



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



The FCSU Board of Directors, Officers, and Home Office Staff wish all of our members a blessed Christmas Season.



"Adoration of the Shepherds" (c. 1500-10), by Italian painter Giorgio da Castelfranco



President's 2012 Christmas Message

Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!

Dear Members and Friends!

Christmas will soon be upon us, with family gatherings, Christmas Mass, the winter season and for many of us that means snow.

However, remember, Christ was born and lived in a warmer, dry climate that seldom, if ever, saw snow.

Time passes so quickly and we are all so busy or so distant that we often don't take the time to contact family members or old friends. I urge you to take the time to do so, especially at this Christmas time.

I can still remember Christmas at St. Stephen's Slovak Church in Milwaukee. I can still smell the incense and see and smell Christmas decorations and still hear the carols sung in Slovak and English ending with "Tichá Noc". Unfortunately, St. Stephen's Church was closed and recently sold, as have many of our former Slovak Parishes across the United States. The changing demographics and changing culture produced the results that the close-knit Slovak communities in many areas are diminished. However, one of the purposes of the First Catholic Slovak Union is to try to preserve and continue the core values handed down from our predecessors.

We thank and encourage those Branches and Districts that hold, sponsor and support the traditional Slovak Christmas dinners (Vilija or Štedrý Večer) in their areas. The Jednota newspaper provides the information. My wife and I will be attending several this year.

I personally want to thank the many Branches and District Officers and Recommenders for their dedicated service. Please encourage your younger Members to get involved and serve as Officers and relay to them your sense of dedication and fellowship.

The Jednota was founded and exists on the principle and ideal of fraternalism. That means



Andrew M. Rajec

continued on page 3

Christmas Message from our National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Just before Thanksgiving Day in the United States, Pope Benedict's book entitled "Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives" was published. An observation made by the Holy Father gained the attention of many. There were no animals present when Jesus was

born. No donkeys, no oxen, no sheep.

Naturally, this impelled me and I am sure many others to locate a Bible and read the first two chapters from Gospels of Matthew and Luke (the only two that have an account of Our Lord's birth). Sure enough, what the pope wrote is true.

Matthew is totally silent on the matter. We find in 1:24-25 that Joseph took Mary into his home as his wife and she bore a son, whom



Rev. Thomas Nasta

continued on page 3

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Coloring Contest.....	4 - 5
Christmas Recipes.....	9
Branch/District Info.....	14 - 16
Slovak.....	21 - 24

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA


INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2012

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	3.35% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.10% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New "Park 2 Annuity"	2.40% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee (new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	1.90% APY
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% 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

Email: fcsu@aol.com

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Chewy's
Christmas Memories, p12

Insights and Viewpoints



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

December 23, 2012

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-45

Gospel Summary

On the carefully programmed Advent journey to Christmas, the Fourth Sunday belongs to Mary. This is so because Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus, necessarily involves the motherhood of Mary. However, the story of that birth is reserved for Midnight

Mass, while today's gospel tells us how Mary prepared for that wonderful event by accepting the message of an angel, which meant allowing God to determine how she could be a mother and remain a virgin.

If through the centuries Mary has captured the imagination of the Catholic world, it is in large measure because she faced the mystery of God and said, "Let it be done to me according to your word." Even her greatest privilege as mother of the Savior presupposes this radical trust and generosity on her part.

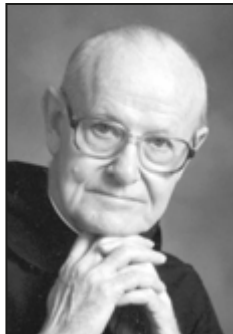
It is easy to ignore the mystery of God until the very end of life. It is also easy to live in fear of that mystery. However, human life will never be really successful until we learn to embrace God's mystery with trust and confidence. Mary shows us how to do that and what wonderful results will follow.

Life Implications

Although we know very little about the "historical" Mary, her symbolic presence is real and powerful. In her case, symbolic truth presupposes an historical person but it reveals the universal and perennial significance of that person. It is a truth that transcends such limitations as age, race and gender as it reveals the meaning of Mary, Virgin and Mother, for all human beings everywhere.

As a virgin, Mary represents hope. Indeed, there are few images that capture the meaning of hope and promise more effectively than that of a youthful young lady. All of us, then, who strive to be positive and joyful and hopeful in a weary and despairing society, can look to virginal Mary as a model who is ready and willing to inspire and encourage us. As a mother, and specifically as the mother of our Savior, Mary is also the most perfect model of fruitfulness. She represents, therefore, both virginal, promising springtime and fruitful, bountiful summer. She conquers cold, barren winter in our hearts and leads us to a rich and meaningful harvest.

There is such a temptation to live off of others and to complain rather than to contribute. Constant griping and blaming others means an empty harvest. By contrast, Mary models for us a life that is wonderfully fruitful through loving concern for the welfare and happiness of others. There is no better way to prepare for and to celebrate the birth of Jesus!



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

December 25, 2012

Christmas

Luke 2: 1-14

Gospel Summary

In the gospel passage for Mass at midnight we hear the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke. It is a story of faith so simple that even a child can grasp it. Yet, even after 2000 years, it is a mystery so profound that the richness of its meaning remains inexhaustible. We are reminded again of God's providential care that makes all history sacred history. The powerful rulers of the world, whether an Egyptian pharaoh or a Roman emperor, may have their armies and issue their decrees, but through the odd coincidences of history, God's own purposes are ultimately achieved. As foretold by the prophet, Mary gives birth to a savior, who is Christ and Lord, in Bethlehem, the city of David.

Caesar Augustus, regarded by Romans as a god who would bring peace and salvation to the world, is now only an unwitting instrument in the divine plan to bring God's peace and salvation through this child born of a young Jewish woman. Mary is the faithful, willing agent of God's loving purpose. After giving birth to her son, with love she wraps him in swaddling clothes and lays him in a manger.

In the gospel passage for Mass at dawn (Lk 2:15-20), Luke continues the love story of Christmas. Now Mary and Joseph share the divine gift of love that they have received by welcoming shepherds -- like tax collectors and prostitutes, members of a despised class in their society. The shepherds, like us who also have heard the good news, are now able to sing a new carol with the angels of the heavenly liturgy, glorifying and praising God for the gift of Jesus' presence among us.

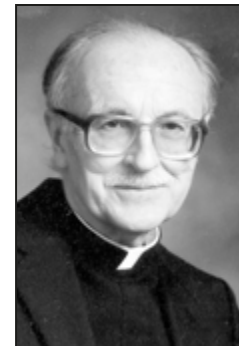
The meaning of Luke's Christmas story is completed by the prologue of John's gospel, the passage for Mass during the day (Jn 1:1-18). Christ is born of Mary so that he might be born and live in us. Those who accept the Word-become-flesh through faith become children of God, not by natural generation, but as a divine gift. The meaning of Christmas and God's loving purpose will not be completely realized until the eternal fulfillment of Jesus' Last Supper prayer: "I pray... that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us..." (Jn 17:20-21).

Life Implications

Despite laments about the commercialism of the Christmas season, the universal instinct of people is correct: at the heart of the mystery of Christmas is giving and receiving gifts. We sense there is more to life than paying a wage or earning a wage. A gift is always a surprise and a joy because as a present of love, it is unearned. Our hearts indeed are restless until we receive love and give love. A gift is the sacramental, symbolic presence of a person. If my gift of love is accepted, it is I who am accepted; if my gift of love is rejected, it is I who am rejected.

One of the surprises of God's self-giving to us is that it seems to be so ordinary, and thus can easily be overlooked. The Word that is God's self-giving to us was to be found not in a royal palace, but in a manger as a helpless baby in need of a mother's love. Today at our Christ-Mass the Risen Lord gives himself to us as bread and wine. What could be more ordinary, and at the same moment so extraordinary a gift of love? It is through the most simple, ordinary means and in the most humble places that of the gift of love can be exchanged.

I am aware that at least one prison chaplain will be using these reflections to prepare his Christmas homily for those in our society who truly are the least of the brothers and sisters of Jesus. They too must hear the good news that no one has the power to take away our worth and dignity because our worth and our dignity are a gift of God's love for us. Those who are not able to buy expensive things -- prisoners, the sick, the poor, children -- remind us that what truly matters is the gift of our loving presence, however ordinary the means of its incarnation. We do have to become gifts of bread and wine for each other because the Lord loves us and becomes bread and wine for us.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16	MONDAY, JAN. 7
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30	MONDAY, JAN. 14
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13	MONDAY, FEB. 4

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

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 22 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries - \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

Christmas Greetings from the Executive Secretary

It's easy to get caught up in the business of Christmas, as the carols seem to start playing in the stores early every year and each holiday season we all feel a little more hurried. My wish is that this year we take the time to show each other the love and patience that is the true spirit of Christmas. May you be reminded of that which is most important about Christmas – the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. 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



Message from our President

continued from page 1

we have a common bond i.e. Slovak, Catholic etc., but it also means that we respect and care for each other.

In past years some of these fraternal bonds were more obvious: most Members were fluent in the Slovak language and belonged to local churches that were founded by Slovaks, many with the support of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

I want to remind you of and reinforce one of the long-standing fraternal practices of the Society which was the Funeral Vigil for the deceased. See Section 20.05 of the current FCSU Bylaws. Some of us can remember when the Branch Members assembled at the casket to say this special prayer for the deceased brother or sister in Slovak and gradually in English.

I would encourage our Members to again perform this fraternal task, or if you still do so, thank you. In my 2011 Christmas Message I noted that we recorded a new surplus of over \$16 million. At Christmas 2012 our Society assets are now over \$300 million dollars and more importantly our surplus is \$20 ½ million dollars, both new all-time records.

For many years the Society has been licensed to do business in only 15 states. As part of our efforts to reach out to new members and to attract the kids and grandkids who have moved to many other states, we have expanded in 2012. The FCSU is now licensed to sell our life and annuity products in 25 states, with more on the way. More on this later.

The investment market continues to be very challenging. However, a larger surplus means a stronger more viable Society as we continue to grow. Do your friends and other family members a favor and let them know about Jednota and our success.

The First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) was founded in 1890, one hundred and twenty two years ago in Cleveland by a priest, Fr. Furdek, born in Slovakia, and a group of men with a goal and a vision.

Many things have changed in the past 122 years, including the fact that 40% of our Members now are women. As with most other ethnic groups the ties to our ancestral roots have stretched through the generations. However, the Jednota still recognizes and cherishes these roots along with our Catholic faith tradition.

My final thought revolves around the subject of Family during this coming Christmas season. Your Family includes not only immediate relatives, father, mother, sons, daughters etc., but also your fraternal Family i.e. the Jednota, and our spiritual Family in Christ.

In closing, we remember and offer prayers for all of our deceased Members of the Jednota and to all Members who are ill and to those who are in physical or spiritual need.

May your Family celebrate this Christmas together in peace and love. On behalf of our Board of Directors, our Home Office staff and the Rajec family I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.



Narodil sa Kristus pán, veselme sa.
Christos raždajetsa, slavite jeho.

**Andrew M. Rajec
President**



MARCH FOR LIFE in January



MARCH FOR LIFE in 2013, the anniversary date of the Roe v. Wade decision will fall on Tuesday, the day following the public ceremonies marking the Presidential Inauguration. Therefore the March for Life has been scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2013.

Our Presence at the 40th Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 25, 2013 in Washington, DC is extremely important. First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the First Catholic Slovak Union support the position of the Pro Life

Movement. The FCSLA and FCSU 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 for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 28th. If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. If you cannot find information please call or email Kelly for assistance.

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!

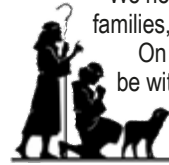
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose,
And if you ever saw it,
You could even say it glows.

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.



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



Message from our Chaplain

continued from page 1

he named Jesus. On the other hand, Luke 2:7 states that after giving birth, Mary wrapped her newborn son in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room where travelers lodged. A theme in Luke's gospel is the special concern Jesus has for the poor and the outcast. By writing that Jesus' first bed was a feeding trough for animals (which a manger is), Luke shows that, from the moment of his birth, Jesus is one with the poor and the outcast.

The fact that neither gospel writer mentions the presence of animals at the Nativity of the Lord may come as a surprise to us because it doesn't fit the picture we have in our minds about Christ's birth. It's a picture reinforced each year when we attend a re-enactment of the birth performed by children or professional actors. It's reinforced when we come to church and see the manger scene on display or when we decorate our homes with our own manger set. Animals are there.

Just because there is no scriptural evidence for the presence of animals in the accounts of Our Lord's birth does not mean it is wrong or improper to use our imagination to "fill out the picture." This is what St. Francis of Assisi did nearly eight hundred years ago. It was his idea in 1223 to portray the birth of Jesus, complete with live animals, that started something people have been doing for countless generations ever since.

There are other things not found in scripture that we have come to associate with our Lord's birth. Matthew and Luke make no mention that Jesus was born in a cave, that the weather was cold and snow was on the ground, that hay was nearby, that he was born at midnight. All the sacred authors tell us is that Jesus is born of the Virgin in the city of David, Bethlehem. He is Son of God and Son of Mary. He is the Savior of the world. To Him we give praise, blessing, adoration and glory!

May God bless you and your families. You will be remembered in my Mass on Christmas Day. Merry Christmas!

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain



FCSU 2012 Christmas Coloring Contest

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

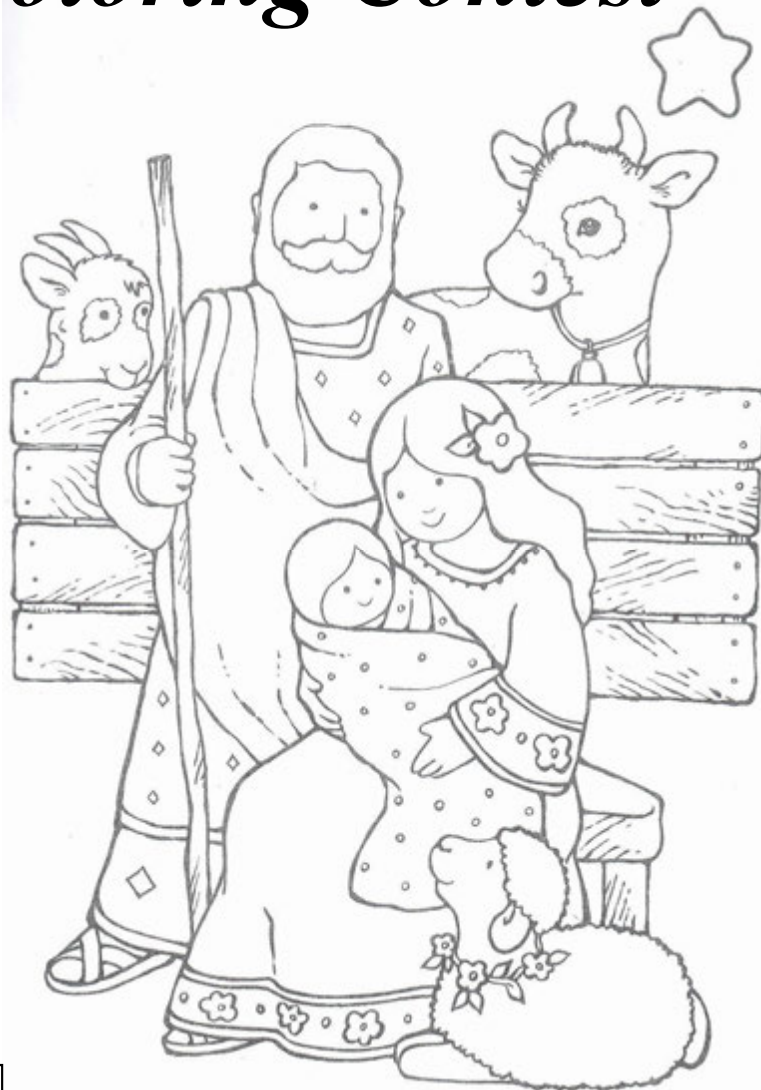
Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;
Born with neither riches nor with fame,
Yet Wise Men came from all around to bring to Him their gifts,
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept, and gently rocked His bed;
Their voices singing softly in His ear;
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear

They knew His life upon this earth would not be filled with wealth,
They also knew He would encounter strife;
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate this Birth of Jesus Christ,
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;
For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor the gifts that lie within,
But our gift of love to others in every way.

