixes up
- 46 Tennis shoe
- 51 Survived
- 53 Kind of infection
- 54 Mother-of-pearl
- 55 Blair of *Exorcist* fame
- 57 Annoy
- 60 Sail holder
- 61 Snaky swimmers
- 64 Neckline shape
- 66 Flower holder
- 67 \_\_\_ out a living
- 68 Always, in verse

# A Chewy Kind of Christmas

## Hi, Kids (And All Those Young at Heart).

It's me. Your old pal Chewy. Can't quite believe another Christmas is upon us, but here we are. So as we say in my homeland of Slovakia, Veselé Vianoce (Merry Christmas). I know many of you guys here greet each other the Slovak way, too, and that you will help keep our traditions alive this season once again with lots of Vilijas (or, in English, Christmas Eve Dinners) celebrated at FCSU District and Branch events as well as in your homes. Wow. You guys are the best.



Thought I'd share a little fun poem one of my new friends here in the States shared with me. No one knows who wrote it, but it's a riff (or should I say RUFF;-) on that classic Christmas poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas," aka "A Visit from St. Nicholas," that was penned by this dude (Mr. Clement Clarke Moore) waaaay back in 1822. You, my dear Slovak and Slovak-American friends, should enjoy all the crazy references to our way of celebrating the holiday. Anyway, it's my kind of poem. A little bit silly and a whole lot Slovak!

Samozrejme (of course), what is no joke are my wishes for all of you. I hope you and yours celebrate Christmas 2014 in the very best way – sharing our faith and the blessings of this joyous season with family and friends.

See you in 2014!

Until then, keep your ears up and your tail waggin'  
Tvoj priateľ (your friend),  
Chewy



*BTW: Check out the elf suit. Yea, they dressed me up again for the holiday. It's all in good fun, though, so I don't mind. See how me and my buddy, baby Lukaš, got all decked out to highlight another fantastic offer from the FCSU on the opposite page. Sweet, huh?*

## A Slovak's Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Vianoce, and all through the house  
The Slovaks had gathered to eat sauerkraut.

The kolač was nestled all snug in its dish.  
Bobalki was cooking, and so was some fish.

Babushka-ed women and men in their caps  
Had all settled down with food in their laps.  
When out in the lawn there arose such a clatter  
We all went to see what was the matter.

Away to the window Baba flew like a flash,  
Screaming "Lock all the doors and hide all the cash".  
When what to our wondering eyes should appear  
But a pagač -shaped sleigh complete with reindeer.

With a little old Slovak so lively and quick,  
We knew in a moment it was Janošik.  
Faster than Novenas his reindeer all came  
As he shouted "On Štefan" and each reindeer's name.

"On Štefan, on Boris, on Janos, and Olga,  
On Joško, on Cyril, on Sandor and Volga".  
Then out to the smokehouse the reindeer all flew  
With a sleigh full of Kolbasa and Janošik too.

Into the smoke vent he lept with a bound,  
Dancing the czardas and twirling around.  
He did a quick polka, then went to his work.  
He gave us Oplatki then turned with a jerk.

We gave him Kapusta and Dzedo's old clothes,  
Then sang Ticha Noc as up the vent he rose.  
But we heard him exclaim as we took off our coats,  
"Vesele Vianoce to all and to all dobrú noc".

*The Home Office  
Executives and Staff  
of the First Catholic  
Slovak Union  
wishes all of our members and  
their families all the joys and  
wonder of blessed  
Christmas and a happy,  
healthy New Year.*



**NEW**

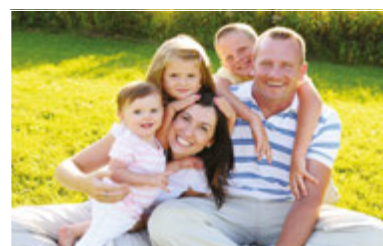
**FREE**

## Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the newly published Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).



# HO-HO-HO

# YULE LOVE THESE RATES

**8 Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA 3.60%**

**6 Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA 3.20%**

**6 Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA 3.10%**

Get a FREE Chewy Čuvač,  
our FCSU mascot, with a  
minimum deposit of \$10,000 on  
any one of the above products.  
Effective on deposits received  
by December 31, 2013.

Contact your branch officer or the Home Office at  
1.800.533.6682, [annuity@fcsu.com](mailto:annuity@fcsu.com), [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. On the agenda for the meeting will be the election of officers for 2014 and the election of branch delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. All members are encouraged to attend. After the meeting a Christmas party will be held. If you plan on attending please RSVP at 216-228-8179. Thank you.

Fraternally,

**Marie A. Golias, Secretary**

## BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 will hold a meeting on Tuesday January 21, 2014, at Kretzlers at 7pm to elect the delegates for the 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held in August 2014 in Philadelphia, PA. Anyone wishing to be a delegate for the convention should attend the meeting. To make reservations please call Joanne Lako 412 766 3222.

Fraternally,

**Joanne Lako,**

## BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society Branch 06K will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at Al's Restaurant, 1601 North Bloomington St., Streator, IL. The meeting will begin promptly at 1PM and be followed with a lunch. Please call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764, if you plan to attend or have any questions about policies. The agenda will include: the election of officers for 2014, a discussion on the 2014 schedule and membership drive. We urge all our members to attend and hope to see you.

**Paul Chismar, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2013, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. Members are urged to attend.

**Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8, at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania. Additionally, the election of delegates to the 2014 National Convention will take place at this meeting.

**William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The annual meeting of Branch 19 will be held Sunday, December 8, 2013, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. We also will elect delegates for the 50th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at this annual meeting.

We cordially invite our members to attend these meetings and enjoy seeing friends.

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, will hold a meeting/luncheon on Sunday, January 12, 2014, at 1:00 PM at the Beachwood Hilton Hotel, 3663 Park East Drive, Beachwood, OH.

The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia.

Please phone Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 after 6PM if you plan to attend.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 35 will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2013, at 1:00PM at the resident of Joseph Yuros, 1987 Centurion Drive,

Forest Hills, PA.

Agenda items include: election of branch officers, discussion of branch activities, and election of delegates to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

**Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its Annual Meeting at 2PM on Sunday, January 19, 2014. The meeting will be held at Chippers Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St., Streator, IL.

At this meeting we will have election of branch officers for 2014 and election of delegates to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia in August 2014. There will be refreshments and a buffet after the meeting. All members are asked to attend.

Please make your reservations by calling Maria at (815) 672-6682 before January 16, 2014.

**Maria Harcar, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Friday, December 27, 2013, at 6:00PM at 40 Dalton Road, Yonkers, NY. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

**Joanne Failovic, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55 – BROOMHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 29, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the Vice-President at the Wesley Enhanced Living Complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Apt. P114, Philadelphia, PA.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers and Delegates and their Alternates to the National Convention, and regular business will be conducted. Lunch will be served. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid For Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by December 8th in order to make reservations at the Wesley.

The 50th Quadrennial Convention will be held in Philadelphia, and hosted at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014. If you wish to be a delegate, you may check your qualifications with the President or Secretary.

For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (610) 356-7956 or Secretary at (215) 637-6530.

In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

Fraternally yours,

**Helena T. Gaydos, President**

## BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 75KJ will hold a meeting on December 8, 2013, at 9:30AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 17872. This will be the branch's annual meeting, held for the election of officers for the 2014 calendar year. Also on the agenda: the recording secretary's report, the financial secretary's report, the auditor's report, and general branch business. For more information, contact Ronald M. Anderson at the above address or by calling 570-648-7012 or emailing chrison@ptd.net.

**Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 108 – CONNELLSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 108 will hold its next meeting on Friday, December 20, 2013, at 7:00PM at 1916 Second Street, S. Conneltsville, PA. On the agenda: election of officers.

**Dolores M. Kocis, President**

## BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Mahanoy City, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 8. The meeting is scheduled for 1PM at Palermos Restaurant. The agenda will include new business and election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention.

Please call 570-640-1796 for more information.

**Karen Sterling, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 9:00AM at Denny's Restaurant, 653 Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. The National Convention is to be held in Philadelphia, PA in 2014 and the election of delegates and alternates to the convention will be discussed. Election of officers for 2014 will be held at the Christmas brunch. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and brunch. Call for reservations, directions if needed, and for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 169P – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael's Society, Branch 169P, will hold its annual meeting on December 9, 2013, at 1:00PM at the Slivovsky residence, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, PA. The agenda will consist of election of officers and electing delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

**Betty Slivovsky, Secretary**

## BRANCH NUMBER 173 – GREATER WILKES-BARRE, WYOMING VALLEY AREA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in the greater Wilkes-Barre-Wyoming Valley Area, will hold its annual meeting on December 8, 2013, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:00 pm.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

In addition officers will be elected and delegates and alternate delegates from Branch 173 to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

**Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President**

## BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold its semi-annual meeting at 1:00PM on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at Jioio's Route 981, Latrobe, PA. A large turnout is encouraged.

**Barbara Patula, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

On December 5, 2013, following the 7:00 pm Officers meeting, there will be the "Election of Officers". Delegates also will be elected/appointed to the 50th Quadrennial General Convention of the FCSU at the December meeting. Meetings are held at Social Hall @ C. U. Club, 910-912 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226.

All beneficial members are encouraged to attend and vote. Hope to see you at the meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month except June and July.

Fraternally,

**Vicki L. Schaub, Ben./Fin. Sec./Tres.**

## BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2013. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA at 1:00PM. Election of officers will be held. All members are asked to attend. Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Joe Belechak, Secretary**

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, FCSU Branch 228 will hold an election of delegates to the 50th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at our meeting to be held on Decem-

ber 16, 2013 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. The Convention will be held in Philadelphia, PA from August 23rd through the 27th, 2014 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. Our preliminary estimate is for six (6) delegate seats at the Convention to represent our Branch and will also elect alternates to serve if a delegate is unable to attend the Convention. We hope to have all representatives and alternates decided upon at this meeting so the certification process can begin immediately after the meeting. Serving as a delegate at the convention is a truly special experience as you help to decide the direction of the FCSU for the next four (4) years. Please contact any of the branch officers if you are interested and, of course, come to the meeting. The Branch will also hold its annual election of officers and by-law review at the December meeting as well as electing two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

As a reminder, our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are scheduled unless needed, perhaps such as a Convention year. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our Branch to help direct us as well as becoming involved with the United Slovak Societies and the Slovak Club. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You are sure to find many items of interest.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 254 will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2014, at noon at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria Mall located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

**Albina Senko, Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8, 2013, at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, OH, at 1:00PM. At this meeting we will have election of officers and a discussion concerning our National Convention to be held in August of 2014. All members are invited to attend and take part in this fraternal activity.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 260 - CAMPELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 1:30PM at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant, 713 Bedford Rd Coitsville Township, OH 44436. On the agenda: election of branch officers and a discussion of the upcoming National Convention including delegates. A luncheon will be served directly after the meeting. For reservations or more information, call Paul Ritz at (330) 397-8337.

Fraternally,

**Paul Ritz, President**

## BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

There will be a meeting of St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, on December 4, 2013, at 6:30PM. There will be an election of officers for the new year. Please try to attend. Call Joe at (732) 469-5256 after 6PM 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 Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 12:30 p.m. the meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pa. The election of officers and the election of delegate to the national convention will take place at this time. There will be refreshments and a buffet after the meeting. All members are asked to attend.

The officers of Branch 292 will all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, President**

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

## BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 9, 2013, at the home of the financial society Robert J. Lakata at 6PM. Election of officers will take place at this time.

Anyone needing more insurance or service should contact: Mr. Robert Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232, or leave a message at 1-570-645-4872 and your call will be returned.

Thank you.

**Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 312 – BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2014, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr, Latrobe, PA. On the agenda: election of branch officers and election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Aug 2014. We wish all FCSU members a very blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

**Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372 of Beaverdale, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 29, 2013, at 2:00PM at the home of President Michael P. Hudak Sr., 829 Cameron Ave., Beaverdale, PA. The agenda for the meeting will include a review of financial reports and election of officers for the calendar year 2014.

Respectfully,

**Michael P. Hudak, Sr., President**

## BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 382 is updating their files and looking for the following members:

Stephen Bonick, Nanette Contardi, Paul Crambo Sr., Ronald Crambo Jr., Tara M. Crambo, Christopher Czankner, Sarah M. Czankner, Jami Lyn Dougherty, Ryan J. Dougherty, Cheryl A. Glinsky, Thomas Hanis, Michael Kapacs, Mark Kosko, James T. Legg Jr., Michelene Malosh, Nicholas August McDonald, Henry Moeller, Bevin Monaghan, Colleen Monaghan, Todd Morgan, Diane Parsons, Ann Polovitch, Joanne Rovani, Lynn M Schultz, Sarah Ann Scotchlas, Darlene M. Skrip, Charlene Strodoski, Erin Walsh.

