



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

NUMBER 5833



*The FCSU
board of directors,
officers, and home
office staff wish all of
our members a blessed
Christmas season.*

The Nativity by
Charles-François
Poerson, c. 1667.

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Veselé Vianoce ! Šťastlivý Nový Rok !

Dear Members and Friends:

The first snow of the season is on the grass as I write this message. The much publicized Black Friday sales are behind us with less than a month before Christmas.

Christmas for many of us, middle age and older, is a time of reflection and memories.

Our fondest memories are often of family and events years past. The Christmas tree, the Christmas dinner, the family gathering, Midnight Mass. 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 Las Vegas 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 we 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 the closing or merging of many of our former Slovak Parishes and the changing demographics, 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



Andrew M. Rajec

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Christmas Message from Our Chaplain

Dear Friends,

For the past few years I had thought about going to Radio City Music Hall in New York City to see their famous Christmas Show, but never got around to it. This year was the year. My parents came with me; they had never seen it, either.

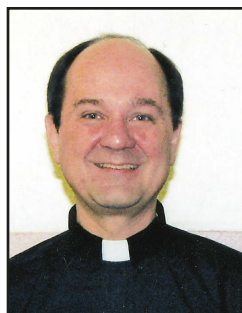
The show itself was very entertaining. It began with the orchestra playing holiday favorites on a platform which rose up from beneath stage level. There was a 3-D movie showing Santa riding his sleigh around New York. Singers and dancers, including the Rockettes, helped bring the audience into a festive mood.

A Nativity scene, complete with live animals, comprised the last major part of the show. Shepherds appeared on stage and, after them, the Magi. All the while, a narrator was telling the Christmas story. Suddenly, something in the narration caught my ear. Mary's name was mentioned. The traditional names of the Magi (Gaspar, Balthasar, Melchior) were mentioned. When it came to the name of the Son of Mary, however, his name was never spoken. He was referred to as "the Child."

Mary's Son has a name, the most important name in Salvation History. "You are to name him Jesus," the angel told Joseph, "because he will save his people from their sins."

Jesus is a beautiful name. It is a holy name, to be revered in every time and place. The name

continued on page 3



Rev. Thomas Nasta



Scholarship
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on p13

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY AND IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2010

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.65% (3.585% apr)
With the "Cash Interest" Option	3.40% (3.344% apr)
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA:	3.90% (3.826% apr)
New "Park 2 Annuity"	3.00% (2.956% apr)
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA – first year guarantee Maximum deposit is \$25,000.00	3.00% (2.956% apr)
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.40% (3.344% apr)
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.15% (3.102% apr)

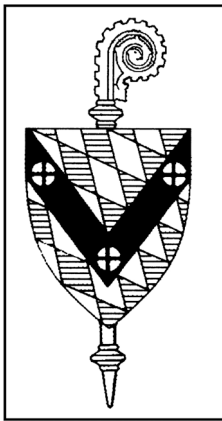
If you have any questions about our Annuities or IRA's,
please contact the Home Office at
1-800-533-6682 or your local Branch Officer.

Fraternally, Kenneth A. Arendt

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

December 25, 2010

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Luke 2: 1-14

Gospel Summary

St. Luke provides a dramatic, almost lyrical, introduction to the birth of Jesus by placing it in the context of worldwide events. It would be a mistake to think that he is writing pure history here, but he does want us to understand that the most

important fact of history is the coming of Jesus into our world.

When St. Luke says that the newborn Jesus was placed in a manger, this is not to be understood simply in contrast to the supposed lack of hospitality on the part of an innkeeper. Rather, we should recall that passage in Isaiah where the people of Israel are chided because, unlike the donkey that is instinctively drawn to its manger for nourishment and security, God's people "know him not" and do not "comprehend" (1:3). Luke wants us to understand that Jesus has come to bring Israel, and all of us, back to the divine "manger" of love and security.

The "swaddling clothes," made of warm flannel, are also symbolic of love, warmth, care, and security. And the shepherds also, guarding their flocks from wolves, are at first afraid but soon learn from the angels that this newborn baby is destined for glory. They are reassured and join the angels celebrating the ultimate victory of hope and joy.

Life Implications

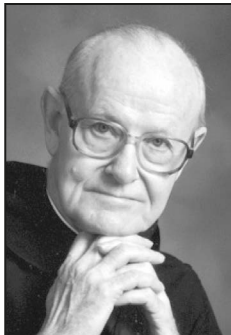
Christmas celebrates the gift of God's love. This love is shown most clearly in the self-giving of Jesus on the cross. But we need to hear about it first in gentle words such as we find in St. Luke's beautiful Christmas story.

There is an atmosphere of coldness in the powerful Roman Empire and in the inn at Bethlehem but all is warm and comforting around the manger where the Christ-child lies. The manger itself signifies nourishment and security, a sense that is re-enforced by the warm flannel bands and the loving, protective arms of Mary and Joseph.

All of this is reflected in the love of family and friends and the generosity of the Christmas season. We need to feel the embrace of a loving environment so that we can develop that inner confidence and freedom which will enable us to deal with a frequently harsh world where our own love can make all the difference. Our Christmas gifts reflect the far greater gift of God's Son—a gift offered so tenderly that we can scarcely resist embracing it.

During this beautiful season, we must remember that the expense of the gift is not nearly as important as the spirit in which it is given. The real gift is love and thoughtfulness more than the expense of the gift. Children should be taught by example as well as words, that the feast is all about loving and helping and affirming. If we don't believe this it is usually simply because we haven't tried it!

Thus we are urgently invited by this beautiful gospel to remember that our gifts are really small tokens of the gift that God is offering us in the birth of his divine Son. The value of these gifts, whether we are giving or receiving them, is entirely secondary to their



**Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.**

symbolic meaning. For they are really signs of our desire to enter ever more deeply into the experience of God's wonderful, indeed unimaginable, gift of his love, embodied in that infant who will eventually give his life for our happiness and peace.



December 26, 2010

Holy Family, Sunday in the Octave of Christmas

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Gospel Summary

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

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

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

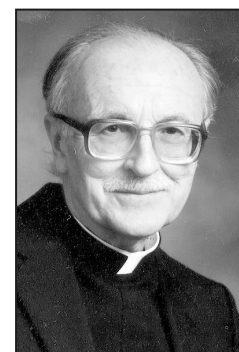
Matthew affirms that divine providence was active, often in surprising ways, throughout the long history which preceded the journey of the magi and the flight into Egypt. Thus he makes a point of including in his genealogy the "irregularities" of four women: Tamar (Gen 38), Rahab (Josh 2), Ruth (Ruth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

Life Implications

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

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

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



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

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY 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 5	MONDAY, DEC 27
WEDNESDAY JAN 19	MONDAY, JAN 10
WEDNESDAY FEB 2	MONDAY, JAN 24

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

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Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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Christmas Greetings from the Executive Secretary

With the holiday season upon us, and everyone rushing to do more – baking, cooking, shopping, wrapping – in the shorter daylight hours of December, I encourage you to take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of our Savior Jesus Christ 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. On behalf of my wife Theresa and my family, I extend from my household to yours all the peace and joy that comes with Christ's light during this very special and holy time of the year.

Merry Christmas, Veselé Vianoce.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt



Christmas Message from Our President

continued from page 1

traditional Slovak Christmas dinners ("Vilija" or "Štedrý Večer") in their area.

My wife and I have attended at least one and usually more every year I have been in office. I encourage you to do the same and introduce your kids or grandchildren to the custom and to the fellowship.

During this past year I have had the pleasure of meeting with the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, his Excellency Peter Burian and his charming wife Nina Burianova. Ambassador Burian was the key note speaker at our recent Jednota Convention. The long held dream of the Jednota doing business in Slovakia can now at least be considered, with the First Catholic Slovak Union having a record surplus position. However, many regulatory hurdles exist. We will explore the possibilities with caution.

On a business note you will see that the Society has achieved a new record high surplus of over \$16 million dollars as of September 30, 2010. We have added over \$2.8 million in surplus during 2010. In the past 12 months we have added \$4.5 million to surplus. A larger surplus means a stronger Society and a more secure investment for our Members. In closing, I want to thank all our Members and Recommenders for their support.

"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".

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Andrew M. Rajec
President**



Christmas Message from Our Chaplain

continued from page 1

Jesus expresses and sums up God's love for his people. It is the name we call upon in giving praise and thanks to God in prayer. We speak his name when pleading for divine mercy. It is in the name of Jesus that we are called to live as his witnesses in the world.

As we spend these days of Advent getting ready to celebrate the birth of the Son of God and Son of Mary, keep the name of Jesus ever close to your minds, in your hearts, and on your lips.

Veselé Vianoce!

Fraternally,

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain**



Right To Life March

Our presence at the 38th Annual Right to Life March on January 24th, 2011 in Washington, DC is so extremely important this year. FCSLA supports the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSLA is once again offering free transportation from our Home Office for this very important trip. Our goal for this march is to fill two buses with individuals who will march along side the many Pro-Life Organizations and faithful citizens of America who support this mission.

Will you join us? Please call Sue Ann at 1-800-464-4642, EXT. 1051 or email her at sueann@fcsla.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 20th.

If you would like to attend and find transportation from your area please look online for information and transportation. There are many ProLife Groups that offer transportation. If you cannot find information please call or email Sue Ann for assistance.

Christmas Greetings from the Vice President

On Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth of the Holy Christ Child, who brought new faith and hope to the world.

Whenever Christmas is celebrated there should be a spirit of kindness and generous giving, in keeping with the message of Jesus: "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth – Peace, Good Will toward Men."

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

On behalf of my wife Maria, my family and myself, I will pray that the Infant Jesus grant you and yours Peace and Happiness throughout this Holy season.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

God Bless.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. National Vice President



**Andrew Harcar
National V. P.**

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective December 1, 2010, the "Park Free Plus" Annuity is earning 3.00% (2.956% APR) for the first year and is limited to \$25,000.00 per individual.

*The new annuity plan that combines features from our most popular annuities...
The Park Annuity and the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.*

The "Park Free Plus" offers a first year interest rate of 3.00% (2.956% APR) This initial interest rate is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

1. Withdraw the full value of the accumulated Annuity funds (principal plus interest) WITHOUT INCURRING A SURRENDER CHARGE!

*Note: If the funds are withdrawn prior to the first anniversary of the policy, a 6% surrender will be imposed on the funds withdrawn.**

2 If this option is not exercised, the Annuity will continue for an additional five years. The interest rate at that time will be based on the interest rate established by the Society on its Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity. This rate is published regularly in the official publication and on our website.

If the policy is continued, the Annuitant may withdraw up to 10% of the policies cash value at the beginning of each policy year, without incurring a surrender charge.*

If the Policy is continued, withdrawals that exceed 10% of the policy's cash value will incur a surrender charge of 5% in the second year and withdrawal charges will decrease by 1% each year until the end of the sixth year from the issue date*.

INITIAL DEPOSIT MAY BE AS LOW AS \$1,000!

Low Minimum Deposit. Initial deposit may be as low as \$1,000 for the "Park Free Plus" Annuity. Maximum deposit for this program is 25,000.00 per individual. No additional deposits are permitted during the first year.

Flexible Deposits. Additional deposits of \$1,000 or more will be accepted at any time after the first year.

Maturity Options. At the end of the six year policy period; the Annuitant has these options:

(a) The policy can be continued. There will be no surrender charges on any withdrawals.* The interest rate will be based on FCSU Life's Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity interest rate.

(b) The policy can be converted to any Annuity product offered by FCSU Life at that time. The interest rate will be based on the then current declared interest rate on the selected policy.

(c) Taxes on all interest earned on the "Park Free Plus" Annuity and any subsequent policy selected, will be deferred until funds are withdrawn.

For additional information, contact your Branch officer or the Home Office.

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence OH 44131-8013
1-800-JEDNOTA - Website: www.fcsu.com - E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

Statement as of September 30, 2010 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.....	224,591,098		224,591,098	192,755,317
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	6,350,867		6,350,867	6,607,387
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,369,971		2,369,971	3,318,652
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	1,919,313		1,919,313	2,023,638
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,141,213		1,141,213	1,181,360
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	893,698		893,698	923,632
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....15,740,727), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	15,740,727		15,740,727	4,417,205
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	920,524		920,524	860,699
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	3,277,523		3,277,523	19,342,441
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	202,000
10. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
11. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 10).....	257,767,609	0	257,767,609	232,195,006
12. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
13. Investment income due and accrued.....	3,117,133		3,117,133	2,583,447
14. Premiums and considerations:				
14.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	17,520		17,520	16,459
14.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
14.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
15. Reinsurance:				
15.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
15.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
15.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
16. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
17.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
17.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
18. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
19. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
20. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	32,351	32,351	0	
21. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
22. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
23. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
24. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	29,627	29,627	0	0
25. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 11 through 24).....	260,964,240	61,978	260,902,262	234,794,912
26. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
27. Total (Lines 25 and 26).....	260,964,240	61,978	260,902,262	234,794,912

Statement as of September 30, 2010 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).....	219,234,000	196,855,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	10,252,854	12,370,600
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.....	277,355	299,760
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).....	1,305,539	1,399,339
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	17,503	17,503
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	139,488	770,564
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.....	22,843	22,843
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	6,833,122	6,262,860
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.....	10,000	10,000
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.....	3,149,344	2,514,121
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized 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.....	2,535,697	
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	401,947	403,310
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	244,879,692	221,625,900
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	244,879,692	221,625,900
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.....	16,022,570	13,169,012
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	16,022,570	13,169,012
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30).....	260,902,262	234,794,912

Statement as of September 30, 2010 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.....	23,054,942	10,464,708	17,676,121
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	10,933,817	11,245,851	14,943,839
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	123,000	192,000	54,446
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.....	145,596	14,422	16,665
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	34,257,355	21,916,981	32,691,071
10. Death benefits.....	2,018,806	1,897,909	2,532,557
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....		1,581	2,659
12. Annuity benefits.....	4,934,111	3,804,633	4,901,437
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	353,653	364,625	498,712
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	221,537	212,197	283,795
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	22,379,000	10,002,000	17,123,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	29,907,107	16,282,945	25,342,160
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	207,698	62,963	134,291
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	2,249,588	2,148,446	2,569,964
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	131,567	150,450	98,407
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.....	(36,220)	(162,308)	(122,552)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	32,459,740	18,482,495	28,022,269
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,797,615	3,434,486	4,668,802
28. Refunds to members.....	291,110	262,256	359,336
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,506,505	3,172,230	4,309,466
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	258,591		
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,765,096	3,172,230	4,309,466
SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	13,169,012	9,059,592	9,059,592
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,765,096	3,172,230	4,309,466
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	1,751,316	(567,965)	2,193,793
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	(24,871)	2,911	3,898
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(635,223)	(154,079)	(2,278,782)
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.....	(2,760)	(2,170)	(118,954)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	2,853,558	2,450,927	4,109,421
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	16,022,570	11,510,518	13,169,012

Insights and Viewpoints

Slovenske Vianočné Koledy – Slovak Christmas Carols

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

Song reveals a people's heart and soul, and no time of the year echoes with more music than that of Christmas. Slovaks are no exception to this rule. Slovaks refer to Christmas as "Vianoce" (pronounced "Vyaa-nots-eh," with the "o" sounding like the "o" in the word "stop."). As in the USA and elsewhere in Christianity, **Vianoce** is a time of celebration of Christ's birth and a special time to share with family and loved ones.

For the Slovaks and Slovak American immigrants, song has always stood in the center of their lives and culture. Their songs reflect the culture of their everyday lives, and they revolved around the agricultural and religious calendar.

