



# Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



Fr. Stephen Furedek  
Our Founder

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

Volume 125

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

NUMBER 5948

## President's Christmas Message 2016

*Veselé Vianoce! Šťastlivý Nový Rok!*

Dear Members and Friends:  
The temperature is in the low 50's as I write this message.



Andrew M. Rajec

However Christmas is only few weeks away and the snow will fall eventually.

Christmas for many of us, middle age and older, is a time of reflection and memories. The recent elections surprised many, possibly even some of the candidates. We pray that the results are positive.

Our fondest memories are often of family and events years past. The Christmas tree, the Christmas dinner, the family gathering, Midnight Mass, the singing of "Tichá noc". Many of us were originally born in the Northern climates and Christmas means snow, cold and warm fires, as it was and is in our ancestors homeland in Slovakia. I personally have a hard time imaging Christmas in Phoenix or Miami. But with many people, including many of our Members, living in the South, it is reality.

Wherever you are, North, South, East or West, I, my family and everyone at our Home Office wishes you and yours a Blessed Christmas. Especially to our older Members and those in ill health, we pray that you have a Christmas filled with peace, joy and the blessings of God our Savior.

Time passes so quickly, and we are so busy or so distant in this modern world that

well seldom have the time to appreciate our families, our Mothers and Fathers and others until it is late. I urge you to take the time to express this appreciation and love while you still can, at this time of the year, and often in the future.

With most of our former Slovak Parishes closed or merged, the close knit Slovak communities in many areas are a thing of the past. One of the purposes of the First

Catholic Slovak Union is to try to continue the identity and the values handed down to us from our predecessors. We take this obligation seriously and will do our best to be successful.

I want to thank and encourage those Branches and Districts that hold, sponsor and support the traditional Slovak Christmas dinners ("Vilija" or "Štedrý Večer") in their area.

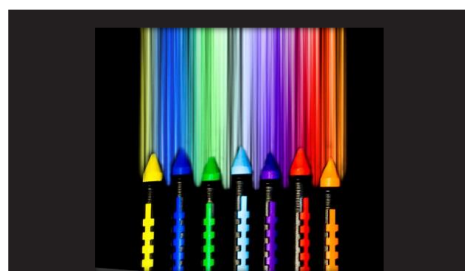
I personally want to thank the many branch and district officers for their dedicated service.

On a business note, the Society has achieved another new record high surplus of over \$28 million dollars as of September 30, 2016. A larger surplus means a stronger

continued on page 3

May you have the gift of Faith,  
the blessings of Hope,  
and the peace of His Love  
at Christmas and always

Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce  
from all of us at the First Catholic Slovak Union



Hey, Kids!

Time is running out to enter  
the National Christmas  
Coloring Contest.

See pages 6 - 7 for details.

## Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch: Announcements.....	14 & 16
District Announcements.....	15
FCSU Financials.....	18 - 20
Slovak .....	21-24

## HO-HO-HO YULE LOVE THESE RATES

8 Year Flex Premium Annuity or IRA	<b>3.60%</b>
6 Year Flex Premium Annuity or IRA	<b>3.20%</b>
6 Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA	<b>3.10%</b>



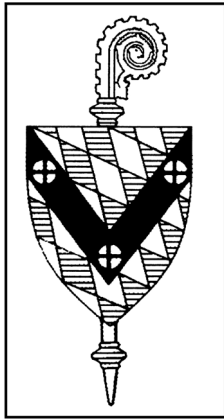
ALSO AVAILABLE  
Park 2 **2.10%**  
Park Free Plus **1.50%**



FCSU Financial®, First Catholic Slovak Union  
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131  
800.533.6682, annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com

Graduating  
HS Members:  
Apply for \$1000  
Scholarship  
See p 13

# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B., Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.

**December 18, 2016 - 4th Sunday in Advent**

**Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24**

On this last Sunday of Advent as the feast of the Nativity draws near, we find the birth of the messiah forecast both in a famous prophecy and a mysterious dream, and so it is worth reflecting on why God communicates through such dramatic means. Some events or persons so defy human understanding that their significance is missed. If however another



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

person comes along or a series of happenings takes place that clarifies their meaning the import of the original event or person is at last made clear. In the recent life of the church two examples can be found in Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. Both men lived at times of great change in society and geopolitics, and both had a certain prescience about what the Church had to do in order to respond to the signs of the times. They helped, each in their own way, to interpret what was happening in the world and to urge Christians to respond constructively.

As Catholics we believe that God has given us the intellectual capacity to come to knowledge of his existence and goodness through reason alone. There remain however profoundly important elements of God's identity and ways that are beyond our ability to discern on our own. To remedy this and to make clear that which defies human understanding God has made himself and the fullness of his plan for salvation known through the special means of his revelation which is handed on in the scriptures and through the tradition of the Church. Through them God has shown himself to us completely and perfectly, even if we for our part do not grasp him or his message perfectly.

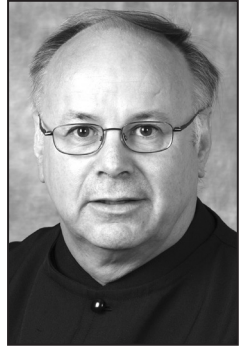
The instruments God chooses to use to reveal himself are part of the life of every person and so are readily receivable—human language, deeds, symbols, and historical events. These acts of self-revelation are so profound that often God makes use of extraordinary means to deliver them, as when a prophet like Isaiah speaks—or when persons like Joseph are given dreams. Isaiah's prophecy announces the birth of a child whose significance seems confined to being a sign of God's fidelity to Israel in the midst of yet another war over territory and ancient political loyalties. Joseph's dream shows the full meaning of the prophecy however: the child of Isaiah's prediction ultimately represented the messiah who would lead Israel forth from all earthly wars and alliances into his Kingdom—the child who is Christ the Lord, the messiah, the savior and redeemer of Israel and all the nations.

While all the people of Israel looked forward to their redemption, it took Isaiah to reassure them of God's presence event at a time of national hardship, and it took Joseph and his dream to uncover the full meaning of God's beautiful act of self-giving and revelation. As we approach Christmas we give thanks to God who reveals himself and his gracious will for our salvation in many words, signs, and powerful deeds. When we are troubled and unsure of how God could be present in a particular difficulty in our lives, or how our dreams might be fulfilled or dashed, let us remember that in God alone does the fullness of our human dignity and glory find its origin, and in him alone do we find the way to the salvation and new life that is born together with the Christ child.

**December 25, 2016 – Christmas Vigil Reading**

**Gospel: Matthew 1: 1 - 25**

The celebration of Christmas is our celebration of God's love for us. He humbled himself out of love for us to be born into the world as one like us in all things but sin. His birth ushered the Kingdom of God in this world, Jesus' death and resurrection completed our redemption, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit Confirmed God's continued guidance. The genealogy with which the Gospel of Matthew begins makes clear the human lineage of Jesus. The genealogy goes from Abraham to Jesse, David to Josiah, and Jechonia to Jesus. Each name listed is identified as the son of his predecessor and then father of his successor. This ends with the last three names; "Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Jesus is the father of no one, for he is the brother of us all. The genealogy ends with all of us being united with our brother Jesus. This unites us to someone who is brother, not with an ancestor a multitude of generations from the past. This makes the love of Christ and the presence of Christ real and personal for us as we celebrate Christmas.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

We celebrate Christmas with our Nativity Sets at Home, Nativity Plays in our church's and parochial schools, and Christmas Cards that depict the real meaning of this day. It is a holiday, or more correctly put, a Holy Day, of joy. In the midst of the busyness that has become more and more a part of Christmas it is important for us not to lose sight of what we are doing. We might wish people, "Merry Christmas," and put "Christmas Lights" on our houses, but be careful not to get this holy day out of focus. Let us not trivialize the beautiful Gospels we hear on Christmas that speak to us of the birth in the little town of Bethlehem, in a manger in a stable, and the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. The accounts of Shepherds, Angels and Magi all paint a colorful picture of this humble birth. It is not just the joy of recalling the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago, it is also the joy of celebrating Jesus's presence with us today, it is the joy of God the Father adopting us as sons and daughters, making us brothers and sisters of his only begotten Son, and filling us with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is called Immanuel, a name that means, "God is with us." This is in the present tense, and not God was with us, Jesus God has come into the world and into our lives. He is with us. On Christmas we celebrate this great mystery and act of God's love for us.

Christmas is more than a day, it begins a season for us to remember and celebrate how loved we are by God. Begin celebrating Christmas by removing anything in our lives that stands in the way of our being able to accept this love. Put aside feelings of animosity, jealousy, inadequacy, unworthiness of God's Love, and let the reality of God's love take their place. This will hopefully lead us to rediscover that the unconditional love for us, is being poured out upon everyone. We can welcome the presence of Jesus in 2016, and throughout 2017 by sharing the unconditional love given to us with all those around us. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. May his light shine brightly within us, and may it shine forth from us.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JAN 18	MONDAY, JAN 9
WEDNESDAY, FEB 15	MONDAY, FEB 6
WEDNESDAY, MAR 8	MONDAY, FEB 27

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

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

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union  
website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

## JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 17 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

# President's Christmas Message 2016

continued from page 1

Society and a more secure investment for our Members.

Fraternal Societies live in a changing landscape. We must initiate changes to keep our Society relative. Our job is not done.

"Jednota" means union or unity. We are a Catholic Slovak fraternal that was founded to serve the needs of its Members, both financial and fraternal. During this Christmas season and beyond, I know we will continue doing this, showing love and respect for each other as we work for the future. "Make your family a Jednota family".

In closing, I want to thank all our Members, Recommenders and Agents for their support. We remember and offer prayers for all of our deceased members and to all members who are ill and to those who are in physical or spiritual need.

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, Vesel' me sa.  
Christos Roždajeť sa, Slavite Jehu.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

# Christmas Greetings from the Executive Secretary

It feels as though our lives are moving faster and faster, especially during the busy holiday season – with all the "extra" things to do this time of year like baking, cooking, gift buying and wrapping. Yet it is particularly during these hectic times that I encourage you to take time for reflection on what is most important. Our Savior Jesus Christ was born in December, and He is the One who gives real meaning to our lives and binds us all together in the light of truth. May this miracle of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and love and sustain you through all the days ahead. On behalf of my wife Theresa and my family, I extend from my household to yours the peace and joy that comes with Christ's light during this very special and holy time of year.



Kenneth A. Arendt



Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

# Christmas Greeting from the National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

The airwaves and shopping areas have been filled with special music since the beginning of November. We know most of the tunes by heart.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way. . . .

Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city. . . .

Just let those sleigh bells jingling . . . .

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening . . . .

I heard the bells on Christmas Day. . . .

Many of our favorite Christmas songs include bells in their lyrics.

Whenever we hear any bell ring, a doorbell, an older model telephone, a school bell, it gets our attention. In some cases, bells are rung prior to a special announcement.

The bells that ring on December 25 will be both getting our attention and accompanying a special announcement.

We will hear bells calling our attention to the little town of Bethlehem, where the hopes and fears of all the years meet.

We will hear bells announcing joy to the world, for the Lord is come!

We will hear bells calling our attention to the herald angels, who sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

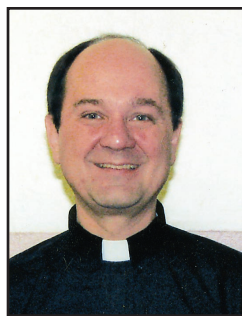
We will hear bells announcing on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, that Jesus Christ is Born.

We will hear bells calling the attention of all the faithful to come, joyful and triumphant, to Bethlehem and adore Christ the Lord.

May the celebration of the Birth of Our Savior fill you and your families with His Peace.

Merry Christmas.  
Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta



# Christmas Message from the National Vice President

The snow is falling, tree lights are sparkling and decorations line the store windows.

Once again we are in the turmoil of the Christmas shopping season. Since Halloween, I've noticed that our daily newspaper has been crammed full of circulars from various stores.

The circulars are all colorful and eye appealing. Every store is trying to outdo the others in hopes of enticing you to buy merchandise from them.

With all the commercialism, we are losing sight of the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of the Holy Christ Child, who brought new faith and hope to all the world.

Just as the wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus, so should we give gifts...gifts of love, compassion and understanding to our children and loved ones.

May this Christmas bring many graces and heavenly gifts to you and to all those dear to your hearts.

On behalf of my wife, Maria, my family and myself, I will pray that the peace of Christ and his holy love be with you and your loved ones this Christmas season.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. National Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.



# Greetings from the National Fraternal Activities Director

Time has gone by so quickly. It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is here. Before long it will be Spring and we will be looking forward to our Annual International Bowling tournament. The dates to keep in mind for the 2017 event are April 21-23, 2017. The tournament will be held at the Brunswick Belle Vernon Lanes on Rt. 51 South, just outside of Pittsburgh. PA. Once again we will be joined by members of the National Slovak Society. Information will be sent out shortly to all those who participated last year, and the forms will also be published in the January issue of our "Jednota" for anyone who would like to join us 2017.

Plans are already underway for our 2017 International Golf Tournament. Since everyone enjoyed the courses at Tam O'Shanter in Canton, Ohio last year, arrangements have been made for the 2017 tournament to be held there July 28-30, 2017.

The Christmas season brings memories of days gone by and warm thoughts of simpler times.

May you rediscover those simple joys this Christmas, and delight in the comfort of family, the gift of friendship and the hope of happiness for all those you hold dear.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and ACTIVE New Year 2017!

Veselé a Radostné Vianočné Sviatky a všetko najlepšie do nastávajúceho Nového Roku 2017.

Fraternally,

Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director



Rudolf Ondrejco



## QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE)  
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300  
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131  
PHONE: 216-642-9406 \* FAX: 216-642-4310

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on

SATURDAY, December 10, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. (telephonically).

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 9, 2016.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to December 2, 2016.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary



**FROM THE  
DESK OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY ~  
HOLIDAY  
HOURS**

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

**December 23, 2016 in observance of Christmas Eve  
December 26, 2016 in observance of Christmas Day  
January 2, 2016, in observance of New Year's Day**

## 2017 March for Life



Our Presence at the 44th Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 27, 2017 in Washington, DC, is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Slovak Union (FCSU) supports the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU, together with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), is 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 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 15th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat. You can also go to [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org) for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

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. Call your local church or diocese, they may be able to help.

## Christmas Oplatky – 2016



Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 24 until December 16, 2016.

The Oplatky, five in one package, are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$6.00 and upward depending upon the number of packets ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized

requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to **Jankola Library** is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

## 17th Edition of Carpathian Cookbook

Now Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 17th printing. The 330-page cookbook includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00). If ordering from Canada,

please send a \$27.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 208-6671 (M – F 6 -8PM) for more information. You may contact us at: [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).