If you are, or know any of these members, please contact:

John J. Slovenkai Sr.  
Financial Secretary  
FCSU Branch 382KJ  
318 Fourteenth Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
18504-2512

**John J. Slovenkai, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at Bob Evans of Uniontown, Route 40 W, Uniontown, PA.

The agenda will include the election of officers for the year 2014 and hold nomination and election of delegates to represent Branch 410 at the 50th General Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23rd through August 27th, 2014. All members are urged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording/  
Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 29, 2013, at 1:00PM at the Slovak Society of Barberton, 887 W. Tuscarawas St., Barberton, OH. Refreshments will be served. The election of officers for 2014 will be held.

Fraternally,

**Jeanette Willis, Recording  
Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph Branch 450 will hold a meeting, Saturday, December 21, 2013 at 2pm at the home of Jozef Valencik at 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, OH 44142. Any members interested in becoming branch officers or delegates to the convention that will be held in August of 2014 in Philadelphia should plan to attend or contact Lori Valencik at 440-973-4457

**Lori Valencik, Secretary.**

## BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2013, beginning at 1:30PM. The meeting will be held at the home of President Rose Ann Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731.

On the agenda is the election of officers, financial reports and the election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention, August 23 – 27, 2014. Any member who wishes to be a delegate may contact President Rose Ann Rura, 724-479-8181 or Financial Secretary Joseph E. Rura, 724-479-2298, or attend the annual meeting.

**Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, will send McDonalds gift cards to all of our junior members this Christmas. We wish all of our members a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year! (Vesele' Vianoce a St'astlivy' Novy' Rok!)

**Robert Ľapak Magruder, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 will hold the first Lodge meeting of 2014 on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm.

The Branch will be discussing the upcoming convention and we will hold election of delegates to the convention. All bonafide members are urged to attend. Take an active roll in your branch attend the meeting and learn all the FCSU has to offer you and your family.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko  
Recording/Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 581 – GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581 of Gary/Whiting will hold its regular luncheon-meeting at 1 pm, Sunday, December 8, at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN.

The agenda will be -- Election of Officers, upcoming convention and new activities.

RSVP Ann 219-947-2793 or George 219-926-2410.

**Ann Buczek, President**

## BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 will hold a special meeting on December 22, 2013, at 2pm in Tatra Hall. Tatra Hall is located on Sixth St. and Sherman Blvd. Please show your support of your club and attend this important meeting.

**Laura Karafa, Recording Secretary**

*Editor's note: A special invitation to this meeting from our National President Andrew M. Rajec is on p. 16.*

## BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Friday, December 27, 2013 at 4:00 PM at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA (Phone: 412-241-9779).

The agenda will include the election of new officers for 2014 and a summary of events and issues during 2013.

**Sylvia J. Vehc, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 11:00AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville. On the agenda will be the election of officers; also, the upcoming convention will be discussed. Members are urged to attend.

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

## BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate Mass for our deceased members on December 15, 2013 at 11 am at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Following Mass, we will have our annual meeting at Saint Matthias Church meeting room. This meeting will include the election of Branch 731 officers for 2014. Also at this December 15, 2013 meeting we will elect delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention which will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 23-27, 2014.

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON

The next regular branch meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Sunday, December 8, 2013, in the St. Patrick's Church hall, NW 19th and NW Savier Streets in Portland, Oregon. This is our annual meeting where there will be the election of officers for 2014. All Slovaks are welcome to join us in a party celebrating the Christmas season after the meeting.

**Herbert L. Hirst, President**

## BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of officers for 2014, as well as discussion of next summer's convention. A holiday get-together will follow the meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold our next meeting on December 18, 2013 at R. Heald's home, 379 Quarry Lane, Unit E, Warren, OH.

On the agenda will be officer's reports, general branch business, and discussion of the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in August 2014.

Officers for 2014 were elected at the November meeting as follows:

President	Bill Hrusovsky
Vice President	Fred Brunetti
Treasurer:	George Yuricek
Secretary	Joy Brunetti
Auditor	Rosemary Heald

**Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 769 – ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its semi-annual meeting on December 16, 2013, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily at 28098 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY, at 1:00PM. The meeting

will include an election of officers for the year 2014.

In addition, there will be information regarding the forthcoming National Convention to be held in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23 – August 27, 2014, at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. The meeting will include a discussion of the value of membership in the First Catholic Slovak Union. The meeting also will provide information on annuities as investments.

**Henry J. Pochily, President**

## BRANCH 774 – MERRILL, MICHIGAN

A meeting will be held on December 15, 2013, at the home of Frank Radosa. This will be an annual meeting. Please contact Katherine Radosa Stevens at 989-835-9895 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Katherine Stevens, Secretary**

## BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780 will hold their annual meeting on December 11, 2013. It will be at 7:00pm and at 2280 Taft Street, Saginaw, Michigan. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2014.

We hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Catherine Karlsen, Secretary**

## BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 1:00pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church hall in Mississauga, Ontario, in conjunction with the Annual Monsignor Michael Shuba District meeting. The meeting is for elections of the district officers and to elect delegates to send to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in August 2014. Lunch will be served. Please call Milan Zoldak at 647-350-0604 to RSVP your attendance.

**Anne Mitro, Secretary**

## BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold its Christmas Mass on Sunday December 15, 2013 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin at 12:00 AM. Refreshments will be served after Mass in the cafeteria and St. Nicholas will bring Christmas presents to the children.

Following fraternal fellowship, Branch 844 members will hold annual meeting with the election of officers and a financial report. Election of a delegate to the Convention 2014 will be also on the agenda.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

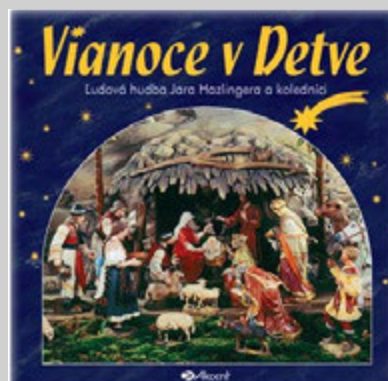
The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday December 11, 2013. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2014 as well as the election of delegates to the 2014 FCSU convention in Philadelphia.

The officers of Branch 857 wish all members of the FCSU a safe, Blessed and Holy Christmas season.

Fraternally,

**Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary**

## Christmas Music From Slovakia



The Slovak Import Company now offers Christmas music CD's and DVD's for sale, purchased in Slovakia from several local music shops featuring quality musicians and the most popular music for your enjoyment. To order or to learn more, go to [www.slovakic/christmas](http://www.slovakic/christmas) or contact Daniel Kisha at:

Email: [daniel.kisha@prodigy.net](mailto:daniel.kisha@prodigy.net)

Phone in the US: (+1) 410 273 1149

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The officers of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 wish all of our members a Vesele' Vianoce a St'astlivy' Novy' Rok! (Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year!) Members in our district are encouraged to attend the S'tedry' Vec'er/Vilija Dinner at St. Simon's in Chicago on December 15th. Call (773) 436-1045 for more information. We also encourage our members to bring their family to the Slovak Republic Christmas Tree on display at the Museum of Science & Industry at 57th Street & S. Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. It's decorated with authentic ornaments owned by our district, and is one of 50 trees on display.

For more information, visit [www.msi.org](http://www.msi.org).

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary**

### DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 2 will host the annual Fall/Winter meeting of the FCSU/Pittsburgh District on Sunday, December 15, 2013 at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. The business meeting will start promptly at 1 PM. You won't miss the game. The Steelers play Cincinnati & the kick-off is at 8:30 PM.

The meeting will include officers' reports, discussion of district business, and planning for meetings and events in 2014. District Officers for 2014 will be elected at this meeting. The 50th FCSU convention, to be held August 23-27, 2014 in Philadelphia, will also be discussed, and we will elect our District Delegate. The Call for Convention can be found at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com).

This year the District will host a Christmas Eve Vilija in conjunction with our meeting. The Vilija will start at 2 PM after the business meeting. This year the Vilija is open to the general public as well as to members. Jednota members will pay \$5.00 per person. Non-members will pay \$20.00 per person. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST. RSVP to Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204 or by email to [smosr@verizon.net](mailto:smosr@verizon.net). Get your reservations in by December 1.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meeting, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

\*\* Another Slovak Vilija will be held Saturday, December 14 at Prince of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh PA. Call Paul for information at 412-481-8380.

\*\* Yet another Slovak Vilija will be held Sunday, December 8 at Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg PA. Call Darlene for information at 724-537-7743.

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: December 2: Sue Stafura – Slovak Dolls & a Visit from St Nick, January

6: Rich Kocur – 1st Timer's Travelogue, February 3: Mike Yanchak – Egg Decorating, March 3: Jerry Jumba – Slovak Music, April 7: John Righetti – Slovakia-Who, Why, Where, May 5: Rev Valerian Michlik – Greek Catholic Churches in Slovakia, June 2: Joe Bielicki – The Czechoslovak Room at Pitt.

\*\* Slovak Language Classes will be held Tuesdays in the fall & spring. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-9000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

\*\* The Senko's are planning a Babie Leto Tour of Slovakia for Fall, 2014. Highlights include rafting on the Dunajec, wine tasting, and an overnight stay at a spa. Contact Joe at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) for an itinerary when tour details are finalized.

\*\* The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. The museum will be decorated for Christmas. Call Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations.

\*\* The WPSCA is planning to establish a Slovak Lending Library. Contact Joe Senko for information.

\*\* Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See [www.slavic.pitt.edu](http://www.slavic.pitt.edu)

Anyone with additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice should send information to [manasta@verizon.net](mailto:manasta@verizon.net)

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 10 - THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District #10 will be holding the first meeting for 2014 on January 19, 2014 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 2:00 pm. All District 10 members are urged to attend this meeting.

We will be holding our election for the one delegate and one alternate to the FCSU 2014 Quadrennial Convention. We will also be discussing other issues concerning the upcoming convention. Your District Officers are interested in your ideas and concerns for district activities and convention issues. Please take an active role in Your District Organization and attend the meeting.

If you plan on attending this meeting please contact Linda Hanko at [lhanko@neo.rr.com](mailto:lhanko@neo.rr.com) or call 330-706-0151. We need a headcount for refreshment.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer**

### DISTRICT 12 - MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville. The upcoming convention will be discussed and there will be an election of officers. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

**Frances Tarquinio, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday December 15, 2013. The celebration begins at 12:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706 followed by the tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. A gourmet lunch with dessert also will be served.

The meeting will be held at 2:30 PM in the cafeteria. On the agenda will be: Election of officers for the coming year, financial report and election of delegate to the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA. All branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meetings.

The officers of Prince Pribina District wish all the members of FCSU a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

**Paul Skuben, President**

### DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The annual meeting of the Monsignor Michael Shuba District is to be held on Sunday January 12, 2014 at 1:00 pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church hall in Mississauga. The meeting is for elections of the district board and to elect delegates to send to the upcoming Convention in August 2014. Lunch will be served. Please call Mike Kapitan 416-621-1534 to RSVP your attendance.

**Helen Von Fridle and Anne Mitro, Secretaries**

#### NOTICE TO ALL FCSU MEMBERS OF BRANCH 595, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

#### IMPORTANT - SPECIAL MEETING

Due to recent issues related to the operation of Tatra Hall, which is owned by the members of Branch 595, there will be a

#### Special Meeting at Tatra Hall

located at Sixth and Sherman Blvd., Muskegon, MI,

on Sunday, December 22nd at 2:00 P.M.

The agenda will include :

- 1) the Officers of Branch 595
- 2) the composition of the Board of Directors of Tatra Hall
- 3) the operation of Tatra Hall, including the future of Tatra Hall

Members of the Executive Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union will attend and will, at least initially, chair the meeting.

We want Tatra Hall to survive and serve the Members of Branch 595 and guests. Your attendance and participation at this meeting is important to insure that goal. Remember the Tatra Hall is yours, please attend.

Fraternally,



Andrew M. Rajec  
President

AMR/pm

## Address Changes?

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, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: [FCSU@aol.com](mailto:FCSU@aol.com).