Slovak-Americans inherited these rich traditions of folk songs, and they brought them with them as part of their cultural baggage from the Old World. A popular Slovak expression is **Kde Slovák, tam spev**, i.e., "where there is a Slovak, there's a song." How true that rings, especially at Christmastime. Songs provided a way for Slovaks in America to retain their traditions and pass them on to their children. They sang them in their churches and at home, and some parish choirs even recorded them, such as St. Matthias in Youngstown, Ohio, or those recorded by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This article will feature several popular Slovak Christmas Carols (**koledy** – pronounced "co-lead-ee") and provide some internet links in the event some of our tech savvy readers wish to hear them sung.

Selected Websites with koledy

With an online search, one can find a number of Carpatho-Rusyn and Slovak Christmas Carols at the iareative.com site: <http://www.iareative.com/xmas/>. Most of these songs, however, are Carpatho-Rusyn.

The Slovak website, **Vianoce.sk**, also lists some Slovak **koledy**, and these lyrics may be found at the following link: <http://vianoce.sk/18233-sk/slovenske-koledy-a-piesne.php>. Unfortunately, the site does not feature a recording, but most songs have at least two verses in the original Slovak.

As in English, songs about shepherds are a common theme in Slovak Christmas carols. Since many Slovaks were shepherds, they could identify with the life of those shepherds who visited Jesus on Christmas Day. One of the most popular Slovak **koledy** is "Pásli ovce valaši" (The Shepherds grazed their sheep). The carol derives from the traditions of Wallachians, who settled in Slovakia from the region of Wallachia, which is in present-day Romania. Many of these peoples carried on the tradition of being shepherds in Slovakia.

One may sometimes hear this song at the **vilija** (Christmas Eve supper) performances which the Pittsburgh Slovaks do every Advent. It sounds especially cute when young children sing it well. Rudy and Sue Ondrejco also have played it on the WPIT Slovak Program, which airs every Sunday from 3-4 pm. The WPIT Slovak Program will air a special Christmas program, and one can tune into the radio station at 730 AM, or listen online at <http://www.wpitam.com/>.

Online there are several renditions of "Pásli ovce valaši" available. One amateur version may be found on YouTube, and features a young girl singing. The website is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvznzJoZ7zaQ&feature=related>

A clearer and more professionally done version is on a Czech YouTube site, but is sung in Slovak. As it is typically played, a flute accompanies the singers in this merry song. It can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8OhU2Sn9Ds>

The Czech site includes a song sheet with lyrics and music notes to accompany it. Czech Radio put these Czech songs by the Radio Prague Choir on the web, and many have almost identical lyrics in Slovak. These are found at: <http://archiv.radio.cz/christmas/koleda/index.html>

One may listen to "Pásli ovce valaši" by clicking on the MP3 or Realaudio link. <http://archiv.radio.cz/christmas/koleda/k10.html>. Here is the music portion from the website.

Allegretto
Pás - li ov - ce Va - la - ši při bet - lém - ské sa - la - ši.
Hajdom, hajdom, tyd - li dom, hajdom, haj - dom, tyd - li dom.

Below the music are the lyrics, with a rough translation by your author, Michael Kopanic. I translated the original Czech into Slovak for our readers, but the tune is the same as the Czech.

1. Pásli ovce Valaši,
pri betlémské salaši.

4. On tam leží v jasičkách,
ovinutý v plencičkách.

Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom,
Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom.

Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom,
Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom.

2. Anjel sa im ukázal,
do Betléma isť kázal.

5. Maria ho kolísá,
svätý Josef mu spieva.

Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom,
Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom.

Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom,
Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom.

3. A tam běžte, pospěšte,
Ježíška tam najdete.

6. Hajej, nynej deťátko,
presváté pacholátko!

Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom,
Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom.

Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom,
Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom.



For many Slovaks and Slovak American, song has traditionally stood in the center of their lives and culture, as with these choir members from St. Matthias in Youngstown, Ohio.

Translation (preklad).

The chorus following the verses which repeats twice, **Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom**, is simply a catchy nonsensical phrase to repeat and make the music rhyme well. It has no particular meaning and is peculiar to the song, according to Professor Martin Votruba, the chair of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh.

1. The Shepherds tended the sheep, near a Bethlehem sheep-hut.
2. The Angel appeared to them, and directed them to go to Bethlehem.
3. And run there, look, and you will find Jesus there.
4. He lies there in a crib, wrapped in diapers.
5. Mary rocks him, St. Joseph sings to him.
6. Hey, it is child, a very holy little baby.

The themes are all familiar, simple, and very direct, and the repetition of Hajdom, hajdom, tyldidom makes the chorus easy to remember and even comical. At least that is the way my children took it when they were small.

Narodil sa Kristus Pán

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

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

Below are the Slovak lyrics, with a translation in English following.

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

These are just a couple of the many wonderful Slovak Christmas Carols that have come down to us over the generations. They are important to Slovaks and Slovak Americans, for the tradition of holiday sounds help to define us as a people.

The Vianočné koledy also harken back to the days of some of our youths, when Ježíško, the baby Jesus, was still the reason for the season. With commercialism so rife and intent on turning Christmas into a shopping spree instead of a holy time, going back to the carols of our ancestors are a good way to connect with our people's past, ourselves, and above all, with baby Ježíško, the child who brought us salvation.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

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

ROLL CALL

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer – absent & excused
 Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors, by the invitation of the President
 George A. Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4, by the invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the September 2010 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Byron White, along with Larry White, AQS Asset Management, LLC., presented their financial report and answered all questions of the Committee.

The President led an in-depth discussion reviewing our annuity rates. It was decided by the Executive Committee to change the annuity rates effective November 1, 2010 as follows:

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.65% (3.585% APR)
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.40% (3.344% APR)
New "Park 2 Annuity"	3.90% (3.826% APR)
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA – first year guarantee	3.00% (2.956% APR)
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.15% (3.102% APR)
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.40% (3.344% APR)
	3.15% (3.102% APR)

FHLB – VICTORY ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments with Key Bank Corporation and updated the Executive Committee on transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

The President updated the Executive Committee on current interest rates offered by the FHLB.

The President further asked AQS Management to review our Common Stock Portfolio to make possible recommendations.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. He stated everything is in order and working well.

SALES AND MARKETING

At this time the President introduced Mr. Randy Rigby, National Director of Sales for SunGard iWorks, and Mr. Eugene Marill from SunGard who presented to the Executive Committee a proposed software illustration system for our insurance and annuity products for our recommenders and agents to use in selling FCSU insurance products. After their presentation they answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Executive Committee continued with the Vice President's report. The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in different Regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents, noting that we are continuing to add agents. The Vice President also led a discussion concerning the production on our Park Free Annuity Program and answered the Executive Committee's questions.



Prince of Peace Parish

Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's South Side will host its Annual Slovak Vilija on Saturday, December 18, 2010. The Vilija is the re-creation of a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner, featuring authentic homemade Slovak delicacies and authentic folk entertainment sure to warm your spirit. The meatless meal features baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, nut and poppy seed rolls– all made by parish volunteers! The evening's highlight is the performance by the Pittsburgh Slovaks which re-enacts the visit of the shepherds to the Christ Child, entirely in Slovak songs, verse and dance. Tickets are available by reservation only: \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 16. Group discounts are available. Call the Prince of Peace Parish Center at 412-481-8380 before December 13th to make reservations or request additional information.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**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 2010:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 407,384.958
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 47,711.79
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 819.29

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.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

The President stated that the requests for donations have been reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

President Andrew Rajec closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



WANTED

The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada is seeking agents or licensed Recommenders who are fluent in the Slovak language to represent the Society and market our Life Insurance and Annuity products, especially in the New York and New Jersey area.

Please call or e-mail:

**President
Andrew M. Rajec –**

1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) or

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

1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)

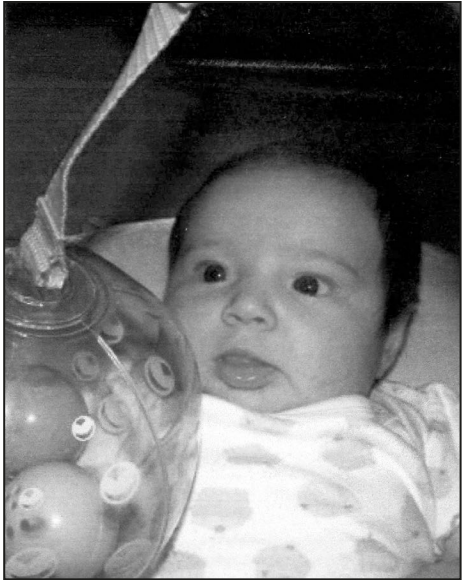
E-mail: president@fcsu.com



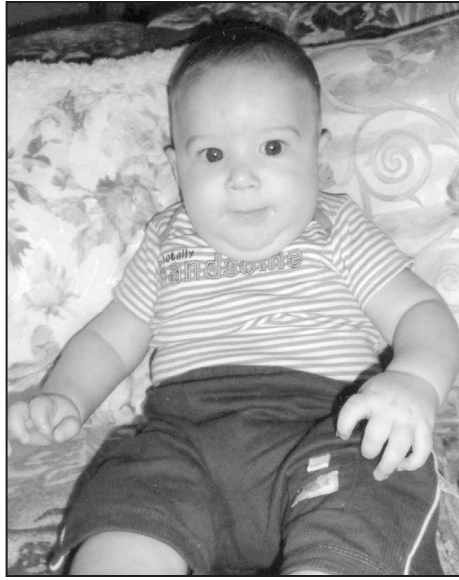
YOUTH ROUND-UP

Branch 450 of Cleveland, Ohio Welcomes Newest Members

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, of Cleveland, Ohio is pleased to announce and welcome its newest members:



Ava May Wahl, 3 months old, is the daughter of Eric and Sarah Wahl of Ira, MI



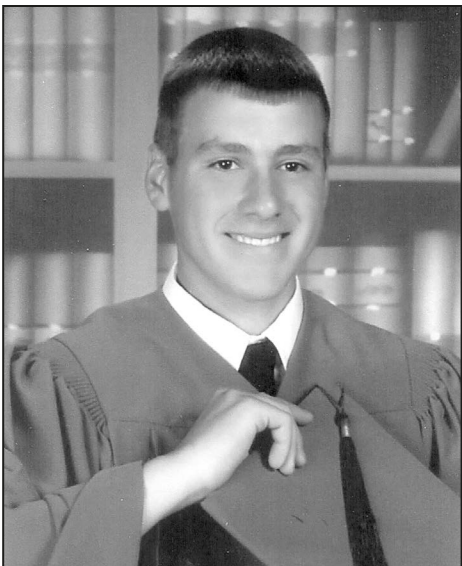
John Albert Valencik, 5 months old, is the son of Joseph and Tina Valencik of Brooklyn, OH



Jessica, John and Jacob Chuba, 1 year old triplets, are the children of Joseph and Jana Chuba of Seven Hills, OH



Nikolas Stetch Graduates with High Honors



Nikolas Stetch

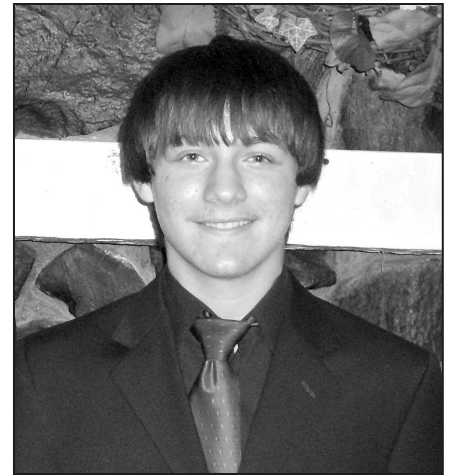
Nikolas Stetch is the grandson of John and Loretta Dashner. He is also the great-grandson of Helen Fiala. They are all members of Branch 567, Allentown, PA. Nikolas is the son of Joseph Stetch and Deborah Esposito.

Nikolas attended Dieruff High School in Allentown, PA. While a student at Dieruff, he was involved in the co-op program at Lehigh Career Technical Institute and Skills USA, which is a leadership program. While at LCTI, he worked in a retail shop with a master plumber.

Nikolas graduated in June 2010 with high honors and received many awards. Nikolas is now working fulltime as a plumber. He also is working on his four-year master certification in plumbing.

Adam Minarovich Receives Sacrament of Confirmation

On November 7, 2010, Adam Minarovich received the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Joseph's Slovak Church, New Jersey. Father Ken Kolibas conferred the sacrament, and his cousin Derek MacMath was his sponsor. Adam is the son of Karen and Stephen Minarovich, and a member of Branch 290 in Raritan. His father is the Secretary of Branch 290 and the Treasurer of the Msgr. John E. Rura District. His grandfather is Joseph Minarovich, the director of Region 1 and the President of Branch 290. We wish Adam all the best in the years to come



Congratulations, Newlyweds Daniel and Kimberly Held

Kimberly Held is the granddaughter of John and Loretta Dashner. She is also the great-granddaughter of Helen Fiala. They are all members of Branch 567, Allentown, PA. Kimberly is the daughter of Scott Glose and Lori Dashner.

Kimberly attended William Allen High School in Allentown, PA, where she was a member of the NJROTC program and was the Commanding Officer of this program in her senior year. She graduated in June, 2004. She then attended Mansfield University where she acquired her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and graduated June, 2008.

Kimberly was married to Daniel Held on June 6, 2010 and they reside in Albutis, PA. The couple is starting their own business in Specialty Cakes and Gourmet Candies.



Joseph Stetch III

Joseph Stetch III Commissioned Into Navy

Joseph Stetch III is the grandson of John and Loretta Dashner. He also is the great-grandson of Helen Fiala. They are all members of Branch 567, Allentown, PA. Joseph is the son of Joseph Stetch and Deborah Esposito.

Joseph attended William Allen High School in Allentown, PA, where he was a member of the NJROTC program. He graduated in June, 2006. He then attended Norwich University in Northfield, VT, with a Naval Scholarship. He was a member of the ROTC Corps of Cadets. He was a member of the Shock Platoon on Rifle Drill Team, which is number one in the nation in competition. Joseph graduated in May, 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice.

On June 3, 2010, Joseph was commissioned into the Navy as an Ensign. He is presently stationed in Norfolk, VA, aboard the USS James E. Williams, a destroyer (DDG-95).