## Annual ASCA Vilija Nears



The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will once again be hosting our traditional Vilija Dinner. This year it will be held on Sunday December 11, 2016 at 4pm at the Father Snock Center at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish (former St. Matthias School) 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH. One of our most beloved Slovak traditions, Štedrý Večer, or Vilija...the traditional Christmas Eve dinner is a special meal the family shares before going to celebrate midnight Mass. This dinner is filled with tradition and memories of our Slovak heritage. In eastern Slovakia it is a meatless meal but by no means a meager one. We will have the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal featuring oplatky and honey, fish, pirohy, bobalky, mushroom soup and kolače. There will be musical entertainment by the John Lapinsky Orchestra and

much more including a Basket Auction 50/50 drawing and a lotto tree raffle. We'll even have oplatky for sale! We will also be presenting the winner of our annual ASCA scholarship at this dinner and letting you know about some exciting projects coming up in our Slovak community.

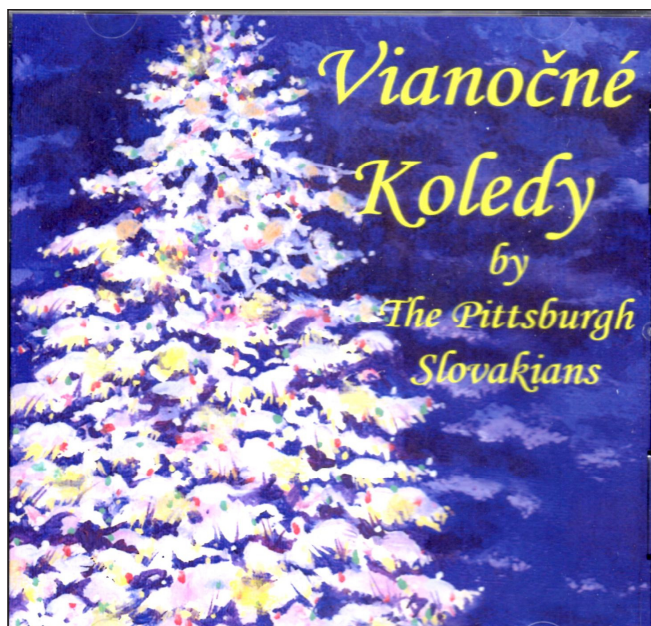
While some of us still celebrate this traditional Christmas Eve dinner at home, many no longer have that opportunity and this annual dinner is our way of keeping our tradition alive. Whether you still have this dinner at home or you remember it from your childhood and would like to experience it again...or if you've never had the opportunity to experience it but would like to...come join us in celebrating our Slovak heritage. Get your tickets soon for the best seating. Once again we are going to hold our price at \$20/person. Tickets will be half price for children under 12 years and children under 4 will be free. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. For tickets and information contact:

Ron Garchar at 330-533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330-549-3760 or e-mail Loretta at: [loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com).

- Submitted by Loretta Ekoniak

**For news about Slovakia, Financial Tips, and more,  
find us on:  Facebook.**

**Visit [www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion)**



## Vianočné Koledy by The Pittsburgh Slovaks

This recording is the result of several decades in which the Pittsburgh Slovaks have spread the Slovak Christmas Spirit through their Christmas performances. The carols offered here are priceless treasures that will re-awaken cherished traditions and memories.

Includes such favorites as:

Do Hory do lesa valasi/ Povedzte nám pastierovia/Plesajte všetci ľudia/Narodil sa Kristus v Betleme./ Dnešny deň sa radujme/Tichá Noc/Silent Night and more!

Make Checks payable and mail to: **Pittsburgh Slovaks  
234 ILION St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207**

**\$15.00 each includes postage.**

# Servant Leadership Award

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

On October 30, 2016, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 54 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg PA, Scranton PA and Gary IN. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 14 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored over 930 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), and Syracuse (NY) with the Servant Leadership Award.

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

Receiving the award were: Lia Rose Acri, Alexandra Arp, Peter Bittner, Alexzandra Lee Bock, Julia Mary Borys, Kyla Davada Brezitski, Anna Buck, Patricia Frances Burke, Helen Cao, Breonna Lynn Catherman, Kaitlin Cizewski, Sarah Cooper, Amanda Curcio, Gabriela Davidheiser, Cara Ford, Francesca Angelina Forti, Katherine Olivia Garisto, Catherine Gregoire, Madalyn Ann Heckman, Bethany Ann Hileman, Yulia Veronica Houseal, Johanna Husena, Grace Louise Jewett, Samuel B. Kelly, Brooke Ann Korkuch, Travis Krivitski, Randie Kuhar, Randy Lee Lark, Cole D. Lazarus, Kate Lindholm, Bailey Little, William Malay, Alora Maneval, Tanner Maneval, Joshua Marzak, Angelica Masser, Paige Mecyssine, Reilly Oliverio, Grace Anne Orris, Connor Ouly, Alexandra Georgia Pavone, Kyle Todd Postlethwait, Alan Patrick Potok, Joel Robert Reiner, Kaitlyn Elizabeth Repp, Hannah Schuchart, Mary Scopelliti, Aidan Sharma, Shelby Elizabeth Smith, Kathy Tran, Dani Welsh, Garrett White, Alyssa Willoughby, and Zachary Zarkowski.

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

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

### The 2016 Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards went to:

#### Education—Sister Pamela Smith, SS.C.M.

Sister Pamela Smith was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Education. Sister Pamela has been an educator for more than forty years on many levels. She has taught eighth graders, high school and college students, seminarians, and Deacons. She served as Principal at John Paul II Catholic High School in Bluffton, SC for two years and for the past six years served and continues to serve as Secretary of Education and Faith Formation for the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina. Sister Pamela is also a presenter at conferences and seminars for numerous dioceses and organizations, and is the author of twelve books on spiritual themes. She writes a regular column in The Catholic Miscellany, the Catholic newspaper for the Diocese of Charleston.

#### Elder-care—Sister Ann Carville, OSF

Sister Ann Carville was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Elder Care. She is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Pittsburgh, PA. Sister Ann has a Doctorate in the development of human and organizational systems. Most of her ministry has been in consulting, in the design, facilitation and implementation of organizational change within communities of religious men and women nationally and internationally. Sister Ann has worked with many leadership groups and presently is a consultant for NRRO (National Religious Retirement Office) working with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Her work with her own Congregation in caring for the elderly Sisters has been outstanding and her outreach to other religious congregations as a consultant for the National Religious Retirement Office has made a difference in the quality of their lives. Her overall involvement in the care of the elderly on all levels is a reminder of the Gospel message of Jesus who came to heal all.

#### Evangelization—Sister Addie-Lorraine Walker, SSND

Sister Addie was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Evangelization. As a young Sister, she was actively involved in catechesis – in particular cateche-



Receiving Lifetime Awards from Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M. (left) General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; Sister Ann Carville, OSF (center), Sister Addie-Lorraine Walker, SSND (right)

sis for the Black community and training lay people to become master catechists. She served as Provincial Leader of the Dallas Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, before its merger with four other provinces into the Central Pacific Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 2011. In 2012 Sister Addie was missioned to the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio where she was asked to develop and direct the Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership. The Institute, under Sister Addie's direction, cultivates understanding and appreciation of African Americans' contributions to the entirety of pastoral leaders, men and women of all races and backgrounds, for the African American Christian community within the context of the universal Christian mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

#### Ecumenism—Dr. R. Scott Woodward

Dr. R. Scott Woodward was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Ecumenism. Dr. Woodward is currently on the Faculty of Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He serves as Assistant Professor in Pastoral Theology, Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean. For more than 35 years Dr. Woodward's work has been focused on the study and instruction in Ecumenism and Interreligious dialogue. He has taught ecumenical courses for Oblate School of Theology (OST), the Ministering to Ministers Program, the Lay Ministry Institute (which he helped to create), as well as numerous continuing education events for OST. In addition to being instrumental in founding the Lay Ministry Institute at OST, he was one of the driving forces in creating the Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership.

## Branch 313's November Meeting



Branch 313 members met at the Arrowhead Ales Restaurant in New Lenox, IL on November 16, 2016. After the meeting the members enjoyed fraternalism and a nice lunch.



(L – R) Branch 313 members Jennifer Carlton, Darlene Johnson, and Vickie Bugel. Vickie brought along little Chewy, the FCSU mascot, to the delight of the other members of the branch. Chewy never fails to bring a smile to those around him.



Student recipients of the 2016 Servant Leadership Award.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

# *FCSU 2016 Christmas Coloring Contest*

A

## *The Colors of Christmas*

The colors of Christmas are bright and they're true  
they tell of God's great love for me and for you.

**Blue** is the sky where the angels appeared  
as they sang "Peace on Earth," to the shepherds who feared.

**Silver** is for the bright Christmas star  
which guided the wise men from countries afar.

**Gold** tells of their gifts for the Baby that day  
who they found in a manger, asleep on the hay.

**Purple** for suffering and death on a hill.

Red is the blood, which Jesus did spill.

**Green** shows that Jesus arose from the dead  
and saved us and freed us, just as he said.

B



C



*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 C**  
**7 – 9 year olds – picture B**  
**10 – 12 year olds – picture A**
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Pictures may 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.
- Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2016.**
- Mail to:  
 Rudy Ondrejco  
 Fraternal Activities Director  
 234 Ilion St.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2016  
 Please print legibly*

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 –\$50 Gift Card**  
**2nd Place –\$35 Gift Card**  
**3rd Place –\$25 Gift Card**  
**Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**



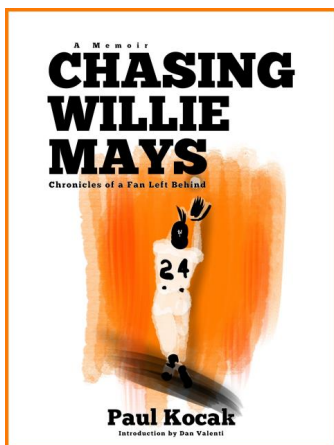
**Book Corner**

**Chasing Willie Mays**  
*Chronicles of a Fan Left Behind*

By Paul Kocak

*What if your hero is forced to abandon you and you can't let go?*

Spanning a baseball fan's life, this memoir explores hero worship, coming of age, and obsession. Paul Kocak grew up as a New York Giants fan in baseball's golden age. When the boy's team moved to San Francisco, he became a fan in exile. We relive backyard fantasies playing Wiffle Ball and Hitting Them Out. We learn of a heart-breaking teenage drowning of the narrator's neighbor. The chronicle's time line coincides with the assassination of JFK, Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. He encounters Hall of Famer Willie McCovey, former Cy Young winner Vida Blue — and Willie Mays. With a subtext of addiction and recovery, Chasing Willie Mays travels coast-to-coast and into the soul with grace, insight, and humor.



Print (\$14.99) ISBN: 978-1-945630-31-6  
 E-book (\$9.99) ISBN: 978-1-945630-30-9

**"Paul Kocak captures what it was like to grow up as a baseball fan in Stamford, Connecticut, our hometown. Along the way, he recalls a golden era of New York baseball."**—Bobby Valentine, former manager of the New York Mets and Boston Red Sox

*Chasing Willie Mays is available for purchase at:*



About the author

Paul Kocak is the author of Baseball's Starry Night, which Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin called "a magical book about a magical night." Born in Stamford, Connecticut, he lives in Syracuse. This is his seventh book. Paul is a member of FCSU Branch 19.



**Ohio Fraternal Alliance 2017 Scholarship Program offers \$500 to Qualifying Graduating HS Seniors**



The Ohio Fraternal Alliance (OFA) will award three college scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. As a member of the OFA, First Catholic Slovak Union members who are Ohio residents and will graduate from high school in 2017 are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15, 2017. You can obtain an application, including requirement details, by contacting OFA Third Vice President Robert Tiell at either: 419-595-2756 (h); 419-934-0227 (c); or robertstiell@aol.com. Or by visiting the Ohio Fraternal website ohiofa.org or the First Catholic

Union website fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships.

**Prince of Peace Parish**



**Presents**  
**23RD ANNUAL SLOVAK VILIIJA & JASLICKARI PROGRAM**

*Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner & Folk Entertainment*

On Saturday, December 10, Prince of Peace Parish (South Side) will host the 23rd Annual Slovak Vilija. The Vilija is a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner featuring homemade Slovak delicacies and authentic folk entertainment sure to warm your spirit. The evening begins as the first star rises with a short reading of Christ's birth and sharing of oplatky, a communion-like wafer. Scrumptious baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, bolbalky (bread balls rolled in poppyseed or sauerkraut), and palachinky (jam-filled crepes) crown the menu. It quickly brings to mind meals at grandma's house so many years ago. And it's fun, too – even if you don't follow Slovak traditions. Share your favorite Christmas memories, do a little caroling and even purchase a gift for someone special.

The highlight of the evening is the performance of the Pittsburgh Slovaks -- the Tri-State's oldest Slovak folk ensemble – presenting a variety of traditional dances, songs and hymns, culminating with the story of the shepherds' visit to the newborn Christ Child.

Prince of Peace Parish Center is located at 81 So. 13th Street in South Side, Pittsburgh, PA, and its facilities are fully accessible. Doors open at 4 p.m.; dinner is served at 5 p.m.

# 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-she], 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 celebrations, 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 beloved 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://tinyurl.com/72qv2kg>.

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 today.

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 spread 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 (žatva) 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, or at our Baba’s home when we visited on Christmas. My wife had the very same experience, which I am sure many of our readers have as well. But our parents never taught us these songs, or their meanings. Yet we knew the hymns and could hum along when they played on what we used to call the Victrola (record player).

After we married and had children, I decided to renew 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 vilija (Christmas Eve Supper) each year, we recite some special prayers of thanksgiving in Slovak to our Lord, and my daughters, Milenka and Erika, would each read a Biblical passage in Slovak about the birth of Christ. The oldest reads the prophet Isaiah 9: 2-7, which foretells the coming of child to save the world.

The younger reads the Christmas story as so eloquently told by St. Luke, chapter 2: 1-20.

Then we sing a solemn hymn, 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 vilija, 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 Was 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 (today, Our Lady of Sorrow parish) in Youngstown, Ohio. Rev. Francis Snock, Rev. Peter Polando, and most recently, Slovak native Rev. Martin Celuch, and the St. Matthias choir continued that tradition through 2015, and celebrated a Slovak Mass with Slovak Carols each Christmas.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/j4w4hsv>

<http://tinyurl.com/zn79a7t>

One may listen to the Slovak on YouTube. The Spevokol (Choir) BJB Palisady performed this version in Bratislava in 2008. <http://tinyurl.com/j4wu2d3> or this version, which has very clear Slovak: <http://tinyurl.com/jjlb7su>.

Here is the Czech music version, and again the tune is the same as in Slovak, and the words nearly identical. But there are livelier versions than this particular one that are sung. The website is: <http://tinyurl.com/hcyfqam>.

Below are 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 kvítek 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 kvítek

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.