## Branch 670 Accepting Application for its 2014 Scholarship Program



Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the award criteria. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had any policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship.

For applications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following officers, or you may email your request to one of the following addresses:

- Dorothy Petrus, 545 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033
- Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: [matinko305@comcast.net](mailto:matinko305@comcast.net))
- Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: [hyattfamily@comcast.net](mailto:hyattfamily@comcast.net))

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 28, 2014



# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.



Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
003K	Joseph P Slatoski	162K	Eleanor M Grote	327K	Daniel P Stercula Jr	682K	Frank L Deley
023K	Paul F Murgas	169P	William E Labuda	333K	Mary Hartle	731K	Margaret J Wayda
023K	Stephen A Tokar	181K	Judith M Malarik	333K	Richard Lucas	743K	Stanley G Danko
024K	Edward Mark Liptak	181K	George F Sprock	367K	John William Misko	743K	Rev Dr. Elemir J Mikus
024K	Joseph Soxie	181K	Vincent R Ungvarsky	393K	Mary J Opsitnick	756K	Edward A Chrenko
024K	Ronald J Sprungle	199K	Mary H Forish	410K	Phyllis B Churilla	756K	Margaret Gregoricka
038K	Helen E Stofka	211K	William R Scavnicky	414K	Joseph A Elko	764K	Amy L Prox
040K	Albert J Liptak	224K	Ingeborg J Blazek	425K	Andrew Paul Ligas	785K	Ted Mitchel Gruszka
040K	Edwin J Yendro	228K	Anna Teresa Luca	450K	Edward E Smetanka	785K	Joseph Kovalik
055K	Francis John Manco	228K	Phyllis M Reber	456K	Gerald G Pollock	810K	Michael Kukla
055K	Stephen J Narkin	260K	William B Babik	493K	Joseph Janusek	831K	Gary John Lang
055K	Helen A Petko	260K	Sr Mary Ann Raycher	553K	William M Costa	831K	Caroline Matovick
075K	Andrew Duzick Jr	266K	Francis Olenik	567K	Elizabeth M Hagen	855K	Ruth Matilda Sansbury
153K	Mary E Massura	276K	Ronald Polak	567K	Elizabeth G Miklovic	900K	Nancy M Steffy
156K	George J Raykos	290K	Elizabeth Meszaros	567K	Joseph G Mittura	924K	Elizabeth C Grywalsky
157K	Joseph E Hansarick	326K	Loretta Waitkunas	595K	Samuel M Pastucha		

\*Processed through the month of November 2013

## OBITUARIES

### FATHER DEMETRIUS R. DUMM, O.S.B.

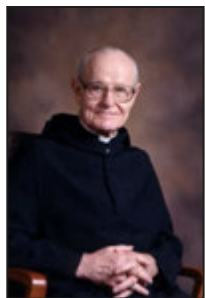
Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B., a Benedictine priest of Saint Vincent Archabbey, died Sunday, November 17, 2013.

Born on a farm between Carrolltown and Ebensburg, PA, on October 1, 1923, Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B. grew up with eight siblings, the son of the late Gordon and the late Esther (Kirsch) Dumm. His brother, the late Father Wilfred Dumm, O.S.B., was also a Benedictine priest of Saint Vincent Archabbey. His other brothers and sisters include Mrs. Alfred (Dolores) Demma, Lusby, Md.; Donald Dumm, Ebensburg; Mrs. John (Imogene) Reidy, Silver Spring, Md.; Mrs. Frank (Roselyn) Colella, Olney, Md.; Clair Dumm, Ebensburg; Patrick Dumm, Summerhill and the late Fred Thomas.

He completed eight grades in six years in a one-room country school; then entered Saint Vincent Preparatory School. Upon graduation in 1940 from the Prep School, Father Demetrius began studies at Saint Vincent College. Halfway through his college studies he entered the Benedictine monastic community of Saint Vincent Archabbey as a novice in 1942. He made simple profession of vows on July 2, 1943. He continued his college studies and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from the College in 1945, then made solemn profession of monastic vows on July 11, 1946.

He studied at Saint Vincent Seminary for three years—from 1943 to 1946—some years concurrently with his college studies, then began additional study in Rome. While studying in Rome, he was ordained a priest at Subiaco Abbey, Italy, by the Most Rev. Lorenzo Salvi, O.S.B., on December 7, 1947. He received a Doctor of Sacred Theology degree in 1950 from the Pontifical Institute of Sant' Anselmo. He studied at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem from 1950 to 1952, after which he received a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Commission, Vatican City.

Father Demetrius returned to Saint Vincent in 1952, and taught Sacred Scripture



at Saint Vincent Seminary until 2009. He taught Biblical Greek and Hebrew in his early teaching career. Some of those courses overlapped with his new duties as vice rector of the Seminary, a position he held from 1955 to 1963. Once he became rector in 1963, however, his teaching career was focused on Sacred Scripture. Father Demetrius was rector of the Seminary at a critical time—when the Church experienced significant changes as a result of Vatican II. He served as rector for seventeen years, ending his tenure in that position in 1980, all the while continuing to teach. He was called to serve in administration once again—as director of spiritual life—in 1989, and held that role for four years. He was named professor emeritus in 2010. For his many years of service to the Seminary, he was honored with an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology degree in 1999.

Father Demetrius was also a gifted writer. His first book, *Flowers in the Desert: A Spirituality of the Bible*, was originally published 1987. It has been reprinted twice. His second book was *Cherish Christ Above All: The Bible in the Rule of Benedict*, first published 1996. Like its predecessor it has gone into multiple reprints. Other books include *A Mystical Portrait of Jesus*, *New Perspectives on John's Gospel*, published 2001; *Praying the Scriptures*, published 2003; and *So We Do Not Lose Heart: Biblical Wisdom for All Our Days*, published 2006, and reprinted in 2010. Father Demetrius' weekly column on the Sunday Homilies—coauthored with confrere Father Campion Gavaler, O.S.B.—originally written for the Saint Vincent Archabbey website in 1999, has run in the Jednota newspaper for more than a decade and in 2011 began appearing in *The Catholic Accent*, weekly newspaper of the Diocese of Greensburg. He was a major contributor and one of the editors of the *Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, contributed to the *New Jerome Bible Commentary*, and authored numerous articles for *The New American Benedictine Review* and *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*.

Father Demetrius lectured widely, including a series of lectures in England to the Union of Monastic Superiors, comprising all the abbots and abbesses of the Benedictine

and Cistercian monasteries in Great Britain, Ireland, and Scotland, and gave a number of retreats in England, Ireland, and Taiwan. His service as a retreat master included most of the Benedictine monasteries in the United States, and retreats for Bishops of thirteen states. He taught summer school at various colleges and convents from 1945 until his retirement; and served as a member of the Commission for Christian Unity of the Diocese of Greensburg, 1963 to 1980; charter member of the East Coast Rectors' Conference, 1964 to 1980, and past president, 1972 to 1974; member of the Council of the Abbot President of the American Cassinese Congregation of the Benedictine Order, 1973 to 1985; professor in Duquesne University's Institute of Formative Spirituality, 1978 to 1985; representative to the Pennsylvania Conference on Interchurch Cooperation, 1981 to 1990, and chairman of its Committee on Theological Consultation, 1982 to 1990; and member of the Board of Incorporators of Saint Vincent College, Inc. and member of the Board of Directors of Saint Vincent College for many years.

In 2009 Father Demetrius received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Saint Vincent Seminary.

The body was received at 3 p.m. Monday, November 18 in the Elizabeth Roderick Center of Saint Vincent Seminary. Viewing followed from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. that same day, and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19. A vigil service was held at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Archabbey Basilica. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20 in the Archabbey Basilica. Interment followed in the Saint Vincent Cemetery.

### MICHAEL G. JACKO, PHD BRANCH 789 – WINDSOR, ONTARIO

It is with great sadness that Branch 789 Windsor, Ontario, announces the passing of its Vice President, Michael G. Jacko on October 11, 2013 at Beaumont Hospital,



Royal Oak, MI. His loving family was at his bedside.

Michael George Jacko was born on October 11, 1938, in Windsor, Ontario, to Juraj Jacko (Vranovske Dlhe) and Anna Murin (Sedliske) from villages in the Vranov District in Eastern Slovakia. Juraj had immigrated to Canada in 1927 and Anna and their daughter, Mary, followed him to Canada in 1937.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife Mary (nee Boldizar). They had celebrated their 50th Anniversary on June 8. He is also survived by his dearest daughter Marcy and husband Tim Namespetra and loving grandchildren Andrew, Adam and Sara. Sister, Mary Opsatnik passed away in 2005. Michael will be missed by his sister-in-law, Irene, and her husband Nestor Chyz and nephews Bradley and Mark Chyz. Michael was a special "ujc" to Pavol and Katka Tkac and their children. Michael was Krsny to Frank Varga, Jr. Cousins in Canada, the USA, and Slovakia are also grieving his loss.

Michael George Jacko graduated from Assumption College High School in 1956. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics and Chemistry (with Distinction) from Assumption University in 1961, and then PhD in Chemistry from the University of Windsor in 1964. After graduation, Dr. Jacko accepted a position as a research chemist with Imperial Oil in Sarnia, Ontario, specializing in gas chromatography. He then accepted an offer from Bendix Research Laboratories in Southfield, MI, to join their Research and Development team as a principal chemist in the area of friction materials. During his professional career, he secured 9 patents and authored many publications. His research led to his greatest achievement which was the formulation of "asbestos free brakes." Michael retired from Bendix Research/Honeywell after a 30 year career in 1997, leaving a valuable legacy to the scientific study of friction materials. His knowledge and expertise have been acknowledged throughout the scientific world. Upon retirement, Michael joined the Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Foundation (RETAF), an organization which provides small businesses (500 employees or fewer)

continued on page 18

## OBITUARIES

*continued from page 17*

in Michigan with free pollution prevention and energy efficiency assessments.

Michael was a 45-year member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and a member of the Chemical Society of America. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy and attained the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in 1966 after serving eight years.

Dr. Jacko was a lifelong member of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, Windsor. As a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 789, he served as vice president for more than 20 years. He also was a frequent guest host of the Slovak Radio Hour (99.1FM) for 19 years, and a strong supporter and promoter of Slovak functions, volunteering his services over the past 40 years.

An avid photographer, Michael and his camera were busy at every social event, Slovak and non-Slovak, and also while traveling extensively with his wife Mary after his retirement, visiting many historic landmarks in the US, Europe, the Holy Land, and Egypt. They had many trips to Slovakia to visit family and friends.

Visitation was held at the Windsor Chapel Funeral Home in Windsor, Ontario, on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. Anna Bagin offered a farewell on behalf of Branch 789, and the Slovak Radio Hour was in Slovak. Fr. Christopher Bordeaux and Cyril Bagin offered a Memorial Prayer Service that same evening at the funeral home. These acts were most appreciated by the family. The entire staff of Windsor Chapel offered guidance, support, and careful attention to detail and the family is most grateful.

The funeral Mass took place on October 17, 2013 at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church in Windsor. Fr. Christopher Bordeaux offered the Mass of Resurrection and Father Benjamin Kosnac of Sts Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, Sterling Hts, MI, concelebrated. The family expresses thanks to readers who recited Psalms and Scripture: Sara NamesPetra (granddaughter), Katarina Tkac (cousin). Thanks go out to the pallbearers, Andrew and Adam Names-Petra (grandsons), Brad and Mark Chyz (nephews), Pavol Tkac (cousin), Frank Varga, Jr. (godson) and to the organist-soloist Henrietta Cambala Hulay, the community of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, and the entire congregation for their participation during the Mass. Daughter Marcy delivered a eulogy of her father's legacy prior to the closing services.

Interment followed at St. Alphonsus Cemetery. Graveside prayers in English were offered by Fr. Chris. Fr. Kosnac offered Farewell prayers in Slovak.

Mary Jacko and her family also take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to their relatives and friends for all of the loving support and acts of kindness shown to them during their darkest days following the passing of a beloved husband, dear father, and proud dzedo. The beautiful floral tributes, mass offerings, memorial donations, sympathy cards, and gifts of food and pastries were very much appreciated. They thank the many people from near and far who paid their respects during the prayer service and visitation at Windsor Chapel. To everyone who came to Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church for the Mass of Resurrection,

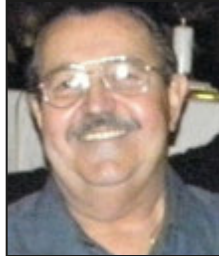
they again give thanks.