FCSU 2010 Christmas Coloring Contest

STAR OF THE EAST

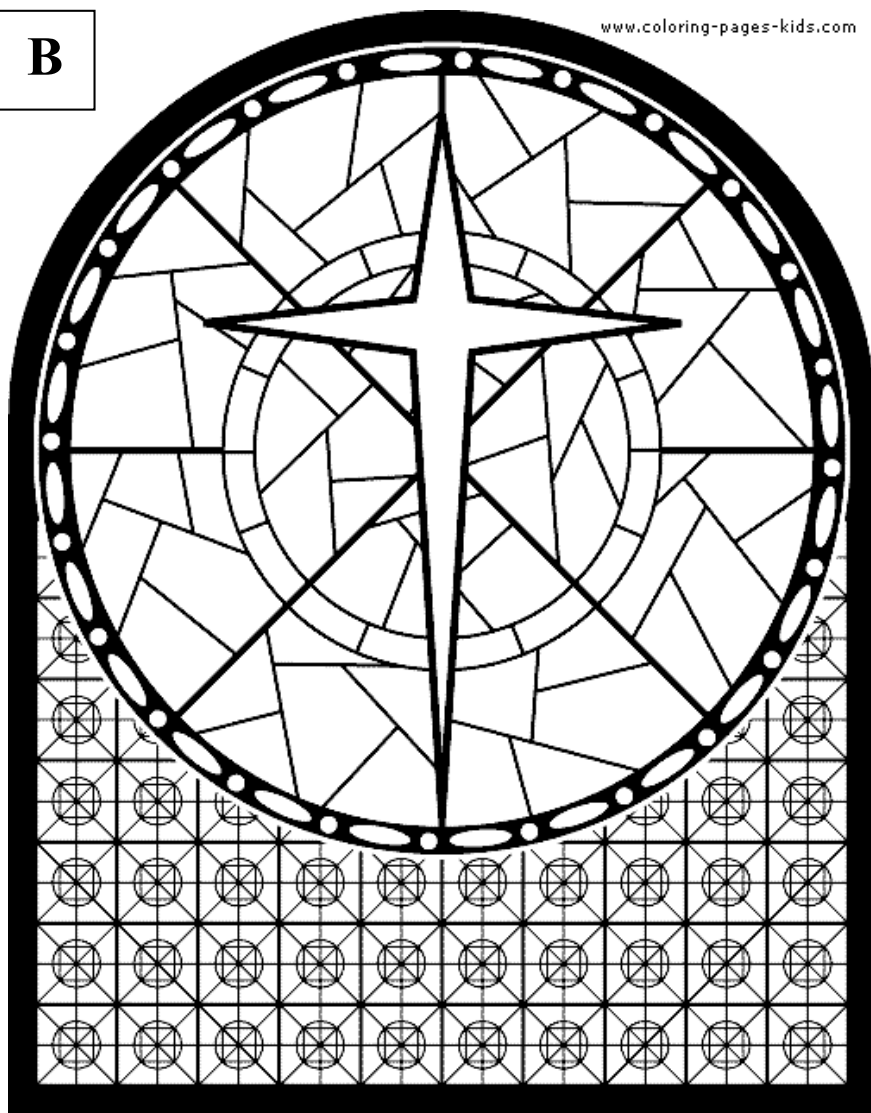
Star of the East, that long ago
 Brought wise men on their way
 Where, angels singing to and fro,
 The Child of Bethlehem lay--
 Above that Syrian hill afar
 Thou shinest out to-night, O Star!

Star of the East, the night were drear
 But for the tender grace
 That with thy glory comes to cheer
 Earth's loneliest, darkest place;
 For by that charity we see
 Where there is hope for all and me.

Star of the East! show us the way
 In wisdom undefiled
 To seek that manger out and lay
 Our gifts before the Child--
 To bring our hearts and offer them
 Unto our King in Bethlehem!

--EUGENE FIELD

B



A



C



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

RULES for Coloring Contest

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
 4 – 6 year olds – picture C
 7 – 9 year olds – picture A
 10 – 12 year olds – picture B
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.

- Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by December 31, 2010.

6. Mail to:
Susan Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2010

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 age group will receive the following:

- 1st Place – Jednota Art Set in a Nylon Backpack and \$25.00**
- 2nd Place - Jednota Art Set in a Nylon Backpack and \$15.00**
- 3rd Place - Jednota Art Set in a Nylon Backpack and \$10.00**
- Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**

Art set includes: crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, markers, stencils, and coloring book.

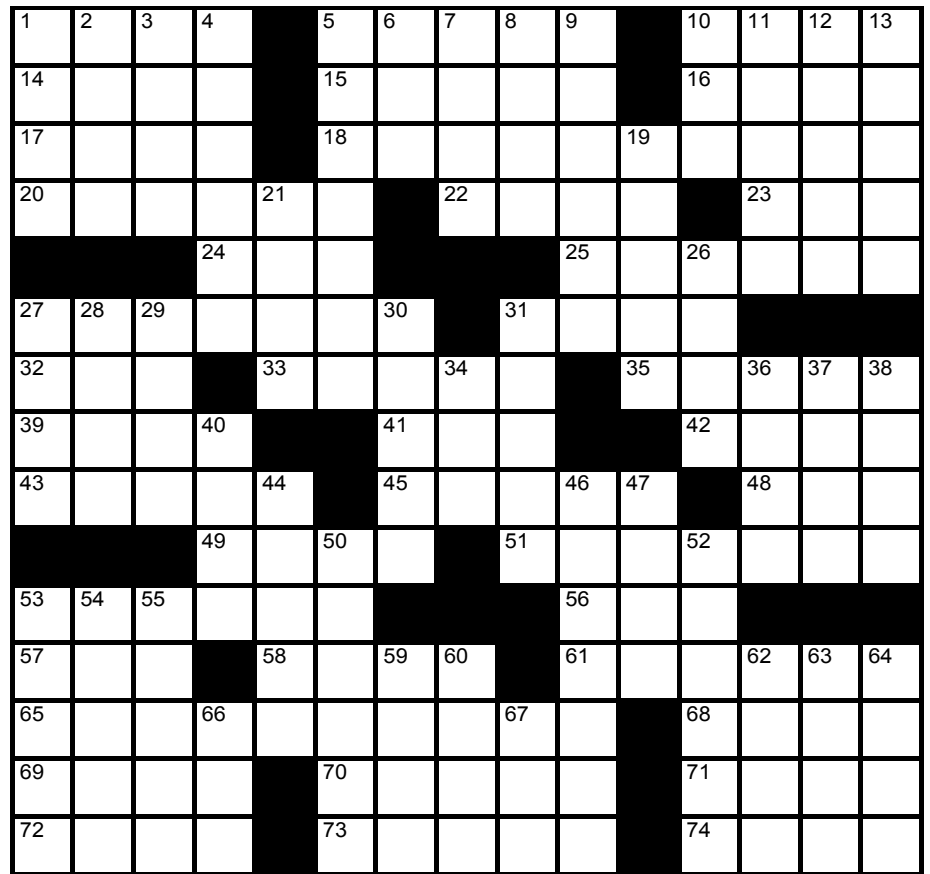


Branch 2, Chicago, Enjoyed Fraternal Luncheon, Late-year Meeting

St. Stephen Society, District 2, Branch 153, held its late-year meeting Saturday, November 13, 2010 in Chicago at the home of President John Jurcenko. Following the meeting, members enjoyed a fraternal luncheon at Andrews Restaurant in Park Ridge, IL.

Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director Elect

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

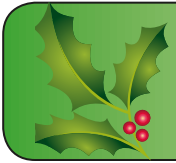
- 1 In the middle of
- 5 Draws close
- 10 Expel
- 14 Trademark
- 15 Cow name
- 16 ___ of Green Gables
- 17 Molecule
- 18 Restricted info
- 20 Med. specialist, to some
- 22 Anjou
- 23 Stale
- 24 Pecan
- 25 For the most part
- 27 Pastoral
- 31 Tennis units
- 32 Alias inits.
- 33 Smallest
- 35 Singer John
- 39 Give temporarily
- 41 Feel remorse
- 42 Roof part
- 43 Important question
- 45 Humiliate
- 48 *Salome* actor Reason
- 49 Orient
- 51 Abnormal
- 53 Baked good
- 56 Family room
- 57 Age
- 58 Despot
- 61 Bracelet type
- 65 Paying your own way at dinner
- 68 Rope fiber
- 69 Retired
- 70 Writer Zola
- 71 God of love
- 72 Young lady
- 73 Asian starlings

- 74 Camping accessory

Down

- 1 Exclamation of sorrow
- 2 Lightbulb visitor
- 3 Stravinsky, for o
- 4 Game piece
- 5 Mens wear
- 6 Annex
- 7 Quick! (Abbr.)
- 8 Ascend
- 9 Oil or seed
- 10 Klutz
- 11 Workers' group
- 12 Fishhook attachment
- 13 ___ bear
- 19 Angry
- 21 Void's partner
- 26 Cay
- 27 Indonesian island
- 28 Mus. instruments, for short
- 29 Containers
- 30 Weight unit
- 31 Behalf
- 34 Hero
- 36 E. Ireland village
- 37 Kitchen appliance
- 38 Adjacent
- 40 Twosome
- 44 Terra firma
- 46 Tranquilizes
- 47 Level
- 50 Method
- 52 Printer
- 53 Organ part
- 54 Netherlands Antilles island
- 55 Repletes
- 59 Military service
- 60 Harness
- 62 Entice
- 63 Brit. school
- 64 Exam
- 66 Time deposits (Abbr.)
- 67 ___ carte

See Solution on Page 19



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)

PAGACH

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

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

Zaprashka (Soup thickening)

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

MUSHROOM SOUP

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

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

CARAWAY SOUP

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

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



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



ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2011 Scholarship Program.

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2007 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**

2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2011 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch

officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com.

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: **Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2011.**

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

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

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2012).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2011. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.



L – R: His Excellency Peter Burian, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States; Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak League of America Nina Holy; Slovakia's Prime Minister Iveta Radičová; Mrs. Idka Rajec; FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec.

L – R: Steve Matula, Mrs. Nina Burianova, Andrew P. Rajec, Mrs. Idka Rajec, FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, His Excellency Peter Burian, Mrs. Albina Senko, Mrs. Theresa Arendt, Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko, and FCSU National Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt



Friends of Slovakia Host Slovak Prime Minister

As reported in this newspaper in the Nov 24 Jednota by Dr. Michael Kopanic (front page, "Radičová Wows Washington," Slovakia's Prime Minister Iveta Radičová traveled to the USA during the second week of November 2010. Radičová traveled to Washington, where on November 10, she delivered a speech before a packed auditorium at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The Prime Minister concluded that day's events by attending a benefit banquet hosted by the Friends of Slovakia in Arlington, Virginia at the Washington Country Club.



"Park 2 Annuity" 3.00% (2.956% apr)

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- * The FCSU **guarantees your initial interest rate for two years**. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- * The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- * The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- * Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'Beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- * Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- * Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- * The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications or visit our web site at FCSU.com

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood Ohio. We will have our election of officers. Our annual Christmas party will take place after the conclusion of the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen's Society, Branch 006, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010, at Chippers Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. The meeting will begin at 1:00PM with a lunch provided for all members after the meeting. The agenda will include the nomination and election of officers for the year 2011. All members are welcome to attend this meeting. Any questions, please call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764. Thank you.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010, at 9:00am at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbia Street, Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. Members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 9:30am in the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

The election of officers will take place. We also will make our Christmas donations at this meeting. Our 16-year old members will be listed

for the Margaret Evancho Award to be given at our March 13, 2011 breakfast meeting.

We wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 will hold its next meeting at 2pm on Sunday, December 12, 2010, at Our Sons' Family Restaurant, 800 Broad Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, PA 15906. All members are urged to attend.

Lawrence Fenimore, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, will have a branch meeting at 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 16, 2011 at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd. in Independence. Parking is available behind the gazebo on the town square.

The agenda will include a review of the recent convention, election of officers and discussion about branch activities for the coming year. A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

Please phone activities director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 evenings after 6:00 PM if you plan to attend.

Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 CONGRATULATES OUR BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Congratulations to Branch Chaplain Rev. Albert Marflak, OSB, on the 35th anniversary of his ordination.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 9, 2011, at 2:00pm at Chippers Grill, 1733 North Bloomington Street, Streator, IL. On the agenda will be officers' reports. Discussion of branch activi-

ties will include donations, grade-school and college scholarships, and the election of officers for 2011.

A lunch will be provided for members after the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and get involved with the branch. Please RSVP by January 6th to your financial secretary at 815-672-6682.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41KJ, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 11, 2010, in the Rectory of the Most Holy Trinity Church, 18 Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, NY, after the 5:00pm Mass. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. A presentation of the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 12:30 PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will organize a Ping Pong Tournament on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 1:00 PM in St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We hope to see you all there, and we thank you in advance for your attendance.

Jozef Jurasi, Sports Director

BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at 7:00pm at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2011. All members are invited to attend.

B. Skovira

BRANCH 90 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society Branch 90, Olyphant, PA will hold an Annual meeting on Dec 19, 2010 at 2:00pm at the home of Mr. Michael P. Glinksy, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, PA.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sochovka, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 90 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 90, Olyphant, PA, will hold an Annual Meeting on December 12, 2010 at 2:00pm at the home of Mr. Michael P. Glinksy, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, PA.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sochovka, Secretary

BRANCH 96 - CARROLLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

St John The Baptist Society, Branch 96, Carrolltown, PA will hold a regular meeting on Sunday December 12 at 2:00pm at the residence of Stella Papson, Fin. Secretary, 138 Sunset Rd, Carrolltown, 814-344-8964.

Albert M. Penksa, President

BRANCH 112 MAHANAY CITY, PA

Branch 112 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 19, 2010 to discuss end of year business. The meeting will be at 86 Spring Street,

Pottsville, PA at 1PM. Please call 570-544-6694 for directions.

Refreshments will be served.

Karen Sterling

BRANCH 157 - N CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 157 will be holding a meeting on December 12, 2010, at 12:00 noon in the upstairs hall. The agenda for the meeting will be upcoming events for 2011, discussions of how to get more customers signed up, and ideas for getting more people involved in our organization. A Children's Christmas Party (up to age 12) will begin at 2:00pm. Rain date will be December 19, 2010, at 2:00pm. Reservations for the Christmas Party are recommended. Please call 610-264-0740.

We need to increase attendance at our meetings, so if you are free, plan on coming to the meeting and bringing your suggestions along.

Branch 157 wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy and Safe Holiday.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 19, 2010, at 9:00am at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed, annual officers' reports will be given, and election of officers will take place. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting, and breakfast will be provided for members, spouses and guests. Any inquiries and updating information should be directed to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 169 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel, Br. 169P, Johnstown, PA will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, December 27, 2010 at 1:00 P.M. at the Slivosky residence, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, PA.

By-law changes approved at the last Convention will be addressed. Many requests for donations should be considered.

Betty Slivosky, Secretary

BRANCH 173 & BRANCH 232 - GREATER WILKES-BARRE AREA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of The Saint John The Baptist Society, Branch 173, and The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 232, of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area, Pa., will be held on December 10, 2010 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Norms, North Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The meeting will be for general business and the discussion of the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, that was held in Cleveland, Ohio.

We request that all members make every effort to attend and in any event please contact Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, 15 Grove St. Mountaintop, Pa. 18707, Phone 570-403-2067, if you plan to attend or do not plan to attend but wish to make any comments or suggestions for the betterment of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Fraternally,

Dorothy A. Ungvarsky President

BRANCH 199 - MT. PLEASANT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold their Annual Meeting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 12th at Chumps Restaurant. Election of Officers will be held at that time.

Barbara Patula

BRANCH 213 - RENFREW, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael, Branch 213, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010. It will be held at 3061 Kensington Court, Renfrew,

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 12 - MSGR. HLINKA DISTRICT

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

Frances Tarquinio, District Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

District 14, the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, will hold its next meeting in conjunction with its annual Christmas party at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, December 21, 2010. There will be the swearing in of officers, followed by the Christmas party. The meeting and Christmas party will be held at Bruno's Restaurant, located on Rt. 224, Poland Ohio. Cost \$ 19.00 per person. All members are urged to attend. Besides bringing gifts for a gift exchange, we are collecting donations for a local charity which needs the following: household or personal cleaning supplies, toiletries, or personal hygiene supplies. We are asking attendees who would like to contribute to bring any of these types of items.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT, TORONTO, CANADA

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday Dec 12, 2010 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril's and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Lunch will be served, but please contact Mike Kapitan to confirm attendance, so that proper quantities can be available for all members attending.

**Regards,
Mike Kapitan, President**

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will celebrate the Christmas season with a Slovak Mass on Sunday, December 19, 2010 at 11:00 AM at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. Slovak Mass will be concelebrated by Fr. Pavol Schulak from San Bernardino and bellowed Fr. Alojzcius Pestun, SDB, who is coming from San Francisco.