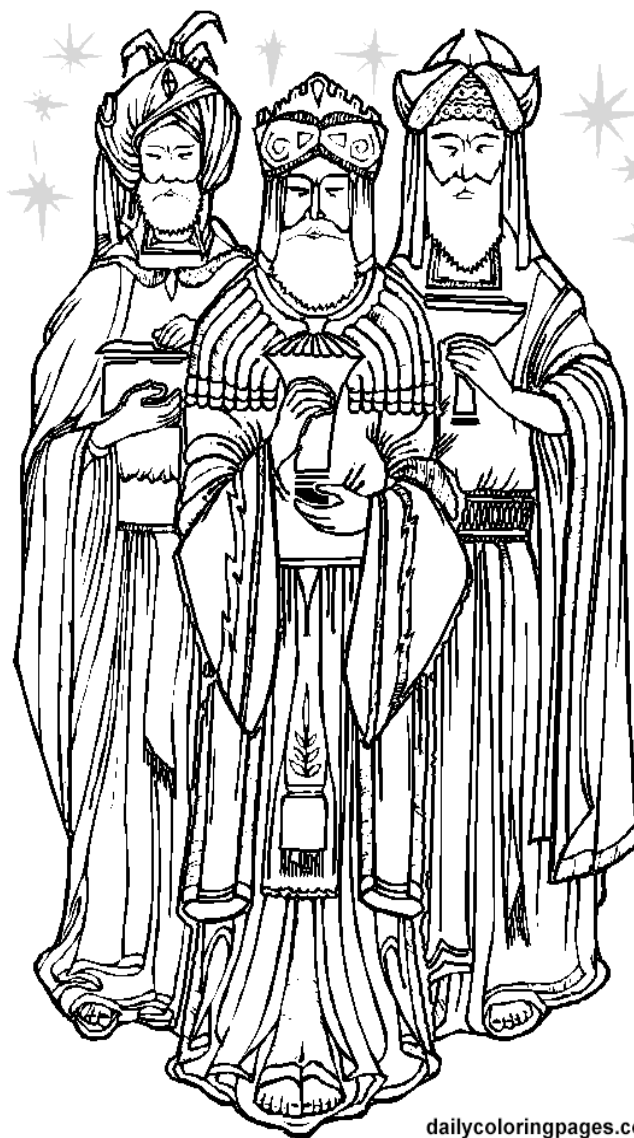
B



A



C



dailycoloringpages.com

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

RULES

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture A
7 – 9 year olds – picture B
10 – 12 year olds – picture C
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
- Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2012**.
- 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, 2012

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:

- 1st Place – Jednota Duffel Bag and \$25.00**
2nd Place - Jednota Duffel Bag and \$15.00
3rd Place - Jednota Duffel Bag and \$10.00
Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card

Editor's Note: the coloring contest - and entry pages - also are available online. Go to www.fcsu.com/christmascoloring2012

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



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2013 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 sent to the Home Office, each recipient will be issued a \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

The rules and requirements are as follows:

- 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 Term Insurance 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, 2009 to be eligible under the rules of this period.
- Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.
- Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2013 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
- 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.
- 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, 2013.
- 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.
- Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of 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.
- 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 2014).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2013. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

For an application form, please call the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800- JEDNOTA or go to www.fcsu.com/scholarships.

Year of Faith: the Decree on the Media of Social Communications

Dear Friends,

The Decree on the Media of the Social Communications (Inter mirifica) was the other document from the Second Vatican Council promulgated by Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963.

The media of social communications has undergone a vast change in the 50 years since this document was promulgated. In 1963, television was beginning to replace the daily newspaper and the radio as the primary means by which most people received their news. Movies did not have a rating system. The technology people used to communicate with each other was the telephone, which in those days remained in a fixed location, was hard-wired, and had a rotary dial for one to use to make calls.

Today satellites instantly beam broadcasts to and from anywhere in the world. We have the Internet. People communicate with each other through faxes, e-mails, Instant Messaging, Text Messages, Twitter, and Facebook. The media of social communications has changed greatly since 1963. However, the basic principles in the Decree apply today just as they did 50 years ago.

The first principle is that, since the media of social communications (which at the time meant the press, movies, radio, and television) serves as means of entertainment and instruction, it can also be used to spread and support the gospel. In other words, Vatican II saw the media of social communications as a means all members of the church can use for evangelization.

To that end, the Council encourages the establishment of a Catholic press, whose function would be not only to broadcast news that is Church-related, but also to form, support and advance public opinion in accord with natural law and Church teaching. The Council also encourages the establishment of Catholic radio and television stations to work together with Catholic newspapers, periodicals, film projects and radio and television programs in the world wide mission of the church to spread the gospel. It suggests that every diocese set aside a day on which the faithful are instructed in their responsibilities in the use of the media of social communications and also a collection of funds be taken up to be used exclusively for the promotion, maintenance, and operation of Catholic media.

The second principle concerns all who use the media of social communications. Moderation and self-control ought to be exercised both by the sender and receiver of the message. Those who are involved with broadcasting, publishing and distribution are to respect the laws of morality and legitimate rights and dignity of the individual. Their search for information must always be true and complete, within the bounds of justice and charity. They ought to be mindful that a great many of their readers and audiences are young people and to exercise special care in safeguarding them from printed matter and performances which may be harmful at their age. Parents have a moral duty to monitor their children's use of the media of social communications, lest they be exposed to shows, publications and other things potentially morally harmful.

The third principle is a warning that the media of social communications can also be used in a means contrary to the Divine Plan. What is communicated and the manner in which it is communicated should always be proper and decent. Readers, viewers and listeners of the media of social communication have special obligations to avoid literature, broadcasts and messages that may cause or occasion spiritual harm to themselves or lead others into danger. The description and portrayal of evil ought to be under moral restraint, so that souls are not harmed.

The next summary will be the first part of the Pastoral Constitution on the Church.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain

Christmas Carols in Slovakia – Vianočné koledy na Slovensku

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



Christmas Carols, known as *koledy* in Slovak, represent an integral part of traditional Christmas customs in Slovakia. A popular Slovak expression goes, “*Kde Slovák, tam spev*” (Where there is a Slovak, there is a song). Christmas, known as *Vianoce* [pronounced Vyah-notes-eh], was no exception.

Just as elsewhere in the world, Christmas was always a magical time in Slovakia, as people celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. As with most celebra-

tions, the Slovaks made elaborate preparations and decorations, and the cooking and baking went on for days before Christmas Eve (*Štedrý večer* – Bountiful evening). But no celebration would be complete without the songs that heralded the birth of Christ.

Historical background

The origins of Christmas hymns date from ancient Roman times. During the 2nd century A.D., the early Christians began to incorporate songs into their liturgy, and by the 4th century, historical evidence shows that hymns specific to Christmas first appeared. These were mainly chants in the Latin language, such as *Veni redemptor gentium* (O Come, Redeemer of the Earth), written by St. Ambrose, the Archbishop of Milan. The popular chant aimed to uphold the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity and the incarnation of Jesus. Such hymns served as a defense and teaching tool against the Arian heresy’s preaching that stressed Christ’s humanity rather than his divinity.

One may listen to *Veni redemptor gentium* on the YouTube website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIMVzsELjK8>.

By the 9th and 10th centuries, northern European monasteries further refined Christmas hymns. The French St. Bernard of Clairvaux introduced the idea of using a sequence of rhymed verses, which were easier to sing and remember. Eventually in the 12th century, a Parisian monk, Adam of St. Victor, borrowed music from more commonly known songs, and thus, the hymns started to resemble more the Christmas carols which we are more familiar with.

Finally, Christmas hymns evolved into Christmas carols largely due to the influence of St. Francis of Assisi. He transformed Christmas into a genuinely popular holiday with wider participation by ordinary folk. St. Francis introduced the Bethlehem Nativity stable with a manger as a mainstay for Christmas decorations and spread the idea of using drama and music in the native languages of the common people. The customs circulated across Italy and then moved to France and Germany, and ultimately to England, Slovakia and the rest of Hungary, Poland, and elsewhere in the Christian world. Though these were originally mainly communal songs sung at harvest time and at Christmas, many were eventually incorporated into the Mass and became associated with the Church.

When the Protestant Reformation broke out, Martin Luther further popularized the idea of congregational song by composing Christmas carols which he often based on German folk traditions. Likewise, the Catholic Church also incorporated more popular carols into its services, such as *Adeste Fideles* (O Come all ye faithful), which dates from the 18th century.

By the 19th century, a creative burst in writing Christmas carols spread throughout Europe, and many works were translated into many languages, including the widely known German hymn by Franz Gruber, *Stille Nacht* (Silent Night), which Slovaks sang as *Tichá noc*.

Vianočné Koledy – Christmas Carols, in Slovak

Thus for several centuries, *koledy* have become an integral part of the history, culture, and traditions associated with celebrating Christmas both in Slovakia and among Slovak-Americans who retained their Christianity, their Slovak consciousness, and their language.

Our Family’s Slovak Christmas Carols

As a child, I used to hear Slovak songs played on the phonograph at home, but our parents never taught us these songs, or their meanings. I decided to change and renewed the Slovak tradition of *koledy* in our home. I taught my children to speak Slovak from birth, and singing *koledy* each year has become part of our family tradition. Before our *villija* (Christmas Eve Supper) each year, we recite some special prayers of thanksgiving in Slovak to our Lord, and my daughters, Milenka and Erika, each read a Biblical passage in Slovak about the birth of Christ. Then we sing a solemn hymn before we eat, usually *Tichá noc*. No translation is needed, since most of us know it, or it is readily available.

Tichá noc – Silent Night

Tichá noc, svätá noc! Všetko spí, všetko sní,
sám len svätý bdie dôverný pár, stráži Dieťaťko, nebeský dar.
Sladký Ježiško spí, sní, nebesky ticho spí, sní.
Tichá noc, svätá noc! Anjeli zleteli,
najprv pastierom podali zvesť, ktorá svetom dnes dáva sa niest’:
Kristus, Spasiteľ je tu, Tešiteľ sveta je tu!

After the *villija*, we set aside time to sing our favorite *koledy*. Here are just a few other *koledy* with an accompanying translation.

Narodil sa Kristus Pán

Perhaps the most popular original Slovak Christmas Carol is “*Narodil sa Kristus Pán*,” (Christ the Lord is Born). It is typically sung at the conclusion of every Slovak Mass, as it was at the many Christmas Masses which I have attended at St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, Ohio. Rev. Polando and the St. Matthias choir have continued that tradition to this day, and celebrate a Slovak Mass with Slovak Carols each Christmas.

If one wishes to hear the music, a Slovak internet link has this in piano with the accompanying music. This version is from the Orava region of northern Slovakia.

<http://pesnicky.orava.sk/index.php/component/mjoosic/song/3840-narodil-sa-kristus-pan>

One may listen to the Slovak on YouTube. The Spevokol (Choir) BJB Palisady performed this



The author and his family traditionally offer special prayers of thanksgiving in Slovak along with singing *Tichá Noc* at their Christmas Eve supper.

version in Bratislava in 2008. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH6YbZXbqZo>

Here is the Czech music version, and again the tune is the same as in Slovak. But there are livelier versions than this particular one that are sung. The website is: <http://archiv.radio.cz/christmas/koleda/k2.html>

Below is the music with lyrics in Czech, which for this song is very similar to Slovak, with a translation in English following. The Slovak uses “sa” instead of “se” for the reflexive, and has *kvitek* instead of *kvietok* for the genitive plural form of the word for “flowers.”

Maestoso

Na - ro - dil se Kristus Pán, ve - sel - me se, z rů - že kvitek
vykvet nám, ra - duj - me se. Z ži - vo - ta čis - té - ho,
z ro - du krá - lov - ské - ho, nám, nám na - ro - dil se.

In Slovak

1. *Narodil sa Kristus Pán, veselme sa, z ruže kvietok vzkviťol nám, radujme sa. Z života čistého, z rodu kráľovského nám Pán narodil sa.*

2. *Prorokmi nám hlásaný, veselme sa, na svet nám je poslaný, radujme sa. Z života čistého, z rodu kráľovského Kristus Pán narodil sa.*

Preklad (translation)

In English

1. Christ the Lord is born, Rejoice, A rose has bloomed for us, Rejoice. From a pure life, from a royal family Christ the Lord is born.

2. The prophets proclaimed to us, Rejoice, Into the world was sent for us, Rejoice. From a pure life, from a heavenly family Christ the Lord is born.

One may find these and other Slovak *koledy* at the website, vianoce.sk, and these lyrics may be found at the following link: <http://vianoce.sk/18233-sk/slovenske-koledy-a-piesne.php>. The exact wording can vary, depending upon the dialect and particular version one finds in various books and websites. Unfortunately, the site above does not include recordings, but most songs have at least two verses in the original Slovak. One may search the title from this site on YouTube to see if anyone has uploaded versions to view and hear.

Conclusion

These are just a few of the many Slovak *koledy* which represent part of our Slovak-American heritage. If some of us have never learned or heard these *koledy*, the internet now offers new opportunities to obtain the text, music, and YouTube videos.

The *Vianočné koledy* may serve as a vehicle to preserve our Slovak heritage and to renew and revive our ethnic and religious traditions. In a day when technology is constantly changing, we can harness that high tech to remember the reason for the season, and to practice it by singing *koledy* in our family homes.

The entire *Jednota* staff and I wish all of you – Veselé Vianočné (Merry Christmas)! And Šťastlivý nový rok (Happy New Year)!

Sources

Choir of St Albans Abbey, “Veni Redemptor Gentium,” YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIMVzsELjK8> (accessed November 25, 2012).

Demo, Ondrej, *Vianočné ľudové koledy, vinše a hry*. Martin: Vydavateľstvo Matica slovenskej 1998.

Distant, Daniel, The Christian Post, “Origin of Christmas Carols, Songs Represent Christian History,” November 30, 2011. <http://global.christianpost.com/news/origin-of-christmas-carols-songs-represent-christian-history-63580/#jvDGHwbiLEH5Tz.99> (Accessed November 25, 2012).

Kopanic, Michael J. Jr., Ph.D., “Slovenske Vianočné Koledy – Slovak Christmas Carols,” *Jednota* (December 8, 2010): 7. Krekovičová, Eva: *Slovenské koledy. Od Štedrého večera do Troch kráľov. Slowakische Weihnachtslieder. Slovak Carols*. Bratislava: Práca 1992.

“Narodil sa Kristus Pán,” *Pesnicky pre všetkých*. <http://pesnicky.orava.sk/index.php/component/mjoosic/song/3840-narodil-sa-kristus-pan> (Accessed November 26, 2012).

“Ondrej Demo,” *JankoHraško.sk*. <http://www.jankohrasko.sk/folklorc/1388/osobnosti/1693/ondrej-demo/> (Accessed November 20, 2012).

“Slovak Christmas Traditions,” *Slovak Heritage Live*, http://www.slovakheritage.org/Folkcustoms/christmas_trad.htm (Accessed November 25, 2012).

“Vianočné koledy – ich pôvod a význam,” *Vianoce.sk*. <http://vianoce.sk/18911-sk/koledy-historia.php> (Accessed November 25, 2012).

Wikipedia contributors, “Christmas carol,” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_carol (accessed November 25, 2012).

Jesus, Our Gift Wrapped in Simplicity

By Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA

Jesus is the Joy of Christmas. His birth is a glorious promise – fulfilled and contrasted by the paradox of the profound simplicity of His coming.

Bethlehem – a most ordinary village – was His birthplace, the straw in the manger His unique cradle. But even the darkness of midnight could not hide the arrival of God's Son on earth. A brilliant new star appeared to mark the place where He could be found. The silence of the hillside was broken by the Glory to God as sung by the angels, guiding the shepherds to the stable. Now, each year, we relive this mystery of Jesus' birth.

This is one of the hymns that evokes the image of that holy night. These words (below in Slovak and the ones I translated into English) as well as the melody were undoubtedly the legacy of simple peasants. We treasure this gift as annually we recall the birth of Christ!



Narodil sa Kristus v Betléme

Narodil sa Kristus v Betléme
Položený v jaslách na slame.
Ej, slama, slama premilá,
Vzácnější nikdys' nebola.

Tak prorokovali proroci,
Že sa nám narodi v polnoci.
Ej, polnoc svätá, premilá,
Svätejší nikdys' nebola.

Na nebi sa hviezda zjavila
A nebeským svetlom žiarila.
Ej, hviezda jasná, premilá,
Jasnejší nikdys' nebola.