A memorial luncheon was prepared by and served at the Caboto Club of Windsor.

Michael G. Jacko was an honorable gentleman and scholar. He will be missed by all who knew him. Thanks, Mike, for the memories! Rest in peace!

- Submitted by Mary J. Jacko

### GEORGE J. KOW- ALSKI BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY



George J. Kowalski, 65 of Clark, formerly of Rahway and Bayonne died October 2, 2013.

George started his working career with his father in a family-owned wholesale hot dog delivery company, then worked for Exxon and later Infineum for over 40 years, primarily in the Linden Process department. His photography skills were used by Exxon and Infineum to produce several safety videos. George was an active member of Teamsters local 877.

George served as a Trustee and Chairman of the board for E53/Motion Credit Union for many years.

An avid baseball fan, George helped organize the Bayway Rockets and was manager as well as a player for over 20 years, leading them to 3 championships. He also managed the Linden Bulk softball team. George earned a baseball Umpire certification from the MOB school in the 1980's. He was a long time fan of the Cubs and Red Sox.

George earned dual degrees in Economics and Photography at Jersey City State College, with a minor in History. His hobbies included photography, sailing, backgammon and guitar. He was also a licensed pilot.

He was a member of the St. Joseph's of Metuchen High School Fathers Club.

Mr. Kowalski is survived by his two sons; Brad Mobus and his wife Maria of Morristown and Raymond F. Kowalski of Clark and his sister-in-law Sabina Kowalski. He was predeceased by his two brothers Raymond in 1962 and John in 2011. He will also be missed by his granddaughters Jacqueline and Jessica, and close friends Mary Cathrin and Frank Crowley, Jennifer Crowley, Kate and PT Trevino, Caroline and Christian Trevino and Johannes Hanselmann, as well as many co-workers and friends.

Relatives and friends called Sunday 2-5 and 7-9 pm and were invited to attend the funeral Monday, October 7, 2013, at 9:00am at the Pettit-Davis Funeral Home, Rahway. A Funeral Mass was held Monday, October 7, 2013 at St Mary's R.C. Church, Rahway, at 10:00am. Interment was at St Gertrude Cemetery.

### SISTER M. LEONTIA SPISAK, SCN

Sister M. Leontia Spisak, SCN, died peacefully Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013, at St. Louise Convent, Pittsburgh, PA, at the age of 99, and in the 82nd year of religious life. She entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity, Dec. 8, 1930, from St. Joseph Parish, Clairton, PA.

Sister received a Bachelor of Education from Duquesne University and a Master of Education in art from Notre Dame University. Sister Leontia taught for 53 years in the Dio-

ceses of Pittsburgh, PA, Greensburg, PA, and Youngstown, OH. She "retired" in 1994, yet continued to serve in various capacities. Sister maintained a keen interest in current events.

Sister Leontia was a gifted artist, especially in calligraphy and illuminated lettering. She said, "I always felt and believed that there is a mystical quality to art and tried to imitate the wonders of nature given by God, the greatest of all artists. Teaching art and art forms has been a real joy for me."

Sister was preceded in death by her par-

ents, Andrew and Mary (Saris) Spisak; sisters, Mary, Anna and Sister M. Edwin, VSC; and brothers, Andrew and Frank. She is survived by her sister, Margaret; brother, John; nieces and nephews; and by her Sisters in Community. Friends were received from 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, and from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013, at St. Louise Convent, Pittsburgh. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Louise Convent Chapel, followed by interment in the Sisters' cemetery on the convent grounds.

## Servant Leadership Award from Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville

**Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.**

On October 27, 2013, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 37 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg, PA, Scranton, PA and Pittsburgh, PA. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 11 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored nearly 675 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), and Syracuse (NY) with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

Receiving the award were: Nicole Albertson from Bloomsburg, Angela Bagnata from Bloomsburg, Jacqueline Beck from Mifflinburg, Elizabeth Bednar from Coal Township, Christa Beveridge from Northumberland, Michael Boris from Dallas, Shannon Buggy from Halifax, Johanna Burke from Danville, Emma Calveric from Sayre, Jennifer Carraway from Pittsburgh, Christian Correale from Harrisburg, Kiersten Davis from Lebanon, Adam Feudale from Elysburg, Sarah Finn from Danville, John Paul Gaspich III from Enola, Austin Hargraves from Bloomsburg, Samantha Hilenski from Hanover Township, Frederich Horn from Sayre, Shawnee Hostetter from Lebanon, Conner Inch from Creamer, Andrew Kappenhagen from Halifax, Matthew Lupold from Elysburg, Michael Maillet from Lebanon, Dakota Maneval from Northumberland, Carissa Mazeika from Bloomsburg, Alex Mrozek from Kulpmont, Matthew Murray from Reedsville, Christopher Overdorff from Hanover, Katherine Rhone from Hanover, Craig Rinaldi from Danville, Kyle Ryland from Lebanon, Rachel Spaulding from Dover, Christopher Stellar from Kulpmont, Donald Stephens from Shavertown, Colleen Troutman from Dornisife, Vanessa Valovage from Lykens, and Kyle Zimmerman from York.

Each teen was given the opportunity to honor one person as a mentor who has encouraged them to generously use their time and talents as a follower of Jesus. The mentors the teens selected were parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, scout leaders, Sisters and Priests, who have been role models for the teens. Mentors recognized by the teens have made a difference in their lives by modeling servant leadership as a way of life in their family, parish, and community.

At the ceremony, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, eldercare and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

The 2013 Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leadership Award went to:

Evangelization: Mr. Daniel Tanzone from Yonkers, NY was recognized for his 30+ years as Editor of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the newspaper for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Under his direction, the publication encourages active participation in parish life, supports religious communities of Slovak heritage, furthers charity and benevolence, and supports the Catholic Bishops in the Slovak Republic.

Education: Cyril Stretansky was recognized for the many years he has spent as professor of music and director of choral activities at Susquehanna University, and for his service as the artistic director and principal conductor of the International Music Festival in Italy where he conducted festival choirs at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Cathedral of Florence, St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, and the Cathedral of Milan. Closer to home, on several occasions he brought the Susquehanna University Choir and the Susquehanna Valley Chorale to the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville.

Eldercare: Attorney Cynthia Maleski from Natrona Heights, PA, was recognized for her work in Elder Law, and her service as Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary under the late Gov. Robert P. Casey, where she was unanimously confirmed by the State Senate. She has served as officer for many national organizations and foundations promoting service and leadership, and is currently on the Pennsylvania Board of Governors for the Saint Thomas More Society. A practicing attorney for 30 years, Cynthia is a nationally known expert in health and elder law.

Ecumenism: Mrs. Elizabeth Yurechko from Crown Point, IN, was recognized for her 32 years of service to students at Andrean High School in Merrillville IN, and for her involvement in the creation of the Midwest Slovak Cultural Society's Annual Slovak Day in 1973 and her 40 years of service in annually organizing this festival of faith, heritage and culture. Indiana State Representative Peter J. Visclosky in the Indiana House of Representatives, in an official statement recognizing the festival organizers, noted that the festival has played an important role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana.

The ceremony ended with a reception at Maria Hall.

## Visiting Sisters From Eastern Europe at SS Cyril & Methodius in Danville, PA



Two Sisters from Eastern Europe have joined the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA for one year of shared ministry. Sister Jana Maria Polakova, SCM, from Turzovka, Slovak Republic; and Sister Edita Lenka Navratilova, SCM from Brno, Czech Republic will live and minister with the Sisters in Danville during the 2013-2014 school year. The visit is part of a number of activities sponsored by the Danville Sisters marking the 1150th anniversary of the brothers, Saints Cyril and Methodius coming to Eastern Europe to evangelize.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.



## Branch 633 Enjoys Fraternal Event



( R- L) Newly elected Branch 633 President Robert Kristofik, newly elected Vice President Rod Meloni, with branch members Karen and Leslie Anne Meloni cheer loudly at the annual fraternal event, a basketball game, annual fraternal event, a basketball game on Friday evening, Nov 22, 2013, but the Pistons came up short against the Atlanta Hawks 96-89. Still a great time was had by all.



## Scenes from 2013 Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar in Chicago

The 2013 Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, sponsored by the Chicago chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation, took place on the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15, at St. Simon the Apostle Slovak Catholic Parish on Chicago's south side. To celebrate the 1,150th anniversary of the evangelization of the Slovak people by Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Slovak-born Bishop Milan Sasik, C.M., was flown to Chicago to say Mass in Slovak. Bishop Sasik is the Eparch of the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo, Ukraine.

After the Roman Catholic Mass, attendees enjoyed a delicious catered dinner in the church hall. Attendees then listened to a talk about New Discoveries from Ancient Slovakia, given by Fr. Kristian Libant, C.M., a Slovak Vincentian priest who resides in Chicago and ministers to its large community of Slovak immigrants. Fr. Kristian's talk was simultaneously translated into English by Matus Bohacik, a seminarian from Slovakia who is studying to be ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The 2013 Pastoral Seminar attracted 166 people, including 17 children, the most ever. The bilingual presentation attracted both American Slovaks and more recent immigrants from our ancestral homeland.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary.

**COME JOIN US  
AT THE  
FIFTH ANNUAL  
CZECH & SLOVAK DAYS  
A WEEKEND OF CULTURAL IMMERSION**



**Friday, Saturday & Sunday, January 17, 18 & 19, 2014**

The American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club, in concert with the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (Florida Chapter) & First Catholic Slovak Union (Branch 888 – West Palm Beach, Florida), present **Czech & Slovak Days**, a weekend of Czech and Slovak cultural and traditional events.

For Additional Information:  
American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club  
13325 Arch Creek Road, North Miami, Florida 33181  
(305) 891-1930 acscc.org  
or  
David Rafaidus, President  
First Catholic Slovak Union - Branch 888  
(561) 776-0449  
Jednota888@yahoo.com

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

R	E	A	M	S		R	A	M	P	S		T	A	P
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# Seasonal Items for Sale by the Slovak Institute

Dear Friends!

The Slovak Institute has the following books available:

**Just some books in ENGLISH about Slovaks**

- Let's Learn Slovak (Limited supply)** \$ 5.00  
By Philip A. Hrobak - 4th edition 1990
- Slovak Songs and Dances** \$ 7.00  
Michael Sinchak, Original edition 1942
- Slovaks in Florida** \$10.00  
As researched and written by Andrew F. Hudak, Jr.
- Humble Beginnings** \$15.00  
Slovak upbringing in Grassflat, PA, by Anne Lucas Ryba
- Remembrances and Testimony** \$18.00  
Dr. Jozef Tiso and the Slovak Republic 1939 - 1945  
By Dr. Charles (Karol) Murin, Secretary for Tiso
- Cleveland Slovaks** \$22.00  
by John T Sabol & Lisa Alzo, described vintage photos
- History of the Slovaks in Cleveland & Lakewood** \$24.00  
Jan Pankuch's forty years in America  
translation of his 1929 book.
- The Night of the Barbarians** \$28.00  
Experiences under Communism, written by Cardinal  
Jan Chryzostom Korec, S.J.
- Cleveland's Buckeye Neighborhood** \$22.00  
Collection of early ethnic photos with captions,  
by John T. Sabol

**PRIATELIA!**

**Odporúčame knihy v Slovenčine.**

- Sv. Andrej-Svorad** \$ 7.00  
In 1952 by Fr. Mikuláš Šprinc
- Slovenské Rehole v Amerike** \$10.00  
In 1955 by Dr. František Hrušovský
- V Kráľoch Dediny** \$10.00  
In 1968 by Jozef A. Mikuš
- Slovenská Republika (SR) 1939-1949** \$20.00  
Written by Slovak Institute Member Writers, 1949
- Driftwood Poems** by Mikulas Sprinc \$12.00  
Translated to English from Slovak
- Various Slovakia Landspaces** \$15.00  
Large used picture books of Slovensko,  
or regions or cities of high interest.  
By your choice?