Following the liturgy, there will be a gourmet lunch with dessert and refreshments in the cafeteria and the tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children.

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

Paul Skuben, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

PA at 1:30pm. On the agenda will be the election of officers, district meeting news, and a general review of activities. All members are asked to attend.

Wishing everyone a Merry and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 9, 2011, at noon at Panera's restaurant in the Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads, Mt. Lebanon, PA. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, review the activities for the past year, discuss new products and plan activities for 2011. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, call Albina at 412/343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold its Annual Meeting on December 12, 2010, at the Bedford Trails Golf Course in Coitsville, OH, following a Mass at 8:30am at Holy Trinity Church for all living and deceased members. All members are invited to attend this fraternal event.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthews Branch 260 will hold its Annual Meeting, Sunday, December 12, 2010 at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall, St. Elizabeth Church, at 1:30pm. Election of officers will take place, along with plans for the coming year. We urge members to attend and participate in our discussions and submit their ideas for the betterment of the Society.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292 KJ, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, December 19, 2010 at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. All members are asked to attend these events. The Officers extend to all wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, President

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, Dec 13, 2010, at 6pm at the home of the financial secretary. Anyone needing service or more insurance should call 570-645-4872.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

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 Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 320 -

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting and Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 18, at noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. There will be no cost to members; however, there will be a \$10.00 charge for non-members. In addition to conducting general business, there will be an election of officers. Please make your reservation by calling Fran at (724) 929-9788 before December 12 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 327 - POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 327, Pottstown, PA, will hold its Annual

Meeting on December 19, 2010 in Holy Trinity Parish Social Hall, 370 South St. at 9am. Election of officers will take place. All members are asked to attend.

Elmer C. Pollock, President

BRANCH 419 – NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold its semi-annual meeting on December 12, 2010, at 2:00pm at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, PA. There is to be a discussion concerning a merger.

Lillian R. Stager, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of the St. Joseph's the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will be held Sunday, December 12, 2010, 2:00 PM at the home of the president Rose Ann Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, Pa. 15731. On the agenda will be the fiscal year financial statements, branch donations, report of the District 7 annual meeting and the election of 2011 officers. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its annual meeting at the home of Jozef Valencik on Friday, January 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm. The address is 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, OH. The election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, IL.

Our Lodge will send \$5.00 McDonalds gift cards to all our junior members (age 18 or younger) as Christmas gifts.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553- UNIONTOWN, OHIO

A "Save the Date" Announcement from Branch 553: Save the date December 5, 2010. That is the date set aside for our annual Vilija sponsored by Branch 553 to be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311.

This is a time to celebrate your Slovak heritage and Catholic faith by participating and remember the traditional Christmas Eve meal. We will be sharing the symbolism of each part of the meal and the traditions our forefathers entrusted to us.

The cost is \$15.00 per person and children 16 and under are free. The event will start at 4:00 pm.

If you are interested in attending contact Linda Hanko at 330.706.0151 or via email at HYPERLINK "mailto:lhanko@neo.rr.com" lhanko@neo.rr.com.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567KJ, will have their annual meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at St. John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front St., Allentown, PA. The election and swearing in of officers for the year 2011 will take place at this time.

The following officers were elected: President, Bernadine Gerhard; Recording Secretary, Rosalie Favere; Treasurer, William Micek; and Auditor, Loretta Dashner.

The annual report also will be given at this time. Members are encouraged to attend meetings.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

Rosalie Favere, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 in Muskegon Heights, MI would like to announce our monthly pork and kraut dinners being served at the club. They will be held on the second Sunday of each month. This is a complete traditional dinner including dessert. Only \$6 for adults and children under 12 pay only \$4. We will be serving from noon until 3 p.m.

Our monthly breakfast is held the fourth Sunday of each month. We serve from 8:30 a.m. until noon. We serve a wide variety of breakfast items. The cost remains at \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

We are located at the corner of Sixth Street and Sherman Boulevard in Muskegon Heights. Our phone number is 231 733 7525. Please contact us if you have any other questions.

Thank you,

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 628 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Sunday, December 26, 2010, at 4:00 PM at the Moose Lodge #298 – Universal, 2421 Main Street, Penn Hills, PA 15235 (Phone: 412-793-2690). The agenda will include the election of new officers for 2011 and a summary of events and issues during 2010.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On December 19, 2010, Branch 731 will celebrate Mass at 11:30am at Saint Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio in commemoration of deceased members of Saint Joseph Branch 731. Monsignor Peter M. Polando will be the celebrant.

Following the Liturgy, we will meet at the Saint Matthias rectory for our annual meeting and election of officers for the 2011 year.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of officers for 2011, as well as discussion of activities for the next year. A holiday get together will follow the meeting.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

The 356 Fighter Group Restaurant, 4919 Mt Pleasant St NW, North Canton, OH 44720 will be the site of SS Cyril & Methodius Branch 764 Christmas Party on Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 6:00 PM. There will be a \$15 charge for guests with the Branch picking up the additional amount for dinner.

If you are interested in attending the Christmas Party, please call Joy Brunetti at 330-274-5479 or George Yuricek at 330-394-8249 no later than January 2 for reservations. We would love to see you!

We will have a short business meeting prior to dinner for the election of officers for 2011.

The Officers extend wishes to all members and their families a Blessed Christmas Season.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 769 – ENDWELL, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769,

will hold its semi-annual meeting on December 14, 2010, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY. All members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting will cover the election of officers for the coming year, as well as information regarding the highly regarded financial status of the FCSU and the opportunities to invest in various annuities having excellent returns.

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCHES 784 AND 810 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC.

Branches 784 and 810 will hold their annual meeting on Sunday November 28, 2010. Elections of officers will take place. All members are requested to attend. The meeting will be held at the SS Cyril and Methodius Parish hall after the mass. Discussion of the social calendar for year 2010 and 2011 will take place. Refreshments will be served.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 785 – TORONTO, CANADA

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday Dec 12, 2010 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril's and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Lunch will be served, but please contact Anne Mitro to confirm attendance, so that proper quantities can be available for all members attending.

Regards,

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Slovak Mass on Sunday, December 19, 2010 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin 11:00am. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass along with the presentation of gifts for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Christmas.

Also, following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports, hold elections of new officers, and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

**Fraternally yours,
Milan Konkol, Secretary**

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Our Mother of Sorrows Society will hold its annual meeting, December 13, 2010, at 1:30PM at the Pimmit Hills Regional Library, located at 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA, (703) 790-8088. The purpose of the meeting will be to nominate Officers for 2011. We also will discuss success of the recent convention held in Cleveland, OH, August 2010.

We urge our members and our newly acquired Branch 61 from Baltimore to attend. The floor will be open to hear and discuss new ideas. For additional information, please feel free to contact Steve Matula at (703) 671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at (703) 860-1693.

Sincerely,

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

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

REFLECTIONS ON POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

December 2010

General Intention



Personal Suffering as a Help to Others who Suffer. *That our experience of suffering may help us better understand the pain of the many people who are alone, sick, or aged, and stir us to generous help.*

Today in our world suffering is often presented as something so evil that even death is preferable. Yet in this month's general prayer intention and in other writings, Pope Benedict XVI affirms that suffering has supreme value in our lives - that only by suffering can we learn to love others.

"Suffering is the inner side of love," says the Pope. "It is important to learn how to suffer...the avoidance of suffering renders someone unfit to cope with life" (Pope Benedict, *God and the World*, Ignatius Press, 2002).

The Pope's view of suffering is based on Jesus. The Son of God became human and shared fully in our life and our pain. In fact, he chose to redeem the world from

sin by suffering and dying.

When the Apostleship of Prayer was founded in 1844, a Jesuit priest challenged some complaining seminarians to use their sufferings in a positive way: to accept them and offer them to God for the good of others. When suffering comes - as it always does - we can complain and wallow in self-pity, or we can turn our suffering into powerful prayer. "Mysteriously united to Christ, the one who suffers with love and meek self-abandonment to the will of God becomes a living offering for the salvation of the world" (Pope Benedict XVI, 2008 Message for World Day of the Sick).

Only one who has suffered can really understand the suffering of others. Suffering, when accepted and joined to the Cross, teaches us compassion and stirs us to help.

During the holidays, many people experience great loneliness. The world tells them they should be happy, but they don't feel it. As Jesus opened his heart to our suffering, may we open our hearts to the suffering of others. There are so many ways to show our compassion. As we mature in Christ, may we learn even to rejoice in our sufferings because they teach us to love others as Jesus loves us.



Reflection:

How can my own suffering help me better to understand the pain of others and to show them compassion?

Reading:

Hebrews 2: 14-17 He had to become like his brothers in every way... Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Mission Intention

Opening our Doors to Christ. *That the peoples of the earth may open their doors to Christ and his gospel of peace, brotherhood, and justice.*



Beginning with some words from Mother Teresa, the Pope said, "It is Christmas every time we allow Jesus to love others through us'... God, by making himself a Child, did not hesitate to bear with us the burden of existence with its effort and anxiety. He was born for us in order to stay with us and to offer to each one who opens to him the door of his or her heart the gift of his joy, his peace, his love" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Visit to the Missionaries of Charity*, 2008).

The story of the birth of Jesus speaks of a world with no room for the Savior. In the lyrics of a contemporary song: For God became a man And stepped into your world today Oh Bethlehem, you will go down in history As a city with no room for its King While you were sleeping While you were sleeping (*Casting Crowns, "While You Were Sleeping"*)

The Holy Father notes that the shepherds heard the message because they were on the watch, they were awake. He asks us to pray that all peoples may awaken and open their doors to Jesus Christ.

Christ wants to give us all what we most long for, but peace, brotherhood, and justice won't come out of the blue. As we open our hearts to Christ, we must also open them to the gospel, his teachings. The greatest commandment is that we love God with all our hearts, and our neighbors as ourselves.

The Holy Father is continually telling young and old that this world would be a much better place if we opened ourselves to Christ. In the homily at his inaugural Mass, he



said, "I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ - and you will find true life."

Reflection:

In this season of Christ's coming, are you asleep? How will you awaken and open your heart to Christ?

Reading:

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me.



Prayer of the Month

Your coming is truly necessary for us, O God, our Savior. O Christ, we need Your presence. In Your immense kindness come to us! Abide in us through faith and enlighten our blindness. Stay with us and help our weakness. Take our side and protect and defend our frailty. For this You come into the world: Dwelling in us, with us, and for us, taking our part, You desire to light up our darkness, to relieve our weariness, to keep all danger far from us. Amen.

- St. Bernard

Štedrý Večer in Chicago

In 1926, a group of faith-filled people petitioned the Archdiocese of Chicago to establish a Slovak parish in the Gage Park neighborhood of Chicago's south side. Today, Saint Simon the Apostle Parish still serves the Slovak Community of the greater Chicagoland area. St. Simon is located on 5157 South California Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632.

On Sunday December 19th, the Slovak Community will sponsor a Traditional Štedrý Večer or Christmas Eve Dinner at the Parish Hall. Last year, the event drew 300+ people who came from all over the Midwest to partake of Slovak food and entertainment.

For more information, call 773-436-1045.

Publication Schedule for 2011

Issue Date	Deadline
January 5	December 27
January 19	January 10
February 2	January 24
February 16	February 7
March 2	February 21
March 16	March 7
March 30	March 21
April 27	April 18
May 11	May 2
May 25	May 16
June 8	May 30
July 6	June 27
August 3	July 25
August 31	August 22
September 14	September 2
	(early deadline in observance of Labor Day, Sept 5)
September 28	September 19
October 12	October 3
October 26	October 17
November 9	October 31
November 23	November 14
December 7	November 28



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	Margaret Mary Windau	116P	John Andrew Belusko	356P	Paul Pitonyak Sr	756K	Lebor Mitosinka
002K	Andrew A Babjak	153K	Edward Koval	369K	Albert J Triscik	762K	Andrew Babusiak
006K	Susan E Romano	153K	Jacob Pavlik	380K	Thomas G Klopach	774K	Mary K Bartos
006K	Richard Paul Yurkovic	169P	Charles J Ziga Jr	381K	Anna B Hnath	779K	Albert S Gavalier
023K	Bonnie Cover	181K	Joseph F Lucas	382K	Joseph S Berberich	796K	John S Klusarits
024K	Jerome Nalepka	181K	Andrew J Malarik Sr	410K	Eric M Floyd	823K	Margaret Yakubisin
038K	Richard A Thomas	199K	John M Emerick	512K	Sarah Javor	831K	John R Karlo Sr
038K	Joseph J Valecko Sr	228K	Betty J Barbuscak	514K	Amelia Hrabar	831K	Josephine M Pastorek
040K	Marjorie C Richardson	254K	William E Homa	571K	Anna Mae Mikula	831K	Christopher Pastrick
055K	John Michael Hurchik Sr	260K	Pauline Mary Black	667K	Margaret Hanzel	831K	Paul A Planavsky
075K	Francis J Hertzog	276K	Irene Bedzik	670K	Rosetta Radic	855K	Thomas F Friday
085K	Agnes Razawich	292K	Steve L Ripper	670K	Lillian B Streyle	855K	Paul C Polomsky Sr
102K	Dorothy Reso	327K	Robert J Kovach	682K	Frank M Petras		
108K	Adam E Skoloda	327K	Robert A Yuros	721K	Tony Fabus		

* Processed in the month of November 2010

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM F. HAVRILLA – BRANCH 199

MT. PLEASANT, PENNSYLVANIA

William F. "Stubby" Havrilla, 66, of Latrobe, died Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010, in UPMC Presbyterian, Oakland. He was born April 20, 1944, in Latrobe, a son of the late Joseph M. Sr. and Pauline (Schober) Havrilla. Bill was a member of Holy Family Church, Latrobe. He was employed by Modal Construction Inc., of Latrobe. "Stubby" was a loving father and grandfather and will be deeply missed by his family and friends. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Janice R. (Robl) Havrilla. Bill is survived by his son, Brian J. Havrilla and his wife, Jody, of Latrobe; a brother, Joseph M. Havrilla Jr. and his wife, Evelyn, of Latrobe; a sister, Dolores "Sue" Topolnitski, of Latrobe; and five grandchildren, Benjamin, Jessica, Bethany, Joshua and Briana. He is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews. Family and friends were received from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. the following Tuesday in the JOHN J. LOPATICH FUNERAL HOME INC., Latrobe. A funeral Mass was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday in Holy Family Church, Latrobe, with the Very Rev. Daniel C. Mahoney, VF, as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Vincent Cemetery.

MARTIN M. PODSKOCH JR.

BRANCH 16 – SWOYERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Martin M. Podskoch Jr., 96, of Swoyersville, passed away peacefully Saturday afternoon, November 20, 2010, at Manor Care Health and Rehabilitation Center, Kingston, with his family at his side. His loving wife is the former Joan Kaporches. Together, Martin and Joan shared 70 beautiful years of marriage.

Born on August 4, 1914, in Swoyersville, Martin was a son of the late Martin and Emilia (Pison) Podskoch. Martin was raised in Swoyersville and had resided there all of his life.

He was a graduate of the former Swoyersville High School, class of 1932.

Prior to his retirement, Martin was employed by the Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union (PSCU) for over 65 years. There he worked as an office clerk, head bookkeeper, and secretary of the fraternal organization. The PSCU was incorporated with the First Catholic Slovak Union, where Martin worked until 1990. His life was dedicated to spreading fraternalism and his Slovak heritage.

In addition to his employment with the PSCU, Martin was an independent insurance

agent for over 70 years.

During World War II, Martin worked the night shift in the office of the former Hazard Wire Co.