1. Narodil sa Kristus Pán, veselme sa,  
z ruže kvietok vzkvitol 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 (my translation)

1. Christ the Lord was born, let us be happy,  
A flower has bloomed for us, let us rejoice.  
From a pure life (a Virgin), from a royal family  
Christ the Lord was born.



After the vilija, the Kopanic family regularly sets aside time to sing their favorite koledy.

## Christmas Carols in Slovakia

continued from page 8

2. The prophets proclaimed to us, let us be happy,  
He was sent into the world for us, let us rejoice.  
From a pure life (a Virgin), from a heavenly family  
Christ the Lord was born.

One may find these and other Slovak koledy at the website, [vianoce.sk](http://vianoce.sk), and these lyrics may be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/glp9ed5.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.

Another useful site full of Slovak Christmas Carols is found here: <http://tinyurl.com/jaajdze>.

One of the most beautiful on the website is the lullaby, *Búvaj, dieťa krásne* (Sleep, Beautiful Child) at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/jqdwg8l>.

1. Búvaj, dieťa krásne, uložené v jasle.  
Búvaj, búvaj pachoľa, milostivé Ježuľa!  
Budeme ťa kolísať, abys` mohol dobre spať.  
Ježiško náš milý, aby sa ti snili  
veľmi krásne sny, veľmi krásne sny.

### Translation

1. Sleep, beautiful child, lying in a manger.  
Sleep, sleep little infant, gracious little Jesus!  
I will rock you, so you may sleep well.  
Our dear little Jesus, so that you dream  
Very sweet dreams, very beautiful dreams.

### 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. Sharing Slovak songs with one another is a way to bring our families together and celebrate our common religious and ethnic ties.

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

### Sources

Choir of St Albans Abbey, "Veni Redemptor Gentium," YouTube. Uploaded on Nov 27, 2009, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIMVzsELjK8> (Accessed November 25, 2012).

Demo, Ondrej, *Vianočné ľudové koledy, vinše a hry*. Martin: Vydavateľstvo Matice 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/#jsvDGHwBiLEH5Txz.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 se Kristus Pán," *Mama Lisa's World*, 2016 <http://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=3634> (Accessed Nov. 20, 2016).

Narodil sa Kristus Pán, performed by Butterfly, YouTube, Published on Nov 15, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpUp6unKQac> (Accessed Nov. 17, 2016).

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

"Ondrej Demo," *Janko Hraško*.sk. <http://www.jankohrascko.sk/folklorc/1388/osobnosti/1693/ondrej-demo/> (Accessed November 20, 2012).

"Slovak Christmas Songs," Nov. 6, 2014, [http://christmassongs.eddu.me/slovak-christmas-songs/](http://christmassongs.eddu.me/slovak-christmas-songs/http://christmassongs.eddu.me/slovak-christmas-songs/) (Accessed Nov. 20, 2016).

"Slovak Christmas Traditions," *Slovak Heritage Live*, [http://www.slovakheritage.org/Folkcustoms/christmas\\_trad.htm](http://www.slovakheritage.org/Folkcustoms/christmas_trad.htm) (Accessed November 25, 2012).

Veni Redemptor Gentium, attributed to St. Ambrose, YouTube. Uploaded on Dec 18, 2010 by Graziella Raneri, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yZr3w7YHuQ> (Accessed Nov. 17, 2016).

"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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_carol) (accessed November 25, 2012).

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

### Christmas Connections

When you think about it, Christmas is really about connections. We connect with family, friends and maybe even strangers because God reached out to us by sending us His Son. We are bound together because we are all His children, reflecting His image and likeness. So today, I'd like to share a few stories about Christmas connections that might prompt you to connect with someone yourself.

Robyn Lee, the former Managing Editor of *CatholicMatch.com* who is now pursuing a religious vocation, cited caroling with her family in their Connecticut neighborhood as one of her favorite Christmas traditions. One visit in particular stands out. A young woman came to the door, visibly upset while talking on the phone. Lee recalled, "We sang 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.' She didn't hang up the phone, but gazed at us. I remember trying to smile my brightest, as I saw tears streaking her face. When we finished singing, she asked, 'What charity are you from?' We told her that we aren't raising money, but just family and friends out caroling together. Tears filled her eyes again as she thanked us: 'You don't know what this means to me.'" Lee felt grateful that she was able to "bring a glimmer of peace and joy" to someone in need of God's love and beauty.

Love for those in need was a theme in Elizabeth Scalia's reflection on Christmas through the lens of her son's encounter with a homeless woman in New York's Penn Station. Writing on the *National Review* website, Scalia said:

"[The woman] said she was hungry and wondered if he might spare some change. Instead, he walked with her to a food stand and bought her a hamburger and fries and a drink. As she ate, he sat with her, and they chatted pleasantly. When I asked him why he didn't simply hand her a few dollars and keep walking...he said that would have seemed 'dismissive'—that the woman was as deserving as anyone else of being seen, and heard, and known."

Scalia continued, "In the noise of the world and our harried distractions and self-absorption, we lose track of the mystery and message of Christmas: that we are meant to be an Incarnational people, a people of intention, consenting to be aware of each other, fully present to each other, alive to each other, affirming each other, for God's sake."

That kind of affirmation was present for blogger and Brooklyn Diocese Deacon Greg Kandra during the Christmas when his sister-in-law gave her father pictures of his grandmother Agnes and a few paragraphs telling her story. Agnes was widowed at an early age and raised nine children on her own. She supported her family by teaching school and through the generosity of family, friends, and members of her parish church.

Deacon Kandra's father-in-law wept at the legacy he held in his hands, a legacy that had helped make not only his life possible, but also that of his children and grandchildren.

The Deacon concluded, "In one way or another, we are all here because of those who came before us...They sailed on ships to a vast stretch of uncharted earth where they plowed fields, built cities, mined coal, dug wells, forged steel, and paved roads. They fell in love, raised families, and saw in this land a place of possibility. Some did it against incredible odds. Whisper a prayer tonight for these good souls, most of whom we may never have met or known. Their legacy is a gift that keeps on giving."



(L – R) Drew Hirt, Branch 682 President, presents Rotarian Jennifer Johnson with a check for \$1000 to bolster this year's Rotary Operation Warm that will provide coats for those in need in the Struthers community. Jennifer is Committee Chair for the Struthers Rotary Operation Warm this year.

## Branch 682 Supports Charitable Efforts in Mahoning County

Branch 682 (St. George Lodge) is once again supporting the efforts of Struthers Rotary for this year's Rotary Operation Warm in Mahoning County. A check for \$1000 was provided to the Struthers Rotary at their September 27th meeting and purchased coats were picked up the week of November 14th for distribution. Branch 682 has always been active in the community and decided again help provide coats for the needy in our area. Jednota provides services and scholarships for children of Slovak heritage and strives to support community activities.

- Submitted by Andrew M. Hirt, Branch 682 President

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., 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 II, Treasurer  
 Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director,  
 via teleconference (by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 2016 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr., and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone and WebEx to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Committee's questions.

The President and Vice President led a discussion of new investment opportunities presented by the Clutterbuck Fund. A motion was made by George Matta II and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to make additional investment of \$500,000 in the Clutterbuck Fund based on their performance this year. Motion carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

The Treasurer gave a written report on the investment update to the Executive Committee and answered the Committee's questions.

The Treasurer recommended that we review the suggestions of Larry White of AQS on our investment policy for possible changes and updates. The President stated this will be reviewed at our December Board meeting.

The President stated one of our financial advisors had joined another firm. The President asked the advisor to present the Executive Committee with a new investment plan.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT CONTINUED:**Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, 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 2016:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 172,708.02
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 25,265.20
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**Annuity Rates:

The President led an extensive review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and will be reviewed at the next meeting in November.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents and at present have over 250 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products.

After the first of the year, the Vice President will be extending our marketing program to recruit new independent agents in the states where we are licensed. He will start scheduling seminars for 2017 once our marketing firm has updated our seminar presentation.

The Vice President said our marketing firm is developing a marketing strategy to better sell our products.

The Vice President stated we are reviewing a possible incentive program for agents and the commissions paid to agents to increase sales.

The Vice President stated we have 3 months left on the JEP program offering the first year free. The results have been encouraging.

The Vice President announced the 2016 Membership Meet will be held in Las Vegas on November 6-10, 2016.

The Executive Secretary stated we have launched our new website with the assistance of our outside marketing firm and presented it to the Committee. He encouraged the Committee to review the website and offer any suggestions or changes.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests 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, Sr., to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

**Back by popular demand!**  
**Extended to December 31, 2016**

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



- 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 FINANCIAL®**  
6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300  
Independence, OH 44131  
800-533-6682  
fcsu@fcsu.com  
www.fcsu.com

All applications must be  
received in the Home Office  
**postmarked**  
**by December 31, 2016.**

\*Higher amounts available - please contact your  
Branch Officer or the Home Office  
Standard underwriting applies.



### Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file - address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at:  
1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

Join the Slovak-American Cultural Center on the **RED CARPET** at **THE SLOVAK BALL** on **SAT, FEB 25th!**

SlovakAmericanCC.org

# Slovak Ball

Join us for The 24th Annual Slovak Ball  
**Sat, Feb. 25, 2017**  
 The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

The Slovak-American Cultural Center is hosting The 24th Annual Slovak Ball!

Join us on the red carpet for an evening of great entertainment, dancing, glamour, and Slovak stars!

The Slovak Ball will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at The Royal Manor in Garfield, New Jersey from 7pm - 1am with Open Bar all night and live music by Express Band.

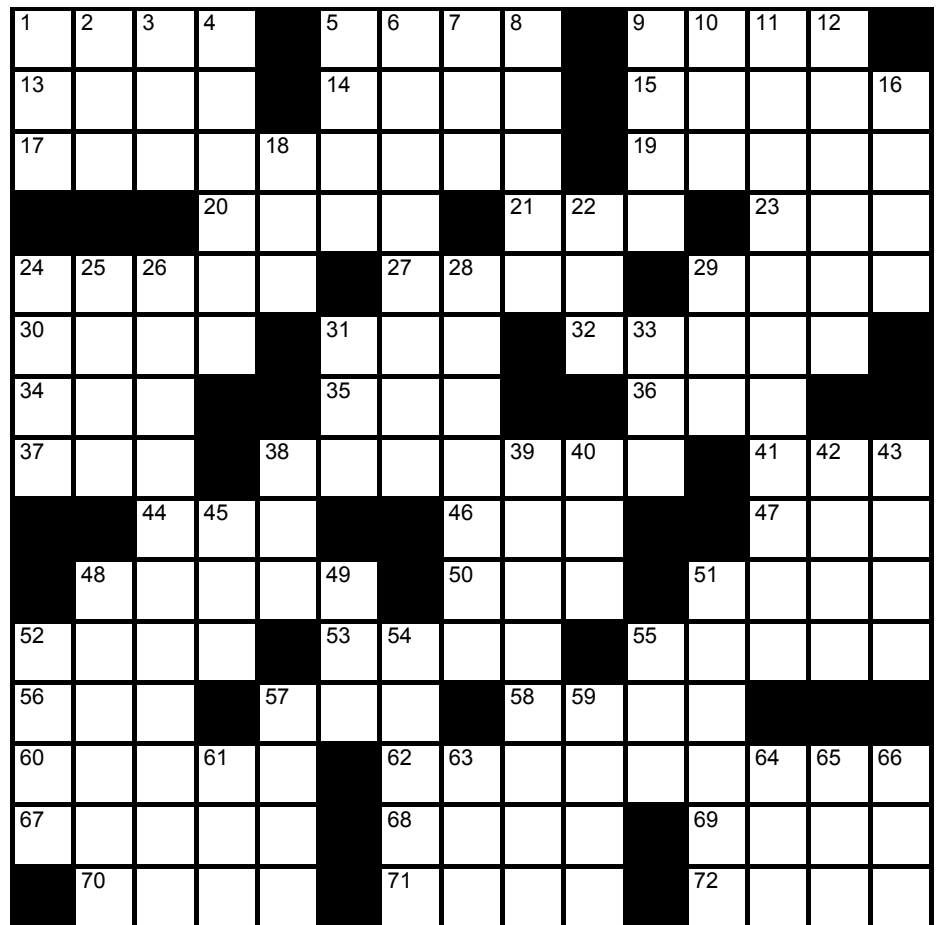
Tickets are on sale via: Eventbrite "Slovak Ball 2017" or by contacting Zuzana Krcmar at 973-357-1209. Get your tickets early as last year we sold out!

Visit our website to see photos from past Balls at: [slovakamericanc.org](http://slovakamericanc.org)

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
January 18	January 9
February 15	February 6
March 8	February 27
March 29	March 20
April 19	April 10
May 10	May 1
June 14	June 5
July 19	July 10
August 16	August 7
Sept 13	Sept 5
October 4	Sept 25
October 18	October 9
November 1	October 23
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Nile reptiles
- 5 Some pets
- 9 Desist
- 13 Smart
- 14 Mine entrance
- 15 Escapade
- 17 Drill sergeant's command
- 19 Narrow ridge
- 20 Regard
- 21 Piña colada ingredient
- 23 Snout
- 24 Tartan
- 27 Escalator part
- 29 Dear, as a signorina
- 30 Bonkers
- 31 Before, to bards
- 32 Aquatic birds
- 34 Circle segment
- 35 Bag thickness
- 36 Eccentric
- 37 Bill \_\_\_\_, TV's Science Guy
- 38 Fmr. Egyptian VIP
- 41 Letters of distress
- 44 Compass pt.
- 46 Dog doc
- 47 Strike
- 48 Winter warmer
- 50 Hotel freebie
- 51 Maui dance
- 52 Joint problem
- 53 Jones or Crockett
- 55 Fall guy
- 56 According to
- 57 *Casablanca* pianist
- 58 Maize
- 60 Parade item
- 62 Farm animal
- 67 Vista
- 68 Scraped (out)
- 69 Competent

**Down**

- 70 To be, to Tiberius
- 71 Some wines
- 72 Peeve
- 40 Broke bread
- 42 Perfume ingredients
- 43 Command to Fido
- 45 "\_\_\_ so fast!"
- 48 Comfort
- 49 Author LeShan
- 51 Airport building
- 52 Gossips
- 54 Color of honey
- 55 Meddle
- 57 Old dagger
- 59 Auto pioneer
- 61 Cricket field parts
- 63 One of the Clantons
- 64 Kimono closer
- 65 Completely
- 66 Golf bag item
- 1 Triumphant cry
- 2 Grinder
- 3 Country club figure
- 4 Artist's workroom
- 5 Bistro
- 6 1949 Tracy, Hepburn flick
- 7 Twitch
- 8 Metric unit
- 9 Con game
- 10 Driveway material
- 11 Like a case, at times
- 12 *Viva Zapata!* actress Jean
- 16 Musical McEntire
- 18 Poet Hughes
- 22 Increases
- 24 Scheme
- 25 Small parrot
- 26 Stresses
- 28 Israeli city
- 29 Scoundrel
- 31 Cousin of an ostrich
- 33 Chinese kitchen item
- 38 Actor Gibson
- 39 Like many tin cans

*See Solution on Page 16*



# OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



## A Typical Slovak Christmas Eve Menu

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

## PIROHY

- 1 cup flour
- About 4 tablespoons water
- 1 egg

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

### Cheese Filling

- 1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon butter
- pinch salt
- Mix together
- Potato Filling
- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter
- (Optional-grated cheese to taste)

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

## BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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

Dissolve yeast in warm water with 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. Set in warm place to rise. Sift 6 cups flour in deep bowl, add 2 cups warm water, 4 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons salad oil.