Christmas Items for Sale from the Slovak Institute of North America



The Slovak Institute in North America makes its home in Cleveland, OH, on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey, a Slovak Benedictine Order. First dedicated in 1952 to be a source for knowledge about Slovakia with material in the Slovak language, the non-profit Institute over the years has also published books in Slovak that now can be offered for sale. The Institute's Director, Andrew Hudak and its Associate Director, Geneologist Joseph Hornack are members of the FCSU, as are all the monks of the Abbey.

The Institute offers seasonal as well as timeless items available for purchasing. Books include those in English

and those in Slovak. English titles include Let's Learn Slovak, Slovak Songs and Dances, the Night of the Barbarians, and Cleveland Slovaks. During Christmas season for example, the Institute has Christmas cards in English and in Slovak as well as Oplatky for sale; they come packaged a minimum 3 wafers per envelope, for \$1. Another item frequently asked about is our 3 ft. x 2 ft. black and white map of Slovakia. Designed and printed by the Slovak Institute, it sells for \$10 per map, plus the necessary \$4 additional charge for packing and postage on any average size order mailed within the United States. If help is needed locating a town or a village on the map or you should want information about a particular place, just provide details with your order.

Order forms with the complete list of items available from the Slovak Institute can be found on the FCSU website by going to <http://www.fcsu.com/slovak-institute>

- Submitted by Joseph Hornack, Branch 1

Pastieri hned' zo sna povstali
Anjelský hlas z neba počuli,
Ej, pieseň krásna, premilá.
Krajšie si nikdy neznela.

Sláva buď vždy Bohu na nebi,
Pokoj ľuďom dobrým na zemi!
Ej, doba slávna, premilá,
Slávnejšia nikdys' nebola.

Christ is Born in Bethlehem

Christ is born in lowly Bethlehem
Laid upon the straw, where cattle fed.
O blessed straw of manger-bed,
Favored to hold his precious head.

Thus the prophet spoke so long ago,
Christ would come at midnight here below.
O holy night and God's own hour,
Chosen and blest by His great power.

Suddenly a wondrous star appeared,
Radiant beauty, vast celestial sphere.
O star most glor'ous, star so bright,
Never was seen such a brilliant light.

Quickly rose the shepherds from their sleep,
Heard the angels' song, so filled with peace.
O song so beautiful and grand,
Spreading great joy throughout the land.

Glory be to God in heaven above,
Peace on earth for all who truly love.
Era of glory, sacred space,
God's gifted time, so filled with grace.

FCSU LIFE

Single Premium Insurance Winter Special!

Newborn Male \$5000 for \$290 \$10000 for \$580	Newborn Female \$5000 for \$250 \$10000 for \$500
Male - age 5 \$5000 for \$340 \$10000 for \$680	Female - age 5 \$5000 for \$290 \$10000 for \$580
Male - age 10 \$5000 for \$400 \$10000 for \$800	Female - age 10 \$5000 for \$340 \$10000 for \$680
Male - age 15 \$5000 for \$480 \$10000 for \$960	Female - age 15 \$5000 for \$405 \$10000 for \$810
Male - age 20 \$5000 for \$545.00 \$10000 for \$1090.00	Female - age 20 \$5000 for \$470.00 \$10000 for \$940.00

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a

FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD

to present with the certificate!

Features:

- Pay one premium and have fully paid-up Insurance
- Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more) subject to current FCSU LIFE non-medical limits
- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2012

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer (Via teleconference)
Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors
(By invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation by Teleconference and WebEx. Mr. White presented an extensive monthly transactions report and briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio. After the report, Mr. Larry White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led an extensive review on the current annuity interest rates and beginning November 1, 2012 the new interest rates will be the following:

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.35% APY
With the "Cash Interest" Option	3.10% APY
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New "Park 2 Annuity" (not available in the State of New York)	2.40% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA – first 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	2.85% APY

The annuity interest rates will be reviewed again at the next Executive Committee Meeting in November.

The President reviewed a presentation by a local national investment firm and stated three new investment strategies were available to our society. After further review the firm has been asked to provide more detailed information and additional investment options. When more information is available, the Executive Committee will be informed.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report for the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President reviewed the 2013 seminar schedule. He is asking the Regional Directors for their assistance in setting up the seminars for 2013. He further stated seminars have been held at the Rev. Joseph Kostik District 14, John Martvon District 7 and Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 in the last month.

The Vice President has asked the Regional Directors' assistance in helping the branches in their regions qualify for their stipends in 2012.

ADVERTISING:

The Executive Secretary stated he will continue advertising our products and annuity rates in our Jednota newspaper, mailings, and on our website. The Executive Secretary stated we plan to use more social media such as Facebook and Twitter so that our products may reach and be advertised to a wider market.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

The President stated Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, will continue to work on joint activities with other Slovak Fraternal and report the progress to the President.

The President stated the Fraternal Activities Director is still researching possible sites for the 2013 National Picnic. As information becomes available, the Executive Committee will be informed.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Executive Secretary reviewed our preliminary financial report for the third quarter and answered all questions.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Committee's questions.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of September 2012:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 193,049.84
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 35,410.68
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 743.26

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President updated the Executive Committee on the Monument Project on the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania and stated the project will begin in early spring of 2013.

The President stated there is no new activity on our Printery Building in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The President further stated the broker has seen some interest shown in leasing our property.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

The President asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

R

eminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: FCSU@aol.com



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 boiling 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 and cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.

Feast Day Breakfast at Ss Cyril & Methodius in Warren, OH

Branch 764 had special guests President Andy Rajec and his wife Idka at their Feast Day breakfast at St. Cyril & Methodius (194 Laird Avenue NE, Warren, OH) on November 4. Almost 100 were in attendance to enjoy the wonderful breakfast prepared by our Branch President, Bill Hrvsovsky.

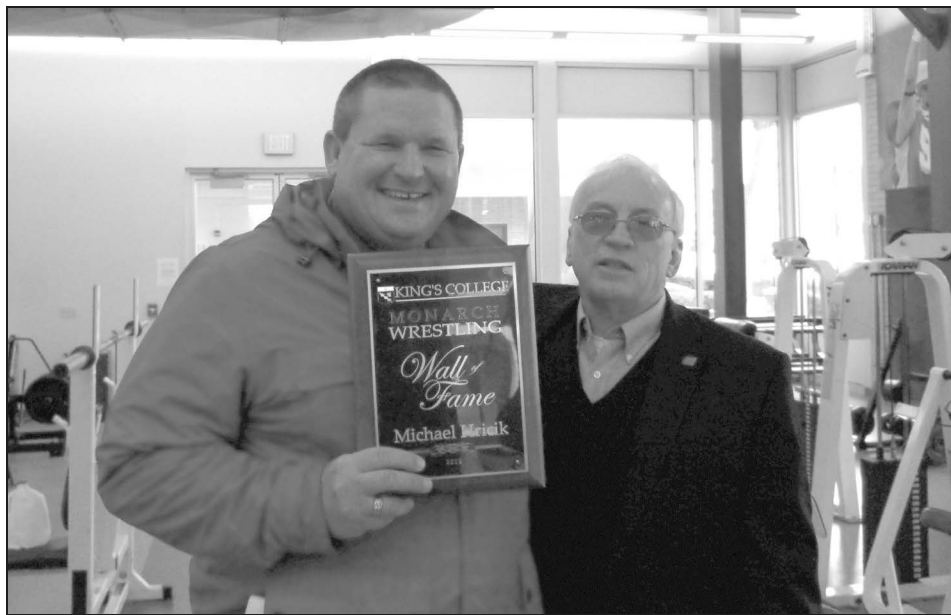
Gift baskets were donated by Ray Sinchak, Mary Jane Veri and Mary Kay Krisman along with lottery ticket 'ghosts' donated by the Branch and prepared by Fred & Joy Brunetti were all used for the raffle. \$417 was raised and donated to St. Vincent DePaul.

The Branch purchased a table at a recent dinner to benefit Bella Women's Center (a pregnancy resource center). Branch President Bill Hrvsovsky and his wife Gretchen, Auditor, Rosemary Heald and several parish members attended. Fred & Joy Brunetti had planned to attend but were deployed to New Jersey to inspect damaged homes and aid Hurricane Sandy survivors.

The September breakfast at St. Mary & St. Joseph Church in Newton Falls was attended by approximately 40 parishioners who raised \$250 for their food bank.

We had a short business meeting prior to our Christmas dinner on December 1 at Café 422 in Niles for the election of officers for 2013.

- Submitted by Joy Brunetti, Branch Secretary



(L - R) Branch 181's Michael Hricik and King's College wrestling coach Ned McGinley taken at the King's College Gym.

Michael Hricik named to King's College Wall of Fame

Michael Hricik, son of Thomas (former FCSU President) and Geraldine Hricik was named to the King's College Wrestling Wall of Fame on November 2, 2012 at an event held at the Campus Center. In 2013, King's College Wrestling will celebrate 45 years as a varsity sport. During that year King's first and only head wrestling coach, Ned McGinley, will celebrate his 70th birthday and 45th year of coaching. Michael wrestled 190 and heavyweight at King's College as was a Middle Atlantic Conference place winner and a National Catholic College runner-up against Division I schools such as Notre Dame and Marquette University. Michael is currently a Professor of English at Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, Pa where he has taught for 22 years. He graduated from King's College in 1981 with a dual Marketing/Business major, and from San Diego State with a master's degree in the Teaching of Writing, as well as a second master's degree from Chatham University in Professional Writing. During his career at WCCC he won the Teaching Excellence Award and was named to the Top 40 recipients of the first 40 years of WCCC. He has been a lifelong member of Branch 181, United, PA. Michael is married to Victoria and has two sons Paul and Michael.

Slovak Slalom Skier Surprises

Ted Ligety of the USA took first place during the World Cup Men's Giant Slalom on Oct. 28, 2012 in Sölden, Austria. He was the heavy favourite and proved why: trailing by two tenths of a second after the first round, he won the event by an unbelievable 2.75 seconds after his second run – the widest margin in 30 years.

But the real surprise was 22 year old Slovak Adam Zampa who finished in ninth place, and was second fastest in the second run after Ligety. Zampa's finish earns him 29 points and enables Slovakia to field another skier in future World Cup races this season. Slovak women such as Veronika Zuzulová, Barbora Kantorová, and youngster Petra Vihová have drawn attention to themselves in World Cup events but this is the best World Cup finish by a Slovak male skier since the country's independence in 1993.

The native of Stary Smokovec is coached by his father Tomáš Žampa and urged on by his younger brother Andreas, who may be chosen as the new addition to the team. The senior Zampa states that Andreas frequently beats his older brother in slalom races back home. The top ten finish may also encourage some sponsors to come forward – the Zampa family has been paying its own way, such is its determination to excel. The two brothers should be flying to Beaver Creek for the USA World Cup race in December.

Stephen Reistetter

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

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

In observance of
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
 December 24 & 25, 2012



In observance of
New Years Day
 December 31, 2012 & January 1, 2013

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

Jesus' Christmas Wish List

Will this be another Christmas season like the ones we've come to know in recent years? You know what I mean: another season where we wonder if there's still room for Christ in Christmas, where a Christmas creche will probably draw a protest, where a greeting of "Merry Christmas!" is as likely to bring forth a snarl as it is a smile. You can get angry at all this, of course; rage is a perfectly understandable response.

But there's another way, too, one that involves no anger and no confrontation. It came to me in a friend's e-mail at this time last year, and I saved it to share with you this Christmas. Imagine, if you will, Christ himself saying these words--which makes it, indeed, a Christian response. Here goes:

If you want to celebrate my birth (Jesus says), here is my wish list. First, just get along and love one another. Instead of writing letters of protest objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They can use them, especially at this time of year.

Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

Pick someone who has hurt you in the past, and forgive him or her.

Did you know that someone in your town will try to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and helpless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile. It could make the difference!

Instead of nitpicking about what your local retailer calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas," that doesn't stop you from wishing one to them.

If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary--someone who takes my love and Good News to those who have never heard my name.

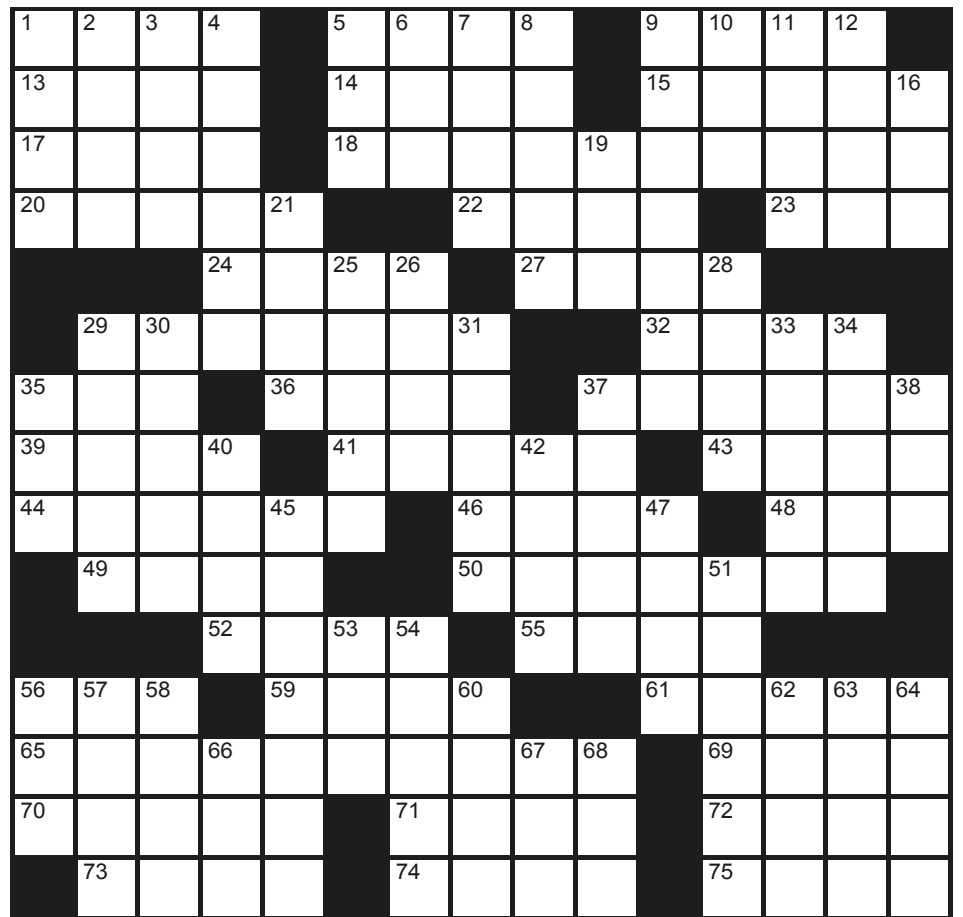
Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no Christmas tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army, to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society, or to some other charity that believes in me. They'll know what to do with them.

Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief and your loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Remember to love me, and do what I've told you to do. Check out this list, and get to work. Time is short! And by all means, have a most blessed Christmas with those you hold dearest in your heart.

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2012 PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 Bauble
- 5 Corn units
- 9 Prohibits
- 13 Ornamental purse
- 14 Radar image
- 15 Rewrites
- 17 Makes lace
- 18 Red Cross benefactor
- 20 Reserved
- 22 Travel package
- 23 Ram's mate
- 24 Frail
- 27 Limb extension
- 29 Field sport
- 32 Gain's opposite
- 35 Family room
- 36 Cruising
- 37 Punches
- 39 Showy flower
- 41 Southpaw
- 43 Genuine
- 44 Capable of movement
- 46 Visage
- 48 Time zone
- 49 Sandwich shop
- 50 Cream puffs
- 52 Sensed
- 55 Hardy heroine
- 56 Down Under bird
- 59 Mountain goat's perch
- 61 Search site
- 65 Tough luck
- 69 Corn Belt state
- 70 Girder material
- 71 Hibernia
- 72 Copycat
- 73 Promised land
- 74 Bumpkin

Down

- 1 Gr. letter
- 2 And others (Abbr.)
- 3 Coupé
- 4 Renounce a relative
- 5 Subside
- 6 Entirely
- 7 Donnybrook
- 8 Take-off, as a movie
- 9 Cowboy's sleeping bag
- 10 Commotion
- 11 Supreme Court count
- 12 Pack
- 16 Sp. woman (Abbr.)
- 19 Twosome
- 21 Greek cheese
- 25 Supermarket area
- 26 Leg's midpoint
- 28 Honk
- 29 Biblical king
- 30 Join forces
- 31 Blooper
- 33 More likely
- 34 Building boards
- 35 Faint
- 37 It goes around
- 38 Arrange
- 40 Fine fabric
- 75 Cluckers
- 42 Diplomacy
- 45 16th President
- 47 Effortless
- 51 Hebrew prophet
- 53 Go astray
- 54 No-cal drink
- 56 German river or resort
- 57 Tiny insect
- 58 Employed
- 60 Wise one
- 62 Anticipation
- 63 Mrs. Miniver actor Reginald
- 64 Boat propellers
- 66 Invoice amount
- 67 Bird's beak
- 68 Compass pt.