**Seasonal Items**

- Large Map of Slovakia (black & white) \$10.00
- SLOVAK Christmas Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- SLOVAK Christmas Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- ENGLISH Christmas Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- ENGLISH Christmas Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- Christmas Oplátky (1 env of 3 pcs) \$1.00
- SLOVAK Easter Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- SLOVAK Easter Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- ENGLISH Easter Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- ENGLISH Easter Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- Flag of Slovak Republic - Small (4"x5.5") \$4.00
- Flag of Slovak Republic - Large (3'x5') \$20.00



**SLOVAK INSTITUTE**  
Reference Library  
10510 Buckeye Road  
Cleveland, OH 44104  
www.slovakinstitute.com  
(216) 721-5300 ext. 294



**ORDER FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

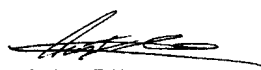
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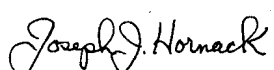
Payment Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling: + \$4.00

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*We thank you for your support of the Slovak Institute.*

  
Andrew F. Hudak  
Director

  
Joseph J. Hornack  
Assistant Director

slovakinstitute@cbhs.net

## Dec 14th Slovak Vilija at Prince of Peace Parish Center on Pittsburgh's South Side



As the first star rises in the evening sky on Saturday, December 14, 2013, parishioners, friends and guests will gather at the Prince of Peace Parish Center in Pittsburgh's South Side to commemorate the beloved traditions and customs of a traditional Christmas Eve dinner. This year marks the

20th annual celebration of the Slovak Vilija at Prince of Peace Parish. Also known as Stredny Vecer – Bountiful Evening – this traditional meatless meal is enjoyed by Slovaks around the world on Christmas Eve. Scrumptious authentic Slovak delicacies – baked fish, homemade pirohy, mushroom soup, bobalky, nut and poppy seed rolls and palačinky—will be prepared and served by members of the Parish Cultural Diversity Committee.

The Pittsburgh Slovaks – the Tri-State area's oldest performing Slovak ensemble -- will present a unique collection of folk songs, dances and carols highlighting the customs of the Advent and Christmas seasons in the Slovak villages of our grandparents. The program will culminate with the well-loved "Jasličkare" -- the re-telling of Christ's birth by poor shepherds.

Whether you commemorate your own stredny vecer, or share the priceless customs of other nationalities, you are invited to join the Prince of Peace Parish family on Saturday, December 14, 2013, for the 20th Annual Slovak Vilija. Admission is only \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. (Children under 3 are free.) Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more adults. To make reservations, please call the Prince of Peace Parish office at 412-481-8380. Seating is limited and early reservations are suggested.

Doors open at 4 p.m. Dinner will be served as the first star rises (approximately 5 p.m.). The Prince of Peace Parish Center is fully handicap-accessible and parking is available on site.

### Address Changes?

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, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: info@fcsu.com



Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)  
A great source for the latest information about our Society - and events in the greater Slovak community.

# Treasure Tours Offers Two Trips to Slovakia Next Summer

For 24 years Treasure Tours have had a great time exploring our ancestral homelands, exploring the beauty of Slovakia's traditions and culture as well as other nearby countries. Almost two thousand people (from 48 states in the US and 16 countries) have joined us and become part of our "family." Last summer's Treasures of Slovakia travelers enjoyed Detva Folk Festival, Kezmarok crafts fair, tourist highlights and heart-warming visits to villages to enjoy the music, dance, customs and song as well as super Slovak food.

Surprises occurred along the way like one traveler, Louise Segursky, who admired an icon in Bardejov's superb icon museum and found it was from a wooden church in her ancestral village of Mikulasovce.

Dan Srnec and his wife Jane had a ball meeting family in Skalica and best of all feasting on the local specialty "zazvorniky."

Barbara Marr's family now living in Kosice gifted her with a complete made-to-order folk dress from Kosicke Bela.

In Velka Frankova, a three generation family was waiting to greet Rosemary Markoff pictured hugging this sweet grandma who remembered her grandfather's funeral when she was only six years old – this was the precious link to Rosemary's family.

Last summer's 5 countries tour included nine members of a family with roots in Moravske Lieskove. Three generations greeted them as family mysteries were solved. Off to the church, cemetery, village museum, the original family homestead and the krma -the local pub!

A three-generation family on their second trip with us found long-lost relatives in Roskovany, eastern Slovakia!

A highlight was a stay in Zdiar in the Belianske Tatras and a folk party with rousing music, song and dance.

Treasures Tours is offering two trips next summer that visit Slovakia continuing our strategy of immersing in the culture and finding long-lost family for our travelers; we are proud of our 98% success rate!

2014 Treasures Tours offerings include the beloved Treasures of Slovakia trip which traverses the country from east to west and north to south and immerses in the culture. This tour, scheduled from July 11 – 20, 2014, includes trips to Bratislava old town, Modra ceramics, Detva Folk Festival, Kezmarok Crafts Fest; two walled towns - Levoca & Bardejov, Presov, Spis Castle, staying in a castle overlooking Kosice, charming Cicmany ... and more.

Go to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) and click on the Slovakia & The World Tab to view and download tour details, such as how to order a daily itinerary, trip costs and other details.



**Jane and Dan Srnec feast on zazvorniky and strudel with their new found relative in Skalica.**

**Rosemary Markoff hugs her new found family in Velka Frankova - 3 generations greeted her.**



**2013 Treasure Tour travelers got to see this sculptor at work at Kezmarok Crafts Festival**

## Aj zvony hovoria...

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Najväčším miestom, kde pravdepodobne žili, je obec Iže pri Komárne, ale archeológmi potvrdený život kresťanov bol vo viacerých miestach južného Slovenska v 4. storočí. Dnes, keď na Slovensku je 84% obyvateľov veriacich a kresťanská viera je zaznamenaná aj v preambule ústavy SR v duchu cyrilo-metodského duchovného dedičstva a historického odkazu Veľkej Moravy, chceme upriamiť Vašu pozornosť na to, čo s kresťanstvom, ale aj s bežným životom prostých občanov a spoločenstva neodmysliteľne súvisí. V súčasnej dobe veže kostolov nie sú postavené oddelene. Tvoria ich neodmysliteľnú súčasť. V každej z nich sú zvony. Tie majú svoj rodný list, svojho výrobcu, svoju púť. Zvon je symbol pokoja a mieru. Zvona víta, oznamuje, zvoláva, varuje i odprezdáva. Jeho hlahol nás sprevádza od kolísky až po hrob.

Prvé zvony boli zhotovené z niekoľkých kovových dosiek, neskoršie boli kované z plechu. Liate zvony sa začali vyrábať približne koncom 13. storočia a ich rozmach zaznamenávame až do konca 15. storočia. Najstarší liaty zvon sa spomína v roku 1057. Na Slovensku sa hlahol zvonov šíri deväť storočí. Písomne doložená zmienka zvonárov po roku 1124 sa nachádza v kláštore Bzovík (oblasť Hontu). S potrebou výroby zvonov sa vyvíjalo remeslo, ktoré sa zaoberalo výrobou zvonov – zvonolejárstvo.

Prvý majster zvonolejár na Slovensku pochádzal zo Spišskej Novej Vsi a volal sa Konrád Gaal. Postupne sa zvonolejárstvo rozširovalo.

Okolo roku 1828 bolo známe aj v Bratislave, Trnave, Banskej Bystrici, Prešove a Košiciach. Najvýznamnejšia slovenská osobnosť v tejto oblasti mimo Slovenska bol Jozef Pozdech (1811 – 1878 Pešť), ktorý sa narodil v Hrnčiarovciach pri Trnave. Za túto prácu bol viackrát ocenený.

Na svetovej výstave v r. 1873 vo Viedni získal zlatý kríž s korunou a medailou za pokrok. Najznámejšou dominantou v Európe, v Slovákmi obývanej Bekéšskej Čabe v Maďarsku, je evanjelický kostol. Oproti veľkému kostolu stojí na mieste bývalého prvého kostola z r. 1723 (po príchode prvých Slovákov (1918) zakladateľov mesta) terajší malý kostol z roku 1745. Neskôr k nemu pristavili aj vežu, ktorá ma barokovú pavlač, na ktorú sa vychádza z miestnosti, kde sa v minulosti zdržiavali službukonajúci hlásnici – zvonári. Z terajších troch zvonov je najznámejší Marikov zvon, ktorý daroval Pavel Marik v r. 1873 a je najväčším evanjelickým zvonom v celom Maďarsku. Zvony sa nepoužívali iba na náboženské účely, ohlasovali požiare, povodne, príchod významných hostí, vpád nepriateľských vojsk a ešte v nedávnych desaťročiach sa im pripisovala nadprirodzená sila proti búrkam a víchriciam. Inšpirujúcim prvkom, prečo chceme upriamiť vašu pozornosť na zvony, boli dve skutočnosti. Po prvé s projektom zverejňovať históriu zvonov formou scénických programov som sa stretol v Turčianskom kultúrnom stredisku v Martine. Jeho riaditeľka Zuzana Kmeťová na podnet veľkého nadšenca a bádateľa histórie, amatérskeho kampanológa, Františka Záborského, ktorý mimo iného prispel svojim dielom aj pri zariadení múzea Jonáša Záborského v Zábore, prišla s myšlienkou upovedomiť na zvony Turca.

Plne si uvedomujem tú skutočnosť, že to boli práve zvony, ktoré v časoch biedy, chudoby a utrpenia vypravádzali Slovákov do ďalekej cudziny. Srdcia krajanov v cudzine ešte dlho počuli ten smutný hlahol lúčenia. Práve preto naši krajanovia z Oravy, Kysúc, z východu či západu Slovenska na to nezabudli. Veď kresťanská viera mala svoje hlboké korene aj v čase sťahovania Slovákov na Dolnú zem od konca 17. storočia. Bolo to aj v čase vysťahovalectva do zámoria, najmä do spojených štátov amerických, v 80. rokoch 19. storočia. Začiatku, počas I. svetovej vojny, ale aj v čase ďalších emigračných vln pred a po II. svetovej vojne a v roku 1968. Práve tam, v cudzom svete krajanovia cítili potrebu nielen zakladať spolky, ktoré mali zvyčajne kresťanský charakter, ale zaslúžili sa aj o to, aby ďaleko od svojej vlasti cítili slobodu vyznania kresťanskej viery. O duchovný život našich krajanov v zahraničí sa staralo mnoho významných kňazov a slovenských farností, ktoré približovali Slovensko v emigrácii a posilňovali vieru a nádej do budúcnosti.

Boli to významné osobnosti, každá z nich by si zaslúžila svoju pozornosť. No toto nie je našou hlavnou témou. Predsa však chceme spomenúť meno jedného významného a uznávaného človeka. Človeka, ktorý výraznou mierou zjednocoval slovenské spolky v zámorí, ale zároveň svojou neoblomnou vierou v Boha sa stal obdivovaným v širšom kresťanskom svete.

Štefan B. Roman bol zakladateľom a prvým predsedom Svetového kongresu Slovákov (1970). Aktívne sa zapájal do rôznych podujatí „za Boha a národ“. Svojou životnou filozofiou dospel k názoru, že človek musí byť slobodný, aby mohol byť zodpovedný. Sloboda bez zodpovednosti totiž vedie k anarchii, a tým aj k životnému krachu. Ale aj zodpovednosť bez slobody sa protíví prirodzenému poriadku, vedie k otroctvu a pasivite. Dejiny nás budú súdiť nielen podľa toho, čo sme vykonali, ale aj podľa toho, a čo sme vykonať mohli.

Daniel Zemančík

(Pokračovanie v budúcom čísle)



## Okázalé oslavy v Sterling Heights, Michigan

Pokračovanie zo str. 22

Dôvodom, že sa povýšenie slovienčiny udialo práve v mariánskej bazilike, bol zrejme fakt, že kult Panny Márie zohrával pre Slovanov dôležitú úlohu už od prvopočiatku kresťanstva. Mnoho z prvých chrámov na Veľkej Morave bolo zasvätených práve Panne Márii. Veľká úcta K Panne Márii pretrvala aj existenciu Veľkej Moravy a bola taká silná, že Štefan I. zaslúžil vznikajúce Uhorské kráľovstvo pod jej patronát, aby sa na celé ďalšie tisícročie obyvateľstvo utiekalo pod jej ochranu v ťažkých chvíľach. Symbolicky sa tak zrod kultúra národa Slovanov, ktorý „sa volá Božím menom“ udial v lone Panny Márie, kde sa Slovo stalo Telom.