Knead well and set aside to rise. When double in bulk, punch down, let rise second time until double. Punch down. Divide dough in two. Shape one part into round bread, cover and let stand 20 minutes.

Punch down and reshape. Place in greased pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Note: The second part of this dough will be use for Bobalky.

## CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

Use other half of above dough for bobalky. Knead and roll on floured board into rope. Cut and roll into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on floured pan, let rise 15 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until just slightly brown. Cook then place in deep bowl, pour boiling water over just to soak a little. Drain in colander. Then place in serving dish, heat honey with a little water, pour over bobalky.

Mix 1/2 cup ground poppyseed and 1/4 cup sugar and then add to bobalky. Let stand several hours in cool place (or refrigerator) for several hours before serving.

Note: some bobalky are served with sweet cabbage or sauerkraut. Sautee cabbage or sauerkraut with onion in salad oil, then mix with bobalky.

## NUT ROLLS

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

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

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

## NUT MIXTURE

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

## PAGAČ

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

Knead all together until well blended as for bread dough. Let rise double in bulk in warm place. Punch down, let rise once again. Turn

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

Filling: Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

## TWO HOUR NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS

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

Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Sift together flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and butter. Mix as for pie crust. Add beaten eggs and sour cream. Add yeast - blend well.

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

## NUT FILLING

- 1/2 pound chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup scalded milk
- 1 teaspoon melted butter
- Melt butter. Add walnuts, sugar and vanilla.
- Add scalded milk. Mix well.

## POPPYSEED FILLING

- 1/2 pound ground poppyseed
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup scalded milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- Combine all ingredients, mix well.

## CHRISTMAS BREAD

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

Put sugar, shortening, salt and scalded milk in a large bowl; stir until shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Pour warm water into small bowl; sprinkle or crumble in yeast, stir until dissolved. Add eggs and yeast to lukewarm milk mixture and blend. Add 2/3 of flour and beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining flour, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and turn out on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic; place in greased bowl. Brush with melted shortening, cover, and let rise in warm place until it doubles (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch down divide into 3 equal portions. Shape

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

## MUSHROOM CABBAGE

- 1 head cabbage (about 3 pounds)
- 1 large can sauerkraut
- 1 cup ground mushrooms (either canned, dry or frozen)
- 1 cup rice (uncooked)
- 2 tablespoons oleo
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- For Sauce and Brown Gravy
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 1 tablespoon flour

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

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

## MUSHROOM SOUP (MAČANKA)

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

### Zapaška (Soup thickening)

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

## MUSHROOM SOUP

- 7 cups fresh mushrooms (chopped)
- 3 quarts water
- 1 quart sauerkraut juice
- Salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1 small onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour

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

## CARAWAY SOUP

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

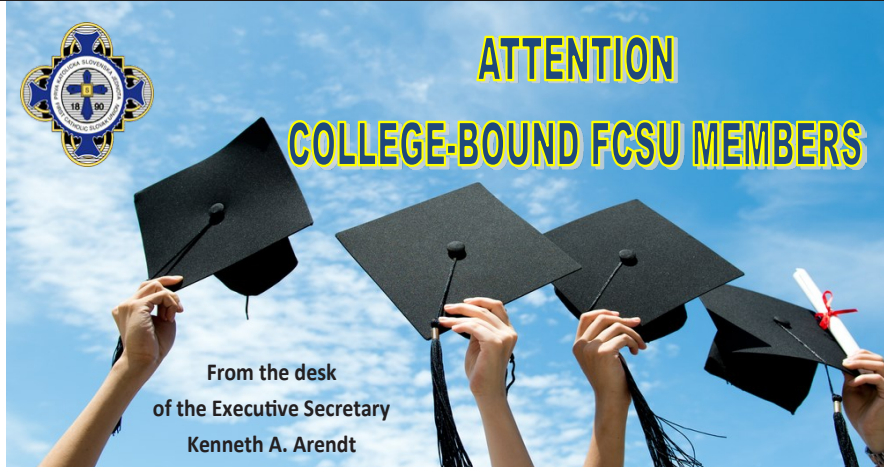
Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion and cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend into 3 cups cold water and bring to boil, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.



Pictured above (L – R): FCSU National Officers Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President; Andrew M. Rajec, President; Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt; and George Matta, II, Treasurer; flank Branch 45 Financial Secretary and Raffle Prize Winner Maria Jurasi.

### Find FCSU Membership-meet Photos on fcsu.com

From November 6 - 10, 2016, the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) held its annual Membership Meet in a world-class resort town known for its fabulous nightlife, endless entertainment options, and awesome desert wonders ... plus all the extra touches you only get with the FCSU. Photos of this event, filled with fun and fraternalism, are on fcsu.com. Go to Community section and click on FCSU Fun. Also look for the photos in an upcoming issue of Jednota.



### THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of \$1000.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

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

For rules, requirements and applications go to  
[www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,  
February 28, 2017**



... *With A Slovak Twist*

## T'was the Night Before Christmas adapted by Chewy Čuvač

T'was the night before Vianoce  
And all through the house  
The Slovaks all gathered  
To eat sauerkraut.

The kolač was nestled  
All snug in its dish  
With bobalky cooking  
Along with some fish.

The women in babušky  
And men in their caps  
Had just all settled down  
To put plates in their laps.

When out on the lawn  
There arose such a clatter  
They all left the meal  
To see what was the matter.

Away to the window  
Cetka flew like a flash  
Screaming, "Lock all the doors  
And hide all the cash!"

And what to their wondering eyes  
Should appear  
But a багаč-shaped sleigh and  
Eight happy reindeer.

With a little old Slovak  
So lively and quick  
We knew in a moment  
It was Janošik.

Slicker than Slivo  
His reindeer all came  
As he shouted "Pod' sem"  
Then each reindeer name.

"On Boris, on Mihal,  
On Janoš and Stefan  
On Joško, on Cyril,  
On Sandor and Milan."

Down the chimney he came  
With a leap and a bound  
Dancing a čardas  
And twirling around.

He did a quick polka  
Then went straight to his tasks  
Passing out the optatky  
And palenky flasks.

We gave him kapusta  
And dedko's old clothes  
Then we sang Cas Radosti  
As up the chimney he rose.

And we heard him exclaim  
As he drove out of sight,  
Vesele Vianoce to all  
Dobru noc, good night.

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 4 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 4, will hold an annual meeting on December 18, 2016, at 3PM at the home of Anne Marie Hanlon, 2338 Lucina Ave., Pittsburgh, PA, 15210. New officers announced.

**Anna Marie Hanlon, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

Branch 6K, St. Stephens Society, will hold their annual meeting and election of officers for 2017 on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at Chippers Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. The meeting will begin at 12 noon, followed by a provided lunch and fraternalism. All members of Branch 6K are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 if you have and questions or plan to attend.

**Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, 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 branch's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place and the distribution of our annual donations will be discussed.

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

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael, Branch 35, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 1:00 pm, at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports, discussion of branch activities and election of officers for the new year.

**Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch #40, of the First Catholic Slovak Union, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 29, 2017 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. Election of officers will take place. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 25, 2017.

**Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2017, at 12:00 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55 - PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the President and Secretary-Treasurer in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers and Delegates and their Alternates to the District 8 meetings. Regular business will also be conducted. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid for Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's recently published book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. Joe, a multi-faceted entrepreneur, is a member of the FCSU, who shares his insights and experience in building a successful

career centered in the field of music. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by December 17h in order to make reservations at Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (215) 613-8987 or Secretary at (215) 637-6530.

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

Fraternally yours,

**Helena T. Gaydos, President**

## BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold a meeting and election of officers, with luncheon to follow, on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at Allio's Restaurant. The times are as follows: social time from 12:30 - 1:00PM; meeting time from 1:00 to 2:00PM, with election of officers, donations, and 2017 activities on the agenda; and lunch to be served directly after the meeting, at approximately 2:00PM. The location of the restaurant is Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are required by the restaurant and must be made by January 24, 2017 by calling Mike Novak at 414-445-5382. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph BR 89. Mail check to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

**Mike Novak, President**

## BRANCH 157 - CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will be holding a meeting and Christmas party on December 18 2016. The meeting will be at the Slovak Center at 5th Grove St N in Catasauqua. The meeting will be at 12:00 (noon) in the upstairs hall. On the agenda: Election of officers and plans for upcoming district meeting. A Christmas party will follow the meeting at 1:30PM. Santa will be there at 2:00PM for all children in attendance, ages are birth to 10.

Branch 157 wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. Any questions, please call Greg at 484 -908-9200.

**Gregory Harakal, Secretary**

## BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on December 11th, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, 16059. Election of officers will be held, discussion of upcoming events and review of by-laws.

All are invited to attend and a blessed Holiday is extended to everyone.

**Joseph Belechak, Secretary**

## BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The Branch: will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 19, 2016. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2017, at 11:30am at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers. 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 their annual meeting at the Bedford

Trails Golf Course Restaurant in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 3:00PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2017, followed by a luncheon - with reservations to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary**

## BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 12, 2016, at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch Street, Lansford, PA, 18232, at 6PM. Election of officers will take place at this time.

Anyone needing service or more insurance should call 1-570-645-4872 and your call will be promptly returned.

Fraternally,

**Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 312 - BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its first meeting of the new year on Sunday, January 29, 2017, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650. The agenda for this annual meeting will include election of officers. For more information or questions, contact Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

We wish all of our members a very Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

**Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

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 Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Lodge 367, Fairchance, PA, will hold its annual Christmas meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at the Park Inn by Radisson 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 5 o'clock. Election of officers for 2017 and new projects for the following year will be discussed. All members are welcome; reservations can be made by calling Audrey Balazik, Balazik, president, at 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, secretary, at 724-569-1006. We would like to wish all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Kathryn Baranek, Secretary**

## BRANCH 372 - BEVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 1:00PM at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave, Beaverdale, PA, 15921. On the agenda: general business and election of officers for the calendar year 2017.

Respectfully,

**Michael Hudak, President**

## BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Br. 401 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 1:00 pm. Location will be at the home of Patrick Froncek, Branch Secretary, 1223 Wysocki Ave., North Apollo, PA. Election of 2017 officers will be on the agenda. Contact can be made at 724-664-8216 ... hope to see you there. Also, please don't forget that JEP policies make great Christmas gifts for the new generation of Slovak youth! Let's do our best to keep this fraternal strong and growing.

Peace and fellowship to all,

**Patrick Froncek, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 425 - BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Marks Society, Branch 425, will hold its annual meeting on January 8, 2017, at the home of Jeannette Willis, 3252 Reimer Road, Norton, OH, 44203. The meeting will begin at 1:00PM and the election of officers will take place. Refreshments will be served. All members are welcome.

**Laura Willis, Recording Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 484- CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on December 18, 2016, at the home of Treasurer Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. The meeting will start at 2:00PM. On the agenda will be financial reports, election of officers, payment of donations, bills, and the latest district meeting. All members are welcome.

**Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 493 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, will once again send McDonald's gift cards to all its junior members this Christmas. To all of our members, we wish a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year! (Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!)

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 567 - ALLEN TOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 1:00PM.

It will be held at the home of the Recording Secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, PA, 18109.

On the agenda for this meeting will be our annual financial report as well as nomination and election of officers for the year 2017.

We will also discuss any business pertaining to our branch.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 581 - GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 18, at 1pm at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN. The agenda will be election of officers, insurance premiums for children to be paid for the first year and the upcoming play. RSVP Ann, 219-947-2793 or George, 219-926-2410

**Ann Buczek, President**

## BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Toys for Tots - Please drop off your donation of a new toy starting Nov. 1 thru Dec. 12. Thank you for your participation.

Saturday, December 10 Kid's Christmas Party 1pm - 4 pm. This event is free for children thru 12 years of age. Please sign up at Tatra Hall.

Sunday, December 18 Meeting with election of officer, please try to attend

There will be no breakfast in the month of December do to Christmas, have a blessed holiday season!

Saturday, December 31 New Year's Eve Party \$15.00 per person. Swiss Steak Dinner with music and dancing to follow.

Sunday, January 22 Breakfast 8:30-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town

Sunday, February 5 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off. Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm, Sat. 12noon-8pm.

Come down and enjoy yourself!

All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 231-733-7525

**Susan Hornik, Secretary**

## BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 4:30 PM at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA.

The agenda will include the election of new officers for 2017 and a summary of events and issues during 2016.

**Sylvia J. Velec, 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.

continued on page 16

# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 276 hosted the Pittsburgh District winter business meeting on Sunday, November 27 at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in West Mifflin. The luncheon included ham and roast beef. The current slate of officers was retained for 2017. During the business meeting there was a discussion of sales of the Middletown properties, the need for insurance licenses, and possible sales seminars. Branch 580 will host the Spring meeting and Branch 2 will host the next Fall/Winter meeting. We still need a host branch for the Fathers Day Brunch. Contact district president David Matta to volunteer.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco has organized a Facebook group called Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities. Join the group to keep up with district events. Annie would like suggestions for additional activities. There will be more announcements at the Spring Meeting. District announcements are also posted on the FCSU web site.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. Watch for information about tours to Slovakia and local Vilijas.

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

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: December 5 – Slovak Christmas Customs, January 2 – Summer School in Slovakia, February 6 – Krivan, March 6 – Egg Decorating, April 3 – Wedding Customs. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

\*\* Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. Summer Language Camp for Kids starts May 6.

\*\* Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

\*\* You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

\*\* The Pittsburgh Slovaks have a CD of Christmas music available for sale. Contact Sue Ondrejco.

\*\* Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

\*\* If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

\*\* The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php.

\*\* The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting on October 18-21, 2017 in Pittsburgh. Your correspondent will be giving a presentation on Slovak Alias Names. Further information can be found at www.cgsi.org.

\*\* FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary**  
manasta@verizon.net

## DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. at Park Inn by Radisson at 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All district members are welcomed. Election of officers for the new year will be held. Dinner will be served. If planning on attending, please call James Marmol by Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 724-437-0892. Those attending are asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 12 – THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

Our President Dorothy Petrus and the officers of the 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 REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTICK DISTRICT

The Reverend Kostick District will have Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Tavola Restaurant (the former Fifth Season Restaurant), 7098 Mahoning Ave., Austintown, OH 44515.