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2013

Issue Date	Deadline
January 16	January 7
January 30	January 14
February 13	February 4
February 27	February 18
March 13	March 4
March 27	March 18
April 24	April 15
May 8	April 29
May 22	May 13
June 12	June 3
July 17	July 8
August 7	July 29
September 4	August 26
September 25	September 16
October 9	September 30
October 23	October 14
November 6	October 28
November 20	November 11
December 4	November 25

See Solution on Page 20

Chewy Remembers the Season of Christmas in Slovakia

Hi. Kids (and all those "Young at Heart")

It's me, Chewy. Hard to believe it will be six months since I first came to America and the First Catholic Slovak Union, but there you have it. I arrived in that crazy pet carrier in June and here it is already December ... and now we're rockin' and rollin' toward the holidays. Yay, Christmas is almost here!

Back home in Slovakia, the party really gets started on December 6th on St. Nicholas Day (or Svätý Mikuláš in Slovak) a time for some cool traditions. Up in the high mountains of Slovakia where I was born, this was a very popular day with kids of our homestead. No kidding ... because good little boys and girls could expect little yummy treats of fruit and nuts tied up in little packages that were put in the newly cleaned čizmy (boots) they left on the windowsill. Of course, the bad kids who forgot or didn't want to clean their dirty boots got nothin' but coal. I bet my new friends here in America know all about that. Isn't Santa supposed to leave a lump of coal in your stocking if you misbehave? Yep. Same idea. You better watch out, you better not cry ... or you'll be getting your paw all black and sooty before you know it!

Anyhoo, the next evening, on the actual Deň Svätého Mikuláša, the older boys in our village would dress up as Sv. Mikuláš and posse – aka an angel (anjel) dressed in white and a devil (čert) all in black –and visit local families like my master's with children at home. When the little kids were good and recited a prayer, they'd get more goodies. If there were bad ... you guessed it, more coal!

Of course, there as here, Christmas Eve is as sacred as it gets. Before Midnight



Mass, my family would gather the household for the Vilija, Slovak for Christmas Eve. Vilija, actually means "bountiful eve" – the bounty being right there in the traditional Slovak offerings on the table. There's oplátky (wafers) with honey to offer a blessing to the family and friends gathered together, with platters of nuts and fruit for all to share, representing the wish for good health, and also pieces of garlic on the table – not so much to eat but to ward off demons. Then the main part of the meal starts with cabbage soup and mushrooms and then comes the fish, and other good things like bobalky, those yummy dough balls rolled in poppy seed and – sweet! – more honey. No Vilija would be complete without the pastries to end the meal. Nutroll, poppyseed roll, kolace. Yum.

My tummy starts growling just thinking about all the great crumbs I would lick up every chance I got snuffing around with my littermates after the feast was over and we were allowed inside the dining area. Can't wait to celebrate the Vilija with my new friends in the FCSU here in America. I understand it's almost exactly the same celebration, and it happens throughout the many branches and districts of our Society.

We Jednotars sure keep our traditions alive, don't we? Maybe someday we'll get together and swap Christmas stories and practices. In the meantime, keep your ears up and your tails waggin' for an extra special Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year).

Chewy takes time out from his trip to see Santa to wish "Veselé Vianoce" to all his friends at the FCSU!



Tvoj Priateľ (Your friend) Chewy

The Chewy Challenge:



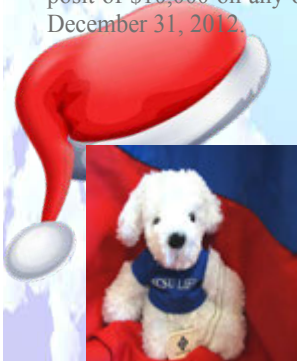
Check these rates against your bank!

Special Grrrr-eat Holiday Offer From Chewy For These Products:

- * Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA **3.25%** (APY)
- * Six Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA **3.35%** (APY)
- * Eight Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA **3.60%** (APY)

(Interest rates as of December 1, 2012)

No bones about it. Call today... and get a **FREE Chewy Čuvač** with a minimum deposit of \$10,000 on any one of the above products. Effective on deposits received by December 31, 2012.



TAKE ME HOME IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
Your very own Chewy Čuvač comes complete with FCSU Life T-shirt, dog tag, and "official" certificate of ownership

FCSU Life



6611 Rockside Rd #300
Independence, OH 44131
Phone: 1 800 533 6682
E-mail: FCSU@aol.com
Visit our website: www.FCSU.com



FCSU LIFE
6611 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131
1-800-533-6682
fcsu@aol.com
www.fcsu.com

CHEWY SAYS, "PLEASE TAKE ME HOME"

Purchase a \$25,000 (or higher) Single Premium Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP) and receive a **FREE Gift**



For a limited time, when you purchase a \$25,000 (or higher) Single Premium JEP, you receive a **Chewy Čuvač** of your very own—complete with FCSU shirt, dog tag, and an "official" certificate of ownership

How it Works

- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities

For more info please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

Spitkovsky District Sponsors Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree in Chicago

Celebrate "Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light", began November 15, 2012 and runs through January 6, 2013 at the Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, IL.

Among the more than 55 Christmas trees decorated by ethnic groups is the "Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree" sponsored by the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Two of the First Catholic Slovak Union. This is the seventeenth year of participation. The tree is decorated with Imported Slovak ornaments and many handmade ornaments, tree skirt and Slovak Village train set made by the committee and family members. Placed under the 12-foot tall tree is a traditional handmade "crèche" from Slovakia.

For further information on "Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light," call the Museum at 773-684-1414.

Mark Fayta
Republic of Slovakia
Christmas Tree Chairman

Pictured are Committee Members and their families: Mark, Judy, Chelsea, Alex & Ayden Fayta, Noreen & Amber Miller & friend, Mark, Art & Barbara Fayta, Ed & Shirley Uram, Andy Harcar, Matthew & Jennifer Manzella, Emma Graves, Lynda Tanis, Larry, Lori, & Julian Seida, Marge, Bob & Jackson Vlik.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. We will hold our elections at this time. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen's Society Branch 006K will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 1:00PM in Al's Restaurant (formerly Buster's Restaurant), 1603 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL.

The branch will conduct a meeting, followed by the nomination and election of officers. The branch will provide a luncheon with a fraternal gathering. The branch encourages all members to attend and share any suggestions for branch activities for 2013. Call (815) 822-8851 or (815) 672-1764, if you plan to attend or have any questions on insurance. Thank you.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012, 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 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 9:30AM in St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place at this meeting.

We cordially invite our members to attend this meeting and enjoy seeing their friends.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2013, at the Beachwood Hilton, 3663 Park East Drive, Beachwood, OH, 44122. The meeting will begin at 1:00PM in Porter's Restaurant, the Elton John Room, after which a light lunch will be served. Please call Susan Lang at 216-896-0957 before January 16, 2013, to make a reservation.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 25 will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 1:00PM.

The meeting will be held at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 1987 Centurion Drive, #402, Forest Hills, PA.

Agenda items include election of officers and discussion of branch activities. All members are invited to attend.

Fraternally,

Janet M. Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 20, 2013, at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. On the agenda will be scholarships and elections of officers. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 18, 2013.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and

First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion on events for the up coming year. The election of officers will also be chosen. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 55 – BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 28, 2012 at the home of the Vice-President, 188 DiMarco Drive, Philadelphia, PA. Officers and Delegates will be elected and regular business will be conducted. Refreshments will be served. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid For Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend. For directions, 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.

The Officers and members of Branch 55 K.J wish everyone a blessed and holy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Vesele Vianoce!

Fraternally yours,

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 75, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012. The 10:00AM meeting will be held at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA.

The fiscal end of the year reports and financial statements will be presented. The auditor's report will be submitted. And the nomination of officers for the coming year will take place. Any additional branch business will be entertained.

All members are requested to attend this semi-annual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOHY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 1PM. At this meeting, we will elect officers and discuss new business. The meeting will be held at Palermo's Restaurant on the Pottsville-Minersville Highway. Please call 570-640-1796 for further details.

Fraternally,

Karen Engle Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 157 – NORTH CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting and Christmas party on Sunday, December 9, 2012, in the upstairs Jednota Hall, located at 5th & Grove, North Catasauqua, PA. The meeting will begin at noon. The Christmas party will follow at 1:00PM, with Santa arriving at 2:00PM. Reservations for the Christmas party must be received no later than Dec 2, 2012. Please call 610-264-0740 with your reservation, and leave the names and the ages (0 - 10) of any children attending. The snow date for the meeting and Christmas party is December 16, 2012.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 653 W. Main St., Uniontown in the conference room. Officer's reports will be given, branch activities will be discussed along with a report on the membership meeting, and election of officers will take place. All members of Branch 162 and spouses are cordially invited to attend the meeting, including the breakfast. Call for directions if needed and RSVP to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 by December 11, 2012.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Branch 199, Hostetter, PA, will meet on Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 1:00PM at Chumps Restaurant, Norvelt, PA. Election of officers will take place. Attendance is encouraged.

Barbara Patula, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

We will have our Nomination of Officers AND Election of Officers meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2012, immediately following the Officers Meeting which starts at 7:00PM. All meetings are held in the club's Social Hall at 910-912 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA. Members are encouraged to attend the meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of each month except June or July. The regular meeting follows the officers and directors meeting which begins at 7:00pm. In the event of a holy day, the meeting will be held the 2nd Thursday of that month. Hope to see you there!

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA at 1:30PM. Election of officers and discussion of the district meeting will be on the agenda. All members are asked to attend. Wishing all a Happy, Blessed, and Holy Christmas Season.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during its December 17, 2012 meeting at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This is an opportune time to get into office and help manage our branch as well as become involved with the Slovak Club. Anyone interested in running for branch office and/or ASC board representative should contact the branch officers and attend the December meeting. As always, Branch 228 holds their monthly meetings at the American Slovak Club at 7 P.M. on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. Visit the websites of the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current and future activities. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 254— PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2013, 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

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold an Annual Meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 11:00AM. We will have an Election of Officers, followed by a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are invited to attend.

We wish all members a Holy and Happy Holiday Season.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthews Branch 260 will hold its semiannual meeting Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 1:30PM at Bedford Trails golf course. The agenda will include election of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Fraternally submitted,

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

A meeting of the St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will be held on Dec. 12, 2012, at 6:30PM. Election of Officers will be held. Please contact Joe after 6PM at (732) 469-5256 as to the location of the meeting.

Joseph Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292- WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, FCSU, will hold their Annual Meeting on December 16, 2012, 12:30 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. A Christmas Party will follow the meeting. All members are asked to attend.

We wish all members a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, Pres.

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 293 KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 10, 2012, at 6PM at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Landsford, PA, 18232.

Election of officers will be on the agenda. Anyone needing service or insurance should contact Robert at 570-645-4872.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society will hold a meeting on January 12, 2013, at the Mother of Sorrows Convent in Oak Forest, IL (5600 West 147th Street). Election of officers for the new year of 2013 and new memberships will be on the agenda. Memberships are so important to our Society. The meeting will start at 11:15 AM. We hope to see you there.

Joseph M. Bugel, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting and Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 1:00PM, at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. There will be no cost to members; however, there will be a \$10.00 charge for nonmembers. In addition to conducting general business, there will be an election of officers. Please make your reservation by calling Fran at (724) 929-9788 before December 1, 2012, and let your know if you will be attending.

The officers of SS Peter and Paul, Branch 320, want to extend to you and your families our best wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday.

Mary Anne Higgenbotham, President

BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Branch 367, Fairchance, PA, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at the home of Patty

Speshock 11 Ash Street, Fairchance, PA, 15436 at 5 PM. Annual reports, election of officers, and unfinished business for 2012 will be discussed. Anyone wishing to attend please call Audrey Balazik, President at 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006. The officers of Branch 367 would also like to wish its members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 401 – NORTH APOLLO, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua Branch 401K will hold its annual meeting Sunday, December 30th, 1:00pm at 1223 Wysocki Ave, North Apollo, PA. On the agenda will be financial reports, election of officers, and discussion on events for 2013.

Wishing all brothers & sisters of the FCSU a very blessed holiday season.

Patrick Froncek, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2012, 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 2013. All members are invited to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Sat. January 5, 2013 at 2pm in the home of Jozef Valencik at 13501 Park Dr., Brook Park Ohio 44142

We will hold election of officers at this time and discuss branch activities. Please make an effort to attend.

Margaret M. Valencik, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of the St. Joseph's Society Branch 484 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at the home of President Rose Ann Rura, Power Plant Road, Coral, PA. The meeting date is December 16, 2012, beginning at 1:30PM. On the agenda will be the election of officers and financial reports.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2012 at 1:00pm at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109.

Nomination and election of officers for the year 2013 will take place at this time.

The annual report will also be given at this meeting. We will discuss ideas for fundraising for the year 2013.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to everyone!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The Muskegon Heights Branch will hold elections of officers on December 16th, 2012 at the monthly meeting at Tatra Hall. The Hall is located at 2526 6th Street, Muskegon Hts., MI, 49444. All members are asked to attend. Tatra Hall breakfast will be on Sunday the 23rd. Support your club and enjoy the fabulous food.

Laura Karafa Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, want to extend to you and your families our best wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday.

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670,

invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 9, at 11:30AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

A Noon Mass for deceased members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will be celebrated on December 16, 2012 at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

Our annual meeting will follow at the Saint Matthias Rectory. The agenda includes the election of officers for 2013.

Please try to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 9 2012, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer Report, a 2012 financial report, approval of the 2013 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of branch officers will also take place.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow Mass in the Church Social Hall.

Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need assistance with their policy or need to change their address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr. Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone @586-254-0225.

On behalf of the officers of Branch 743, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,
President and Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012 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 2013, as well as discussion of activities for the next year. 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 769 - ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769,

will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on January 15, 2013, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY. All members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will include election of officers for the coming year, as well as a discussion of value and benefits of membership in the FCSU.

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCH 774 – MERRILL, MICHIGAN

Branch 774 will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 1:00PM at the home of Frank Radosa. For any questions, please call Secretary Katherine Radosa Stevens at 989-835-9895. Please try to attend.

Katherine Radosa Stevens, Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold a joint meeting with the Monsignor Michael Shuba District on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 1:30 pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall.

Please contact Sharon Tomas 416-540-2328, if you are attending the luncheon and meeting.

Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Christmas Mass on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin at 11:00 AM.

Refreshments will be served after Mass in caf-

eteria and St. Nicholas will bring Christmas presents to the children. Following fraternal fellowship, Branch 844 members will hold its annual meeting with election of officers and a financial report. Also on the agenda: activities for 2013, including preparations for the anniversary celebration of 1150 years of St. Cyril and Methodius' missionary work with Slovak people.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856 will hold their next meeting on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 1:00PM at the home of Recording Secretary Marion Mistrik at 4513 Gladwyne Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20814. On the agenda will be future branch activities, election of officers, Treasurer's report, report on attendance at the Mass held in honor of our Slovak Chapel. All branch members are invited to attend. For information, call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703-860-1693.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial 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 12, 2012. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. Election of officers for 2013 will be held. The officers of Branch 857 wishes all a happy and holy Christmas season.

Fraternally,
Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary



Shown here, the historical center of Trnava, one of the many places you will visit on the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour 2013.

Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour 2013

If you have always wanted to take a tour of Slovakia and never got around to it, NOW IS THE TIME!! Slovakia is celebrating 10 years in the European Union in 2013 and is in the process of refurbishing all their buildings, churches, castles etc. See Slovakia at its finest.