Cestou späť v Panónii Frankovia zajali, odsúdili a uvrhli Metoda do väzenia na takmer tri roky. Až nový pápež Ján VIII. sa na Svätoplukovu žiadosť obrátil na Bavorských biskupov a dôrazne si vyžiadal Metodove prepustenie. Tak sa Metod mohol ujať správy cirkvi na Veľkej Morave v roku 873. V roku 885 prichádza k potupnému vyhnaniu Metodových žiakov, ktorí sa usadili v Čechách, Vislanku, Chorvátsku a hlavne v Bulharsku.

Význam pôsobenia solúnskych bratov na území Veľkej Moravy môžeme opísať ako trojzrnmerný, navzájom sa prelínajúci. Najväčší význam spočíval v ich náboženskom pôsobení. Šírením kresťanstva sa šírilo aj písmo, kultúra, právo a nevyhnutne aj upevňovanie moci panovníkov – hlavne Svätopluka. Z literárneho pohľadu misia dala zrod množstvu preložených kníh a neskôr aj originálov. Spomedzi učeníkov solúnskych bratov bolo päť vedúcich osobností: Gorazd, Kliment, Naum, Sáva a Angelar.

Svätí Cyril a Metod patria medzi najväčších a najplyvnejších misionárov, pretože ich činnosť zasiahla celú strednú a východnú Európu. Pápež Ján Pavol II. ich dňa 31. decembra 1980 vyhlásil so sv. Benediktom za spolupatrnov Európy. Solúnski bratia nám odovzdali niečo, čo nemalo v tej dobe a nikdy potom obdobu, bol to základ dedičstva našich otcov – výnimočnosť ich duchovna, kultúry a národného povedomia. Stalo sa tak pred 1150 rokmi. Životaschopné semienko viery a národného povedomia sa za vyše tisíc rokov rozrástlo a rozkošatilo v ten nádherný a slobodný strom žijúci v tom krásnom malom raji na zemi, na Slovensku. Preto prosíme Boha s úctou a pokorou: „Pane, zachovaj nám dedičstvo našich otcov“. (Mierne krátené.)

Jozef Kováč

## Modlitba k sv. Jozefovi za rodinu

Svätý Jozef, buď nám otcom v srdci svojom vždy milostnom, daj miestečko prosbám našim ochraňuj nás časom každým, vypros milosť domu nášmu stálu svornosť v dobu každú, by sme v láske a pokoji Bohu vždycky verní boli, by nás tu vždy čnosť zdobila k nebu viedla každá chvíľa, to je dnes tu prosba naša čo sa k tebe vrúčne vznáša.

Medzi nami tu ostávajú vtedy bude vždy u nás raj. Kľúče domu k tebe dáme stoj pri nášho domu bráne, ochraňuj vždy starostlivo, čo by duši poškodilo, skrývaj našich milých i nás v srdci Pána po každý čas, nech žijeme v kraji zemskom jak ty v dome Nazaretskom, by sme ťa večne chválili a s tebou v nebi prebývali.

## Prešovský emeritný gréckokatolícky biskup Ján Hirka 90-ročný

Emeritný prešovský biskup Gréckokatolíckej cirkvi Mons. Ján Hirka sa 16. novembra 2013 dožil vzácneho jubilea - 90 rokov. Mons. Ján Hirka sa narodil 16. novembra 1923 v Abranovciach. Od útleho detstva ho v rodine viedli k modlitbám a kresťanskému životu. Po skončení základnej školy sa vzdelával v Gréckokatolíckom ruskom gymnáziu v Prešove, ktoré založil blahoslavený biskup Pavol Peter Gojdič. Medzi študentom Hirkom a biskupom Gojdičom, ktorý spomínané gymnázium často navštevoval, sa vytvorila vzájomná dôvera, ktorá pretrvávala aj v kňazskom seminári, keď ho poslal dokončiť štúdium teológie na Karlovu univerzitu do Prahy a zároveň mu zveril na starosť ďalších deviatich bohoslovcov. Tam sa bohoslovec Hirka prvýkrát stretol s brutalitou totalitného režimu, ktorý 15. júna 1949, na sviatok Božieho tela zmaril slávnosť v Katedrále sv. Víta a arcibiskupa Berana internovali v domácom väzení. Štátna moc zasiahla aj pri kňazskej vysviacke Jána Hirku 31. júla 1949, keď na poslednú chvíľu zakázala jej konanie v prešovskej katedrále. Blahoslavený biskup Vasil' Hopko však napriek tomu udelil sviatosť kňazstva Jánovi Hirkovi i jeho spolubratovi Jozefovi Kellövi v seminárnej kaplnke.

Novokňaz Hirka sa po primíciách v rodných Abranovciach okrem kaplána stal ako koncipista na biskupskom úrade blízky spolupracovníkom biskupa Gojdiča. Našiel v ňom príklad, ako treba i v ťažkých časoch slúžiť veriacim. Z toho vyplývala aj jeho tajná pastorácia po tom, ako bola Gréckokatolícka cirkev postavená mimo zákon v roku 1950. Bol prenasledovaný, vyšetrovaný a väznený, obvinili ho zo zaujatosti voči vtedajšiemu štátnemu zriadeniu a tiež proti pravoslávii. Nezlomili ho však ani vyšetovania, väzenia ani dlhý pobyt na samotkách či ťažká a nebezpečná práca v bani.

V roku 1968 po znovuzrození Gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sa Ján Hirka na základe rozhodnutia pápeža Pavla VI. stal ordinárom s právami prešovského sídelného biskupa. Musel však čeliť mnohým problémom, lebo Gréckokatolícka cirkev bola síce povolená, ale bez navrátenia chrámov do vlastníctva tejto cirkvi. V období normalizácie po okupácii v auguste 1968 chýbali kňazi na pokrytie pastorácie. S veľkým vypätím síl slúžil veriacim spolu s ďalšími duchovnými. Napriek chatrnému zdraviu mu pomáhal biskup Vasil' Hopko až do svojho odchodu do večnosti. Ani po smrti biskupa Hopka štátna moc nedovolila Hirkovi biskupskú vysviacku, ani zriadenie bohosloveckej fakulty a kňazského seminára.

Až po veľkých zmenách v Novembri 1989, už 21. decembra 1989, pápež Ján Pavol II. vymenoval Mons. Jána Hirku za prešovského sídelného biskupa. Jeho biskupská vysviacka 17. februára 1990 sa konala v preplnenej mestskej športovej hale v Prešove za prítomnosti veľkého počtu cirkevných predstaviteľov z celého sveta. Za pomoci verných spolupracovníkov sa biskupovi Hirkovi ešte v roku 1990 podarilo obnoviť vyučovanie na bohosloveckej fakulte a tak zabezpečiť čo najskoršie doplnenie chýbajúcich kňazov pre službu vo farnostiach. Absolvoval veľa pracovných ciest, aby získal darcov na financovanie opráv cirkevných objektov nielen v Prešove, ale vo všetkých farnostiach.

TK KBS

**Slovenskí hokejisti budú počas zimnej olympiády v Soči hrať v nových dresoch, ktoré zdobia slová štátnej hymny. Kolekciu predstavili v utorok 5. novembra 2013 krátko pred zrazom národného tímu pred Nemeckým pohárom. Na nových dresoch dominujú symboly Slovenska. Okrem slov hymny samozrejme nechýba ani štátny znak a slovenská trikolóra. Reprezentanti dostali bielu a modrú verziu. Na snímke nové dresy slovenskej hokejovej reprezentácie, v ktorých budú hrať hokejisti na zimnej olympiáde v Soči.**

**New uniforms to be worn by the Slovak Hockey Team at the 2014 Winter Olympics were shown recently. On the uniforms are written the words of the Slovak national anthem.**



FOTO TASR - Michal Svitok

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Vianočné podujatia pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City si vás dovoľuje srdečne pozvať na:

**Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou**, ktorá bude v nedeľu dňa 8. decembra 2013 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia. Vstupné je voľné, občerstvenie bude zabezpečené.

**Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília**, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 15. decembra 2013 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia. Vstupné je 20.00 dolárov, v čom je započítaná Štedrá večera.

Bližšie informácie podajú: Farský úrad Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, otec Štefan Chanas tel. číslo: (212) 734-4613; Henrieta H. Daitová: (201) 641-8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612-1934.

**Henrieta H. Daitová**  
kultúrna referentka Farskej rady

### Jankolova knižnica ponúka vianočné oplátky

Jankolova knižnica v Danville, PA ponúka vianočné oplátky, ktoré sú na predaj od 21. októbra do 18. decembra. Cena je \$4:00 za balík (päť oplátok) plus poštovné (\$5.75 je minimum, za väčšie objednávky je poštovné vyššie). Objednávky so šekom vystaveným na Jankola Library odošlite na adresu: Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. **Bližšie informácie a objednávky: Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M., tel. č. (570) 275-5606.**

## Záujemcovia o slovenčinu v USA sa ju budú môcť učiť pomocou online kurzu

V USA vznikne Centrum slovenského jazyka. Šéf rezortu školstva Dušan Čaplovič (Smer-SD) nedávno podpísal Memorandum o spolupráci medzi Ministerstvom školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR a California University of Pennsylvania o činnosti tohto centra. Informuje o tom oficiálny web ministerstva školstva.

Centrum slovenského jazyka v Spojených štátoch amerických bude podľa memoranda rozvíjať a propagovať jazykové vzdelávanie orientované na študenta a poznatky, ktoré reálne potrebuje. Cieľom dokumentu je online program výučby slovenčiny. Určený je najmä pre firmy a organizácie s obchodnými kontaktmi na Slovensku, ako napríklad US Steel, individuálnych záujemcov o slovenčinu, záujemcov o univerzitné štúdium slovenského jazyka, ale aj organizácie v západnej Pensylvánii, vo východnom Ohii a v západnej Virgínii. Podľa ministerstva školstva žije v USA 1.2 milióna ľudí, ktorí sa hlásia k slovenskej národnosti. Väčšina z nich býva práve v štátoch Pensylvánia a Ohio, menšia skupina aj v New Jersey.

Online program výučby slovenčiny je založený na obsahu, ktorý vytvorilo pedagogické a vedecké pracovisko Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS) - centrum pre slovenčinu ako cudzí jazyk na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave. Kompletný program obsahuje kurz, ktorý využíva kombináciu technológie Learning Management System, virtuálnych tried a mobilných zariadení ako tablety či smartfóny. Kurzy slovenčiny budú umiestnené na serveroch na Slovensku a bude ich spravovať kvalifikovaný personál. Online výučbu bude zabezpečovať SAS.

Hlavným partnerom projektu v USA je California University of Pennsylvania, ktorá zabezpečí marketing, propagáciu a umiestňovanie potenciálnych študentov do kurzov projektu Centra pre slovenčinu. Memorandum nedávno podpísali v rámci trojdňovej medzinárodnej konferencie Slovenčina vo svete – súčasný stav a perspektívy.

TASR

## V Ríme ďakovali za 50 rokov existencie Slovenského ústavu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Prefekt Kongregácie pre kléry, arcibiskup Beniamino Stella, ktorý celebroidal ďakovnú omšu, v homílii vyzdvihol, že Ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme bol postavený vďaka zbožnosti a obetiam veľkého množstva slovenských veriacich žijúcich po celom svete. „Súčasťou dejín tohto kolégia sú tiež životy kňazov a biskupov, ktorí pracovali v tichu a v obete, neraz však aj v utrpení a ponížení: pracovali inšpirovaní Bohom a evanjeliom,“ uviedol. Súčasne vyjadril presvedčenie, že je dôležité pripomínať si históriu Slovenského ústavu, pretože je obrazom kresťanského života a kresťanskej svätosti, v centre ktorej majú svoje podstatné miesto kríž a obeta.

Bratislavský arcibiskup-metropolita Stanislav Zvolenský prečítal pri tejto príležitosti pozdravný list, ktorý v mene pápeža Františka zaslal účastníkom osláv okrúhleho výročia vatikánsky štátny sekretár Pietro Parolin. Najvyšší predstaviteľ katolíckej cirkvi vyjadril v ňom želanie, aby Pápežský slovenský ústav „pokračoval vo vzácnom diele pre dobro a rast cirkevného spoločenstva, ale aj občianskej spoločnosti“. A všetkým prítomným poslal svoje požehnanie, ktoré s radosťou rozšíril na celý slovenský národ, informovala Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska.

TASR

## Okázalé oslavy v Sterling Heights, Michigan

k 1150. výročiu príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu

Dňa 3. novembra 2013 sa v kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Sterling Heights, Michigan, uskutočnila veľmi milá oslava k ukončeniu jubilejného roku „Príchodu vierozvestcov Sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Slovensko“.