The cost is \$25.00 per person and a reservation must be made in advance by December 12, 2016 to Nancy @ 330-758-7536 or Carlie @ 330-779-3927. Hope to see everyone there.

**Joseph Scavina, Recording Secretary**

## DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT

The Prince Pribina District cordially extends an open invitation, to join us for an early Christmas Slovak Mass Celebration on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM at John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Pavol Schulak, SVD, from San Bernardino. Directly after the Mass, the district will hold its Annual Meeting at 3:00PM. On the agenda will be: planning activities for the year 2017; preparations for a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico; election of officers for the year 2017; and a financial report. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meeting.

We will follow with tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. Also, a gourmet lunch "Kapustnica" & dessert will be served.

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

**Paul Skuben, President**

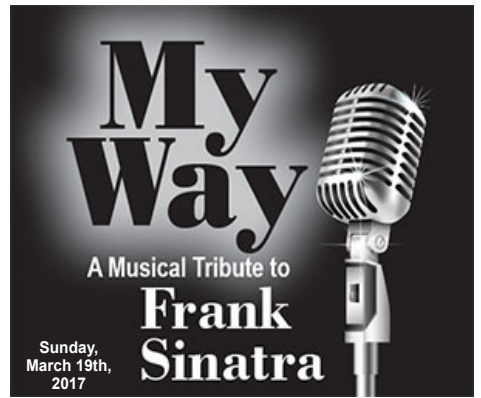
## DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The annual meeting of District 19, the Monsignor Michael Shuba District, will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, ON. Meeting and Lunch start time is 1:30pm. Please RSVP to Mike Kapitan 416-543-4111 if you are coming for lunch.

**Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary**

# District II Annual 2017 BRUNCH AND PLAY

On **Sunday, March 19, 2017**, a Brunch/Play event is scheduled at the Center for Performing and Arts, Theatre at the Center, located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Brunch starts at 12:45 pm, the show follows brunch at 2:30 pm. The show this year is called **"My Way, A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra."** Relive the legendary career of Frank Sinatra as four actors share more than 50 of his beloved hits. "Fly Me to the Moon," "Chicago," "New York, New York," "The Way You Look Tonight," and "That's Life" are just some of the tunes showcased in this musical tribute to the iconic success story of Ol' Blue Eyes.



If you have been to the brunch/play before, the price is \$31.50 per person. If you have never attended the brunch/play, District II Members pay \$36.50. Non-members pay full price (\$56.50, not including tax or gratuity). District II members, take advantage of this \$25 discount.

For more information, call Lynda Tanis at: 1-630-247-7521. Make checks payable to: **Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II** and mail to Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618. The deadline is January 15, 2017. **The event is two months earlier this year, so be sure to mail in your payments before the deadline.** Checks will not be honored after this date. *Hope to see you there!*

PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY

## District II Annual 2017 Brunch and Play

Members attended last year	\$31.50 x _____ = \$ _____ total
Members not attended last year	\$36.50 x _____ = \$ _____ total
Non-members	\$56.50 x _____ = \$ _____ total

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

List names of all those attending on the back of this sheet. Make checks payable to Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II and mail together with check to: Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.



## St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 Annual Meeting

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. Members and guests of the branch in attendance: (L – R) Joseph Jurasi, Rev. Richard D. Baker, M. Div., M.L.N., Maria Jurasi, Antonia Krajkovic, Jan Zeman, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Anton Kucharovic, Sabina Sabados - Regional Director, Helen Brchnel, and Maria Zakovic.

- Submitted by Maria Jurasi, Branch 45 Financial Secretary

## You're Invited to a New Year's Eve Party

The Slovak American community in Cleveland will host its Second Annual New Year's Eve Party

**When:** Saturday, December 31, 2016

**Where:** Crystal Chalet, 3600 Biddulph Ave, Cleveland, OH

**Time:** Doors open at 5:30PM

**Program:** 5:30-7:00 Early Light Appetizers; 7:00-8:00

Dinner; 10:00-11:00 Hors d'oeuvres; Midnight –

Champagne Toast to enjoy

**Music:** DJ Denis

**Catering:** Chef Melendez (www.MelendezLatinGrill.com)

**Cost:** \$75/person; kids under 18 free

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Please, RSVP by December 15.

**To purchase:** make check payable to Miriam Visnovsky and mail to Miriam Visnovsky, 3518 Stickney Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109.

For more information, call or text Miriam at 440-638-9921.



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

**BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 Youngstown, Ohio will celebrate Mass for deceased members on December 18, 2016 at 11:00AM. The election of officers for 2017 will also be held at the annual meeting following the Mass. All the events will be held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio.

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

**BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its

annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2016 financial report, approval of the 2017 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 the Slovak 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, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

**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 18, 2016 in the basement of Holy Family Church, 210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ. The meeting will begin promptly at 3:00 PM. The agenda will include election of officers, as well as discussion of charitable donations and plans for next year's activities. A Christmas holiday dinner will follow this meeting. Please call Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by December 9th if you plan on attending.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

**BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN**

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, in Saginaw, Michigan, will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday December 7, 2016. Election of officers will take place and discussion of any matters of concern to our members. For more information members may call Catherine Karlsen at (989) 280-4916.

Fraternally,  
**Catherine Karlsen, Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO**

Branch 785 will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday January 8, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Mississauga, Ontario. Election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Many Christmas Blessings to all and we hope to see everyone at the meeting in the New Year!

**Sharon Tomas, Secretary**

**BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Christmas Mass and meeting on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at 2:00PM at John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. After Mass, the branch will celebrate the tradition of St Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to all the children in attendance. Also, a gourmet luncheon of Kapustnica along with dessert will be served.

Come and join us in celebrating the spirit of Christmas, Slovak style.

Also, District 15, the Prince Pribina District, will hold a district meeting in the same place starting at 3:00PM, and all Branch 844 members are invited, and urged to attend [Editor's note: please see page 15 of this issue for details on the District 15 meeting].

We hope to see you all at these important branch and district events, and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

Fraternally,  
**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

**BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA**

Branch 853 will hold its Christmas spaghetti annual luncheon on Sunday Dec 11, 2016, at 12 noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. The branch meeting will follow the lunch. All members are urged to attend. If you cannot attend but would like to have a topic discussed please let Mrs Rodacy Boone know. For a luncheon chair count, please leave a message at 412-341-1577. Branch 853 wishes all to have a blessed Christmas season and prosperous New Year.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

**BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO**

Branch 855 will hold a membership meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 2:00PM.

At the residence of Branch President, Michael Kolesar. For more information, please call 440-886-0206. The agenda shall include upcoming branch activities.

Fraternally,  
**Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer**

**BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday December 7, 2016. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

Branch 857 wishes all members a Blessed Christmas holiday.

Fraternally,  
**Damian D Nasta Recording Secretary**



## Christmas concert and dinner in Yonkers, NY, on December 11

Our Branch 41 member, Stephen J. Knoblock, will direct the traditional Christmas concert of chorus and instrumentalists "Journey to Bethlehem" on Sunday, December 11 at the Church of St. Casimir, 239 Neperhan Avenue in Yonkers, N.Y. beginning at 3 p.m. The concert will feature the artistry of the choir of the former Most Holy Trinity Parish. The Slovak parish was shuttered on August 1, 2015. For the past 31 years, the concert was an integral part of the celebration of Christmas at the parish. This year's concert, the second in the majestic gothic Church of St. Casimir, under the baton of Maestro Knoblock will feature an array of traditional Advent and Christmas favorites and arrangements.

Following the concert, a buffet supper will be served in the church hall. Traditional Slovak and Polish culinary specialties will be enjoyed. Tickets for the concert and dinner are \$35.00 or \$10 for the concert alone. Reservations for the dinner are necessary and may be made by calling St. Casimir's Rectory at tel. 914-963-1254 or email: office@casimirchurch.com.

- Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41 member

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

### Will the right people BENEFIT from your policy?

If you've gotten married, divorced, lost a loved one, had a new baby or adopted a child...

## THEN IT'S TIME TO UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARIES!

To obtain the form, please go to our new website [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), complete the Member Service Request Form and mail it to the Home Office address: FCSU, 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131, or call 800.533.6682. ext.125

**Faith Founded, Family Focused, Financially Strong.**

We are a fraternal organization, which for over a century has been promoting culture and Catholic fraternal life, providing support to our families and clergy, and offering competitive insurance and investment products to protect our families.

**Protect your family, plan your future.**  
Annuity interest rates as high as 3.6%

First Catholic Slovak Union can help you build wealth, plan for retirement, and provide financial security for your loved ones with our insurance and investment products.

LIFE INSURANCE      ANNUITIES      IRAS

# 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
001K	George S Yurko	166K	Albert Pudish	326K	Rosalie M Vesay	670K	Dorothy G Jarabeck
004K	Christina Lynn Armusik	169P	Raymond F Sheffler	348K	Daniel Kovalan	682K	Timothy Donald Lomen
007K	Stanley John Wawrynovic Jr	181K	John J Lopatosky	362K	Margaret Strizak	738K	Brittany M Huebner
016P	Stanley Grontkowski III	181K	Christine Lynn Saddler	367K	Eugene A Imrich Sr	738K	William D Rubinsak
024K	Anne R Sims	200K	Helen K Lefchik	382K	James J Tobin	743K	Agnes M Fredrickson
024K	Edward A Zavartkay	228K	Thomas A Miller	401K	Nicholas Kardos	746K	Agnes Michalak
035K	R Richard Fry	228K	Stephen J Petrik	410K	Ryan Tyler Breiner	754K	Raymond Dorko
035K	Thomas E Parlak	238K	Ottilia L Collins	493K	Laverne F Hribik	777K	Stephanie M Macko
041K	John A Regal	240P	Paul T Mack	510K	Kathryn M Ford	780K	Thomas L Shannon
053K	John Kenneth Brent	259K	Robert J Yash	512K	John E Miliczki Jr	796K	Aloysius R Emerick
055K	Rev Francis G Lendacky	276K	Caroline Tirpak	543K	Albert Paul Kalina	796K	Robert C Plata
085K	Marlene F Bantell	276K	Edward E Tirpak	567K	Lawrence S Geiger Jr	916K	Joseph G Naiser
112K	Robert Rench	278K	Elizabeth A Barb	567K	Olympia E Minarovic	924K	Harry M Murphy
112K	Florence Wellington	308K	Joseph Bindas	587K	William B Miklos Sr		
136K	Margaret Mary Palushock	308K	Helen Wasko	618K	Rita Jean Petro		
162K	Stephen S Sheba Jr	312K	Ann A Lopushansky	628K	Mary M Jablonski		
166K	Mary M Briskie	321P	Florence A Hartman	652K	Margaret Mary Pointon-Hocker		

\*Processed through the month of November

## OBITUARIES

**JOHN "JACK" KENNETH (TVARDZIK) BRENT BRANCH 53 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**

John "Jack" Kenneth (Tvardzik) Brent, age 77, of Bethany, CT, formerly of Bridgeport, CT, entered into Eternal Life on Friday, July 29, 2016. Born in Bridgeport, Jack was the son to the late John Michael and Grace Cszimazia Tvardzik. He had worked as an engineer for Avco Lycoming and Sikorsky Aircraft, and later in real estate sales and property management. Known as the one to keep the family close, Jack organized and directed all family activities and trips. An intelligent man, Jack had an extensive knowledge of history. His memory will be lovingly remembered by his two sisters, Grace Monks, of Easton, CT, and Joan Lasprogato, of Westport, CT; nieces and nephews, Thomas Monks, and his wife, Susan, of Trumbull, CT; John Monks, and his wife, Patricia, of Terryville, CT; Darrell Monks, of Easton, CT; George Kleros, and his wife, Cathy, of Southbury, CT; Joan Waters, of Brookfield, CT; and James Kleros, of Westport; and several great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by a nephew, Jeffrey Monks.

- Submitted by Joan Lasprogato

**JOSEPH J. PETRASEK BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO**



"There are no strangers, only friends we have yet to meet." -Papa Joe

With love and Christian faith we said goodbye to our cherished husband, dad, grandpa, great-grandpa, uncle and friend, Joseph Jacob Petrasek on October 24, 2016.

Joe was born on July 31, 1928, in Akron, OH, to Vincent and Mary Petrasek. The fourth of five brothers, he kept Firestone Park hopping. Joe loved living life, and did it extremely well. His stories will continue to make us laugh forever. For those of you that did not know Joe well, he would like for you

to know he had a hole-in-one at the age of 83. Not only one hole-in-one, but managed to somehow pull off two over the course of his lifetime. Joe was involved with many activities, and was always up for a party. He was generous, kind and loving. We will cherish him in our hearts forever.

Joe was a lifelong member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and it was there that he was baptized, took his First Holy Communion, had Confirmation and was married. He retired with 30 years of service from Goodyear Aerospace, and then went back to work as a Bailiff in Domestic Relations under the Honorable Judge Richard Zurz. It was there that he was thrown out of court by his boss for snoring during a court session.

At the age of 16, Joe enlisted in the military, because his mom refused to buy him a car. He served our country well during the Korean Conflict, and left us with many stories about SOS and making money selling cigarettes.

He was president of Branch 553 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Jednota Club (the J Club) in Akron, and a member of the Airport VFW. He was also a Third Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus, Charles Reymann Council and a Fourth Degree member of Msgr. O'Keefe Assembly.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, John, Frank, and Steven. Preceding also were his brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Mary Ford.

Joe is survived by his wife of 67 years, Cecelia; son and daughter-in-law, Mike (Noreen), and their children, Megan (Steve) Defranceso-Coby, Siena and Blake, Lauren (Jeff) Moses-Grace and Giuliana, Michael (Erika) Petrasek and Leah (Matt) Sudo; son and daughter-in-law, Greg (Roberta), their daughter, Bianchi (Andrew) Victory-William, Georgia and Scarlet Grey. He leaves behind his beloved kid brother, Tony (Connie) Petrasek and their family, adored nieces, Pat Beach and Delores Courie. His devoted nephews, Larry Petrasek and Tom Petrasek also survive. His family was his world, and he was the best at being a great provider and friend.

Calling hours for family and friends were

Friday, October 28, 2016 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Kucko-Anthony-Kertes Funeral Home, Akron. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Catholic Church, Akron, with Father Mike Williamson and Father

Ralph Coletta officiating. Interment was Monday, October 31, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

"Truly, truly I say unto you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Our cherished Papa Joe we will miss you.