Get started early, find out the names of the villages from your oldest living relatives and once your deposit is made we will help you in trying to locate family. Get out your walking shoes, practice your Slovak and get ready for the time of your life. We stay in the best hotels and you get a flavor of many different hotels, the food is great, our air conditioned bus is large and roomy with a bathroom. We have the finest guide in all of Slovakia and have access to translators for a fee if you want to visit your relatives. You pay these people directly; there is no middle man fee. We do a bus/ walking tour of Vienna, Bratislava, visit castles, white water raft on the Dunajec, have a picnic lunch, visit Nitra, Slovak Bethlehem, Trnava (little Rome of Slovakia) St Jacob's cathedral, Piestany (the spa town) attend a folk performance in Trenčin, travel to the high Tatras and take a ride on the cog railway or gondola ride depending on the weather. We have several dinners in a koliba (a shepherd's cottage with Slovak cooking and music) and everyone lets their hair down and enjoys the evening.

Once again Jim and Kay Bench have agreed to host the tour, which should be scheduled after the first week in July---If you have any questions please contact Jim or Kay at 724-684-5101 home---Jim's cell 724-858-5843-Kay's cell 724-771-7900 or e-mail them at jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure International Travel Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171---800-542-2487---Fax 216-228-7174 or www.adventure-intl.travel.com or e-mail Paul@aits.webmail.com.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Sign up for the trip of a lifetime.

Watch for our write-up and pictures from our very successful 2012 trip. Any of the people on the trip are willing to talk with you and tell you about the trip.

Brochure and cost of the trip with final dates will be available near the end of the year.

Branch 670 Awards 2012 Scholarships, Accepting Applications For 2013

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is proud to announce the winners of the 2012 Scholarship program. Rachel Wald of Portland, OR is a freshman at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. She is the daughter of Ruth and Barry Wald.

Andrew L. Hyatt of Freedom, PA is a freshman attending the University of Pittsburgh, Titusville, PA. He is the son of Cheryl and Gregg Hyatt.

Branch 670 is also excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2013 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three, one-time \$1000.00 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the award criteria. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had a policy, other than JEP, for at least 5 years, is current in their premiums, and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship. The applicant must be a senior in high school to qualify for this scholarship.

For applications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following officers, or you may email your request to 1 of the following addresses: Dorothy Petrus, 585 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033; Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net); Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: hyattfamily@comcast.net) ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2013

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 12 – MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Msgr. Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Our president, Dorothy Petrus, and the officers of Msgr. Hlinka of the Mon Valley wish their brothers and sisters of the First Catholic Slovak Union a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, prosperity, and much happiness.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

District 14, the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, will have its next meeting, held in conjunction with the Annual Christmas Party, on Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 6:00PM, at the Fireplace Restaurant and Lounge, 2075 East Western Reserve Road, Poland, OH. On the agenda will be Nomination and Election of Officers, followed by the Christmas party and dinner. Reservations are required by Tuesday, December 11, 2012. To make your reservation, please call either Nancy Scavina at 330-758-4536 or Paul Ritz at 330-501-8768.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold its annual meeting on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2012. The celebration begins at 11:00 AM with Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706, following with the tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. There will be Christmas-carol choir practice and preparation for Sunday Mass and after the Mass celebration, as well.

The meeting will be held at 1:30 PM in the Cafeteria, where a gourmet luncheon with dessert also will be served. On the agenda will be: Election of officers for the coming year, a financial report, and preparations for the 1150th anniversary of the evangelization of the Slovak people by Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and hold their concurrent Annual Meetings. Please contact your branch officer for details.

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

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

A joint meeting with Branch 785 will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 1:30 pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall.

Please contact Sharon Tomas 416-540-2328, if you are attending the luncheon and meeting.

Anne Mitro, Branch 785 Secretary



Branch 633 members learned many new things in the public driving seminar hosted by AAA of Michigan, including a new national law requiring everyone to move over one lane for a stopped vehicle as well as how to navigate the newest road innovations, such as European-style roundabouts and bicycle lanes on major highways.

An Important and Helpful Branch Activity: AAA'S Keeping the Keys

FCSU Branch 633 held its annual activity on Sunday November 11, 2012 with a new, different and very successful idea. Triple A of Michigan hosted a free to the public driving seminar for older drivers called "Keeping the Keys". As longtime drivers, it did not seem like there is not much any course could teach us, especially one where no one drove a car or took a driving test. Boy did we all discover how wrong that notion is!

Modern driving has changed considerably since I went to driver's education and many in the audience admitted there was no such thing in their youth. We discovered together much has changed on the roads starting on where to keep your hands on the wheel [one example: 10 & 3 o'clock now, with your thumbs up so as not to break them or your wrists when an airbag goes off].

This program, targeted for the over age fifty drivers among us, dealt with issues that require different approaches to driving like setting your rear view mirrors differently and watching the ground for movement where someone might step out from in between cars parked on the side of the road. The course also makes the point about how an unwitting senior could wind up charged with a DUI by taking medication and driving.

I learned many new things and feel far more confident behind the wheel tonight after this refresher course. I was so impressed by the instructors from AAA of Michigan and the professionally produced videos they brought with them that I could not recommend this program any more highly to all members of the FCSU.

There is a bonus here as well. It turns out Triple A of Michigan offers a more in-depth four hour training course for non-Triple A customers could mean a discount on your auto insurance. Now that's a great bargain and something I will also be recommending for District 5 branches. We will offer the four hour course in the spring of 2013. If you are district or branch leadership I would gladly help you get one of these programs set up in your area. If you are an FCSU member and are interested in having one of these programs in your area please feel free to call me. My phone number is (248)-444-9141.

Robert Kristofik, Branch 633 President and District 5 President

John's Tours Heads for Slovakia

John's Tours of Vandergrift, PA, has an extensive Tour of Slovakia set for

SEPTEMBER 9 – 23, 2013

Featuring

Stays in Bratislava, Piešťany, Košice, and Krakow

- Visits to Vienna (including Shoenbrunn Palace)
- A raft ride on the Dunajec River
- Viewing of Slovak Bethlehem carving 15 years in the making
- A folklore wedding in Krakovany
- A visit to Cicmany with its uniquely painted house
- A visit to Poland to see the home and church of John Paul II
- Tour of Krakow and Oswiecim

Tour participants will have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to the cultural performances. John Mago and a Slovak- and English-speaking guide will arrange for transportation and translators for those who wish to contact relatives.

The tour will include two meals daily, 13 nights in 4 or 3 star hotels, an air-conditioned bus, and an English-speaking guide. Include this wonderful tour in your 2013 vacation plans. See the homeland of your parents and grandparents!

A brochure and further information please write or call:

John's Tours
P.O. Box 154
Vandergrift, PA 15690
Phone: 724-567-7341 or 1-800-260-8687

The First Catholic Slovak Union is now accepting VISA, Mastercard and Discover credit cards as newspaper subscription payments. Contact the Home Office for details: 1-800-JEDNOTA or fcsu@aol.com.

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
016P	Anna M Cosgrove	163K	Emil P Sefcik	419K	Peter Zdrovka	743K	Winifred L Forgash
024K	Paul D Buynak	199K	Lori A Ulishney	635K	Mary Helene Blackburn	746K	Charles John Americk
035K	Robert M Puhala	228K	Diane S Ludwig	706K	Mildred P Machura	855K	Anne Dobrovic
038K	Gregory J Deet	240P	Theresa A Scubelek	714K	Christa D Cenky	855K	Agnes M Ruscin

* Processed in the month of November 2012

OBITUARIES

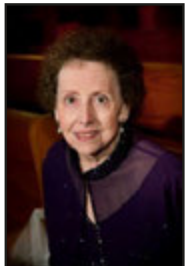
LOUIS J. DODULIK BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Louis J. Dodulik, age 79, of Wauwatosa, WI, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2012, at St. Camillus Health Center in Wauwatosa, WI. Louis was born on October 9, 1932, to Veronica and Paul Dodulik in Milwaukee, WI. Louis was retired as CEO of Dodco, Inc., Milwaukee, WI (a wire forming shop started by his father and two uncles). Dedicated to his wife, Mary Ann (nee Jurik). Dear father of six children and their spouses: Paul (Carolyn), Sue (Doug) Bean, Jean (Stephen) Houston, Steven (Lorie), LuAnn (Dr. Edward) Szabo and Lou (Kiki). Cherished grandfather to 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Louis was a member of Branch 89, Milwaukee, WI, as is his wife.

The Mass of Christian was held 6PM, at Sacred Heart Croatian Catholic Church on Monday, September 17, 2012. Internment followed on Tuesday, Sept 18, 2012, at Wisconsin Memorial Park at 10:30AM.

ELIZABETH JANE CANTAFIO (NEE SABOL) BRANCH 55K – BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Elizabeth Jane Cantafio (nee Sabol), of East Norriton, PA, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on Sunday November 4, 2012. She was 79 years old. Born January 19, 1933 in Phoenixville, PA, she was the beloved wife of the late Tito Cantafio.



Elizabeth earned the honor of being selected as the Salutatorian of the Phoenixville High School graduating class of 1950. An honor roll student, Elizabeth was a distinguished member of the National Honor Society as well as a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. She worked as an Executive Assistant for Kettelle & Wagner in Malvern, PA, and then later for Daniel H. Wagner & Associates in Paoli, PA. Before getting married, she agreed to stay on with Daniel H. Wagner & Associates as a part-time Executive Consultant, blazing the trail for what would later be known as work-life balance. For a woman in the 1960's, this was quite an accomplishment. Elizabeth was also the bookkeeper and tax preparer for Berwyn Pharmacy in Paoli, PA, which her husband Tito owned. Despite all of her accolades, Elizabeth still enjoyed the job she held until her death, that of being a devoted mother.

Elizabeth had many hobbies and talents, some of which were: gardening, swimming, cooking, birds and bird watching (the cardinal was her favorite bird), puzzles, couponing and shopping. She enjoyed playing scrabble with her daughter Elizabeth, and watching the Eagles. More than anything else she loved her Dachshund, Chili, and spending time with her family, especially during Sunday dinners.

Elizabeth is survived by her three children; Dr. Elizabeth J. Cantafio of Philadelphia, PA, Diana L. Interrante (Joseph R.) of East Norriton, PA, Tito M. Cantafio (Cheryl) of East Norriton, PA, and her cousin Nancy Pinellio of Phoenixville, PA. She was preceded in death by her infant sister Alice Sabol.

A lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Elizabeth was the daughter of the late Elizabeth A. (nee Vovcsko) and Michael G. Sabol, former President of the Eastern Pennsylvania District of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. She was also the niece of the late John (Jack) A. Sabol, former President of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada.

Elizabeth's Life Celebration service was held on Thursday, November 8 at the Boyd-Horrox Funeral Home of East Norriton, PA. Her funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, November 9, 2012 at Holy Savior Church of Norristown, PA. Interment was held at Sacred Heart Cemetery, also in Phoenixville, PA.

A Catholic Mass will be said in remembrance of Elizabeth at Holy Savior Church, 407 E. Main Street, Norristown, PA, on Sunday, December 23, at 11:30 a.m.

RICHARD B. SEDLACKO BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Richard B. Sedlacko, 73, Latrobe, passed away Friday, Aug. 17, 2012, at Barnes House. He was born Nov. 3, 1938, in Hostetter, son of the late George B. and Josephine (Stranko) Sedlacko. Richard was a member of St. Cecilia Church, Whitney. He was a retired employee of the pro-shop at the Latrobe Country Club with 42 years of service, and had been a caddy at the Latrobe Country Club for five years. He was an avid golfer. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, George E. Jr., Gervase, John R., and Benedict Sedlacko; two sisters-in-law, Dolores Sedlacko and Florence Sedlacko; and one brother-in-law, Jack Bridge. Richard is survived by six brothers, Francis Sedlacko and his wife, Lorraine, of Greensburg, Eugene Sedlacko, of Milledgeville, Ga., Stephen Sedlacko and his wife, Faye, of New Castle, Ind., Louis Sedlacko and his wife, Sally, of New Alexandria, Thomas Sedlacko and his wife, Mary Jean, of Aspers, and Donald Sedlacko and his wife, Laurel, of Greensburg; two sisters, Regina Bridge, of Ligonier, and Dolores Starkey and her husband, Milford, of Greensburg; two sisters-in-law, Tina Sedlacko, of Penn Hills, and Marion Sedlacko, of Greensburg; and special cousins, Gene Fajt and his wife Kathy, of Latrobe. He is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Family and friends will be received from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday at the JOHN J. LOPATICH FUNERAL HOME INC., 601 Weldon St., Latrobe. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday in St. Cecilia Church, Whitney, with the Rev. Peter Augustine Pierjok, OSB, as celebrant. Interment will follow in Unity Cemetery. The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff of Barnes House for their care during his illness. To sign our online guest book, send condolences, or to view detailed obituary and funeral home information, please visit www.lopatic.com.

Richard B. Sedlacko, 73, Latrobe, passed away Friday, Aug. 17, 2012, at Barnes House. He was born Nov. 3, 1938, in Hostetter, son of the late George B. and Josephine (Stranko) Sedlacko. Richard was a member of St. Cecilia Church, Whitney. He was a retired employee of the pro-shop at the Latrobe Country Club with 42 years of service, and had been a caddy at the Latrobe Country Club for five years. He was an avid golfer. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, George E. Jr., Gervase, John R., and Benedict Sedlacko; two sisters-in-law, Dolores Sedlacko and Florence Sedlacko; and one brother-in-law, Jack Bridge. Richard is survived by six brothers, Francis Sedlacko and his wife, Lorraine, of Greensburg, Eugene Sedlacko, of Milledgeville, Ga., Stephen Sedlacko and his wife, Faye, of New Castle, Ind., Louis Sedlacko and his wife, Sally, of New Alexandria, Thomas Sedlacko and his wife, Mary Jean, of Aspers, and Donald Sedlacko and his wife, Laurel, of Greensburg; two sisters, Regina Bridge, of Ligonier, and Dolores Starkey and her husband, Milford, of Greensburg; two sisters-in-law, Tina Sedlacko, of Penn Hills, and Marion Sedlacko, of Greensburg; and special cousins, Gene Fajt and his wife Kathy, of Latrobe. He is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Family and friends were received from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday, August 20, 2012, at the JOHN J. LOPATICH FUNERAL HOME INC., Latrobe. A funeral Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. the following Tuesday in St. Cecilia Church, Whitney, with the Rev. Peter Augustine Pierjok, OSB, as celebrant. Interment followed in Unity Cemetery.

- submitted by Barbara Patula, Branch 199 Financial Secretary/Treasurer

JOSEPH J. CHERNIGA BRANCH 238 – DUNMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Former Olyphant, PA, hometown resident, AF Fire Chief, SMSgt (ret) Joseph J. Cherniga, 85, of Ft. Walton Bch, Florida,



died at home in the loving care of his family and hospice back on 8 Sep after a short 5-week battle with cancer. He was the husband of the former Nancy R. Clark of Falmouth, MA, and would have celebrated a 60th wedding anniversary this coming January.

He is survived by his wife Nancy and two sons; attorney Michael and wife, Terry, of Tallahassee, FL; AF Col (ret) John and wife Joan, of Satellite Beach, FL; granddaughter Kara Cherniga of Boston, MA; and grandson PFC Patrick Cherniga and wife Pvt Amanda, of Ft. Bragg, NC. He is also survived by his sister, Helen Cherniga, of Olyphant, PA.

"Skip" was born on 12 June 1927 in Beaver Meadows, PA, to Slovak emigrant parents John Cherniga and Elizabeth (Sofranko), and then grew up in Olyphant—a coal miner's son, who loved the sea scouts. He was preceded in death by his sister Mary Ann, sister Theresa (Sr. Mary Emerita), and his brother John, all of Olyphant.

Joe graduated six months early from Olyphant HS in 1944 to join the war effort as a 17-yr old in the Coast Guard. Afterward, he served in the Penn Nat'l Guard and then joined the Air Force, finally retiring in 1968. Assignments were Key West, Cape Cod, Japan, Puerto Rico, Greenland, Montana, and Florida. As a firefighter, he earned the Airman's Medal for heroism. After military retirement, Joe was a postman for 2-yrs, but then opened his own business – Safety Service Company (1970-89) – selling fire & safety equipment.

He loved watching football and golf, and in his younger days enjoyed filming, photography, model building, and playing football on local community teams. In his later years, he enjoyed keeping his home and yard 'shipshape', staying up on current events via radio and TV, and reaching out to lifelong friends via the internet and by letter. He is fondly remembered by many as a long-time usher, with wife Nancy, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Ft. Walton Bch. His smile and kindness to all is surely missed.