Na oslavách 1150. výročia príchodu Sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Slovensko pod záštitou Slovenského kostola Sv. Cyrila a Metoda, Slovenskej Ligy a Slovenskej Katolíckej Jednoty vystúpili speváci nášho slovenského speváckeho zboru (Starosloviensky Otčenáš), manželia Geletkovci s Margarétou Prusákovou v sprievode p. Kosnáčovvej –klavír (Staroslovienská modlitba), folklórny súbor Šarišan a Junior Šarišan, na husliach nám zahrlo duo Jozef Geletka + Joseph Kováč a 4-ročná Alison Doka, báseň predniesla Vierka Grisáková a prejav k histórii prečítal Jozef Kováč. Celú oslavu viedli a organizovali Ružena Kováčová a Peter Doka. O výborné občerstvenie sa postarala rodina Štefana Sobolicha a farníci nášho kostola.

**Z prejavu osláv 1150. výročia príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu dňa 3. novembra 2013 v Detroit, v kostole Sv. Cyrila a Metoda.**

**Misia solúnskych bratov na Veľkej Morave**

V prvých desaťročiach sa skončil proces zjednocovania príbuzných slovanských kmeňov na tomto území. Nad kmeňmi bývajúcimi na pravom brehu rieky Morava panoval začiatkom 9. storočia knieža Mojmir. Nad slovenskými kmeňmi usadenými v kotline rieky Nitry vládol knieža Pribina. Medzi Moravským a Nitrianskym kniežatstvom pretrvávali spory, ktoré vyvrcholili v roku 833 obsadením Nitrianskeho kniežatstva a vyhnaním Pribinu. Knieža Pribina sa po vyhnaní usadil na Blatenskom jazere, kde mu v roku 850 salzburský arcibiskup Liupram vysvätil v Blatnohrade chrám zasvätený Panne Márii.

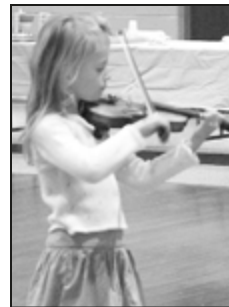
V roku 843 sa rozdelila Franská Ríša na 3 časti a panovníkom Východofranskej ríše sa stáva Ľudovít Nemec, ktorý v roku 846 vtrhol na Veľkú Moravu a zosadil knieža Mojmira I. a nahradil ho jeho synovcom Rastislavom I. Rastislav I. mal snahu šíriť kresťanstvo a vybudovať samostatnú cirkevnú správu nezávislú od bavorského episkopátu. Uvedomoval si, že so samostatnou cirkevnou provinciou by sa upevnila vzrastajúca moc a vplyv kniežatstva Veľkej Moravy. O šírenie kresťanstva sa na našom území už v minulosti pokúšali írsko-škótski misionári usadení v Bavorsku od roku 600. Objavili sa aj misionári z Dalmácie (Chorvátska) a Talie, ale výraznejšie úspechy zaznamenali až franskí misionári. S nimi však prenikal aj vplyv Franskej ríše.

V roku 862 Slovenské knieža Rastislav dostanúc od Boha vnuknutie zvolal poradu so svojimi kniežatami. Počujúc, čo vykonal Konštantín Filozof v krajine chazarov, vyslal posolstvo k Byzantskému cisárovi Michalovi III., hovoriac: „Náš ľud pohanstvo odvrhol a kresťanského zákona sa drží, nemáme však učiteľa takého, ktorý by nám v našej reči pravú kresťanskú vieru vysvetlil, aby aj iné krajiny, vidiac to, nás napodobnili. Pošli nám preto, Vladyka, biskupa a učiteľa takého.“

Na to cisár Michal povolal k kláštora Cyrila a Metoda, ktorí sa ihneď začali pripravovať na ich misiu u Slovanov. Vytvorili hlaholiku, ktorá vyhovovala slovenskej reči. Hlaholika mala 38 znakov a jej písmená boli vytvorené z troch kresťanských symbolov – kríža, trojuholníka a kruhu. Prvým písmenom abecedy bol kríž – písmeno „A“. Prvá veta napísaná v hlaholike boli slová evanjelia podľa Jána: „Na počiatku bolo Slovo a Slovo bolo u Boha a to Slovo bol Boh.“

Bratia Konštantín a Metod sa vydali na Veľkú Moravu v polovici roka 863 a po prekročení Dunaja sa ocitli na Devínskom alebo Bratislavskom hrade. Knieža Rastislav a aj ostatní obyvatelia im vyšli v ústrety a prijali ich s veľkou úctou. Podľa tradície to bolo 5. júla 863. Pri Rastislavom kniežacom dvore založili Slovienske cirkevné učilište. Škola mala dve oddelenia. V jednom sa žiaci učili písať a čítať v ich vlastnej reči (používali starosloviensky jazyk a písmo hlaholiku), v druhom sa žiaci, ktorí mali kňazské povolanie, pripravovali na kňazstvo. Hlavnými vyučovacími predmetmi boli starosloviensky jazyk, slovienske písmo, liturgia a bohoveda. Keďže vyučovanie vyžadovalo množstvo kníh, z ktorých by sa mohli žiaci učiť, solúnski bratia postupne preložili do slovenčiny všetky nevyhnutné biblické, liturgické a obradné texty. V roku 867 sa Konštantín a Metod spolu so žiakmi a preloženými knihami vybrali na cestu za Pápežom. Pápež po preskúmaní prinesených prekladov bohoslužobných kníh, uznal ich dielo a starosloviensčina sa stala štvrtým liturgickým jazykom. Stalo sa tak v roku 868 v najväčšej mariánskej bazilike Ríma, Santa Maria Maggiore (P. Márie Snežnej) a v ďalších štyroch kostoloch slávnostne odsľúžili omše v staroslovienskom jazyku. 14. februára v roku 869 v Ríme zomrel Konštantín. Predtým vstúpil do kláštora a prijal meno Cyril.

Pokračovanie na str. 21



4-ročná Alison Doka sa predstavila hrou na husliach.



Počas vystúpenia Jozef Geletka a Joseph Kováč.



Vierka Grisáková prednáša báseň.



Program osláv uvádzali Ružena Kováčová a Peter Doka.



Oslavu spestrilo vystúpenie tanečného súboru Junior Šarišan.



Na snímke Jozef Kováč počas svojho prejavu.

## Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Najkrajším** slovenským mestom roku 2013 je Púchov. Vyplýva to z výsledkov ankety celoslovenského informačného portálu Slovakregion. V súťaži o najkrajšie mesto zvíťazil Púchov v konkurencii 140 slovenských miest so ziskom 37.212 hlasov pred Bardejovom (36.825 hlasov) a Turčianskymi Teplicami (19.650 hlasov). Z Trenčianskeho samosprávneho kraja (TSK) sa do elitnej desiatky dostali ešte Bojnice (5. miesto – 16.985 hlasov), Prievidza (7. miesto – 13.089 hlasov) a Trenčín (9. miesto – 11.192 hlasov). Z ďalších miest TSK skončila Handlová na 15. priečke, Trenčianske Teplice na 18. mieste. V kategórii Najkrajšia obec získali v internetovom hlasovaní najviac bodov Komjatice v okrese Nové Zámky (28.806 hlasov) pred Banskou Belou v okrese Banská Štiavnica (21.456 hlasov) a Rokytovom v Bardejovskom okrese (17.165 hlasov). V konkurencii 2804 slovenských obcí sa z Trenčianskeho samosprávneho kraja na najvyššej priečke umiestnila Beluša v okrese Púchov (10.038 hlasov), ktorú hlasujúci posunuli na celkové ôsme miesto.

• **Každý** mesiac si aspoň malú sumu zo svojho príjmu odloží 14 % Slováci, nepravidelne si však sporiť až 42 %. O niečo častejšie sporia ženy ako muži. Najväčšiu sumu si na horšie časy odkladajú Bratislavčania. Mesačne si sporia v priemere 367 eur. Vyplýva to zo štúdie LifeStyle 2013 agentúry TNS Slovakia a štatistik ČSOB a SAV. O niečo menej ako obyvatelia bratislavského regiónu si sporia Trenčania a Trnavčania. Ich priemerný vklad je 312 eur. Nasleduje Žilina s 270 eurami za mesiac, po nej Poprad s 250 eurami, v Nitre je priemerný vklad 217 eur, v Košiciach 196 eur a obyvatelia Banskej Bystrice a okolia si mesačne na sporiaci účet odložia 192 eur. Potrebu pravidelného odkladania peňazí na horšie časy si podľa nej Slováci uvedomujú, napriek tomu však majú sedemkrát menej úspor ako priemerný občan eurozóny. Dôvodom môže byť aj fakt, že pravidlami šetrenia sa riadi len tretina slovenských domácností.

• **Takmer** polovica Čechov si s darčekom na Vianoce hlavu neláme, 44 % z nich daruje svojim blízkym pod stromček darčekový poukaz alebo finančnú hotovosť. Väčšina Slovákov (79 %) naopak uprednostňuje klasické darčeky. V Poľsku stavia na klasiku 89 % ľudí a v Bulharsku 87 %. Vyplýva to z medzinárodného prieskumu spoločnosti Profi Credit. Najobľúbenejšími darčekom sú vo všetkých spomínaných krajinách hračky, knihy a elektronika. Na Slovensku a v Poľsku je mesiacom nakupovania darčiekov predovšetkým posledný mesiac roka. V decembri do obchodov vyrážajú viac ako dve tretiny Slovákov (69 %) a 70 % Poliakov. Každý deviaty Poliak darčeky nenakupuje vôbec. Bulhari si často nechávajú nákupy na poslednú chvíľu a na Štedrý deň vyrazí do obchodov tretina z nich (32 %).

• **Bývalý** prezident SR Rudolf Schuster sa venuje organizovaniu sympózia na tému "Európska únia a svet". Schuster, ktorý akciu pripravuje spolu s ministerstvom zahraničných vecí, pozval všetkých prezidentov, ktorí s ním spolupracovali. Konferencia by sa mala konať v januári v Košiciach v Starej radnici. Sympóziu by malo byť aj zdokumentované a zborník, ktorý vznikne sa bude publikovať vo svete. Približne v dvadsiatke pozvaných sa nachádzajú aj exprezidentovi osobní priatelia. Veľmi blízko mal k Fischerovi z Rakúska či k Mesičovi z Chorvátska. Spolupracoval aj s prezidentom Bushom, ale nevie či bude môcť prísť. Aj Michail Gorbačov bývalému prezidentovi Schusterovi písal, že keď bude zdravý, tak príde..."

• **Slovenská** športová strelkyňa Danka Barteková absolvuje pred začiatkom zimných hier v Soči beh s olympijskou pochodňou. Členka Medzinárodného olympijského výboru (MOV) pobeží s ohňom v regióne Soči predbežne od 4. do 7. februára, následne bude počas olympiády vykonávať činnosť pri volebnej kampani. Dostala som ponuku ako nová členka MOV. Dvadsaťdeväťročná Slovenka odletí do Soči už 2. februára, keďže okrem bežeckej misie s pochodňou ju čakajú v dejisku hier aj ďalšie povinnosti spojené s členstvom v MOV. Slovenská strelkyňa sa stala členkou Komisie športovcov MOV v lete tohto roka.

• **Sieťový** akademický program Cisco Networking Academy (NetAcad) na Slovensku pôsobí už 15 rokov. Toto vzdelávanie pomáha pripravovať odborníkov v oblasti IT na báze medzinárodne uznávaných priemyselných certifikátov. Spoločnosť Cisco, ktorá stojí za projektom sieťových akademii, spolupracuje s Ministerstvom školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR od roku 1999. Pri príležitosti 15. výročia pôsobenia na Slovensku a Sieťového akademického programu Cisco Networking Academy spoločnosť v Bratislave pripravila slávnostnú recepciu, kde prezentovala výsledky spolupráce súkromného a verejného sektora v oblasti informačných technológií. Celkovo sa na Slovensku v rámci programu vzdelávalo už viac ako 25,000 študentov. V súčasnosti je doň zapojených päť univerzít a 64 stredných škôl, študuje v ňom asi 6,000 študentov a participuje na ňom 170 vyškolených pedagógov.