### ARE YOU PLANNING ON PASSING YOUR ASSETS TO LOVED ONES?



Then consider

## WEALTH TRANSFER

Wealth management

through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

**Here are the benefits:**

- Avoid income tax
- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

**Interested? Call 800.533.6682 today!**



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union  
 Contact your branch officer or the home office  
 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131,  
 800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



Statement as of September 30, 2016 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**  
**ASSETS**

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	348,715,622		348,715,622	337,753,840
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,307,893		2,307,893	2,253,872
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	892,294		892,294	1,050,016
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	876,338		876,338	921,760
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	665,414		665,414	694,710
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	753,488		753,488	753,488
5. Cash (\$.....14,445,160), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	14,445,160		14,445,160	12,383,475
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,113,164		1,113,164	1,093,309
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	4,393,731		4,393,731	5,334,377
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	4,626
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	374,163,105	0	374,163,105	362,243,472
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,875,208		4,875,208	4,597,179
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	21,504		21,504	27,655
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$.....0) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$.....0).....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	11,433	11,433	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	379,071,799	11,983	379,059,816	366,868,306
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	379,071,799	11,983	379,059,816	366,868,306

Statement as of September 30, 2016 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS**

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	298,750,000	287,620,117
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	41,463,088	44,046,110
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	50,194	55,184
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	708,231	329,048
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	17,660	18,128
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	50,929	72,211
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	17,949	17,949
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	5,300,131	4,838,147
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,327,992	2,191,650
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....	1,081,731	
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	773,835	572,835
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	351,251,251	340,470,890
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	351,251,251	340,470,890
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	27,808,565	26,397,416
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	27,808,565	26,397,416
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	379,059,816	366,868,306

Statement as of September 30, 2016 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	16,317,359	14,127,998	18,573,260
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	11,993,354	11,648,788	15,210,049
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	325,000	360,000	485,630
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	46,574	9,100	498,789
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	28,682,287	26,145,886	34,767,728
10. Death benefits.....	1,809,207	2,068,517	2,585,278
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			6,511
12. Annuity benefits.....	11,053,158	9,363,491	12,877,281
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	357,379	466,054	632,257
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	115,392	109,761	145,400
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	11,129,883	9,428,000	12,760,117
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	24,465,019	21,435,823	29,006,843
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	208,993	188,527	268,813
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	2,464,210	2,439,545	3,031,054
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	109,856	82,150	108,167
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(273,071)	(167,527)	(212,353)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	26,975,007	23,978,518	32,202,524
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,707,280	2,167,368	2,565,204
28. Refunds to members.....	296,458	295,239	411,659
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,410,822	1,872,129	2,153,545
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of .....0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	(11,616)	(65,608)	(638,711)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,399,206	1,806,521	1,514,834
<b>SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	26,397,416	24,149,682	24,149,682
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,399,206	1,806,521	1,514,834
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0	144,525	(153,529)	409,181
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	2,189	(14,351)	(13,622)
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(136,342)	97,180	120,125
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	1,571	3,915	217,216
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,411,149	1,739,736	2,247,734
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	27,808,565	25,889,418	26,397,416

## Správy zo Slovenska

### Pri prideľovaní peňazí nehľadíme na politiku

Vláda chce v najbližšom období z európskych peňazí prioritne dobudovať diaľnice a rýchlostné cesty. Nový viceprezident Európskej investičnej banky Vazil Hudák v rozhovore hovorí, že peniaze na projekty banka neprideluje po politickej linke, ale snaží sa pozeráť na kvalitu a prínos pre bežných ľudí. V minulom roku EIB poskytla financie v objeme okolo 1,2 miliardy eur. Od roku 2011 až do roku 2015 celkový objem financovania zo strany EIB predstavoval sumu zhruba troch miliárd eur. Banka je teda na Slovensku veľmi aktívna... V prípade čerpania eurofondov totiž pre Slovensko platí, že z celkových financií na daný projekt ide 85 percent peňazí z eurofondov a zvyšných, tých 15 percent musí štát doplatiť zo svojho...“ vysvetlil viceprezident EIB.

### VŠZP preverí kriminálka

Vedenie Všeobecnej zdravotnej poisťovne (VŠZP) sa obrátilo na políciu, aby prišla preveriť hospodárenie poisťovne za predchádzajúceho riaditeľa Miroslava Vaňuru. Dôvodom je rekordné manko - do konca roka poisťovňa vykáže účtovnú stratu 283 miliónov eur a na účtoch jej reálne bude chýbať 51 miliónov eur. Polícia má preveriť podozrenie z trestného činu skresľovania hospodárskej evidencie.

### Trenčania opravujú ruské vrtuľníky pre Američanov

Niekoľko rokov bojovali s nedostatkom zákaziek. Aj to bol dôvod, prečo posledné tri roky končili v stratách, presahujúcich milión eur. Teraz získali Letecké opravovne Trenčín podľa informácií historicky najlukratívnejší kontrakt, ktorý môže presiahnuť 100 miliónov eur. A v tendri servisnej agentúry NATO Support and Procurement Agency porazili slušnú medzinárodnú konkurenciu. Budú totiž pre Washington opravovať ruské vrtuľníky nasadené v Afganistane. Pre Američanov Slováci opravujú minimálne desať a maximálne 36 bojových vrtuľníkov Mi-17 ruskej výroby. Objem kontraktu sa môže nafúknuť na 110 miliónov eur, uvádza autor článku. Ide o rámcovú zmluvu, ktorej objem nemusí byť vyčerpaný. Na súťaži sa zúčastnili aj firmy z Litvy, Bulharska či USA. Veľký záujem mal i český podnik Lom Praha.

### Budapešť blokuje budúcnosť Mochoviec

Snaha Slovenska zarábať na dvoch jadrových blokoch elektrárne Mochovce dostala trhlínu. Susedné Maďarsko totiž brzdi vybudovanie cezhraničnej linky, ktorou by sa mala elektrina z Mochoviec exportovať cez Veľký Ďur pri Leviciach do Maďarska a ďalej smerom na Balkán. Ak vysokonapäťové vedenie nebude, elektrina z dokončovaného tretieho a štvrtého bloku Mochoviec nemusí mať solventného odberateľa. Na Slovensku aj vo väčšine európskych krajín je totiž elektriny prebytok a Balkán je pre Mochovce jedna z mála dobrých šancí. Tretí a štvrtý blok Mochoviec sa okrem toho majú predajť o 500 miliónov eur a spolu majú štáť 5,1 miliardy eur.

### Viac ako tretina Slovákov nemá vlastnú izbu

Slovensko patrí k európskym krajinám s najvyšším podielom ľudí žijúcich v preplnenom byte alebo dome. Kým priemer Európskej únie (EÚ) dosahuje 17 percent, na Slovensku sa preľudnosť prírbytku týka 38 percent populácie. Vyplýva to zo štúdie Eurostatu o podmienkach bývania. Eurostat vychádza z počtu izieb, veľkosti domácnosti, ako aj z veku a rodinnej situácie jej členov. Ministerstvo výstavby náš výsledok nepokladá za objektívny.

### Prezident vymenoval 20 nových vysokoškolských profesorov

Na slovenských vysokých školách pribudne 20 nových profesorov. Menovacie dekréty im nedávno v Prezidentskom paláci odovzdal prezident SR Andrej Kiska. Nových profesorov budú mať napríklad odbory chemické inžinierstvo, masmediálne štúdiá, sociálna práca či ochrana osôb a majetku. Podľa prezidenta kvalita našich škôl významne ovplyvňuje to, akou krajinou Slovensko je. Nových profesorov hlava štátu vyzvala, aby sa aktívne zapojili do diskusie o budúcnosti slovenského školstva. Kiska naposledy menoval profesorov v máji tohto roka. Vtedy si z jeho rúk prevzalo dekréty 42 vysokoškolských pedagógov.

### Bruselské hlavné námestie bude zdobiť vianočný strom zo Slovenska

Hlavné námestie v Bruseli bude tento rok počas vianočných sviatkov zdobiť jedlička zo Slovenska. Stane sa tak pri príležitosti slovenského predsedníctva v Rade EÚ. Na cestu sa preto vydal 22 metrov vysoký strom z obce Horné Orešany pri Trnave. Výrub zhruba tridsaťpäť rokov starej jedle srienistej, ktorá stojí na súkromnom pozemku, do Belgicka to má viac ako 1200 kilometrov. O výber najvhodnejšieho exemplára sa postarali Lesy SR.

### Rímskokatolícky kňaz zdolal maratón z Košíc do Ríma

Rímskokatolícky kňaz a aktívny bežec Peter Gombita zdolal 1550 kilometrov dlhú trasu Košice - Rím. Behom chcel riadiť útluku pre bezdomovcov Oáza - nádej pre nový život, n. o., v Bernátovciach pri Košiciach upozorniť na problém chudoby a podporiť myšlienku, že aktívnym športom možno pomôcť menej šťastným ľuďom. Na 50-dňový maratón sa vydal v polovici septembra z centra Košíc. Do Ríma dorazil vo štvrtok 10. novembra a svoje dojmy zhodnotil na sociálnej sieti. "Dobeňuté, dobojované... Veľká vďaka Vám všetkým za modlitby, povzbudenie a pomoc! Pán Boh, zaplať!," poďakoval všetkým podporovateľom. Na cestu sa pripravoval nielen fyzicky, ale i modlitbou. Od košického arcibiskupa Bernarda Bobera dostal požehnanie.

### Zdravotné poisťovne budú spolupracovať v Asociácii zdravotných poisťovní

Štátna Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa, súkromná Dôvera a súkromná Union zdravotná poisťovňa budú spolupracovať v Asociácii zdravotných poisťovní (AZP) SR. Rozhodli sa to urobiť v „záujme zlepšovania systému zdravotného poistenia“. Informovala o tom Katarína Kafková, ktorú si spomínané inštitúcie jednohlasne zvolili za výkonnú riaditeľku asociácie. Nejde o nové zoskupenie. Asociácia vznikla premenovaním Združenia zdravotných poisťovní (ZZP), ktoré na Slovensku pôsobí už dlho. Aj tam bola Kafková výkonnou riaditeľkou, a to v rokoch 2011 až 2014.

### Najsledovanejšou televíziou je Markiza

Najsledovanejšou televíziou je TV Markiza, najpočúvanejším rádiom Expres a najčítanejším denníkom Nový Čas. Vyplýva to z výsledkov prieskumu spoločnosti Median SK. Spoločnosť Median SK zozbierala výsledky v období od 4. apríla do 18. septembra tohto roka. Projekt zrealizovala na vzorke 4241 respondentov. Z prieskumu vyplýva, že najčítanejším denníkom bol v sledovanom období Nový Čas s 15-percentnou čítanosťou. Nasledujú denníky Sme a Pravda so šiestimi percentami. Najčítanejším týždenníkom bol Plus 7 dní, nasledovaný Býječnou ženou, Životom a Novým časom pre ženy. Najčítanejším dvojtýždenníkom bol TV max a mesačníky Záhradkár, Zdravie a Éva. Najpočúvanejšími rádiom na Slovensku boli v sledovanom období Expres, Rádio Slovensko a Fun rádio, najsledovanejšími televíziami Markiza so sledovanosťou 51 percent, TV JOJ s 31 percentami a Jednotka s 25 percentami.

### Výnimočnosť čipkárkeho remesla pripomína výstava v Tatranskej Lomnici

V Galérii Ústredia ľudovej umeleckej výroby v Tatranskej Lomnici sprístupnili výstavu Brezovská pletená čipka. Zameraná je na tvorbu regionálnej čipky v dvoch oblastiach, a to ako estetickéj súčasť tradičného ľudového odevu a bytového textilu. Pre verejnosť je prístupná do 28. februára. Čipkárstvo má na západnom Slovensku bohatú históriu a táto technika sa využíva pri zhotovení súčasť ľudového odevu, čepcoch, rukávcoch a ručníkoch. Výrobcom inšpirovala natolko, že jej bohatá ornamentálnosť a vysoká miera exkluzivity zapríčinili jej využitie aj v bytovom textile, napríklad na obrusoch, prikrývkach i vankúšoch.

### Košice sa ocitli v hľadáčku megainvestície z Japonska

Doteraz neznámy investor z Ázie, ktorý chce investovať v Košiciach, je japonská firma Minebea. Firma chce v Košiciach investovať 100 miliónov eur. Na východe Slovenska plánuje vyrábať komponenty do chladiacich zariadení a rýchloamerov áut. Nemalo by však ísť iba o klasickú výrobu, ale aj o výskum a vývoj.

### Výber zo slovenskej tlače



FOTO TASR - Erika Ďurčová

Na snímke deti počas otvorenia 18. ročníka Vianočnej pošty a uvedenia poštovej známky "Vianočná pošta 2016" v kostole Narodenia Panny Márie v Rajeckej Lesnej 18. novembra 2016.

Children attended the opening of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Letters program and the unveiling of the new Christmas 2016 stamp in the Nativity of the Blessed Mother Church in Rajecka Lesna on November 18, 2016.

## Vianočný pozdrav z Matice slovenskej

Prvá bohatá snehová nádielka, predlžujúce sa večery, sychravé rána i silný mráz... Príroda i tým menej všímavým a uponáhľaným pripomína, že prichádza posledný mesiac roka, december. Uzatvára sa jeden rok. December určuje, že sme opäť o rok starší, o rok skúsenejší i múdrejší. Posledný mesiac v kalendári značí, že prichádza čas bilancie i hodnotenia toho, čím sme počas celého roka žili, čomu sme sa venovali.

December je tiež mesiacom spomienok, časom citu i časom, kedy hodnotíme zmysel nášho bytia. V ňom sa snúbi doba ukončenia roka s dobou sviatkov rodiny. Je to obdobie spomalenia pracovného tempa i obdobie pre rodinu a lásku. Mnohým z nás sa k decembru viažu tie najkrajšie vianočné spomienky. Plný stôl, voňavý stromček uprostred izby, krásne červené gule z jemného skla, oriešky, slamený koník, no najmä rodina: mama, otec, starí rodičia i dieťky – všetci pri jednom stole, plní očakávania i radosti s vnútorným presvedčením potešiť toho druhého darčekom, ktorý preň starostlivo vybrali.

Práve Vy, naši krajanovia, ste si svoje zvyky odniesli z domoviny do širého sveta. Vo svojich srdciach ste si niesli vlastnú identitu, v rukách remeslo a v hlavách múdry um. Z pokolenia na pokolenie ste odovzdávali najvzácnejší poklad svojim potomkom, aby ďalej hrdo šírili svoju kultúru, náboženstvo i históriu. Ženy sa postarali o prenos vianočnej gastronómie, muži zase o zvyky a dovedna ste spoločne zabezpečili prenos našej národnej identity.

Milí naši krajanovia,

je naozaj obdivuhodné, že aj v čase globalizácie nezabúdate na svoje korene, že pestujete slovenskú reč, ktorá je odrazom slovenského myslenia, že zachováte slovenskú kultúru, ktorá je obrazom vyspelosti slovenského národa, že zachováte kresťanské náboženstvo, ktoré je symbolom dobra Slovákov a že vychováte... Vychováte ďalšiu slovenskú generáciu, ktorá zabezpečí udržateľnosť našej svojbytnosti.