He was a lifelong member of Holy Trinity Church, of Swoyersville.

Martin was one of the founding members of the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club, with whom he served as an officer for many years. He was on the Swoyersville Planning Board and Taxpayers' Association. He was always there to help his friends and neighbors.

A man of many enjoyments, Martin especially enjoyed fishing at his cottage in Falls and also playing pinochle and poker with his friends.

Family was the focal point in Martin's life. He will forever be remembered for his love and devotion to his family.

In addition to his parents, Martin and Emilia Podskoch, he was also preceded in death by his daughter Joan Emily Kotch, who passed away on January 24, 1998; his son-in-law Michael Kotch; his three brothers, the Rev. Father Joseph Podskoch, Daniel Podskoch, and the Rev. Father Clement Podskoch, C.S.C., who was a Holy Cross Priest of King's College and also the former Chaplain at Chase Correctional Prison; and his one sister, Ludmilla Kudella.

In addition to his loving wife, Joan Podskoch, Martin leaves behind his son Martin J. Podskoch and his wife, Lynn, of Colchester, Conn.; his three grandchildren, Matthew and Ryan Podskoch, Boulder, Colo., and Kristy Roloff, East Hampton, Conn.; his two great-grandchildren, Kira and Lydia Roloff; as well as his nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend the funeral at 9:30 a.m. the following Wednesday from the Wroblewski Funeral Home Inc., Forty Fort, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church, Swoyersville, with the Rev. Edward P. Lyman, officiating. Interment with the Rite of Committal followed in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Carverton. Family and friends were invited to call Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

ETHEL M. STAS

BRANCH 199 – MT. PLEASANT, PENNSYLVANIA

Ethel M. Stas, 75, of Unity Township, died Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, in Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital. She was born Jan. 15, 1935, in United, a daughter of the late Michael A. and

Ethel C. (Naggy) Hudak. She was a graduate of Hurst High School's Class of 1952, and was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Ethel was a member of St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Whitney, and its Rosary Altar Society. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Daniel J. Stas; two brothers, Steve and Andrew Hudak; and a sister, Mary Chelan. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, John R. Stas; six sons, John M. and wife, Valerie, of Acme, Robert E. and wife, Lynn, of Burlington, N.C., Thomas R. and wife, Ellen, of Latrobe, David and wife, Robin, of Martinsburg, W.Va., Benedict and wife, Lori, of Latrobe, and Donald Stas and wife, Jessica, of Latrobe; three daughters, Diane C. Holnaiser and husband, Bruno II, Marian E. Ferlin and husband, Michael, and Ethel E. Palombo and husband, James, all of Latrobe; 27 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a brother, Michael Hudak, of Norvelt; and many nieces and nephews. Friends were received from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. the following Sunday and Monday at the GAUT-BACHA FUNERAL HOME INC., Pleasant Unity. Prayers were held at 9:20 a.m. on Tuesday in the funeral home, followed by a funeral Mass celebrated at 10 a.m. in St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Whitney, with the Rev. Peter Augustine Pierjok, OSB, as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Vincent Cemetery, Unity Township.

EDMUND W. ZIGMUND SR.

BRANCH 5 – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

Edmund W. Zigmund Sr., of Inkerman (formerly of Port Blanchard), passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 19, 2010, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born October 28, 1925, in Port Blanchard, and attended Jenkins Township High School and Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Pa. Edmund was a lifelong member of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Pittston, and a devout and faithful Catholic. Edmund enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, where he served his country during World War II aboard the USS Willoughby. He held the rank of Radioman Second Class, and was responsible for handling communications with PT boat squadrons. Edmund's tour of duty lasted through 1946 and spanned the Philippines,

Borneo, South China Sea and Christmas Island. He was awarded the Pacific Theater Ribbon with four stars, the American Theater Ribbon, the Victory Medal and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars. Edmund was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for more than 40 years, where he worked as a Transportation Specialist. Following his retirement, he remained active and was employed on a part-time basis by Diversified Records Services, West Pittston, as a courier. Edmund enjoyed polka music, dancing, swimming, exercising, games of chance, cryptograms, outings to Pocono Downs and Mohegan Sun and crossword puzzles. He was a member of the North End Slovak Club and the Disabled American Veterans. For many years, Edmund was the Manager of Branch 6 (which was subsequently merged with Branch 5) for the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). He was a fan of the Detroit Tigers and the Philadelphia Eagles. Most of all, he loved being with his family and taking care of his son, Leonard. Edmund was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Soltis) Zigmund, Port Blanchard. He was preceded in death by infant daughter, Loretta; and infant son, Paul; brothers Andrew, William and Jacob; and sisters Rose, Helen, Marjorie and Ann. Edmund is survived by his wife of 54 years, the former Irene Timek of Laflin; and their six children, attorney Edmund Zigmund and his wife, Donna (Fernandina Beach, Fla.); Leonard; attorney Robert Zigmund and his wife, attorney Lida KiaNoury (Philadelphia, Pa.); Valerie Pierson, R.N., and her husband, John (Port Griffith); attorney Marilyn Zigmund Luke and her husband, Robert (Columbia, Md.); Irene Kovaleski and her husband, David (Plains Township); two grandsons, Robert Michael Zigmund and Aiden Robert Luke; and brother John Zigmund (Naticoke); brother-in-law Edward Timek and his wife, Arlene, (Inkerman); brother-in-law Sam Noto (Harrisburg); sisters-in-law Mary Slesinski (Laflin), Rose Timek (Dallas) and Angela Yozwiak (Moosic); and numerous nieces and nephews. Kizis-Lokuta held funeral services at the Baloga Funeral Home, Port Griffith, with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, at 11 a.m., with the Rev. Joseph Pisaneschi presiding. Friends called from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday at the Baloga Funeral Home, Port Griffith.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Rev. Stephen Furdek District Holds Meeting, Hosts Seminar

The Reverend Stephen Furdek District of Eastern Pa., Maryland and Washington, D.C. held their annual meeting on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at St. John the Baptist Church Hall in Allentown, PA. Due to Mass scheduling changes, there was no Mass prior to the meeting. A delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone shortly after 12 noon.

Prior to the meeting, a sales seminar was held by National Vice-President Andrew Harcar and National Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30PM by Pres. Greg Harakal and was opened with a prayer by the FCSU National Chaplin, Rev. Thomas Nasta.

Roll call was taken with nine officers and twenty-one delegates present. On a motion by Helen Fiala and Bernadine Gerhard the count was accepted and approved. All members agreed.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read by the secretary and were accepted and approved on a motion by Monica Fabian and Karen Sterling. All members agreed.

Financial reports were not reported due to difficulties with the treasurer and financial sec-

retary. The reports will be sent to the chairman auditor who will review the records. The financial records will be up for approval at the semi-annual meeting in April 2011. The auditors concurred to this process.

Various topics were discussed or acted upon.

Election of officers for 2011 was held. The officers are:

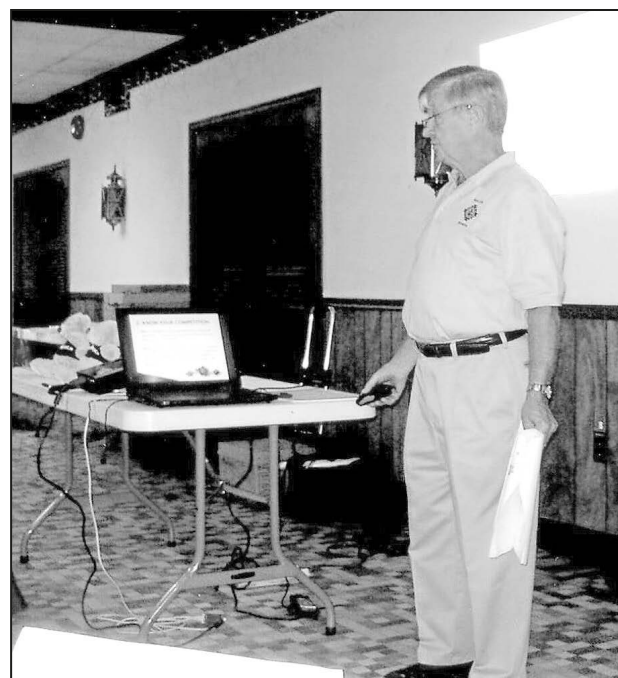
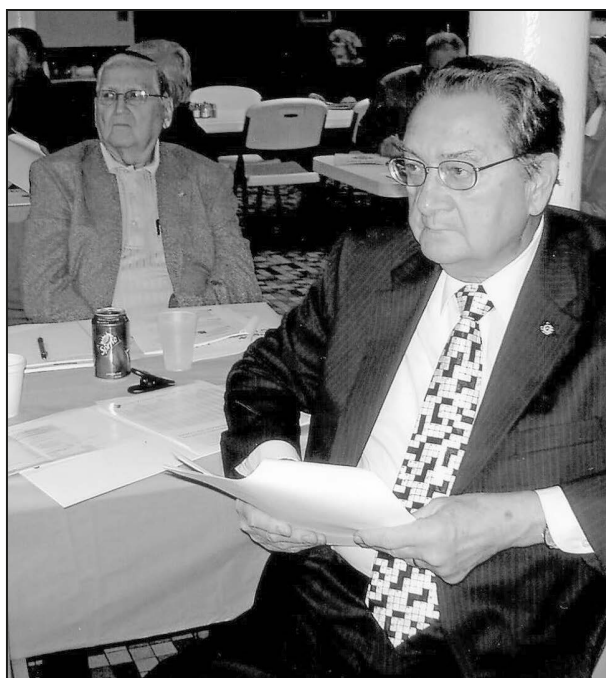
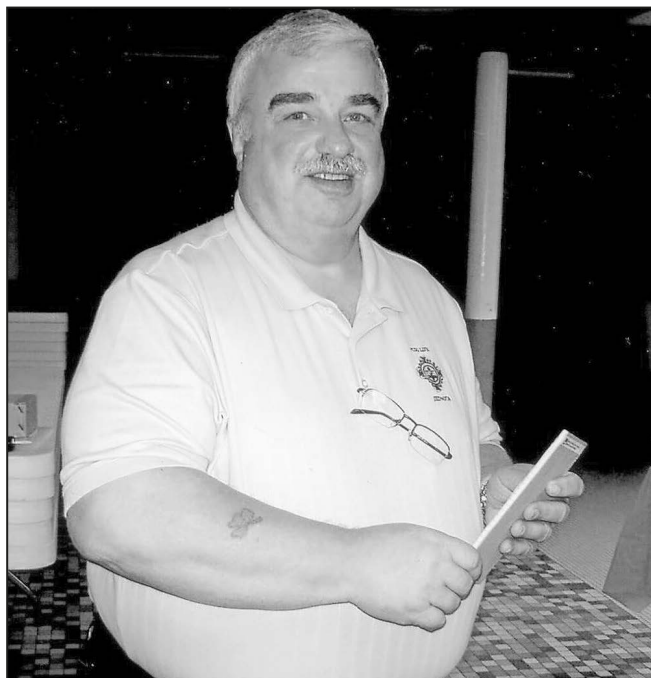
Greg Harakal, President; Helena Gaydos, Vice-President; Damian Nasta, Financial Secretary; Edward Nasta, Treasurer; Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary; AnnaRose Payne, Fraternal Director; Bernadine Gerhard, Chairperson of Auditors; Gerald Fabian and Jerry Lloyd, Auditors and Msgr. Thomas Derzack, Chaplain. The officers were sworn in by National Chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta.

The semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at St. John the Baptist Church Hall, Allentown, PA.

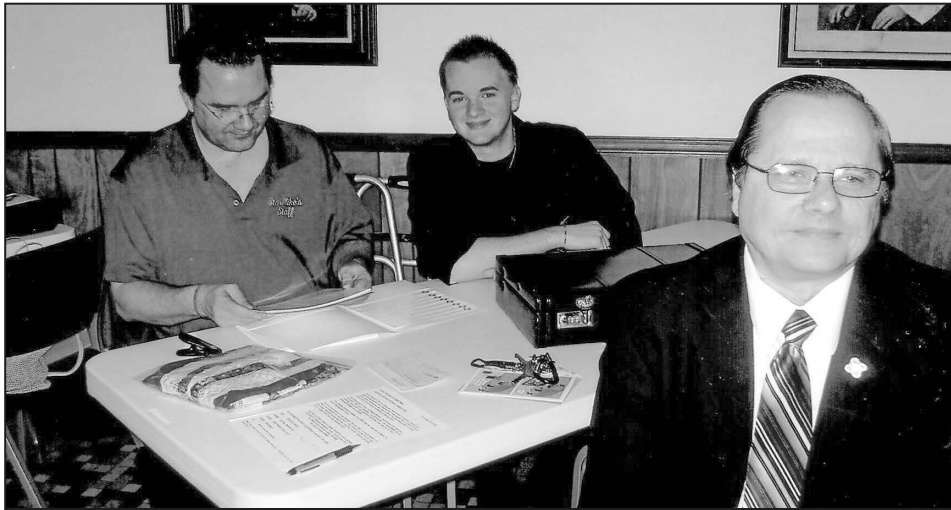
On a motion by Monica Fabian and Bernie Madeja, the meeting was adjourned. The closing prayer was said by Msgr. Thomas Derzack. Refreshments were served afterwards.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

Scenes From A Successful Sales Seminar in Allentown



Scenes From A Successful Sales Seminar in Allentown



Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

A	M	I	D		N	E	A	R	S		O	U	S	T		
L	O	G	O		E	L	S	I	E		A	N	N	E		
A	T	O	M		C	L	A	S	S	I	F	I	E	D		
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Slovak Christmas Tree on Display in Chicago

Bring your children, grandchildren, other relatives, and friends to see the Slovak Christmas Tree on display at the Museum of Science and Industry's annual "Christmas Around the World" exhibit in Chicago. Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 Christmas Tree Committee decorated an eight-foot tree with imported Slovak ornaments owned by District 2 on November 6th.

The annual display features Christmas trees from 55 countries. The long-time Slovak Christmas Tree Committee chairman Ed Uram has retired after 15 years. Mark Fayta has stepped up to the plate, and assumed the chairman's job. Ed's granddaughter Amber Miller has agreed to be the new treasurer of the Slovak Christmas Tree Fund. Ed will remain on the decorating committee.

The exhibit opens November 20, 2010, and runs through January 5, 2011. The Museum is located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive in the Hyde Park neighborhood on Chicago's south side. For more information, please call (773) 684-1414, or visit www.msichicago.org.

Robert Tapak Magruder
Publicist, Slovak Christmas Tree Committee

Montreal's branch 784 annual banquet with touch of tradition

Once again, the annual, traditional pre-Christmas banquet organized by the Jednota's Branch 784 in Montreal was held on a beautiful and sunny Sunday, November 21, 2010.

The banquet was held in the church hall of the Saints Cyril and Method parish in Montreal (7187 & 2nd Ave.) and was attended by more than 120 people - members and non-members.

The banquet started with a 10:30 A.M. Mass celebrated in Slovak by Slovak priest Father Rudolf Grega, whose sermon was centered on "The Solemnity of Christ the King". He was assisted by three young altar boys and by a more than one-hundred strong congregation taking part in the singing of our beautiful Slovak songs.

After the Mass, the banquet guests gathered in the church hall, where each one had an opportunity and more than enough time to meet with their friends and update themselves about recent news and various events.