Visitation was September 11, 2012, at Emerald Coast Funeral Home, with 2 Air Force fireman "honor guards" posted over the casket. A Funeral Mass was celebrated September 12, 2012, followed by burial with military honors at Beal Memorial Cemetery, Ft. Walton Bch. A reception followed at Saint Mary's Life Center.

SISTER M. ROSALINE, SS.C.M.

Sister M. Rosaline (Helen Drab) died at age 75 at Emmanuel Center, Danville, on Saturday, November 10, 2012. Born on January 20, 1937, in Swoyersville, PA, she was the daughter of John and Mary (Kolesar) Drab.



On September 8, 1954, Sister entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, PA, and made her first profession of vows on August 6, 1957.

Sister Rosaline taught grades 1 and 2 in parish schools in Pennsylvania and South Carolina. She also taught in parish religious education programs and prepared youngsters for the sacraments.

Later she became a Nurse's Aide at Maria Joseph Manor. Sister Rosaline then worked with the Catholic chaplain at Geisinger Medical Center where she served as a Eucharistic Minister.

After completing CPE and receiving a Master's in Theological Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Sister Rosaline became a certified Chaplain in the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. She then served as Director of Pastoral Services at Maria Joseph Manor and Emmanuel Center. Simultaneously, for almost 15 years Sister was a chaplain at the Danville State Hospital.

Sister was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Mary and John. Surviving is one cousin, Mrs. Mary Godlewski.

The transferal and recitation of the Rosary took place at 10 a.m. at Maria Hall in Danville followed by the Wake Service at 11 a.m., also at Maria Hall. The public viewing was from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 1:30 p.m. in the Basilica. The main celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Gerard Heintzelman. The following priests were concelebrants: Dominic Azagbor, O.P., Joseph Fennessey, John Kilpatrick, Michael Lajcha, Tri M. Luong, Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P., Albert Oldfield, and Raymond Orloski. Among the congregation were non-Catholic Christian clergy with whom Sister worked at the Danville State Hospital and Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery.

SISTER ANNE KREMENIK, SCN

Sister Anne Kremenik, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, (formerly known as Sister Loyola, VSC) died peacefully at the Vincentian Home on November 16, 2012. She was born in Blairsville, PA and was a member of Saints Simon and Jude Parish. She credited the deep faith and goodness of her parents as a factor in her vocation to religious life. At age 15 she entered the community of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity. Throughout the next 75 years she faithfully served God and others in the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, PA.

Sister Anne earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education, specializing in Library Science from Duquesne University, and a Master of Arts in English from Notre Dame University.

For the next 31 years Sister taught at both elementary and secondary levels. She then served in congregational ministry as Major Superior (8 years), as a Council Member (4 years) and as Director of Retirement (23 years).

Sister had a special interest in Slovak people, customs, traditions and history. For 18 years she cherished her roles as the publicity officer of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation and editor of that organization's annual, the Good Shepherd.

Following a stroke in 2006 and the ensuing expressive aphasia, Sister Anne lived out the remainder of her life in humility yet with a clear understanding of all that was happening around her. She exemplified the poet Milton's words that "they also serve who only stand and wait".

She continued to make personal decisions, had a keen sense of humor, was concerned about her religious community and demonstrated compassion to those who suffered. Of this period in her life she said "my hands may not write, my eyes may not see, my mouth may not speak, but my heart always prays, is ever grateful, and always loves."

Of all her ministry experiences, Sister felt that the ministry with the "senior sisters" was the most satisfying and that she was blessed by their richness and wisdom.

She continued to make personal decisions, had a keen sense of humor, was concerned about her religious community and demonstrated compassion to those who suffered. Of this period in her life she said "my hands may not write, my eyes may not see, my mouth may not speak, but my heart always prays, is ever grateful, and always loves."

Sister Anne Kremenik will especially be remembered for the impact she had in the spiritual development and prayer life of the community as well as the difference she made in the lives of individual sisters.

Sister Anne is predeceased by her parents Cecilia and Joseph Kremenik, by a sister, Mary and by brothers Joseph, John, and Steve. She is survived by a sister-in-law, Jan Kremenik, by nieces and nephews, by all the sisters of her religious community and by countless friends.

Scenes from Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest in Youngstown, OH

On Sunday, August 12, 2012, members of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District 14 attended the 7th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest held at St. Matthias Catholic Church, Youngstown, OH. It was a beautiful, sunny day and everyone enjoyed a variety of Slovak food. There also was music and dancing by the Del Sinchak Polka Band. All of the local Slovak Societies helped to make the day a great success. Everyone is looking forward to next year's event.

- Submitted by Joseph T. Scavina, Branch 682 Financial Secretary



News From Slovakia

Bojnice and Spis Castles in Europe's Top 25 Castles

Bratislava, November 13 (TASR) - Bojnice Castle (Trencin region) and Spis Castle (Presov region) have been placed among the 25 most beautiful castles in Europe by the traveler portal offtoeurope.com.

"We were pleased to see that two Slovak jewels have been placed on the list next to English, German and French castles," PR manager of the Slovak Tourism Agency (SACR) Zuzana Nemcova told TASR on this date.

The Bojnice Castle was described by the web site as one of the most delightful romantic castles in Europe.

"The castle dates back to the 12th century and hosts one of the most popular museums in Slovakia. The castle also offers other interesting attractions and hosts many festivals. It is also possible to get married at Bojnice Castle," wrote offtoeurope.com.

When it comes to the Spis Castle, the web site pointed out that it is one of the largest medieval castles in Central Europe.

"The castle was declared a national monument in 1961 and was once owned by the Royal Family (Hungarian). Spis Castle is a UNESCO World Heritage Site," according to the web site.

Other castles on the list include the famous Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany, Windsor Castle in England, Chateau de Versailles and Prague Castle, among others.

Lajcak Meets Pope Benedict XVI, Invites Him to Visit Slovakia

The Vatican, November 14 (TASR) - Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak at a meeting with Pope Benedict XVI in the Vatican on this date presented to the pontiff an official invitation of the Slovak Government to visit Slovakia.

The Government's invitation has followed similar invitations from President Ivan Gasparovic and the Slovak Bishops Conference earlier this year.

"We'd like to welcome [the Pope] in Slovakia next year, when we celebrate two significant anniversaries, at a time that would suit him," Lajcak told TASR. Slovakia next year commemorates the 20th anniversary of its independence, and the 1150th anniversary of the arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius (titled as the Apostles of Slavs, who also devised the Glagolitic alphabet).

According to Lajcak, the pontiff has been aware of the invitations and values them. Nonetheless, he wasn't able to give any definite answer, as everything will depend on his schedule.

Lajcak at the official visit to the Vatican also presented an invitation letter from Prime Minister Robert Fico to the Vatican's State Secretary cardinal Tarcisio Bertone to attend the national celebrations of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius on July 5, 2013 in Nitra.

GDP Growth Slowed But Will Continue Thanks to Car-makers

Bratislava, November 15 (TASR) - The Slovak economy "hit the brakes" in the third quarter of 2012, reporting year-on-year growth of 2.2 percent, if we compare it to the first and second quarters, when it expanded by 2.9 and 2.6 percent, respectively, Postova Banka analyst Eva Sadovska said on this date, speaking in reaction to the Statistics Office's quick GDP estimate.

"Even despite the deceleration, Slovakia still enjoys among the steepest levels of growth within the EU, as more than one-third of the EU is being afflicted by recession this year. The Slovak economy is being pulled upwards by foreign demand first and foremost, while domestic demand lags behind. Slovakia has to thank industry, most of all the car-making sector, for its growth," said Sadovska.

According to the Statistic Office's estimate, industrial production increased by 16 percent year-on-year in 3Q12, with car-makers' figures growing by 75 percent.

"Our industry clearly was the fastest-growing one within the EU. None of the EU states managed to increase production by more than 10 percent, and most of the counties even saw a drop," said Sadovska.

According to her, domestic demand in Slovakia has been stagnating or falling since the beginning of the crisis. "We expect that this trend will continue," she added, pointing to high unemployment rates and gloomy economic prospects.

"Nothing indicates recovery in domestic demand or investments, so we're expecting that foreign demand will remain the only driving force behind GDP growth - but it's slowly falling, too," said VUB macroeconomist Andrej Arady, who expects an even bigger deceleration at the end of 2012.

Home Credit analyst Michal Kozub points to a number of risky factors in Europe that may pose a threat to Slovakia's economic growth. Despite stagnating domestic demand, GDP can still grow thanks to other spheres. At the same time, he thinks that the car-making industry won't necessarily grow forever. "This is a risky investment, because demand for new cars within Europe is oscillating and could easily fall quickly," he added.

Little-Carpathian Wine Route between Bratislava and Trnava Opens

Bratislava, November 16 (TASR) - Wine lovers can visit dozens of Slovak vineyards in the area of the Little Carpathians on Friday and Saturday, as the 13th year of the 'Little-Carpathian Wine Route' opens at noon on this date.

The highest-ever number of 149 vineyards and 197 wine producers located between Bratislava and Trnava are participating in the event, the tickets for which were sold out within two weeks.

"We offered a higher number of tickets than last year, and we hope that this will not affect the high quality of the event," TASR was told by Little-Carpathian Wine Route chairman Milan Pavelka, who pointed out to the restricted capacity of the wine cellars.

People following the route will be given a 'wine pass', enabling them to visit various vineyards and wine cellars, taste traditional refreshments, drink and buy wine.

The event combines several features, such as fine wines, countryside, history and the cuisine of the region between Bratislava and Trnava, dominated by the influence of the three traditional wine-producing towns of Pezinok, Modra and Svaty Jur.

Ambassadors Commemorate Victims of Totalitarian Regime

Bratislava, November 17 (TASR) - Foreign ambassadors in Slovakia laid wreaths at the Gate of Freedom memorial below the Devin Castle on this date in a ceremony remembering over 400 people who lost their lives while attempting to escape for freedom during Communism prior to 1989.

Upon the 23rd anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, which brought about the fall of Communism in November 1989, memorial plaques with texts in four languages were also unveiled.

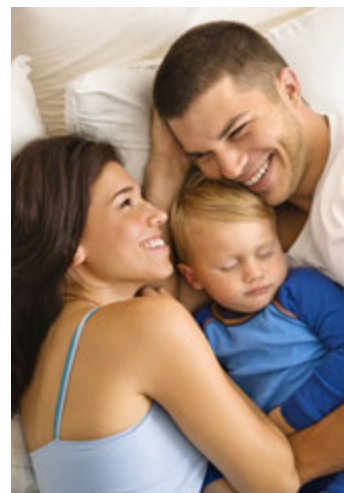
According to British Ambassador to Slovakia Susannah Montgomery, those who were shot dead at the border with Austria fought for the right to believe in simple dreams, the right to say and write whatever they thought without authorities knocking on their door, and ultimately attempted to set themselves free.

Czech Ambassador to Slovakia Jakub Karfik said that all those brave people with their willpower and actions slightly opened or at least shook "the rusty gate of freedom".

Austrian Ambassador Josef Marcus Vuketic noted that we must make sure that desire for freedom is never again threatened by punishments or death. The sacrifice of those who died in the fight for freedom deserve the highest respect, he added.

Special Offer Extended thru 2012

1st Year Premium Waived on Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)



Offered extended due to popular demand.

All applications must be received in the Home Office **postmarked before December 31, 2012.**

- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



FCSU LIFE
6611 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@aol.com
www.fcsu.com

*Higher amounts available - please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office

Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar in Chicago

The Annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, under the auspices of the Slovak Catholic Federation, took place on Sunday, September 23, 2012, at the St. Casimir Sisters' Motherhouse in Chicago, IL. First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) members were well represented among the 68 attendees.

Eva Bustamente, who serves in ministry with the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago, spoke about the history of Our Lady of Sorrows Slovak Catholic Cemetery in Hillside, IL. This cemetery was established in 1923 at the behest of Monsignor Victor Blahunka, pastor of Sacred Heart Slovak Parish in the West Town neighborhood of Chicago's west side.

After the presentation, attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner.

FCSU members John Jurcenko, Dorothy Jurcenko, and Robert Ľapák Magruder serve on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar.

Submitted by Robert Ľapák Magruder, Publicist, Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar



(L - R) District 2 FCSU members: Shirley Uram, Ed Uram, John Jurcenko, Art Fayta, and Barb Fayta.



(L - R) Father Kristian Libant, CM, a Vincentian priest from Nitra, Slovakia; Rosemary Macko Wisnoski, Honorary Slovak Consul for Chicago; and Matus Bohacik, a seminarian in Chicago who hails from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia.



Standing (L - R) Val Vesely and Don Cummings; seated, Pete Turner.



(L - R) Branch 493 members: Joe Janusek, Robert Ľapák Magruder, and Emily Janusek.



Region 7 Director Rudy Bernath and wife Liz.

October Michigan District Meeting

The Michigan District held a recent meeting on Oct 28, 2012 in Merrill, MI. Election of officers for the new year was on the agenda. After the meeting, members enjoyed a turkey dinner provided by St. Patrick Ryan Parish.



Katherine Stevens, Secretary of FCSU Branch 774, enjoys the dinner provided by St. Patrick Ryan Parish in Merrill MI.

FCSU Region 7 Director Rudy Bernath (far right) administers the oath of office to the newly elected officers of the FCSU Michigan District.



Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

B	E	A	D		E	A	R	S		B	A	N	S			
E	T	U	I		B	L	I	P		E	D	I	T	S		
T	A	T	S		B	L	O	O	D	D	O	N	O	R		
A	L	O	O	F			T	O	U	R		E	W	E		
					W	E	A	K		F	O	O	T			
	H	U	N	T	I	N	G			L	O	S	S			
D	E	N		A	S	E	A			C	L	O	U	T	S	
I	R	I	S		L	E	F	T	Y		T	R	U	E		
M	O	T	I	L	E		F	A	C	E		E	D	T		
					D	E	L	I		E	C	L	A	I	R	S
							K	N	E	W		T	E	S	S	
E	M	U		C	R	A	G			Y	A	H	O	O		
M	I	S	F	O	R	T	U	N	E		I	O	W	A		
S	T	E	E	L		E	R	I	N		A	P	E	R		
	E	D	E	N			R	U	B	E		H	E	N	S	

Štedrý večer na Slovensku a v susedných krajinách

Vianoce patria k najkrajším sviatkom roku. Nie všade sa však oslavujú rovnako. Každá krajina EÚ si zachováva vlastné tradície a zvyky. Nie všade rozdáva darčeky Ježiško tak ako na Slovensku, nie všade sa pripravuje kapustnica či kapor a pranie: „Veselé Vianoce!“ znie v každej z nich inak.

Slovensko:

Vianoce patria v hierarchii sviatkov prvé miesto medzi rodinnými sviatkami. Pri vianočnom stole sa schádza zvyčajne celá rodina a darčeky pod stromček nosí Ježiško po štedrovečernej večeri. K oslave Vianoc, patrí spievanie kolied, polnočná omša na Štedrý deň, betlehemy v uliciach miest. Základom slávnostnej večere je kapustnica s hubami, niekde s klobásou a údeným mäsom, prípadne fazuľová, hrachová, alebo hríbová polievka, ryba (vyprázaný kapor) so zemiakovým šalátom, opekance s macom, či s orechami, na stole nesmú chýbať cesnak, jabĺčka, orechy, medovníky, med a vianočné oplátky.

Česká republika:

Vianočné sviatky sú sviatkami detí a rodiny. Štedrý deň je dňom splnených želaní. Tým, ktorí sa po celý deň postili, sa zjaví zlaté prasiatko. Darčeky pod vianočný stromček nosí Ježiško a rozbaľujú sa po štedrovečernej večeri. K tradičnému štedrovečernému menu patrí: rybacia polievka, vyprázaný kapor, zemiakový šalát, vianočka a cukroví.

Poľsko:

Oslava Vianoc je prakticky rovnaká ako na Slovensku. Gazdinky pečú vianočné sladkosti a varia tradičné pokrmy. Deti na Štedrý deň očakávajú prvú hviezdičku na oblohe – biblickú betlehenskú hviezdu. Keď sa objaví, prichádza s ňou znamenie, že rodina si môže zasadiť k štedrovečernému stolu. Niektorí si myslia, že hviezda prináša i darčeky, ale väčšina verí, že ich pod stromček nosí Ježiško. Pri štedrovečernej večeri by malo byť dvanásť chodov symbolizujúcich 12 mesiacov v roku. Podáva sa boršč alebo žurek (zatrepaná hubová polievka), niekde tiež rybacia či hrachová polievka, hlavným chodom sú ryby, dnes sa však čoraz častejšie objavuje pečený moriak, nesmú chýbať ani makové pupáky, namočené v mlieku, osladené medom i cukrom a biely chlieb.