Zo srdca a sídla Matice slovenskej Vám vyslovujeme za Vašu prácu i cítenie úprimné poďakovanie. Želáme Vám pokojné a krásne Vianoce. Prežite ich s tými, ktorých milujete, obklopení rodinami a hojnosťou štedrovečerného stola i srdca.

Zuzana Pavelcová

## Sloboda a demokracia získaná v Novembri 1989 bola iba príležitosťou

Sloboda a demokracia, ktorú Slovensko získalo v novembri 1989, boli iba príležitosťou. Na úvod stretnutia s niekoľkými desiatkami študentov, účastníkov projektu Nenápadní hrdinovia v zápase s komunizmom, to 17. novembra v Prezidentskom paláci uviedol prezident SR Andrej Kiska.

Dnešný štátny sviatok je podľa hlavy štátu najvýznamnejší deň v novodobých dejinách Slovenska. „Sloboda a demokracia, ktoré sme 17. novembra získali, boli príležitosťou – a obsah im odvtedy dávame každý deň, znova a znova, a to tým, ako sa k našej slobode a demokracii správame,“ vyhlásil Kiska.

November '89 je príležitosťou, aby boli pravidlá hry demokracie férové ku každému rovnako bez ohľadu na majetok, postavenie či príslušnosť k politickej strane, uviedol. „Aby bol štát väčším garantom istoty, keď sa potrebujeme dovolať spravodlivosti,“ zdôraznil.

Mnohí ľudia bilancujúci v dnešný štátny sviatok sú podľa Kisku z roka na rok nespokojnejší, aj keď sa podarilo dosiahnuť veľa. „Lebo pokiaľ máme slobodu a demokraciu, nespokojnosť môžeme vyjadriť, môžeme ju kritizovať, ale to najdôležitejšie – našu nespokojnosť môžeme pretaviť do nápadov, ako veci zmeniť,“ povedal.

Mladá generácia bola z pohľadu prezidenta vždy kritická a bola nositeľom požiadaviek na zmeny. „Aj dnes cítiť sklamanie medzi mnohými mladými ľuďmi a na rozdiel od generácie našich rodičov a starých rodičov máte vy, mladí ľudia, možnosť slobodne sa rozhodnúť, využiť možnosti, ktoré nám členstvo v Európskej únii poskytuje a ísť žiť do inej krajiny,“ pripomenul Kiska študentom v sále.

Slovensko však podľa neho mladú generáciu potrebuje. „Možno už nedokážeme odovzdať alebo vysvetľovať vašej generácii hodnotu toho, čo sme my nemali. A čo je pre vašu generáciu samozrejmosť. Slobodu a demokraciu,“ uzavrela hlava štátu.

TASR

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Tradičná slovenská Štedrá večera  
v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

V nedeľu **11. decembra 2016** o 3.00 hodine popoludní bude tradičná slovenská Štedrá večera. Rezervácie si môžu záujemcovia spraviť na Fare kostola na tel. čísle: 212-734-4613. Vstupné je \$15.00 za osobu, deti do 12 rokov majú vstup bezplatný.



Členská schôdza spolku sv.  
Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedeľu 15. januára, 2017** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová - pokladníčka



Slovenský stánok podporil bežcov na maratón v New Yorku. Na obrázku (v prostriedku) hlavný farár kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, otec Richard D. Baker v spoločnosti fanúšikov Maratónu.

Father Richard D. Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish in New York City and parishioners cheer on the 43 Slovak runners participating in the annual New York City Marathon on November 6, 2016.

## 43 Slovákov bežalo na Maratón v New York City

Generálny konzulát SR v New Yorku už tradične podporil našich bežcov na maratón v New Yorku, ktorý sa uskutočnil v nedeľu 6. novembra 2016. V spolupráci s farnosťou slovenského kostola na Manhattane – Sv. Jána Nepomuckého sme zriadili stánok pred našim kostolom, ktorý je na 66. ulici a 1. Avenue, kde sa mali možnosť zastaviť nielen Slováci, ktorí povzbudzovali, ale hlavne naši bežci, ktorí sa mohli občerstviť, pozdraviť a odfoťiť so svojimi fanúšikmi. Celkovo bežalo 51.995 bežcov zo 124 krajín, dobehlo až 51,388 (98.8%), čo je najvyššie percento v histórii. Maratón pozeralo 2.5 milióna divákov (najviac na Manhattane na 1. Avenue). Tento rok na maratón bežalo 43 Slovákov (13 žien a 30 mužov), najlepšie sa umiestnil Ján Štofán (z New Jersey), ktorý obsadil vynikajúce miesto 1.132 z celkového poradia. Zo žien sa najlepšie umiestnila Zuzana Vojteková na 4.461 mieste. Blahoželáme všetkým našim bežcom a tešíme sa opäť na budúci rok.

MZV

## Konferencia: 110 výročie založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Vážení vedeckí a odborní pracovníci, záujemcovia o dejiny Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, milí krajanovia.

Matica slovenská pri príležitosti 110. výročia vzniku Slovenskej ligy v Amerike usporiada vedeckú konferenciu s názvom: **110. výročie založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike.**

Návratky referentov s referátmi je nevyhnutné zaslať na emailovú adresu Krajského múzea MS domhronskeho@matica.sk, **najneskôr do 10.1.2017 (Súčasťou návratky musí byť aj Vaša odborná štúdia.** Rozsah a formálna štruktúra príspevkov na publikovanie v zborníku **musí akceptovať** nami uvedené pokyny pre autorov. Štúdie vyjdú v samostatnom zborníku.

Konferenciu plánujeme usporiadať v máji r. 2017 (resp. júni 2017), v priestoroch Výborovne MS (P. Mudroňa č. 1, 036 01, Martin). Program a detailné informácie k priebehu konferencie určíme po zaslani Vašich príspevkov. Kontakt: PhDr. Zuzana Pavelcová, riaditeľka, Matica slovenská, Krajské múzeum, Mudroňova, 1036 52 Martin. tel.: +421 43 413 30 67; 00421 918 904 943; e-mail: domhronskeho@matica.sk; www.matica.sk

V očakávaní Vášho aktívneho a tvorivého záujmu o konferenciu sa spolu s Vami tešíme na dobrú vedeckú a spoločenskú úroveň konferencie.

PhDr. Zuzana Pavelcová, riaditeľka KM MS

## Urobte pravé Vianoce sebe aj svojim blízkym

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

darčeky. Mali by byť nie prejavom luxusu, ale života v láske. Nemusia byť nákladné, ba vôbec nemusia byť spojené s finančnými výdavkami. Stačí maličkosť, ktorá vyjadří, že mi na druhom záleží.

Môžete darovať niekomu kus svojho času, ktorý je dnes vzácnou komoditou. Akým skvelým darčekom je pre mladých rodičov, že na chvíľu postrážite ich dieťa! Pre osamelého dôchodcu, že ho pozvete k sebe na Vianočný obed! To sú spôsoby, ako šetriť výdavky a zároveň nešetriť na láske voči druhým. Na veľkodušnosť a dobrotu, na preukázanie vzájomnej lásky nie je potrebná kreditka so stratosférickým limitom. Buďme veľkodušní a citliví v preukazovaní lásky, úcty, priazne. Dajme druhým istotu, že nám na nich záleží, a kvôli tomu nemusíme vylúpiť banku.

Aj maličký darček poteší a vie byť prejavom veľkej lásky. Vyprosujem vám k tomu silu a tiež pokoj a požehnanie pre celú vašu rodinu. Veľmi vám prajem, aby ste spolu so svojimi zažili vo vašom príbytku, že Boh je s vami a má vás rád.

Farnosť sv. Gorazda v Košiciach/2015/12



Spoločná fotografia z Výročnej schôdze členov Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v NYC. Zľava: Joseph Jurasi, Rev. Richard D. Baker, M. Div., M.L.N., Maria Jurasi, Antonia Krajkovic, Jan Zeman, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Anton Kucharovic, Sabina Sabados – oblasťná riaditeľka, Helen Brchnel, a Maria Zakovic.

Pozvánka na Slovenský ples do  
"The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ"

Slovensko - Americké Kultúrne Stredisko vás srdečne pozýva už na 24. ročník "Slovenského plesu" v sobotu **25. februára 2017**, ktorý sa bude niesť v duchu elegancie, známych hostí, skvelej hudby a tanca! Aj tentokrát si pre Vás organizátori pripravili zaujímavý program a bohatú tombolu. Od 7-mej hodiny večer do 1-nej hodiny rána na Vás čaká "Open bar". Do tanca bude hrať skvelá hudobná skupina Express. Ak máte chuť prejsť sa po červenom koberci, neváhajte a zakúpte si lístok už teraz prostredníctvom webstránky Eventbrite "Slovak Ball 2017", alebo kontaktujte p. Zuzanu Krcmarovu na tel. čísle 973-357-1209, alebo napíšte na emailovú adresu: SlovakAmericanCC@gmail.com. Pre viac informácií nás navštívte na: www.slovakamericanc.org



Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka

## Slovenské veľvyslanectvo vo Washingtonu usporiadalo vianočné trhy

Veľvyslanectvom Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtonu D.C. v sobotu 5. novembra rozvonila kapustnica a varené víno. Konali sa tam totiž vianočné trhy.

Vychutnajte si Vianoce všetkými svojimi zmyslami. Takto lákalo na akciu v pozvánke veľvyslanectva. Renomovaný denník Washington Post zase v prehľade víkendových podujatí napísal: "Máte už teraz chuť na sviatočnú atmosféru a chceli by ste si kúpiť unikátne darčeky?"

A hoci vonku bolo krásne, teplé jesenné počasie lákajúce do prírody, na vianočnú atmosféru mali chuť mnohí. Pred ambasádou sa ľudia zhromaždili už štvrt hodinu pred otvorením trhov a rušno bolo po celý deň. Najviac návštevníkov prišlo v časoch, keď boli na programe vianočné koledy. Deti z českej a slovenskej školy Sokol Washington okrem iného zarecitovali Mikulášku, dobrý strýčku a zaspievali Tichú noc, svätú noc. Od publika si vyslúžili obrovský potlesk.

Návštevníci si mohli vybrať z množstva ručne vyrábaných vianočných ozdôb a už teraz sa mohli na sviatky zásobiť medovníkmi a perníkmi.

Veľvyslanectvo navarilo kapustnicu a v ponuke bolo aj varené víno a medovina. Popoludní sa na ne vytvoril rad siahajúci až von z budovy. Vďaka krásnemu počasiu si mohli ľudia vychutnať jedlo a pitie na dvore veľvyslanectva. Kapustnicu tak jedli piknikovým spôsobom - sediac na trávě.



## Advent je časom duchovnej prípravy na Vianoce

ADVENT je časom duchovnej prípravy na Vianoce, kedy oslavujeme prvý príchod Božieho Syna medzi ľuďmi. Je tiež očakávaním Jeho druhého príchodu na konci vekov. Atmosféru dotvára adventný veniec – symbol kráľovskej dôstojnosti a víťazstva Krista. Svetlo štyroch sviec, ktoré sa postupne zapalujú na venci počas adventných nediel, vyjadruje prichádzajúce Svetlo sveta – Ježiša Krista, ktorý je nádejou, pokojom, radosťou a láskou.

**Prvá adventná svieca** – svieca nádeje pripomína očakávanie ľudu Starého zákona a čas prorokov, ktorí predpovedali Mesiáša a udržiavali nádej na Jeho príchod: Ľud, čo kráča vo tmách, uzrie veľké svetlo (Iz 9, 1). Ďakujeme Bohu za tých, ktorí nám dnes dodávajú nádej do života.

**Druhá adventná svieca** – svieca pokoja je spojená s postavou Jána Krstiteľa, ktorý pripravoval ľudí na príchod Mesiáša, Kniežaťa pokoja. Vyzýval k pokániu, k obráteniu srdca: Pripravte cestu Pánovi, vyrovnajte mu chodníky! (Mk 1, 3). Len v duši nasmerovanej na Pána Boha sa rodí a udržiava pokoj, ktorý ináč je veľmi krehký. Pokoj je možný všade; a keď je možný, je povinnosťou.

**Tretia adventná svieca** – svieca radosti predstavuje Pannu Máriu, ktorá pod srdcom nosí Spasiteľa a očakáva Jeho narodenie. Z hĺbky srdca radostne hovorí: Velebí moja duša Pána a môj duch jasá v Bohu, mojom Spasiteľovi (Lk 1, 46-47). Boh stvoril aj naše srdcia pre radosť a chce, aby naša radosť bola úplná (Jn 15, 11). Radosť sa zväčšuje vtedy, keď si ju delíme s druhými, keď potešujeme iných.

**Štvrtá adventná svieca** – svieca lásky je spojená s postavou sv. Jozefa, ktorý potom, čo vyšiel rozkaz od cisára Augusta vykonať súpis ľudu po celom svete, sa vybral z galilejského mesta Nazaret do Judey, do Dávidovho mesta, ktoré sa volá Betlehem (Lk 2, 1.4). Zapalujeme ju s prosbou o požehnanie pre všetkých, čo opravdivo milujú a starajú sa o svoje rodiny hmotne i duchovne.



## Príhovor na Kongrese slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliciach

*Príhovor predsedu Únie slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska Jozefa Rydla na Kongrese slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliciach 22. – 23. septembra 2016.*

### II.

Vyšla nám v ústrety Matica slovenská, predseda Spolku slovenských spisovateľov Vincent Šikula i Drahoslav Machala, *spiritus rector* vtedy založeného Národného literárneho centra. Dnes je to všetko „*acqua passata*“. Boli sme nadšení, romantickí navrátilci, očarení nadobudnutou slobodou a štátnou samostatnosťou, preniesli sme na Slovensko vydávanie nášho štvrtoročníka pre slobodnú slovenskú kultúru *Most*, no postupne sme vytriezveli: gény prízraku totalitného spôsobu myslenia v slovenskej spoločnosti dodnes nevymlie.

Žiaľ, po zmene mocenských pomerov na politickej scéne samostatného Slovenska sa začala prehlbovať ostrakizácia slovenského zahraničia všeobecne a slovenského politického exilu zvlášť. Prejavilo sa to najmä potom, čo sme sa vyhlásením *Právo hľadať pravdu* (1997) bez ostychu, dôrazne a zásadne postavili za elementárne právo historika Milana S. Ďuricu „slobodne hľadať pravdu, hlásať pravdu a nevzdať sa pravdy“ a ohradili sa proti osočujúcej kampani znevažujúcej jeho knihu *Dejiny Slovenska a Slovákov v časovej následnosti faktov dvoch tisícročí*. Prejav vyvolávajúce slovenských exulantov zo súradníc slovenského kultúrneho priestoru nás vystrnadili na okraj, ba až za okraj slovenskej spoločnosti, kde už vymierame, ak sme už nepremieli. Tvorbu predstaviteľov slobodnej slovenskej kultúry, ich noviny, časopisy, pravé i nepravé periodiká nenájdete v ich úplnosti ani len v Slovenskej národnej knižnici v Turčianskom Sv. Martine, ich písomné pozostalosti ľahli popolom na smetiskách, nie sú ani v Slovenskom národnom archíve, ani v Ústave pamäti národa, pre ktorý diaspóra neexistuje, a ak, tak len ako nepriateľská veličina, proti ktorej treba „politicky korektné“ bojovať – v tejto ustanovizni sa udomácnila neormalizácia a hon na čarodejnice sa stal jej pracovnou metódou.