Later, around 12:30 P.M. Montreal's District President Alex Dobrik welcomed all banquet guests where he briefly touched on various points of the Jednota's organization. Then, Fr. Rudolf Grega said grace before the meal and blessed the food. The traditional meal - Chicken soup with home-made noodles, breaded pork-cutlets, potatoes, coleslaw, mixed vegetables complimented with two types of "opekance" (by many called bobálky), one with sauerkraut and the second one with the poppy-seeds were the delight of the day, followed by a traditional desert. The hall setting and music played during the lunch created a very pleasant and Christmas like relaxing atmosphere, thus bringing us closer to the First Sunday of Advent or fourth Sunday before Christmas.

After an enjoyable meal, in his commentary, the oldest Jednota member in Montreal, Mike Micak shared with us some of Jednota's history, praising Fr. Furdek for his vision and the stamina he had in starting Jednota a one hundred and twenty years ago.

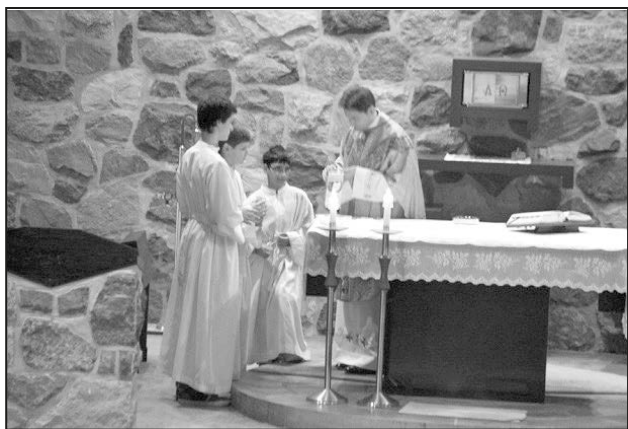
Thanks and words of appreciation go to the banquet organizing committee, to all and everyone who helped in whichever way to make this banquet such a great and enjoyable event for all. Words of thanks and appreciation also go to all the participants and supporters. Your help, support and participation is always appreciated.

Thanks again,

Vincent Bystrican
Branch 784 Treasurer & Parish Warden



Photos courtesy of V. Bystrican



Vianoce a ich okruh slávenia

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Od 6. storočia na sviatok Narodenia Pána kňaz celebruje tri sväté omše: polnočnú (utiereň), rannú (pastiersku) a slávnostnú dennú. V Ríme pápež zvykol slúžiť polnočnú v Bazilike Panny Márie Snežnej (Santa Maria Maggiore) pri jasličkách, rannú v gréckom Chráme sv. Anastázie a slávnostnú dennú v Bazilike sv. Petra. Pápež Benedikt XIV. (1740 - 1758) pripisoval týmto trom svätým omšiam symboliku trojakého zrodenia Ježiša Krista: od večnosti v lone Nebeského Otca, telesne a v čase z Panny Márie v Betleheme a duchovne v našich srdciach. Ježiš sa narodil v Betleheme (heb. Dom chleba). Je to mesto asi 8 km južne od Jeruzalema, rodiisko kráľa Dávida. Sem prišiel kvôli sčítaniu obyvateľstva Jozef z Nazaretu so svojou snúbenicou Máriou a tu (podľa tradície v jaskyni za mestom) sa narodil Ježiš. Slávnosť Narodenia Pána sa slávi s vigíliou a s oktávou. Vianočné obdobie však pokračuje aj po ôsmich dňoch a končí sa nedeľou po Zjavení Pána (do r. 1969 sa končilo 2. februára). Do tohto obdobia zaradujeme štyri významné sviatky kresťanského kalendára: Sviatok Svätej rodiny, Slávnosť Bohorodičky Panny Márie, slávnosť Zjavenia Pána a sviatok Krstu Pána.

Sviatok Svätej rodiny (27. decembra 2009)

Tento sviatok sa od r. 1969 slávi v nedeľu po Narodení Pána. Kult Svätej rodiny (Ježiš, Mária a Jozef) má svoje korene už v stredoveku, ale do kresťanskej verejnosti prenikol až začiatkom 17. storočia. Jedným z jeho horlivých šíriteľov bol sv. František Saleský (1567 - 1622), ktorý predstavoval tri osoby Svätej rodiny ako zemský obraz nebeskej Najsvätejšej Trojice. K tejto myšlienke pridali ďalší rozmer jezuiti vo Francúzsku, ktorí ju dávali ako vzor kresťanských rodín. Vo francúzskej časti Kanady veľkým šíriteľom úcty k Svätej rodine bol quebecký biskup Francois de Montmorency Laval (1623 - 1708). Medzi podporovateľov kultu Svätej rodiny patrili aj pápeži Pius IX. (1846 - 1878) a Lev XIII. (1878 - 1903), ale až Benedikt XV. v r. 1921 nariadil slávenie tohto sviatku pre celú Cirkev (pôvodne sa slávil na prvú nedeľu po Zjavení Pána).

Sviatok Panny Márie Bohorodičky (1. január 2010)

Podľa záznamu v evanjeliu sv. Lukáša osem dní po narodení „obrezali chlapčeka a dali mu meno Ježiš“ (Lk 2, 21). Túto udalosť si pripomína Cirkev v dvoch sviatkoch: sviatok Obrezania Pána, ktorý sa už od 6. storočia tradične slávil 1. januára a sviatok Mena Ježiš, ktorý sa slávil v nedeľu medzi 1. a 6. januárom, alebo - keď v tomto rozmedzí nedeľa nebola - 2. januára. Sviatok Mena Ježiš bol veľmi populárny vo františkánskych komunitách už od polovice 14. storočia a jeho horlivým šíriteľom bol sv. Bernardín Siensky (1380 - 1444). Od 15. storočia sa slávil lokálne vo viacerých diecézach v Belgicku, Nemecku a vo Veľkej Británii. Jeho svätenie s platnosťou pre celú Cirkev zaviedol pápež Inocent XIII. v r. 1721.

Ôsmy deň po Vianociach bol až donedávna známy ako sviatok Obrezania Pána. Pôvodne to však bol mariánsky sviatok, ako o tom svedčili vlastné modlitby (propria) pri sv. omši a pri liturgii hodín, v ktorých Cirkev vyzdvihovala a odvolávala sa na zásluhy Panny Márie. V Ríme sa tento sviatok slávil od 7. storočia a hlavné bohoslužby sa odbavovali v chráme Santa Maria Antica, ktorý dal postaviť pápež Ján VII. (701 - 707), pôvodcom Grék a vyznaním „služobník Panny Márie“.

Pri reforme cirkevného kalendára v r. 1969 sa tieto dva sviatky nahradili Slávnosťou Panny Márie Bohorodičky, ktorou si Cirkev pripomína dôležitú úlohu Márie v ekonómii spásy ako Matky Syna Božieho a jej vyhlásenie za Bohorodičku (Theotokos) na Treťom ekumenickom koncile v Efeze (r. 431). Je oslavou materstva Panny Márie a téma bohoslužby dňa je vyjadrená slovami sv. Pavla „Keď prišla plnosť času, Boh poslal svojho Syna, narodeného zo ženy...“ (Gal 4,4). Takto sa z tohto sviatku Pána stal sviatok Panny Márie Bohorodičky (gr. Theotokos, lat. Deipara) – titul, ktorým prvotná Cirkev pociťovala Pannu Máriu na konci 3. storočia. Vyjadruje sa ním skutočnosť, že Mária bola matkou Božieho Syna nielen ako človeka, ale aj ako pravého Boha. V 5. storočí sa v Cirkvi vyskytli pochybnosti o teologickej správnosti tohto titulu. Koncil v Efeze r- 431 odsúdil tento bludný názor a vyhlásil dogmu, že Panne Márii ako matke Bohočloveka Ježiša Krista názov Bohorodička právom patrí.

Sviatok Zjavenia Pána – Traja králi (6. januára 2010)

Na Východe už od 3. storočia bol 6. január sviatkom Zjavenia Pána (Epifánia). Cirkev si v ňom pripomína „tri zázraky“: príchod mudrcov z Východu, Ježišov krst a jeho prvý zázrak v Káne Galilejskej. V 4. storočí sa tento sviatok rozšíril aj na Západ, kde liturgia a čítania kladli dôraz predovšetkým na poklonu mudrcov z Východu. Títo učenci z Perzie boli v apokryfných spisoch a náboženských legendách zobrazovaní ako „traja králi“ s menami Gašpar, Melichar a Baltazar, hoci evanjeliový záznam tohto príbehu (Mt 2, 1-12) o ich počte, kráľovskej hodnosti a menách, nič nehovorí. Kult „Troch kráľov“ bol v stredoveku veľmi rozšírený. Ich údajné relikvie sa prechovávali v Miláne, odkiaľ ich cisár Fridrich Barbarossa (1155-1190) odniesol do Kolína nad Rýnom, kde boli uložené v katedrále. Zjavenie Pána je zjavením Ježiša Krista ako Mesiáša Izraela, Božieho Syna a Spasiteľa sveta. Spolu s Ježišovým krstom v Jordáne a so svadbou v Káne sa slávi poklona Ježišovi zo strany „mudrcov“, ktorí prišli z Východu. V týchto mudrcov, ktorí sú predstaviteľmi okolitých pohanských náboženstiev, evanjelium vidí prvotiny národov, ktoré prijímajú dobrú zvesť o spase skrze vtelenie. Príchod mudrcov do Jeruzalema s cieľom pokloniť sa židovskému kráľovi ukazuje, že v mesiášskom svetle Dávidovej hviezdy hľadajú v Izraeli toho, ktorý bude kráľom národov. Ich príchod znamená, že pohania môžu objaviť Ježiša a klaňať sa mu ako Božiemu Synovi a Spasiteľovi sveta, len ak sa obrátia k židom a prijmu od nich mesiášske prisľúbenie, ako sa nachádza v Starom zákone. Zjavenie Pána zvesťuje, že všetky národy vstupujú do rodiny patriarchov a nadobúdajú „výsady vyvoleného ľudu“. (KKC 528)

Útek do Egypta a povraždenie neviniatok sú prejavom toho, ako temnoty odporujú svetlu: „Prišiel do svojho vlastného, a vlastní ho neprijali“ (Jn 1,11). Celý Kristov život bude poznačený prenasledovaním. A jeho vlastní majú na ňom podiel s ním. Jeho návrat z Egypta pripomína exodus a predstavuje Ježiša ako definitívneho osloboditeľa. (KKC 530, 574)

Sviatok Krstu Pána (10. januára 2010)

Krst Ježiša v rieke Jordán je medzníkom v jeho pozemskom živote, pretože je začiatkom jeho verejného účinkovania. Zaznamenali ho všetci traja synoptickí evanjelisti (Mt 3,13-17; Mk 1,9-11; Lk 3, 21-22) a implicitne sa o ňom zmieňuje i Ján. Pôvodne si ho Cirkev pripomínala (s poklonou troch mudrcov a s prvým Ježišovým zázrakom v Káne) na sviatok Zjavenia Pána (6. januára). Od r. 1969 sa však slávi osobitne, a to v nedeľu po Zjavení Pána. Ak táto nedeľa pripadne na 7. alebo 8. januára, sviatok sa neslávi - z liturgického hľadiska sa dáva prednosť sláveniu II. vianočnej nedele. Vešperami sviatku Krstu Pána sa vianočné obdobie končí.

Vianoce a stávanie betlehemov K dokresleniu vianočnej atmosféry patrí aj stávanie betlehemov s jasličkami, postavami Svätej rodiny, troch mudrcov, pastierov a anjelov. Jedná sa o vyzobrazenie scény narodenia Ježiška. Za pôvodcu betlehemskej tradície sa pokladá sv. František z Assisi, ktorý postavil prvý betlehem v Greccio v r. 1223.

Pieseň Tichá noc, svätá noc

Svetoznáma pieseň Tichá noc, svätá noc zaznela po prvý raz pred 192 rokmi v Rakúsku. Na Vianoce roku 1818 ju po prvýkrát zaspievali duchovný Joseph Mohr a učiteľ Franz Xaver Gruber v kostolíku v Oberndorfe. Vtedy táto melódia vyvolala oduševnenie lodníkov na rieke Salzache a ich rodín, dnes sa spieva na celom svete vo viac ako 200 jazykoch. História tejto salzburskej vianočnej piesne a jej melódiu si možno vyhľadať na internetovej stránke www.stillenacht.at. Za túto pieseň vďačíme kňazovi Josephovi Mohrovi, rodákovi zo Salzburgu. Učiteľa Franza Xavera Grubera z Arnsdorfu, ktorý v Oberndorfe zastupoval organistu, požiadal, aby k jeho básni skomponoval vhodnú melódiu s dvomi sólovými hlasmi a - pretože organ mal poruchu - so sprievodom gitary. Text vo forme básne napísal Mohr už dva roky predtým v Mariapfarre v Lungau.

Archív TK KBS

Mariána Tkáča zvolili za nového predsedu Matice slovenskej

Martin (TASR) – Valné zhromaždenie (VZ) Matice slovenskej (MS) v Martine zvolilo Mariána Tkáča, za nového predsedu tejto najstaršej národnej a kultúrnej ustanovizne Slovákov. Takmer 500 delegátov VZ si mohlo vybrať z troch kandidátov. Okrem Tkáča sa o funkciu opätovne uchádzal doterajší predseda MS Jozef Markuš a riaditeľ Informačného ústredia MS Eubomír Kraľovanský.

Voľby sa uskutočnili tajným spôsobom v piatok 19. novembra vo večerných hodinách a výsledky volebná komisia oficiálne vyhlásila nasledujúci deň.

„Matica slovenská (MS) sa musí omladiť, stať sa pojmom aj pre mladú generáciu, aby nebola spájaná iba so staromilstvom, a stať sa morálnym hlasom národa.“ Uviedol to na valnom zhromaždení (VZ) MS v Martine, bývalý viceguvernér Národnej banky Slovenska Marián Tkáč. Podľa neho rozhodovanie o dôležitých veciach nemôže byť vecou jedného človeka, ale musí ísť o kolektívne rozhodovanie.

Ďalší z kandidátov, doterajší predseda MS Jozef Markuš, prišiel na rokovanie s programom najmenej do roku 2013, kedy Matica oslávi 150. výročie svojho založenia. Blížia sa aj výročia dvoch memoránd slovenského národa, ktoré sú podľa neho aktuálne stále. Jeho víziou je aj vytvorenie spoločnej organizácie matíc všetkých slovanských národov, ktoré by mali začať medzi sebou užšie spolupracovať. Naštartovať transparentnosť MS do vnútra aj navonok a hľadať spoločné riešenia považuje za najdôležitejšie.

Valné zhromaždenie (VZ) Matice slovenskej (MS), prišli pozdraviť delegácie zahraničných Slovákov z Maďarska, Poľska, Rumunska, Srbska a Ukrajiny. Výmenu generácií vo vedení MS podporoval aj dlhoročný matičný funkcionár Stanislav Bajanič. Tvrdil, že tak, ako to bolo v roku 1990, aj teraz by už mali prevziať na svoje plecia zodpovednosť za ďalší rozvoj MS mladší ľudia vo veku okolo 40 a 50 rokov, akými boli pred 20 rokmi oni.

Mons. Rudolf Baláž oslávil 70. narodeniny



Mons. Rudolf Baláž

V Kňazskom seminári v Badíne sa 22. novembra 2010 uskutočnila kňazská rekolekcia s ďakovnou svätou omšou za dar života 70 rokov Mons. Rudolfa Baláža, banskobystrického diecézneho biskupa. Hlavným celebrantom eucharistickej slávnosti bol J. Em. Jozef kardinál Tomko. Koncelebrovali arcibiskupi a biskupi rímskeho aj gréckeho obradu, Mons. Mario Giordana, apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku a kňazi Banskobystrickej diecézy.