Maďarsko:

Vianoce v Maďarsku patria po stáročia k najvýznamnejším sviatkom v roku. Je to aj preto, že v druhý sviatok vianočný si pripomínajú Svätého Štefana, patróna a zakladateľa Maďarska. Oslava Vianoc v Maďarsku má prakticky rovnaké tradície ako na Slovensku. Darčeky nosí Ježiško pod vianočný stromček. Ale na rozdiel od Slovákov si ich rozbaľujú už pred Štedrou večerou. Štedrovečerné menu: kapustnica, hríbová polievka s klobásou, halászlé (rybacia polievka), vyprázaný kapor alebo zubáč, na vianočnom stole nesmie chýbať svätoštefánsky koláč.

Rakúsko:

Rakúšania milujú Vianoce a už niekoľko týždňov pred nimi pripravujú vlastnoručne ozdoby na stromček, zhotovujú jasličky, adventné vence a svietniky. Pečú niekoľko druhov vianočného pečiva. Sú presvedčení, že podoby populárneho svätého Mikuláša vytvoril v 19. storočí obľúbený rakúsky maliar Moritz von Schwind, ktorý vraj ako prvý namaloval sv. Mikuláša s dlhou bielou bradou a fúzmi, v plášti s kapučňou lemovanou kožušinou. Na Štedrý deň, keď zaznie zvonenie, odoberú sa deti i dospelí k vianočnému stromčeku a radujú sa z darčiekov, ktoré priniesol Ježiško. Aj Rakúšania, rovnako ako Nemci si najviac cenia vtipné a vlastnými rukami vyrobené darčeky. V Rakúsku sa na Vianoce najviac jedia ryby, bravčové rezne, ale i zajac a sladká kukuričná kaša s hrozičkami a jablkami poliata čerešňovým likérom.

Slovenské korene



Zahraniční Slováci sa menia, bude sa novelizovať krajský zákon

Slovenská komunita v zahraničí sa nachádza v zlomovom bode. Na jednej strane pribúdajú nové komunity migrantov, ktorí sa vysťahovali za prácou v rámci voľného trhu Európskej únie, na druhej strane v tradičných komunitách a organizáciách zahraničných Slovákov dochádza ku generačnej výmene. Na rokovaní Stálej konferencie Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2012 to 30. októbra uviedol podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák (Smer-SD) s dodatkom, že na zmenenú situáciu by vláda a parlament mali reagovať novelou zákona o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí.

Novelu chce Lajčák pripraviť v priebehu budúceho roka aj na základe výsledkov komunikácie so Slovákami žijúcimi v zahraničí. Dodáva však, že pri príprave tejto novely je dôležitejšia kvalita ako časové hľadisko. Práve stála konferencia, ktorá sa koná pod záštitou prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča, je podľa neho jedným z dôležitých nástrojov dialógu medzi slovenskou stranou a zahraničnými komunitami.

“Svet, Európa aj Slovensko prechádzajú dôležitými zmenami, ktoré sa dotýkajú aj našich krajanov. V Európe sa otvoril pracovný trh a sú desiatky tisíc našich občanov, ktorí dnes žijú a pôsobia v zahraničí. Menej sa prejavujú ako krajanovia v takom klasickom zmysle slova, ale o to viac očakávajú od štátu, že im pomôže pri zabezpečení výučby ich detí v slovenskom jazyku, alebo pri bohoslužbách,” vyhlásil Lajčák.

TASR

U.S. Steel uvažuje o odchode zo SR

Spoločnosť U.S. Steel Košice naozaj uvažuje, že predá oceliarne na východe Slovenska. Ako však 20. novembra informoval premiér Robert Fico, definitívne rozhodnutie zatiaľ nepadlo.

“Požiadal som predstaviteľov U.S. Steel o to, aby vláda Slovenskej republiky bola v rámci možností informovaná,” povedal Fico po stretnutí s prezidentom americkej spoločnosti Davidom J. Rintoulom. Ako dodal, ide o čisto súkromnú spoločnosť, a tak ďalšie kroky sú výhradne na majiteľoch podniku.

Premiér ďalej zdôraznil, že oceliarne na východe Slovenska sú pre krajinu veľmi dôležitým podnikom a ešte viac pre východoslovenský región. Domnieva sa, že možný predaj fabriky je výsledkom nesprávnej privatizácie za vlády Mikuláša Dzurindu. “Pretože vláda v tom čase lacno predávala a dávala firmám, ktoré sem prichádzali, neuveriteľne dobré podmienky a tieto firmy, keď všetky tieto podmienky využili, tak odchádzajú zase do lepšieho prostredia,” vyhlásil Fico.

V prípade, že by sa spoločnosť rozhodla ostať podnikateľ na území Slovenska, vláda je podľa neho pripravená rokovať o ďalšej spolupráci medzi štátom a oceliárňami. O detailoch či prípadných stimuloch zo strany štátu sa však premiér s Rintoulom na stretnutí nerozprával. “Bojím sa o 13,000 ľudí, ktorí sú v Košiciach, bojím sa o to, ako sa bude správať nový majiteľ,” podčiarkol Fico. O možných kupcoch však premiér zatiaľ nechcel informovať. Dôvody Američanov pre odchod zo Slovenska sú podľa neho rôzne. Na jednej strane ide o legislatívu Európskej únie (EÚ), ale takisto aj schopnosť konkurovať konkurenčným spoločnostiam vo východnej Európe. “Treba potvrdiť, že štandardy ochrany životného prostredia a rôzne požiadavky, ktoré Brusel kladie na oceliarske firmy na území Európskej únie, sú tak prísne, že tieto spoločnosti strácajú konkurencioschopnosť v porovnaní s takýmito železiárňami niekde na Ukrajine alebo v Číne,” upozornil Fico.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico (vpravo) prijal prezidenta U.S. Steel Košice Davida J. Rintoula 20. novembra 2012 v Bratislave.

President of the Government Robert Fico welcomed U.S. Steel Kosice President David Rintoul in Bratislava, on November 20, 2012. Discussions were held on the future of of the Kosice U.S. Steel plant.

Minister M. Lajčák prijal kardinála J. Tomka

Obaja partneri pokračovali v diskusii o význame univerzálnych hodnôt v slovenskej spoločnosti, ktorá bola aj predmetom stretnutia šéfa slovenskej diplomacie s významnými Slováckmi pôsobiacimi v štruktúrach Rímskej kúrie počas jeho oficiálnej návštevy Svätej stolice v dňoch 13. – 14. novembra 2012. Minister M. Lajčák informoval kardinála J. Tomka o pripravovaných štátno-reprezentačných podujatiach k 150. výročiu príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na naše územie, ktoré sa uskutočnia začiatkom júla 2013 v Nitre, Bratislave a na Devíne z iniciatívy prezidenta SR, predsedu Národnej rady SR a predsedu vlády SR.

V r. 2009 – pri príležitosti 30. výročia biskupskej vysviacky – udelil minister zahraničných vecí SR M. Lajčák emeritnému prefektovi Kongregácie evanjelizácie národov kardinálovi J. Tomkovi Zlatú plaketu Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR za jeho celoživotný prínos pre zachovanie národného povedomia Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, zviditeľňovanie a šírenie dobrého mena Slovenska vo svete a podporu rozvoja priateľských vzťahov a vzájomnej spolupráce medzi SR a Svätou stolicou.

TASR



FOTO: MZV SR

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák 23. novembra 2012 prijal emeritného prefekta Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov kardinála Jozefa Tomka.

Vice President of the Government and Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak held discussions with Emeritus Prefect of the Congregation for Evangelization of Nations Cardinal Joseph Tomko in Bratislava on November 23, 2012. Discussions were held on the importance of universal values in Slovak society and preparations for the 1150 anniversary of the arrival of SS. Cyril and Methodius among the Slovaks.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov IKSJ

Výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že výročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 9. decembra 2012 o 12:30 hodine poobede (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 1st a 66th Street. Na programe budú správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie, za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Dakujem s pozdravom

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Výročná schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať výročnú schôdzu v nedeľu 16. decembra 2012. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706 o 11:00 hodine ráno. Ako už tradíciou Sv. Mikuláš rozdá vianočné darčeky deťom. Bude pripravený aj kvalitný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Výročná schôdza sa začne o 1:30 hodine popoludní v jedálni. Na programe je voľba funkcionárov na nasledujúce obdobie, finančná správa a príprava osláv 1150. výročia evanjelizácie Slovákov Solúnskymi bratmi sv. Cyrilom a Metodom. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučujeme základným organizáciám Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty vykonať súčasne výročné voľby. Návčik spevu vianočných kolied, ktoré sa budú spievať počas svätej omši, bude v priebehu prvých dvoch týždňov adventu.

Funkcionári Okresu Princa Pribinu želia všetkým členom IKSJ pozhnané a radostné vianočné sviatky.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Mikulášske odopoludnie Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New Yorku

V nedeľu dňa 9. decembra 2012 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia sa uskutoční v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, tradičné Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou pre deti. Vstup je voľný a deti dostanú občerstvenie.

Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New Yorku

V nedeľu dňa 16. decembra 2012 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia sa uskutoční tradičná Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília. Budú sa podávať tradičné štedrovečerné jedlá. Prihlásiť sa môžete na Fare Slovenského kostola. Vstupné v ktorom je započítaná večera je 20.00 US dolárov.

Plánované vianočné podujatia sa uskutočnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 1st a 66th Street v New York City.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Advent pripomína čakanie ľudstva na príchod Ježiša Krista

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

zriadiť útulok pre chudobné a opustené deti. Vďaka vynaloženému úsiliu a milodarom sa mu podarilo tento plán realizovať. V útulku, ktorý nazval Drsný dom, opustené deti nielen bývali, ale sa aj priučali remeslu. Na základe neustálych otázok týchto detí, koľko dní ešte zostáva do Vianoc, sa Johann H. Wichern rozhodol vyrobiť drevený veniec s 24 sviečkami - 19 tenšími, ktoré predstavovali všedné dni a štyrmi hrubšími sviečkami symbolizujúcimi štyri adventné nedele. Dnes sa s adventným vencom možno stretnúť aj v mimonáboženskej oblasti.

Adventná predvianočná príprava sa spomína v Ríme už za pápeža Leva I. Veľkého (440-461). Iný záznam o advente pochádza z Francúzska, kde koncil v meste Macon v r. 582 nariadil, aby sa príprava na slávenie vianočných sviatkov začala od prvej nedele po sviatku sv. Martina. Adventné obdobie v tejto forme zahrňovalo šesť nediel a malo pôstno – kajúcny charakter.

Pápež Gregor I. Veľký (590-604) skrátil adventné obdobie na štyri nedele (symbolizujúce 4000 rokov čakania na Mesiáša od vyhnanja prvých rodičov z raja) a je pôvodcom adventných kázní v Bazilike Santa Maria Maggiore. Svoju definitívnu formu nadobudol advent v 8. – 9. storočí. V roku 1362 Urban V. (1362-1370), ktorý aj po svojom zvolení za pápeža žil ako benediktínsky mních, zaviedol pre advent pôstne pravidlá.

TASR

Vianočný pozdrav z Krajanského múzea Matice slovenskej

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

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 krajania, prijmite prosím náš úprimný pozdrav. Pozdrav z Vášho Krajanského múzea Matice slovenskej. Prajeme Vám pokojné a pekné prežitie vianočných sviatkov.

Vinšujeme Vám do práce zdravíčka a na stôl chlebíčka.

Do duše milosti, do srdca radosti.

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

Láska Božia, nádej naša ...

Zdvihni rúčku, Jezuliatko,
a požehnaj celý svet!
Bo bez Tvojho požehnanja
lásky, šťastia na ňom niet.
Žehnaj všetkých mojich milých,
ktorých dnes pozdravujem,
keď im na Tvoje Narodenie
všetko dobré vinšujem.

Moc Božia nech Vás
stále posilňuje;
ruka Božia nech Vás
všade ochraňuje.
Slovo Božie vo všetkom
riadi a spravuje;
láska Božia nech Vás
stále potešuje.

Anna Trojčáková

Jesenné podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Jedným z viacerých úspešných jesenných podujatí Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty bol aj Seminár o členstve a rôznych druhoch poisťiek, ktoré ponúka Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota v USA a Kanade. Seminár sa konal 21. októbra 2012 v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. O ponukách poisťiek podávali informácie podpredseda IKSJ, Andrej Harcar a hlavný tajomník IKSJ, Kenneth A. Arendt. Seminára sa zúčastnilo približne 36 poslucháčov. Po podujatí sa podávalo bohaté občerstvenie, ktoré pripravili členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ, Ján a Joan Škrkoň a Mária Božeková.

Pred začiatkom Seminára sa uskutočnili dve výročné členské schôdze. Najprv Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ, kde bol zvolený výbor v nasledujúcom zložení: Jozef Bilik - predseda, Ján Škrkoň - podpredseda, Milan R. Dait - pokladník, Henrieta H. Daitová - tajomníčka zapisovateľka, Anna Bilik a Mária Božeková - revizorky.

Za tým nasledovala Výročná členská schôdza Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu č. 16 IKSJ, kde bol zvolený výbor v nasledujúcom zložení: Anna Korčák - predseda, Želka Becková-Kucharovič - podpredsedníčka, Henrieta H. Daitová - tajomníčka a pokladníčka, Jozef Bilik a Jozef Korčák - revizori.

Henrieta H. Daitová
Tajomníčka Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu
a Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ v NYC



Usporiadatelia Seminára z hlavného úradu IKSJ (FCSU Membership and Marketing Committee): zľava hlavný tajomník IKSJ Kenneth A. Arendt a podpredseda IKSJ Andrej Harcar.



Za predsedníckym stolom počas Výročnej členskej schôdze Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu č. 16 IKSJ zľava: Henrieta H. Daitová, Anna Korčák, podpredseda IKSJ, Andrej Harcar, a hlavný tajomník IKSJ, Kenneth A. Arendt.



Nový výbor Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ zľava: Henrieta H. Daitová, Jozef Korčák, Anna Korčák, Želka Becková-Kucharovič, vzadu stojaci Jozef Bilik.

Krátko správy zo Slovenska

• **Slovensko** podľa najnovších ekonomických prognóz Európskej komisie (EK) bude na budúci rok spolu s Estónskom patriť medzi prvé dve krajiny eurozóny s najvyšším rastom HDP. Odhad EK pre Slovensko hovorí, že v roku 2013 by malo Slovensko dosiahnuť dvojpercentný rast HDP, čiže druhý najvyšší v eurozóne po Estónsku (3.1 %). V EÚ, mimo krajín eurozóny, by vyšší rast HDP malo mať iba Rumunsko (2.2 %). Predstavitelia slovenského ministerstva financií boli v Bruseli prezentovať jednak reformný balíček, ale takisto aj balíček úsporných opatrení na budúci rok, pre budúci rozpočet. So sľubom, že vláda bude rešpektovať záväzky o znížení deficitu štátneho rozpočtu na rok 2013 pod 3 %.

• **Prezident** Kanadsko-slovenskej obchodnej komory (KSOK) Joseph Burza chce uhradiť pokutu za bývalého slovenského prezidenta Michala Kováča, ktorú musí zaplatiť exriaditeľovi SIS Ivanovi Lexovi. Kováč spolu s manželkou Emíliou sú čestným členmi KSOK. Rozhodnutie Krajského súdu (KS) v Bratislave natoľko pobúrilo Burzu, že sa rozhodol zostať čestným členom svojej komory a pomôže exprezidentovi odvolať sa na medzinárodný súd v Štrasburgu. V prípade zamietnutia tohto súdu vyplatí pokutu vo výške 3,319 eur, ktorú uložil Kováčovi KS v Bratislave. Podľa bratislavského krajského súdu sa má exprezident písomne ospravedlniť Lexovi za výroky o tom, že stojí za zavraždením jeho syna do Rakúska. Navyše mu má zaplatiť aj odškodné 3319 eur. Sťažnosť Kováča proti takémuto verdiktu zamietol minulý týždeň Ústavný súd SR ako neprípustnú. Bývalý prezident nesmie podľa súdu viníť Lexu z únosu svojho syna, ani keby to bola pravda. Prípady nikdy pre amnestie Vladimíra Mečiara nevyšetřili. Ich zrušenie by umožnilo súdiť aktérov zavraždenia Kováča mladšieho do Rakúska koncom augusta 1995. Z tohto skutku bolo podozrievané vtedajšie vedenie SIS na čele s Ivanom Lexom. S prípadom súvisí aj vražda Róberta Remiáša, ktorá sa stala pred 15 rokmi.