Nemyslím si, že na súčasnom stave [ne]spolupráce a inštitucionálneho nezájmu sa môže ešte niečo zmeniť, je nezvratiteľný. Poľský pápež svätý Ján Pavol II. povedal: „*La verità non si misura all'opinione della maggioranza*“ – Pravda sa nemeria názorom väčšiny. Som presvedčený, že myšlienky, ktorým sme zasvätili svoje životy, si zaslúžia byť v slovenskom civilizačnom priestore prítomné a sprítomňované, veď či už Spolok slovenských spisovateľov a umelcov v Clevelande, či Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme, Slovenský ústav, ustanovizeň slovenských kultúrnych a vedeckých pracovníkov v zahraničí, Svetový kongres Slovákov alebo Slovenská liga v Amerike vždy horlili a bojovali „za Boha, za národ“, za právo Slovákov na slobodu a štátnu samostatnosť ich slovenskej vlasti vtedy, keď príznak komunizmu najlepším synom národa skántril život na šibeniciach a desaťročia zohavoval ich životy v temniciach a žalároch a v určitom zmysle slova ho zohavuje až dodnes.

Želám si, aby v časoch, keď „*zmráka sa, stmieva sa, k noci sa chýli*“, Kongres slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliciach sa stal „*svetielkom, čo premáha tmu*“.

Cítiť sa Slovenkou, Slovákom, byť zakoreneným v rodnej pôde, byť verným našim kresťanským a národným tradíciám, byť hrdým na svoj pôvod, rázne a nebojáčne odmietat' klamstvá a klebety, aj keď pochádzajú od našich bratov či susedov, partnerov či spojencov, to nie je nacionalizmus, tobôž šovinizmus, to je naša národná povinnosť voči sebe. Ak chceme, aby nás rešpektovali a vážili si cudzí, musíme sa najprv rešpektovať my sami. Ako máme vnímať skutočnosť, že v médiách je možné ohovárať, znevažovať a preklínať našu minulosť, prítomnosť i budúcnosť, náš svojráz, našich zaslúžilých národných pracovníkov, a my nemáme odvahu ozvať sa na ich obranu? Odpoveď: Proces národnej emancipácie u nás ešte neskončil, ešte sme nedosiahli európsky štandard politickej vyspelosti. Keď sa pred pol storočím Taliansko stalo unitárnym štátom, Massimo D'Azeglio povedal: „*Abbiamo fatto l'Italia, adesso bisogna fare gli Italiani*“ – Spravili sme Taliansko, teraz musíme urobiť Talianov. Je povinnosťou každej slovenskej spisovateľky, každého slovenského spisovateľa konať onú škultétyovskú „dobrú vec pre národ“ a prispievať k našej národnej i občianskej emancipácii.

Ján Okál napísal: „*Pracovali sme zadarmo, nie nadarmo*.“ Dnes je Slovensko slobodné, samostatné, je síce malým, ale rovnoprávnym a plnoprávnym i platným členom euroatlantických štruktúr, kde nikto nespochybňuje jeho existenciu. Snaženia exilu sa *de iure* naplnili 1. januára 1993, *de facto* sa však naplnia až vtedy, keď Slovensko napokon vkomponuje do svojho civilizačného imania aj emancipačný prínos tej tretiny slovenského národa, ktorá sa „hnaná žitia nevôľou“ ocitla v emigrácii. A moje želanie tohtoročnému trenčianskoteplíckemu kongresu spisovateľov? Nezbúdať na Božiu prítomnosť. S Božou pomocou a pričinením všetkých nás vykresat' zo zakríknutej a bojazlivej duše Sloveniek a Slovákov tú iskru národnej hrdosti, ktorú zahrabali do pahreby naši nežičlivci, rozduchať ju v mocný oheň, ktorý potom ako očistný plameň spáli všetko, čo stojí v ceste plnému rozvoju sebavedomého slovenského národa.

Jozef Rydlo

(Pokračovanie)

## Rokovala Stála konferencia Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí

V znamení 10. výročia fungovania Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) sa niesla tohtoročná Stála konferencia Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci vo svete, ktorá sa konala koncom októbra v Bratislave. Zúčastnilo sa na nej 90 zástupcov krajaných spolkov, organizácií, inštitúcií a cirkvi Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ako aj ďalšie osobnosti kultúrneho a duchovného života z 22 štátov Európy, Ameriky a Ázie.

Predseda ÚSZZ Ján Varšo privítal na otvorení konferencie predstaviteľov Kancelárie prezidenta SR, Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR, Ministerstva kultúry SR a ďalších hostí. Prítomný bol aj predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí Vladimír Skalský a iné osobnosti. Viacerí z hostí predniesli pozdravné príhovory.

Za Evanjelickú cirkev augsburského vyznania (ECAV) na Slovensku rokovanie krajanov pozdravila tajomníčka pre mediálnu komunikáciu Generálneho biskupského úradu (GBU) ECAV Edita Škodová, ktorá účastníkom prečítala pozdravný list generálneho biskupa ECAV na Slovensku Miloša Klátika.

V rámci konferencie odovzdali ocenenia desiatim osobnostiam krajaného života za významný prínos k upevňovaniu národného povedomia, rozvíjaniu spolkového krajaného života, za podporu slovenskej vzdelanosti a kultúrnej identity Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

Na stretnutí predstavili Slovenský svetový kalendár, ktorý vydalo Slovenské vydavateľské centrum v Báčskom Petrovci. Konala sa aj vernisáž výstavy Krajané foto-dotyky 2006-2015, prezentujúca 60 fotografií od 19 fotografov z 12 štátov.

Na zasadnutí Stálej konferencie Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí, ktoré sa koná každé dva roky, tentoraz venovali pozornosť najmä zákonu o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí a potrebe jeho novelizácie a otázkam novej koncepcie štátnej politiky SR vo vzťahu k Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí.

TASR

## Pápež František v adventnej homílii:

### *Ako sa skutočne stretnúť s Pánom*

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

veľké prekvapenie, akým spôsobom konal Boh. A našim je Boh prekvapení, Boh, ktorý nás hľadá, čaká nás a žiada nás iba o malý krok dobrej vôle“.

Svätý Otec na záver veriacich povzbudil, aby mali „vôľu stretnúť sa“ s Pánom. Lebo ak máme vôľu, on „nám pomôže“: Pán „nás bude sprevádzať počas nášho života“. A i keď nás „uvidí toľkokrát vzdialit' sa od neho, bude čakať ako otec na márnratného syna“. A mnohokrát nás uvidí tiež priblížiť sa a on nám bude bežať v ústrety: „Toto je stretnutie s Pánom, toto je dôležité: stretnutie“, dodal na záver svojej homílie pápež František a dodal: „Vždy sa ma dotklo to, čo hovorieval pápež Benedikt, že viera nie je nejaká teória, filozofia, idea: je to stretnutie. Stretnutie s Ježišom“. Lebo inak, vysvetlil Svätý Otec, ak „si sa nikdy nestretol s jeho milosrdenstvom“ môžeš „recitovať Krédo naspamäť, ale nemať vieru“.

„Zákonníci vedeli všetko do detailu, čo sa týkalo dogmatiky toho času, všetko z morálky vtedajšej éry, všetko. [Avšak] nemali vieru, lebo ich srdce sa vzdialilo od Boha. Vzdialit' sa alebo mať vôľu vyjsť v ústrety. A to je tá láska, o ktorú dnes prosíme. Ó Bože, náš Otec, prebud' v nás vôľu ísť v ústrety tvojmu Kristovi prostredníctvom dobrých skutkov. Ísť v ústrety Ježišovi. A pre to si pripomínáme milosť, za ktorú sme sa modlili: bdelosť v modlitbe, činnosť v láske a radosť v chvále. A tak sa stretne s Pánom a bude nás čakať veľké prekvapenie“.

TK KBS, RV

O. Štefan Furdek  
Náš zakladateľ

## Hlavný úrad a Zbor riaditeľov Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty želá všetkým členom



St. Catherine Laboure, Harrisburg PA

### Požehnané Vianoce a Šťastný Nový rok

Vinšujeme vám na tieto vianočné sviatky, Pána Krista narodenia.

Nech Boh žehná všetky dni a roky, ktoré nám ešte chystá.

Nech pokoj Boží nám stále plní naše srdcia.

Veď Narodil sa Kristus Pán, putuje s nami do raja.

Nech to Jezuliatko v jaslách uložené, Vás v tom Novom roku žehná každodenne.

A tiež v budúcnosti dá mnohé milosti, by ste tie dni strávili v Nebeskej radosi.

## Urobte pravé Vianoce sebe aj svojim blízkym

Pre niektorých, zvlášť pre obchodníkov, sa Vianoce začínajú už v jeseni. Pútavé reklamy, obdivuhodná výzdoba, blikajúce svetielka, lákavý tovar a pekne zabalené škatule s jediným zámerom: *Cím viac minút, tým lepšie. – Nemáte? Požičiame. Urobte pravé Vianoce sebe aj svojim blízkym!*

A tak vo svojej mysli precizujeme zoznam tých, ktorým chceme niečo kúpiť. Chodíme po obchodoch, zháňame darčeky, a nie lacné. Nové šaty, nový telefón, nové toto a nové hento, len aby nič nechýbalo, aby boli splnené očakávania každého. K tomu ešte nákupy na vianočný stôl, zimná dovolenka so snehom alebo s horúcim pieskom, silvestrovská zábava ... Všetko úžasné veci, každá jedna s prilepenou cenovkou. Nie div, že výpis z účtu v januári spôsobí stres, bolenie hlavy a zvýši krvný tlak. Prečo robiť seba a svoj život mizerným tým, že podľahneme absurdnému tlaku na utrácanie peňazí? Musí to byť takto?

Nemyslím si, že kvôli skutočne opravdivým a úžasným Vianociam si potrebujeme vyrobiť dlžoby. Vianoce sú o inom, než o drahých darčekom. Skutočné kresťanské Vianoce nemajú v ničom dočinenie s materializmom a konzumnosťou! Vianoce sú oslavou narodenia Ježiša Krista. Bez Neho Vianoce nie sú Vianocami. Je to osobitný čas oslavy Boha na výsostiach za Jeho neprekonateľný dar. Boží Syn sa narodil v Betleheme. Prišiel medzi nás, aby nás vykúpil z hriechu a zatratenia.

Darčeky pod stromčekom symbolicky pripomínajú túto Božiu dobrotu a veľkodušnosť. Nový život sa nám dáva v chudobných jaslách. A práve tento moment by mali odrážať naše

Pokračovanie na str. 22

## Pápež František v adventnej homílii: Ako sa skutočne stretnúť s Pánom

Kresťanská viera nie je nejaká teória či filozofia, je to stretnutie s Ježišom. Tak znela hlavná myšlienka homílie pápeža Františka, ktorý 28. novembra ráno, na začiatok Adventu, slávil omšu v Dome sv. Marty. Na to, aby sme skutočne stretli Ježiša, musíme sa podľa Svätého Otca vydať na cestu. Potrebujeme k tomu však tri postoje: musíme byť bdeli v modlitbe, činní v láske a radostní vo vzdávaní chvály.

Stretnúť Ježiša, to je tá „milosť, po ktorej túžime počas Adventu,“ vysvetlil pápež František na úvod svojej homílie, ktorú zamerl práve na tému stretnutia sa s Pánom. V období očakávania príchodu Krista nám liturgia ponúka mnohé Ježišove stretnutia: s Matkou v jej lone, s Jánom Krstiteľom, s pastiermi, s mudrcmi. Toto všetko, dodal Svätý Otec, nám hovorí, že Advent je „čas na krácanie a vychádzanie v ústrety Pánovi, to znamená čas, aby sme neostali stáť na mieste“.

Preto by sme sa mali podľa Rímskeho biskupa pýtať samých seba, ako môžeme kráčať v ústrety Ježišovi: „Aké sú postoje, ktoré musím zaujať, aby som sa stretol s Pánom? Ako mám pripraviť svoje srdce na stretnutie s Pánom?“ a dodal:

„V modlitbe na začiatku omše nám liturgia naznačuje tri postoje: bdelosť v modlitbe, činnosť v láske a radosť v chvále. To znamená, že sa musím modliť s bdelosťou; musím byť činný v láske, v bratskej láske: nielen dať almužnu, ale tiež tolerovať ľudí, ktorí sú mi neprijemní, tolerovať doma deti, keď sú príliš hlučné alebo manžela alebo manželku, keď sú ťažkosti, alebo svokra... neviem... avšak tolerovať: tolerovať. Vždy tu ide o lásku, avšak činnú. A tiež radosť z chválenia Pána: „Jasajúci v radosi“. Tak musíme prežívať túto cestu, túto vôľu stretnúť Pána. Aby sme ho naozaj stretli. Nesmieme stáť na mieste. A tak stretneme Pána“.

Podľa slov Svätého Otca, aj samotný Ježiš hovorieval, aby sme sa nezastavovali. A práve v tomto krácaní za ním nás čaká prekvapenie, dodal pápež František, „pretože on je Pánom prekvapení“: „Kráčam, aby som ho stretol a on kráča, aby stretol mňa, a keď sa stretneme uvidíme, že to veľké prekvapenie je, že on ma hľadal skôr, než som ho začal hľadať ja“. To je „to veľké prekvapenie zo stretnutia s Pánom. On nás hľadal skôr. On je vždy prvý. On zdoláva cestu, aby nás stretol“. A to je tiež to, čo sa prihodilo stotníkovi z dnešného Evanjelia podľa sv. Matúša (Mt 8,5-11):

„Pán vždy kráča viac, vykročí prvý. My urobíme jeden krok a on ich urobí desať. Vždy. Hojnosť jeho milosti, jeho lásky, jeho nežnosti, ktorá sa nikdy neunaví hľadať nás. Niekedy tiež skrze malé veci: my si myslíme, že stretnúť Pána je veľkolepá vec, ako ten človek zo Sýrie Naaman, keď bol malomocný: a to nie je jednoduché... Aj na neho čakalo

Pokračovanie na str. 23

The annual Christmas Fair opened  
in Bratislava on November 27, 2016.



FOTO TASR - Jakub Kotian

## Na Bratislavskom hrade sa začali vianočné trhy

Na snímke zo slávnostného otvorenia vianočných trhov na nádvorí Bratislavského hradu v rámci podujatia Advent na hrade 27. novembra 2016 v Bratislave.