• **Najstarší** ženský spolok na Slovensku Živena si po 20 rokoch zvolil novú celoslovenskú predsedníčku. Tejto funkcii sa ujala Magda Vášáryová. Pôvodne sa o post šéfy spolku uchádzali dve kandidátky – z Bratislavy Magda Vášáryová a zo Žiliny spisovateľka Veronika Šikulová, ktorá neskôr z rodinných dôvodov odstúpila. Magda Vášáryová je už isté obdobie členkou Bratislavského miestneho odboru Živeny. Ako nová predsedníčka Živeny by sa chcela v najbližšom období zamerať najmä na jej majetkové a finančné zázemie.

• **Známu** Rotundu pod Chopkom otvorila na Vianoce. Svoju najväčšiu slávu zažívala na prelome 50. rokov minulého storočia. Od 90. rokov však bola opustená a turistom hyzdila výhľad po okolí. O pár týždňov by však mala byť plne k dispozícii v novom šate. V reštaurácii s 360-stupňovým panoramatickým výhľadom v nadmorskej výške 2004 metrov budú mať turisti Liptov a Horehronie ako na dlani. Naraz sa tam naje 100 hostí. Na prízemí bude rýchle občerstvenie. V ubytovacej časti budú tri izby vyššieho štandardu a dve izby nižšieho športového štandardu. Náklady na obnovu Rotundy sa vyšplhajú na 4,5 milióna eur.

• **Priemerný** vek všeobecného lekára na Slovensku je 55 rokov. Mladí lekári nemajú o miesto všeobecného lekára záujem a do piatich rokov môže chýbať 700 lekárov tohto typu. Štát preto chce lákať lekárov do praktických ambulancií aj tým, že im chce zvýšiť kompetencie. Šéf asociácie súkromných lekárov Ladislav Pásztor povedal, že by mohli ošetriť menšie rany či vypláchnuť ušný maz a za to by dostali viac peňazí. Špecialisti však varujú, že všeobecní lekári na takéto úkony nemajú dost praxe a vzdelania.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## 7. ročník Vianočného bazáru vo Washingtone DC

7. ročník Vianočného bazáru organizovaného Zastupiteľským úradom ČR vo Washingtone 8. – 9. novembra 2013 sa tešil vysokému záujmu návštevníkov z Washingtonu DC a okolia a prilákal viac ako 1,700 návštevníkov. Na tohtoročnom bazári sa po prvý krát zúčastnil aj Zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washingtone a vo svojom stánku predstavil slovenské vianočné zvyky a tradície, ako napr. príprava štedrovečernej sviatočnej tabule, tradičné zdobenie vianočného stromčeka, betlehem a zdobenie perníkov. V stánku zároveň prezentoval aj slovenskú kuchyňu, kde bola podávaná štedrovečerná kapustnica a o kultúrnu vložku sa postarali deti zo Sokola Washington DC, ktoré spievali vianočné koledy.

Veľvyslanectvo SR vo Washingtone DC



A Bethlehem scene made of paper has been preserved by Lila Wilhelm from Spania Dolina located near Banská Bystrica. This rare work is known as the Miner's Bethlehem was made in 1933.

FOTO TASR – Dušan Hein

Špaňodolský banický betlehem z roku 1933 (na snímke) zachovala Lila Wilhelmerová z horskej obce Špania Dolina, neďaleko Banskej Bystrice. Banické Betlehemy, ktoré majú na drevenom základe postavy z papiera, bývali v minulosti v obci častým zjavom, do súčasnosti sa však zachovali len ojedinelé kusy.

## Kolednícke vianočné vinše

Šťastlivá chvíľa sa nám zjavila,  
že Panna čistá Syna zrodila,  
život svätý počatím dala Mária.

Novinu radostnú oznámim vám,  
že sa nám narodil dnes Kristus Pán,  
to Dieťa krásne, nad slnko jasné.  
Anjeli spievajú, glória riekajú, tam pribehli.  
Pastieri betlemskí jak zvedeli,  
keď nad svojím stádom stráž držali,  
že je v chudobnej, maštaľke biednej,  
v jasiach položené,

je Pánom a Bohom celej zeme.  
Vstupujem do príbytku vášho  
ako anjeli k pastierom betlemským,  
keď nočnú stráž držali nad svojím stádom,  
tú radostnú novinu vtedy zvestovali:  
Narodil sa nám Spasiteľ v meste Dávidovom...  
Tak aj ja, pastier od stáda, k vám prichodím  
a v tento radostný čas vám vinšujem a žiadam,  
aby ste ho čím najšťastlivejšie sláviť mohli.



To vám zo srdca vinšujem!  
Pochválen Pán Ježiš!

S posolstvom z neba chodím po zemi,  
zvestujem novinu a teším ľudí.  
Sľúbený prišiel Mesiáš,  
Spasiteľ sveta, Ježiš náš.  
Tomuto domu buď požehnanie,  
nech vám ho udelí dieťa narodené.  
Sláva Bohu na nebi,  
pokoj ľudom na zemi.

## Predsa vlády SR R. Fico navštívil Biely dom vo Washingtone



FOTO TASR - Paul Martinka

Predsedu vlády SR Roberta Fica prijal vo štvrtok 21. novembra 2013 vo Washingtone americký prezident Barack Obama a viceprezident Joe Biden. Stretnutie v Bielom dome trvalo hodinu. Na snímke zľava v pozadí mimoriadny a splnomocnený veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky v USA Peter Kmec, minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák, predseda vlády SR Robert Fico, minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák, tretí zľava v popredí americký prezident Barack Obama, druhý zľava americký viceprezident Joe Biden počas stretnutia v Bielom dome. Obama a Fico konštatovali, že partnerstvo USA so Slovenskom je založené na spoločných demokratických hodnotách a princípoch. Premiér pripomenul rozhodujúcu úlohu Spojených štátov v procese demokratických zmien v strednej Európe, ktoré sa začali pred vyše 20 rokmi.

Slovak Ambassador Peter Kmec, Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak, Prime Minister Robert Fico, and Minister of Interior Robert Kalinak were welcomed in the White House on November 21, 2013 for discussions with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. Obama and Fico agreed that the partnership of the United States and Slovakia is founded on common values and principles. Prime Minister Fico recalled the decisive role of the United States in the democratic changes in Central Europe which began more than 20 years ago.



## Vianoce 2013

*„Sláva Bohu na výpostiach a na zemi pokoj ľuďom dobrej vôle“*

Sviatky narodenia Božieho Syna, Ježiša nech Vás naplnia radosťou, prameniaccou z povedomia, že Boh Vás miluje. Nech sú prameňom požehnaní sprevádzajúcich každý krok Vášho života a v budúcom roku a po všetky veky.  
**Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový rok 2014**



## Vianočný pozdrav pre krajanov

*Vážení a milí naši krajanovia,*

Len raz za rok sú Vianoce, len raz za rok sa malý snehom zaviaty stromček premení žiarivými plamienkami sviečok na tiché ľudské šťastie. Len raz za rok zvony znejú tak krásne, ako počas vianočnej noci, keď ľudské srdcia sú tak blízko, že jedno druhé počúvajú...

Veď Vianoce nenápadne a ticho prichádzajú. Keď zaznie slovo Vianoce, každý z nás si vybaví svoj sen. Veď sen je potravou ducha, presne tak ako je jedlo potravou tela. Tak si snívajme spolu, je na to čas. Snívajme o tom, čo krásneho sme prežili, ale aj o tom, čo pekné nás ešte len čaká. Snívajme o našich Vianociach z detstva, o Vianociach založených na kresťanských a tradičných zvykoch, ktoré, či si to uvedomujeme alebo nie, sa prenášajú z generácie na generáciu. O vianočnom stromčeku a jeho zdobení, o čistom prestretom vianočnom stole, na ktorom nechýbal chlieb, obilie, modlitebná knižka, rozkrojené jablko, vylúpnutý orech, či nejaký ten peniaz pod obrúskom... O Vianociach, ktoré možno neoplývali luxusom a bohatstvom, no o Vianociach, kde láskavé slovo, úsmev a porozumenie sme rovnako vedeli prijímať ako i rozdávať.

Boli to Vianoce, keď sme dokázali podať ruku jeden druhému, keď sme dokázali zabudnúť na seba a myslieť na druhých. Tak skúsme aj dnes, v čase priprav na najkrajšie sviatky v roku, tieto slová naplniť.

Veď každá malá pozornosť, či láskavosť, slovko venované druhému je veľký dar. Pokúsme sa, aby sme aj dnes v dobe moderného a globálneho sveta, ale aj v čase ľudskej zloby dokázali vo vianočný čas prísť domov k svojej rodine a k svojim najbližším a vrátiť sa späť, do nášho detstva, k tradíciám, kde nebude chýbať objatie a milé slovo.

Milí naši krajanovia, prijmite prosím náš úprimný pozdrav. Pozdrav z Vášho Krajan-ského múzea Matice slovenskej. Prajeme Vám pokojné a pekné prežitie vianočných sviatkov.

Vinšujeme Vám do práce zdravíčka  
a na stôl chlebička.  
Do duše milostí,  
do srdca radostí.

V rodine hojnosti a svornosti,  
veľa priateľov a prajnosti.  
Tiež ľudského tepla  
a všetkého dobrého, čo k životu treba.

A keď nový rok nastane,  
keď dvanásť hodín odbije,  
keď pokoj všade zavládne,  
nech v mieri svet žije!

Za KM MS  
Daniel Zemančík  
Zuzana Pavelcová

## Aj zvony hovoria...

Blížia sa najkrajšie kresťanské sviatky, ktoré signalizujú, že rok sa onedlho bude končiť. Ľudia budú bilancovať výsledky svojej práce a zároveň si vytýčia nové plány a ciele, tak v živote pracovnom, ako i osobnom. Z duchovného pohľadu sú sviatky Vianoc založené na kresťanskej viere a tradícii. K tomuto účelu si ľudia od dávnych čias stavajú kostoly. Kostol sa dnes považujeme za studňu v záhrade, za slnko na nebi, za srdce v tele človeka, za čosi, čo dáva každému mestu či dedinke osobitý ráz i tvár.

Z histórie vieme, že pôvodné kresťanské kostoly sa stavali bez veží. Veže spojené so stavbou kostola sa objavili najskôr pri stavbách veľkých chrámov. Prvý kostol bol v meste Nitra vysvätený v roku 828 za vlády kniežaťa Pribinu. Počas obdobia Veľkej Moravy požiadal knieža Rastislav o zriadenie biskupstva a poslanie biskupice na Veľkú Moravu. Práve v roku 2013 už netreba zvlášť pripomínať, že v roku 863 byzantský cisár Michal III. poslal na Veľkú Moravu vierozvestcov, bratov Konštantína a Metoda, aby šíрили kresťanstvo na našom území. No s počiatkom kresťanstva sme sa stretli ďaleko skôr. Už v 2. storočí nášho letopočtu sa na našom území odohrala udalosť, na pamiatku ktorej bol v Ríme postavený stĺp Marca Aurelia. Rímsky cisár viedol výpravu proti Germánom. Keď boli vojaci smädní, pokľakli a predniesli Bohu svoje prosby. Následne sa spustil dážď a búrka nepriateľov rozohnala. Táto udalosť nespôsobila príchod kresťanstva na naše územie, je však dôkazom toho, že Rimania žijúci na našom území boli kresťania.



Pokračovanie na str. 21



FOTO TKKBS/ Peter Fogaš

Slovenskí aj talianski veriaci si v nedeľu 17. novembra v kaplnke Pápežského slovenského kolégia sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme pripomenuli 50. výročie založenia Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Ďakovnú svätú omšu pri tejto príležitosti celebrol arcibiskup Beniamino Stella, prefekt Kongregácie pre klérus.

## V Ríme ďakovali za 50 rokov existencie Slovenského ústavu

Polstoročie od založenia Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda si v nedeľu 17. novembra pripomenuli v Ríme v kaplnke Pápežského slovenského kolégia sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Na podujatí nechýbali kardinál Jozef Tomko, predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska Stanislav Zvolenský, ďalší vysokopostavení cirkevní predstavitelia zo SR i Talianska, ako aj veľvyslankyňa SR v Taliansku Mária Krásnohorská a veľvyslanec SR pri Svätej stolici Peter Sopko.

Rektor pápežského kolégia Vladimír Stahovec vo svojom príhovore pripomenul, že všetci Slováci, ktorí v ústave žili a pracovali, venovali svoje úsilie jednému hlavnému cieľu: duchovnému a náboženskému dobru slovenského ľudu.

Pokračovanie na str. 22