• **Europoslanec** Eduard Kukan (SDKÚ-DS) by chcel opäť kandidovať do Európskeho parlamentu (EP). Definitívne sa však ešte nerozhodol. Dodal, že by chcel pokračovať v práci v Bruseli, pretože ho to tam baví a v europarlamente je šťastný. Eurovoľby sa uskutočnia v roku 2014. V súčasnosti je v EP zastúpených 736 europoslancov. Farby Slovenska v ňom háji 13 poslancov - Monika Flašíková-Beňová, Monika Smolková, Katarína Neved'alová, Boris Zala a Vladimír Maňka (všetci Smer-SD), Eduard Kukan a Peter Šťastný (obidvaja SDKÚ-DS), Anna Záborská a Miroslav Mikolášik (obaja KDH), Edit Bauer a Alajos Mészáros (obaja SMK), Jaroslav Paška (SNS) a Sergej Kozlík (LS-HZDS).

• **Dlhová** kríza vracia mozgy z cudziny na Slovensko. Kríza šíriaca sa eurozónou znižuje pracovné príležitosti Slovákov v zahraničí a zmierňuje únik mozgov. Už tento rok sa má počet ľudí hľadajúcich uplatnenie v cudzine ustáliť približne na úrovni 100-tisíc, kým ešte v predkrízovom roku 2007 odišlo pracovať za hranice až 160-tisíc Slovákov. Podľa ekonómov sa návrat má týkať najmä IT expertov. Zadlžené krajiny ako Írsko, Španielsko či Taliansko majú problém zamestnať vlastných špecialistov a pri prepúšťaní najprv posielajú preč cudzincov.

• **Výstava** fotografií venovaná mestu Košice a okoliu je od 17. novembra nainštalovaná v kuloároch Európskeho parlamentu (EP) v Bruseli. Výstava, zrealizovaná pod záštitou európskej poslankyne Moniky Smolkovej, košického primátora Richarda Rašiho a prednostu Košického samosprávneho kraja Zdenka Trebuľu, je venovaná Košiciam, ktoré sa v roku 2013 budú pyšiť titulom Hlavné európske mesto kultúry. Výstavu fotografií, ktoré zachytávajú dominanty mesta a výsek zo spoločensko-kultúrneho života v metropole východného Slovenska, spestrilo hudobné vystúpenie modernej cimbalovej kapely Silvyovci. Slovenská europoslankyňa pred približne 200 účastníkmi slávnostného podujatia pripomenula, že slávnostný ceremoniál preberania štafety hlavného európskeho mesta kultúry v Košiciach sa uskutočnil 19. januára 2013.

• **K** najväčším investičným stimulom štátu pre podnikateľské prostredie v Trnavskom kraji patrí pomoc koncernu PSA Peugeot Citroën pre závod v Trnave. Finančná podpora SR v tomto prípade neprekročila Európskou úniou stanovenú maximálnu 15-percentnú hranicu z objemu celkovej investície PSA do výstavby trnavského výrobného centra, ktorý bol okolo 700 miliónov eur. Štátna pomoc podľa vtedy platnej legislatívy predstavovala finančnú dotáciu pri odkupovaní pozemkov a budovaní infraštruktúry, ďalej pri nákupe nových výrobných technológií a prejavila sa aj v podobe daňových úľav.

• **Tatry** mountain resorts (TMR), a.s., a obchodná spoločnosť SMMR, a.s., ktorá je dcérskou spoločnosťou SNOWHILL, a.s., budú už v najbližšej zimnej sezóne prevádzkovať SKIAREÁL Špindlerův Mlýn, a.s., v Českej republike. Zástupcovia týchto spoločností totiž podpísali nájomnú zmluvu s Českým zväzom telesnej výchovy, ktorý Špindlerov Mlýn doteraz prevádzkoval. Nájomná zmluva bola stanovená na 20 rokov, pričom počas tohto obdobia sa noví nájomcovia zaviazali zainvestovať sumu 800 miliónov českých korún. Investovať sa bude do výstavby nových lanoviek, zjazdových tratí a ďalšej infraštruktúry. K samotnému prevzatíu areálu malo dôjsť už 15. novembra a následne už nič nemalo brániť otvoreniu novej zimnej sezóny.

• **Svetoznámy** magazín National Geographic zverejnil rozhovor so slovenským astronómom Vojtechom Rušinom zo Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) o úplnom zatmení Slnka, ktoré bolo 14. novembra 2012. V tento deň bol známy vedec z Astronomického ústavu SAV pozorovať úplné zatmenie Slnka v meste Cairns v Austrálii. Bolo to jeho v poradí už devätnáste pozorovanie tohto vzácneho javu, informovala Slovenská akadémia vied. Úplné zatmenia Slnka sa opakujú približne 75-krát za sto rokov. Nastávajúce zatmenie je svojou podstatou výborné pre študovanie štruktúry solárnej koróny, ktorým sa Rušin zaoberá. Úplné zatmenia Slnka už pozoroval takmer vo všetkých kútoch sveta. Rád spomína najmä na to prvé - v Afrike v roku 1973. Zatmenie vtedy trvalo 6 minút a 45 sekúnd, čo je jedno z najdlhších, aké bolo kedy pozorované. Ako dodal slovenský astronóm, za 40 rokov čo sa špecializuje práve na tento astronomický jav, sa veľa zmenilo. Technické vybavenie je omnoho sofistikovanejšie, presnejšie a tiež jednoduchšie na prepravu za zatmeniami Slnka po svete.

• **Každý** druhý Čech a Slovák by si radšej vybral pre život inú krajinu, v akej momentálne žije. Vyplýva to z reprezentatívneho prieskumu spoločnosti GfK, ktorý realizovala v júli tohto roku na vzorke 2000 respondentov. Z prieskumu vyplynulo, že Slovákov a Čechov to láka najviac na západ do ekonomicky vyspelejších krajín. Najatraktívnejšie krajiny pre život sú Spojené štáty, Anglicko, Nemecko a Rakúsko. Zatiaľ, čo pre Slovákov je vo veľkej miere lákavý aj život v Českej republike, Česi by si volili Slovensko ako ideálnu krajinu pre život už menej. Ďalšími atraktívnymi krajinami pre Slovákov sú Švajčiarsko, Kanada, Austrália, ale aj južné krajiny Európy ako Taliansko a Francúzsko.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Na čele združenia zahraničných Slovákov zostáva Vladimír Skalský

Na čele Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ), v ktorom je 98 organizácií z 23 krajín, bude aj počas ďalších troch rokov stáť doterajší šéf Vladimír Skalský. Taký je výsledok nedávnej voľby štvrtého valného zhromaždenia združenia v Bratislave.

Na čele združenia, ktoré si tento rok pripomenie desiaty rok svojej existencie, zasadla okrem staronového predsedu sedemnásťčlenná Generálna rada. Jej členovia sú z USA, Česka, Maďarska, Srbska, Chorvátska, Rumunska, Poľska, Ukrajiny, Švajčiarska a Veľkej Británie.

Valné zhromaždenie ocenilo zmenu na čele Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Naopak, SZSZ, je znepokojené zmenami v pobytovom zákone, ktoré podľa Skalského znepriemňujú život najmä Slovákom z Ukrajiny a Srbska. Za ďalšie priority považuje televízne vysielanie o Slovákoch v zahraničí, voľby zo zahraničia prostredníctvom internetu a boj proti asimilácii.

TASR



Vladimír Skalský



FOTO TASR - Milan Kapusta

Národný poklad, ktorý spravuje Nadácia Matice slovenskej

Časť nepenažného majetku Národného pokladu, ktorý spravuje Nadácia Matice slovenskej (MS) by sa mohla v budúcnosti predať. Myslí si to správca nadácie Jozef Steiner, ktorý odhaduje, že by sa odpredaj mohol týkať zhruba polovice tejto časti pokladu.

Celková hodnota nepenažnej časti bola ocenená v roku 1995 na 124,288 eur. Nadácia však presadzuje, aby bol majetok v priebehu budúceho roku prehodnotený opätovne. "Odvtedy sa cena zlata, striebra hýbala - našťastie pre Národný poklad, smerom nahor. To nové ocenenie neznižuje hodnotu kovovej časti Národného pokladu, ale ho aspoň mierne zvýši," predpokladá predseda správnej rady Nadácie MS a bývalý predseda MS Jozef Markuš. "Uložený poklad neslúži svojmu účelu. Treba to spraviť veľmi pragmaticky, to znamená, čo najtransparentnejšie speňažiť to, čo sa dá a to, čo má svoju historickú, morálnu alebo umeleckú hodnotu, poskytnúť príslušným ustanovizniám, ktoré by sa o to všetko s operaterou starali," vyhlásil Steiner.

Markuš pripomenul, že nad čiastočným predajom Národného pokladu sa uvažovalo už aj v minulosti, no pre nepriaznivý vývoj cien na trhu sa od toho ustúpilo. Peniaze z predaja by mali podľa neho ísť do istiny Národného pokladu a využiť by sa len výnosy, a to na rôzne kultúrne účely.

Predstavitelia Nadácie MS zároveň informovali o výsledkoch komisie, ktorá v októbri preverovala podozrenia z nehospodárneho narábania s kovovou časťou Národného majetku. Podľa Steinera komisia, zložená z piatich zástupcov Nadácie MS a člena Dozorného výboru MS, nezistila žiadnu neoprávnenú manipuláciu ani porušenie pečatí obalov, v ktorých bola vecná časť pokladu uložená. "Hodnota kovovej časti pokladu sa neznižila. V štruktúre a obsahu zodpovedá stavu, v akom ho Nadácia MS prevzala z VÚB," podčiarkol Steiner.

Inventúra kovovej časti majetku pod dohľadom notára sa uskutočnila po tom, ako sa objavili podozrenia, že s touto časťou pokladu sa mohlo nehospodárne narábať. Osobne chceli obsah trezoru v priestoroch matice v Martine vidieť aj poslanci parlamentného výboru pre kultúru a médiá, ktorí sa však k nemu v októbri nedostali. Predseda Matice slovenskej Marián Tkáč vtedy nemohol otvoriť trezor, pretože na to nedostal súhlas Steinera.

TASR

O. Štefan Furdík
Náš zakladateľ

Požehnané Vianoce a šťastlivý Nový rok

Radosť veľkú zvestujeme: Narodil sa sveta Pán.
Ned'aleko Betlehema v chladných jaslách leží sám.
Pod'te s nami poklonit' sa Ježiškovi malému,
za to, že k nám z neba prišiel, svoje srdcia dáme mu.
Počujte, jak na nebesiach anjelici spievajú,
sláva Bohu na výsostiach, pokoj ľudom želajú.



Nech Boh, ktorý bol na počiatku Slovom a dnes sa narodil
ako Spasiteľ sveta, naplní vaše srdcia pokojom a radosťou
Saint Patrick's Cathedral Harrisburg, PA.

Advent pripomína čakanie ľudstva na príchod Ježiša Krista

Väčšina kresťanov 2. decembra začala adventnú prípravu na Vianoce. Prvá adventná nedeľa je súčasne v Katolíckej cirkvi začiatkom nového liturgického roka a už tradične aj dňom celocirkevnej zbierky na charitu.

Štyri adventné nedele pripomínajú čakanie ľudstva na prvý príchod Ježiša Krista, veriacim dávajú príležitosť pripraviť sa na slávnosť Narodenia Pána (25. 12.) a poukazujú na dôležitosť bdelého očakávania jeho druhého príchodu na konci sveta. Pri bohoslužbách sa často spomínajú okolnosti vtelenia Božieho Syna a kázanie Jána Krstiteľa zamerané na potrebu očisty duše od hriechov.

Slovo advent pochádza z latinského "adventus" a znamená príchod. Symbolom Adventu je veniec so štyrmi sviečkami, ktoré sa postupne zapalujú počas štyroch adventných nediel. Horiaca sviečka symbolizuje Ježiša Krista, čím viac svetla, tým je jeho príchod bližšie. Požehnaný adventný veniec sa umiestňuje v kostoloch i v domoch veriacich. Najčastejšie sú sviečky tmavomodré alebo fialové, symbolizujúce liturgické farby adventných nediel.

Adventný veniec je od nepamäti symbolom víťazstva a kráľovskej dôstojnosti. Aj Biblia hovorí o venci ako o prejave úcty, radosti a víťazstva. Adventný veniec vzdáva hold tomu, ktorý je očakávaný a ktorý zároveň prichádza ako víťaz, ako kráľ a osloboditeľ. Rozlievajúce sa svetlo z horiacich svieč vyjadruje prichádzajúceho Krista, ktorý rozptyľuje temnotu a strach, pretože on je "svetlo sveta".

Tradícia adventného venca sa rozšírila v 19. storočí z Nemecka. Známý je príbeh o adventnom venci, ktorý vyrobil nemecký evanjelický pastor Johann Henrich Wichern. Narodil sa v roku 1808 v Hamburgu ako najstarší syn a mal sedem súrodencov. Vyštudoval teológiu, stal sa vychovávateľom a evanjelickým pastorom, neskôr pôsobil ako učiteľ v hamburskej nedeľnej škole. Keďže túžil starať sa o chudobných ľudí, rozhodol sa

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Vianočný pozdrav z Krajanského múzea Matice slovenskej

Vážení a milí naši krajanovia.

V zime zas prichádza
radosť to chvíľa,
zelená jedlička,
vianočná idylka!
Vianočný pozdrav nech d'aleko letí,
nech čas Vianoc svätí,
za Vami krajanovia
do d'alekých zemí.
V ten vianočný deň spájajú sa srdcia,
do svojho domova sa každý rád vracia.
Spolu si sadnime k bohatému stolu
a vianočnú koledu zaspievame spolu.



Matica slovenská

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 príprav na najkrajšie sviatky v roku, tieto slová naplniť.

Veď každá malá pozornosť, či láskavosť, slovo venované druhému je veľký dar.
Pokračovanie na str. 22

Benedikt XVI. menoval nového banskobystrického diecézneho biskupa

Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. 20. novembra 2012 vymenoval nového banskobystrického diecézneho biskupa. Stal sa ním doterajší nitriansky pomocný biskup Mons. Marián Chovanec.

Narodil sa 16. 9. 1957 v Trenčíne, kde vychodil Základnú deväťročnú školu a kde absolvoval aj gymnaziálne štúdium. Teologické štúdiá absolvoval v Bratislave, za kňaza bol vysvätený 17. 6. 1989 v Nitre. Prvým miestom jeho pastoračného pôsobenia bola Farnosť Nitra - Dolné mesto, potom Farnosť Dražovce. Od roku 1990 pokračoval v teologických štúdiách na Katolíckej univerzite v Lubline (KUL) v Poľsku. V Lubline roku 1992 diplomovou prácou Spôsoby zjavovania sa Boha človekovi podľa Emila Krapku získal licenciát a v roku 1994 prácou Eschatológia v dielach kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca získal doktorát v odbore dogmatickej teológie.

Od 1993 prednáša na Cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulte Univerzity Komenského na Teologickom inštitúte v Nitre. Popri vysokoškolskej pedagogickej praxi sa venuje pedagogickým aktivitám na základných a stredných cirkevných školách. Pôsobil v redakčnej rade mesačníka Duchovný pastier (1990 - 1999), v diecéznej komisii pre kultúru a tlač i v diecéznej ekonomickej komisii. V rokoch 1996 - 2003 bol členom Diecézneho tribunálu ako promotor iustitiae. Dňa 22. 7. 1999 ho pápež Ján Pavol II. vymenoval za masitského (maxitensis) titulárneho biskupa a nitrianskeho pomocného biskupa. Biskupskú konsekráciu prijal z rúk kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca dňa 18. 9. 1999 v Nitre. Od augusta 2000 je generálnym sekretárom Konferencie biskupov Slovenska a od 1. 3. 2003 generálnym vikárom v Nitre. Jeho vedecko-pedagogická a teoreticko-aplikačná orientácia na oblasť dogmatickej teológie prináša výstupy v publikačnej a edičnej podobe, najmä v časopisoch Duchovný pastier, Liturgia, Katolícke noviny.

Mons. ThDr.
Marián Chovanec