Sláviacemu zhromaždeniu sa v homílii prihovoril Jozef kardinál Tomko a prečítal blahoprajný telegram Svätého Otca Benedikta XVI. Kardinál Tomko taktiež odovzdal Mons. Rudolfovi Balážovi prsteň, ktorý mu Svätý Otec poslal s telegramom.

Kardinál v homílii nadviazal na slová žalmistu, ktorý v modlitbe volá: A tak nás nauč rätat' naše dni, aby sme našli múdrosť srdca. (porov. Žalm 90, 12) „So žalmistom sa nám treba dívať s biblickou múdrosťou srdca na celú spoločnosť,“ pokračoval Jozef Tomko. V zamyslení nad spoločenskou situáciou, ktorú prežíva vo svojej diecéze i biskup jubilant, kardinál upozornil na nápadne rýchly úpadok rodiny na Slovensku. Zamyslel sa nad rastúcimi štatistickými hodnotami rozvodovosti a rastúcim spolužitím párov mimo manželského zväzku. Druhou bolestnou tvárou akejsi krízy lásky sú mnohé odchody kňazov z kňazskej služby. Jozef kardinál Tomko si s prítomnými teda položil otázku, „aká generácia nám na Slovensku vyrastá a kam sa poberá náš štát?“

V príprave na cyrilometodské jubileum, ktorým si v roku 2013 Slovensko pripomenie 1150. výročie príchodu svätých Cyrila a Metoda, slovenskej spoločnosti poprial rast a oživenie duchovných hodnôt.

Kardinál Tomko, ktorý biskupa Rudolfa Baláža vysvätil na diecézneho biskupa v roku 1990 v Banskej Bystrici, mu aj teraz poprial hojnosť Božích milostí na príhovor Sedembolestnej Matky Božej, Patrónky Slovenska.

Arcibiskup Mário Giordana, apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku v príhovore vyzdvihol z mnohých darov života jubilujúceho práve dar kňazského povolania. Vyzval prítomných, „aby sme za dar kňazstva Bohu ďakovali a objavovali jeho veľkosť, krásu a nedali sa odradiť vlastnou ľudskou slabosťou.“ Apoštolský nuncius v tejto súvislosti spomenul dôležitú jednotu diecéznych biskupov s pápežom, ktorí tak viditeľne tvoria jednotu Kristovej cirkvi na zemi.

Za kňazov diecézy slovo uznania a vďaky otcovi biskupovi predniesol Mons. Marián Bublinc, generálny vikár. Spolu s rektorom seminára Jánom Viglašom odovzdali biskupovi Rudolfovi dar od jeho kňazov, biskupskú berlu z olivového dreva. Práve olivové drevo, ako uviedol Bublinc, prináša symboliku Getsemanskej záhrady, kde Kristus trpel a jeho nasledovník sa tiež nevyhne utrpeniu v službe. Ďalšou symbolikou berly má byť opora pastiera no i palice, ktorou pastier chráni stádo od útokov.

Marián Bublinc v mene kňazov diecézy poďakoval diecéznemu biskupovi obzvlášť za tri pastoračné oblasti. Prvou je vybudovanie kňazského seminára, teda obnovenie kňazskej výchovy a podpora zasvätených. Druhou je podpora rodiny a katechézy o rodine. Sociálne diela a starostlivosť o starých a chorých ľudí sú tretou oblasťou, ktorej sa diecézny biskup obzvlášť venoval počas doterajšej služby.

Za kolégium slovenských biskupov sa prihovoril košický arcibiskup Mons. Bernard Bober. Rudolfovi Balážovi poďakoval za svedectvo života a vernosť pravde. Podotkol, že „pravda o Bohu a pravda o nás samých nás robí slobodnými“. V neposlednom rade poďakoval za mnohoročnú spoločnú službu s biskupom Rudolfom, prvým predsedom Komisie pre katechizáciu a školstvo Konferencie biskupov Slovenska.

Diecézny biskup využil slávnostnú príležitosť na to, aby poďakoval aj kňazom Banskobystrickej diecézy. „Som rád, že môžem pozerať na tváre našich kňazov, ktorým z tohto miesta ďakujem, že sú moji dobrí spolupracovníci,“ uviedol Mons. Baláž. Slávnostná rekolekcia pokračovala prípitkom a obedom.

TK KBS



FOTO TASR - Pavol Remiáš

Na snímke zľava správca Matice slovenskej (MS) Ján Eštok, doterajší predseda MS Jozef Markuš a novozvolený predseda MS Marián Tkáč.



Sprava nový predseda Ing. Marián Tkáč s delegátmi.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45

IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša, č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 30. januára 2011 o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66th Street, New York City. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov, aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili v hojnom počte.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Novoročný pingpongový turnaj Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku oznamuje, že v sobotu 22. januára 2011 o 13:00 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66th Street organizuje Novoročný pingpongový turnaj. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Jozef Juráši, športový referent

Slovenská Štedrá večera – Vilia v Chicagu, IL

Slovenská komunita a farnosť sv. Šimona Apoštola v Chicagu, IL Vás pozýva na Slovenskú Štedrú večeru spojenú s vianočnými koledami, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 19. decembra 2010 otvorením dverí o 2.00 hodine popoludní a večerou o 3:00 hodine vo farskej hale kostola sv. Šimona, 5135 S. California Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632. Vstupné: \$ 15.00- dospelí; \$ 6.00 – deti od 2-12 rokov. Lístky si musíte zakúpiť v predpredaji na telefónnom čísle: (773) 436-1045 Ext. 1.



Štedrovečerná večera - Vigília v New York City

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City pozýva všetkých farníkov na Štedrovečernú večeru – Vigíliu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 12. decembra o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Vstupné za osobu je 20.00 dolárov v čom je započítaná aj večera. Lístky na Štedrovečernú večeru si môžete objednať na: Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón (212) 734-4613; Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 6412-8922.



Predsedníčka vlády SR Iveta Radičová vo Washingtone, DC

Pri príležitosti výročia novembrových udalostí roku 1989 Veľvyslanectvo SR vo Washingtone v spolupráci s mimovládou organizáciou Friends of Slovakia pripravilo sériu podujatí za účasti predsedníčky vlády SR I. Radičovej.

V rámci „Lekcie slobody“ (Freedom Lecture) sa predsedníčka vlády SR dňa 10. novembra 2010 prihovarila k plne obsadenému auditóriu prestížneho Centra Woodrowa Wilsona vo Washingtone. Vo vystúpení pred publikom z radov predstaviteľov americkej administratívy, diplomatického zboru, Kongresu USA a významných washingtonských think-tankov I. Radičová zhodnotila stav slobody, demokracie a prosperity na Slovensku. Táto atraktívna prezentácia príbehu transformácie a integrácie Slovenska získala pozitívny ohlas medzi návštevníkmi podujatia organizovaného každoročne od roku 2000 pri príležitosti výročia demokratických zmien na Slovensku a v Českej republike.

Predsedníčka vlády SR Iveta Radičová sa následne, ako hlavný hosť, zúčastnila na slávnostnej gala večeri „Slovak-American Annual Awards Dinner“. Toto exkluzívne spoločenské podujatie bolo oslavou dlhodobých a pevných spojeneckých vzťahov SR a USA. Počas slávnostného večera boli ocenené osobnosti a inštitúcie, ktoré sa významnou mierou prispeli na rozvoj slovensko-amerických vzťahov, resp. zásadne prispeli k propagácii SR v USA. Ocenenia si prevzali veliteľ Národnej gardy štátu Indiana generál major R. Martin Umbarger (v mene Národnej gardy štátu Indiana) v kategórii „Slovak-American Partnership“, viceprezident U.S. Steel John H. Goodish v kategórii „Slovak-American Economic Cooperation“ a honorárny konzul SR v Pittsburghu Joe Senko v kategórii „Slovak-American of the Year“. Na akcii sa zúčastnili takmer dve stovky hostí, medzi nimi zástupcovia predchádzajúcich i súčasnej administratívy USA, predstavitelia Kongresu, diplomatického zboru, súkromného sektora, amerických i slovenských firiem ako aj slovenských krajských organizácií v USA.“

MZV SR

Modlitba za rodinu

Pane, Ty si Otcom každej rodiny na Zemi. Ty si Otcom všetkých ľudí.

Daj skrze Tvojho Syna Ježiša Krista, ktorý sa pre nás stal človekom a skrze Ducha Svätého, ktorý je posilou Tvojej lásky k nám, aby sa každá rodina na Zemi stala pre každú ďalšiu generáciu svätynou lásky a života, lebo len Ty si opravdivá Láska a Život.

Daj, aby Tvoja milosť sprevádzala myšlienky, slová a skutky všetkých manželov a manželiek pre dobro ich rodín a rodín na celom svete.

Daj, aby mladí ľudia našli v rodine pevnú oporu pre svoju ľudskú dôstojnosť a pre rast v pravde a láske.

Daj, aby sa láska posilnená milosťou sviatosti manželstva ukázala silnejšou než všetky slobody a skúšky, ktorými rodiny niekedy musia prejsť.

Na príhovor Svätej rodiny daj, aby svetová misia našej matky Cirkvi v rodine a prostredníctvom rodiny priniesla svoje ovocie. Skrze nášho Pána, Ježiša Krista, ktorý je Cesta, Pravda a Život po všetky veky vekov. Amen.

Na Slovensku sa slávia Vianoce v duchu kresťanských tradícií

Nielen Slováci, ale aj väčšina obyvateľov ďalších národností a etník žijúcich na Slovensku, slávia vianočné sviatky v duchu kresťanských tradícií. „Všetci máme veľmi podobné zvyky – Česi, Slováci, Maďari alebo Rusíni,“ povedala lektorka Slovenského národného múzea (SNM) v Bratislave Elena Senková.

„Štedrovečerná večera sa začínala oblátkami s medom, orechom a cesnakom,“ vysvetlila Senková a upozornila na rituálny charakter týchto jedál. „Cesnak odháňa zlých duchov a prečisťuje. Orechy symbolizujú veľkú úrodu a hojnosť a med je požehnaním a liekom,“ dodala.

Po tomto chode nasleduje chod spoločný pre všetky etniká, tzv. bobáľky alebo pupáky, drobné cestovné koláčiky obarené horúcim mliekom a posypané makom. „Toto jedlo symbolizuje hojnosť a bohatú úrodu,“ spresnila Senková s tým, že bohatú úrodu mali zabezpečiť aj strukoviny, ktoré tiež na vianočnom stole nesmeli chýbať. Najčastejšími vianočnými polievkami sú kyslé - šošovicová, fazuľová, hríbová, kapustnica. „Aj keď sme dnes zvyknutí na tradičného kapra, mäso na vianočnom stole nemalo kedysi miesto,“ zdôraznila lektorka SNM. Ako druhý chod sa, opäť ako symbol hojnosti, jedli rôzne kaše. „V rusinskej a ukrajinskej kultúre sa napríklad jedli pirohy, typické tatarčane – pirožky,“ spresnila.

Zároveň upozornila, že nielen vo vianočnom stolovaní, ale aj v pomenovaní Vianoc sú rozdiely. „Pre nás Slovákov a pre Čechov sú to Vianoce alebo Vánoce, doteraz pátrame po pôvode tohto názvu. „Všetko naznačuje tomu, že pochádza z nemeckého Weihnachten – Svätá noc. Aj my dávame 24. decembru názov Svätý večer, na Orave sa zachoval názov Dohviezdny večer, teda po hviezde sa začína štedrovečerná večera, no slovenský veľmi známy názov je aj Kračún,“ uzavrela.

Vianočné dary sa na Slovensku začali dávať až vtedy, keď sa do domácností dostal vianočný stromček. Na dedinách tak bolo koncom 19. storočia. Predtým sa namiesto stromčeka, ktorý má nemecký pôvod, dávali len zelené halúzky, pod ktorými sa darčeky nekladli. „Je to pomerne nová vec. A pokiaľ sa už začali dávať dary, tak najskôr len deťom, až neskôr dospelým,“ povedala etnologička Kornélia Jakubíková z bratislavskej



Univerzity Komenského.

Prvé dary boli podľa nej skromné. Najskôr to boli cukrovinky, neskôr odevné súčiastky. „V súčasnosti sa dostali vianočné darčeky do pozície, že sú popri stromčeku hlavnou náplňou, či znakom Vianoc,“ konštatovala s tým, že tradícia darovania je stále živá a rozvíjajúca sa.

Zdôraznila, že v minulosti bol najdôležitejším darom vždy dar duchovný. „Bolo to vinšovanie, koledovanie, spievanie piesní. A za to sa odmeňovali koledníci,“ priblížila. Tí za odmenu dostávali ovocie, koláče a neskôr drobné peniaze. Príčin, prečo sú vianočné dary také obľúbené a čoraz viac hodnotné, je podľa etnologičky viac. „Najjednoduchšie vysvetlenie by bolo také, že sme na tom ekonomicky lepšie, ale to by bolo také prvoplánové vysvetlenie,“ myslí si. Vzájomné obdarovanie môže byť totiž aj znakom určitého medziľudského vzťahu. „Keď mám s niekým vzťah, tak ho pri určitej situácii obdarujem,“ vysvetlila.

Dary podľa nej môžu nahrádzať aj nefungujúce medziľudské vzťahy, čo môže byť výrazné najmä vo vzťahu rozvedených rodičov a ich detí. Ďalším dôvodom súčasného obdarovania môže byť nahrádzanie tradície vinšov, veštenia, či rozličných zvykov. „Ale tá potreba, aby ten vianočný čas bol mimoriadny, ostala,“ upozornila etnologička. „A keď túto potrebu nevieme naplniť piesňami alebo inými zvykmi, tak ju naplníme vecnými darmi. A preto sú vianočné darčeky v takej významnej pozícii,“ ukončila Kornélia Jakubíková.



TASR

HĽADÁME

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Krátké správy zo Slovenska

• **Najlepší** fínsky debut napísala Slovenka. Tá kniha sa volá 27 Elikuolema tekee taiteilijan a vo Fínsku je momentálne literárnou senzáciou. Jej autorkou, ktorá za ňu získala prestížnu cenu za debut, je totiž po fínsky píšuca rodáčka zo Slovenska. Tohtoročnú prestížnu fínsku literárnu cenu za debut Helsingin Sanomat získala Alexandra Salmela. Za iných okolností by to bola správa, ktorú akceptuje fínska literárna komunita a v lepšom prípade aj čitateľská verejnosť a za hranice krajiny by sotva prenikla. Teraz je to však úplne inak. Alexandra Salmela je totiž prvou laureátkou tohto ocenenia, udeľovaného za knihu napísanú vo finčine, ktorá sa nenarodila vo Fínsku. No senzácia je to nielen tam, ale rovnako aj na Slovensku.

• **Predsediťstvo** Slovenskej advokátskej komory (SAK) pozorne sleduje vyšetrovanie vraždy advokáta Ernesta Valka príslušnými orgánmi. Zároveň žiada, aby sa prípad čo najskôr vyšetřil a páchatelia potrestali. Poukazuje na to, že jeho smrť nie je len osobnou tragédiou, ale má tiež hlboký celospoločenský dosah. „Násilný čin môže byť prejavom nedostatočného fungovania justičného systému, ako i dôsledkom snahy ovplyvniť výsledok súdneho konania v konkrétnych prípadoch,“ upozorňuje vo svojom stanovisku, ktoré poskytla riaditeľka mediálneho odboru SAK Naďa Ondrišová. Podľa predsedníctva táto tragická udalosť demonštruje, že advokáti sa aj v súčasnej dobe môžu cítiť ohrození. Je presvedčené, že v záujme zachovania práv občanov je prioritou, aby štát prijal opatrenia, ktoré dokážu spoľahlivo garantovať ochranu advokátov a tým tiež práv ich klientov. Jednu z možností vidí v zaradení advokátov medzi tzv. chránené osoby, ktorým trestné právo poskytuje osobitnú ochranu.

• **Pri príležitosti** Medzinárodného dňa študentov a Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu, ktorý pripadá na 17. novembra, konali sa v aule Evanjelickej bohosloveckej fakulty Univerzity Komenského (EBF UK) v Bratislave služby Božie. Kázal generálny biskup Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania (ECAV) na Slovensku Miloš Klátik. Dekan EBF UK Ondrej Prostředník v úvode bohoslužieb poukázal na dvojaký historický obsah 17. novembra, pričom konštatoval, že aj v roku 1939 aj v roku 1989 to boli práve študenti a ľudia z akademického prostredia, ktorí sa postavili proti diktatúre. Dodal, že chrániť slobodu môžeme predovšetkým štúdiom, pretože len vzdelaní a rozhladení ľudia sú schopní kriticky uvažovať a spoznať ohrozenia slobody.

• **Na Slovensku** pôsobí v súčasnosti podľa informácií výkonného viceprezidenta Taliansko-slovenskej obchodnej komory (TSOK) Micheleho Bolognu približne 450 talianskych firiem. Talianske podnikateľské záujmy sa podľa neho na Slovensku sústreďujú do viacerých sektorov, najmä do energetiky a bankovníctva, ktoré sú doménou predovšetkým veľkých talianskych spoločností. V posledných rokoch má podľa Bolognu na Slovensku medzi talianskymi podnikateľmi veľmi silnú pozíciu strojárstvo. Konštatoval, že investície slovenských podnikateľov v Taliansku sú „úplne na začiatku“. „Pár slovenských firiem sa ešte v čase pred krízou v Taliansku začalo zaujímať najmä o hotelierstvo a cestovný ruch,“ dodal.

• **Spolkový** úrad práce predpokladá, že od budúceho roka sa bude v Nemecku ročne zvyšovať počet pracovníkov z východnej Európy o viac ako 100,000. Bude to dôsledok toho, že v máji 2011 sa skončí platnosť obmedzenia prístupu na pracovný trh týkajúceho sa nových členských krajín Európskej únie (EÚ). Podľa člena predstavenstva Spolkového úradu práce Heinricha Alta „bude ročne hľadať v Nemecku dočasnú alebo trvalú prácu 100,000 až 140,000 zamestnancov z týchto krajín“. Zamestnanci z nových členských krajín únie môžu od mája 2011 v Nemecku pracovať bez obmedzení. Konkurencia sa zvýši predovšetkým v zamestnaniach, ktorých vykonávanie nevyžaduje žiadnu kvalifikáciu alebo len výučný list, myslí si Alt. Naopak, nebude to mať príliš veľký vplyv v oblasti kvalifikovanej pracovnej sily.

• **Dielo** kráľa pop-artu Andyho Warhola La Grande Passion, ktoré bolo najväčším ťahákom aukcie, vydražili v utorok 16. novembra len za vyvolávaciu cenu. O obraz zabojovala vášnivá zberateľka zo Slovenska a kúpila ho za 8,000 eur. Deň po aukcii sa ozvali dvaja vážni záujemcovia o Warholov obraz a súčasnej majiteľke ponúkali za dielo o niekoľko tisíc eur viac, tá ho však už predat nechcela. Počas utorňajšej aukcie bolo vydražených 25 diel z 92 položiek za 73,650 eur.

• **Viac** ako tri pätiny Slovákov sú presvedčené, že hospodárska situácia na Slovensku sa za posledných 12 mesiacov zhoršila. Opak si myslí necelá desatina obyvateľov. Podľa 27 % spotrebiteľov sa situácia nezmenila. Vyplýva to zo Spotrebiteľského barometra, ktorý pravidelne vypracováva Štatistický úrad (ŠÚ) SR. Negatívne zostávajú aj vyhladky spotrebiteľov na ďalší vývoj ekonomickej situácie v krajine. Pozitívne očakávania na obdobie nasledujúcich 12 mesiacov má 11 % opýtaných a so zhoršením počíta 62 % z nich. Žiadnu výraznejšiu zmenu nepredpokladá 22 %. Menej optimizmu štatistici zaznamenali aj v oblasti vývoja situácie v jednotlivých domácnostiach. V porovnaní so situáciou pred 12 mesiacmi sa situácia podľa výpovedí respondentov zhoršila v 40 % a zlepšila v 17 % domácností. Nezmenená zostala v 42 % domácností.

• **U. S. Steel** Košice 24. novembra oslávil 10. výročie podnikania na Slovensku. Presne v tento deň pred desiatimi rokmi bola v Košiciach založená prvá európska prevádzka spoločnosti United States Steel. Po desiatich rokoch sa spoločnosti končia daňové prázdniny. V médiách sa objavili nepotvrdené špekulácie, že by to mohlo znamenať znižovanie počtu zamestnancov, či dokonca predaj a odchod americkej firmy zo Slovenska. „Daňové prázdniny pre nás fakticky skončili už pred dvoma rokmi. Pre nás je to už história. Počas celých desiatich rokov spoločnosť dokázala a to aj v čase krízy a stále dokazuje, že sa správala zodpovedne a aj v budúcnosti sa bude správať zodpovedne,“ reagoval na to hovorca spoločnosti Ján Bača.

• **Symbolicky** z Malého Ríma na Slovensku do Ríma v Taliansku poputuje prvý výtlačok nových Dejín Trnavy. Primátor Štefan Bošňák doň napísal venovanie kardinálovi Jozefovi Tomkovi. Knihu mu venuje mesto ako poďakovanie za dlhodobú podporu a priazeň. Ostatné výtlačky prvého zväzku Dejín Trnavy sa potom dostanú do knihkupectiev na vianočný trh. Na reedícii spolupracovalo spolu pätnásť autorov, náklad je 2,800 kusov. Kniha zachytáva obdobie od najstarších dejín mesta až po rok 1945, v kapitolách architektúra, literatúra, hudba a divadlo presahujú až do súčasnosti. Zostavovateľom pôvodného vydania Dejín Trnavy v roku 1988 i v roku 2010 bol historik Jozef Šimončíč, zodpovedným redaktorom bol Ján Roháč v spolupráci s hovorcem mesta Pavlom Tomašovičom. Ten povedal, že prvý zväzok má vyše 600 strán, plnofarebnú tlač a jeho hmotnosť je okolo 2,5 kilogramu. Slávnostné uvedenie Dejín Trnavy bolo 2. decembra v zrkadlovej sále Divadla Jána Palárika.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Láska Božia, nádej naša ...

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

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

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

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

Anna Trojčáková

Ľudia na celom Slovensku si volili starostov, primátorov a zastupiteľstvá

Bratislava (TASR) - V takmer 3,000 obciach a mestách si v sobotu 27. novembra obyvatelia volili nových starostov prípadne primátorov, ako aj poslancov obecných či mestských zastupiteľstiev. Brány na volebných miestnostiach sa otvorili o 7.00 h. Voliči svoj hlas mohli v tomto prípade odovzdať kratšie ako v parlamentných či prezidentských voľbách, a to do 20.00 h. Za poslancu alebo starostu a primátora boli zvolení tí z kandidátov, ktorí získali najväčší počet hlasov.

Najväčšie mestá ovládol Smer-SD, pravica prišla o Bratislavu aj Košice

Dve najväčšie mestá na Slovensku budú po novom spravovať primátori, za ktorými nestáli pravicové subjekty, ale strana Smer-SD. Do čela Bratislavy sa po 20 rokoch postaví ľavicový kandidát. Milan Ftáčnik kandidoval ako nezávislý s podporou Smeru-SD.

Pravica prišla aj o Košice. Súčasného primátora Františka Knapíka nahradí poslanec Smeru-SD a exminister zdravotníctva Richard Raši, ktorého podporoval aj Most-Híd. Pravicové subjekty sa musia rozlúčiť aj s primátorským postom v Žiline. Ivana Harmana strieda poslanec Smeru-SD Igor Choma.

Stredopravé strany si udržali primátora v Trnave (novým sa stal Vladimír Butko, KDĽ) a aj v Nitre. Za tamojším prvým mužom mesta Jozefom Dvončom však podobne ako pred štyrmi rokmi stála širšia koalícia Smer-SD, KDĽ, SNS a Strana zelených.

Primátormi krajských miest sa stali aj dvaja nezávislí kandidáti. Richardovi Rybníčkovi v Trenčine vyjadril krátko pred voľbami podporu Smer-SD. Okrem Dvonča si obhájil svoju pozíciu aj primátor Prešova Pavol Hagyar (nezávislý).

Obce mali vyššiu účasť ako mestá, v kraji boli podozrenia z kupovania hlasov

Vyššia účasť na dedinách a v malých mestách a podpriemerná v okresných sídlach a krajskom meste charakterizovali komunálne voľby v Banskobystrickom samosprávnom kraji (BBSK). Limitujúcim faktorom bolo vo viacerých oblastiach počasie. V súvislosti s neférovými volebnými praktikami dostala polícia aj niekoľko podnetov. Podnety sa týkali najmä možného kupovania hlasov a ohovárania súperiacich kandidátov na propagačných materiáloch v blízkosti volebných miestností. Podozrenia z kupovania hlasov sa objavili vo Zvolene a Krupine, a Hucine a Radnovciach v okrese Rimavská Sobota. Všetky podnety preveruje polícia. Policajti v Žiari nad Hronom preverovali podozrenie zo zväzania ľudí k voľbám. V Sliači riešila polícia podnet jedného z kandidátov na primátora na vylietanie plagátov, podporujúcich iného kandidáta.

Kým v mestách bol podpriemerný záujem o voľby, v dedinách volila väčšina obyvateľov. Napríklad v obci Detviarska Huta neodradilo obyvateľov ani husté sneženie a 20-centimetrová snehová prikrývka a už v tesne popoludní mala za sebou voľby polovica občanov s právom voliť. Občania, najmä na dedinách často využívali aj právo zavolať si členov komisie s hlasovacou urnou. Dôvodom pre účasť na voľbách u väčšiny voličov, bola najmä nespokojnosť so súčasným vedením samospráv a zlepšenie života v meste či obci.

The late Master Jozef Pekar is shown working on his miniature Slovak Bethlehem in this archival photo from 2000. Now housed in the church in Rajceka Lesna, the Slovak Bethlehem is the largest of its kind in Slovakia.



Foto TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

26. novembra 1995 - V Rajeckej Lesnej bol sprístupnený Slovenský betlehem - unikátne rezbárske dielo Jozefa Pekaru. Na archívnej snímke z 28. novembra 2000 majster Jozef Pekara nastavuje pohyblivé figurky betlehema. Od vysvätenia tohto slovenského unikátu, ktorý je umiestnený v kostole v Rajeckej Lesnej, ho videlo desaťtisíce návštevníkov od nás aj zo zahraničia.

Vianoce

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

nášho srdca, ktorú tak dobre poznáme.

Vianoce sú aj hlasom domova, blízkej rodiny, vianočný stromček a na vrcholci hviezda. V domoch cítiť vôňu sosny, upečených koláčov a vareného vína so škoricou.

Spomínam si na dávne Vianoce a na Štedrý deň v kysuckých chalupách na Slovensku. Deň sa zdal krajším než iné. Ženy sa chválili jedna pred druhou čo budú piecť a aký slávnostný obed pripravia na Božie narodeniny. V dedine bol zvýšený pohyb. Ľudia chodili usmíati v očakávaní radostného večera. Vrzgot snehu pod nohami doprevádzal ich svižné kroky. Niekoľko hodín pred Štedrou večerou ženy ešte bežali do obchodu na ostatné nákupy a chlapi sa ponáhľali do krčmy pre víno a pálenku na zohriatie.

Keď sa zotmievalo, stôl bol prestretý. Celá rodina bola sviatočne oblečená a v starom poriadku sa posadila za vianočný stôl. Otec rodiny vyholený predriekol modlitbu tlmným hlasom a rozdal oblátky s mädom, čo sa primalo v kostolnom tichu. Potom sa začali sviečky na stromčeku a začala večera: hubová alebo hrachová polievka, makové opekance, parené buchty, pečivo, prípitky, varené slivky, luskanie orechov, jablká a rozdávanie darčiekov. Po večeri vo vykúrenej izbe zavládlo lahodné teplo. Jazyky sa rozviazali a všetky novoty, či z domu, dediny alebo zo sveta zmiešali sa vo víre zhovorčivosti. O jedenástej vyzváňali na polnočnú ...

Vianoce budeme oslavovať aj v našej adoptovanej vlasti – v Amerike. Oslavovať budú nielen rodiny po slovenských strediskách, ale aj pri slovenských farnostiach. Tak je tomu každý rok. Pri Štedrej večeri (Vigília) sa postretajú nielen farníci, priatelia osady, známi, neznámi, ale i tí, ktorí žijú osamote. Stoly budú prestreté a na nich tradičné slovenské jedlá. Bude ozdobený stromček a odznejú krásne vianočné piesne. Takto si dokúzlime náš rodný kraj a jeho spôsoby. Zavládne priateľská vzájomnosť ako širšia rodina kde si môžeme uplatniť naše teplo a prajnosť dľa Božieho príkazu.

Radostné a požehnané vianočné sviatky želáme Slovákom po celom svete. Nech údiv Vianoc prinesie všetkým trvalé šťastie, pevné zdravie a lásku v rodine a nech udrží Vianoce v ich srdciach po celý rok 2011.

Rudo L. Greguš



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furdík
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 119

STREDA, 8. DECEMBRA, 2010

Číslo 5833

Vianoce 2010



Jasličky v Primaciálnom paláci v Bratislave.

Nativity scene in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava.

FOTO:
TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Plesá svet

*Plesá svet, že ten čas už dožil, ktorý Boh svetu bol uložil,
by jeho Syn jednorodný pre hriechy ľud bol zrodený.
Z Ducha počal sa svätého, zo života panenského
narodil sa dňa dnešného.*

*Anjelov zástupy premnohé: aké to zjavy na oblohe.
Bohu slávu tam prespevujú a pokoj ľudom hlásajú.
I pastierom naložili, do Betléma by náhlili,
Spasiteľa uvideli.*

*Pastieri ovečky nechajú, do mesta rýchlo pospechajú.
V jasliach našli Božie Dieťaťko, premilé to Nemlumnítko.
Hlboko sa mu klaňali a dary mu venovali, piesňami ho
privítali.*

*I my dnes tebe sa klaniame a v dar ti srdcia oddávame.
Pri tejto dnes veľkej slávnosti prosíme ťa z pobožnosti:
nechže tvoje narodenie posluží nám na spasenie
a na večné oslávenie.*

Nábožný Kresťan, 1921

Vianoce a ich okruh slávenia

Narodenie Ježiša Krista – sviatky jeho vtelenia, sviatky vykúpenia, pokoja a lásky - Vianoce 24. - 25. decembra oslávia na celom svete dve miliardy kresťanov. Presný dátum narodenia Pána asi pred 2000 rokmi známy nie je. Slávenie 25. decembra ako narodenie Ježiša je doložené po prvý raz z roku 336 v Ríme. Na základe odlišných tradícií slávia kresťania rôznych cirkví Vianoce v rôznych termínoch. Katolíci, protestanti a časť pravoslávnych veriacich oslavuje vianočné sviatky podľa juliánskeho kalendára 7. januára.

Narodenie Pána - VIANOCE (25. december)

Slávnosť Narodenia Pána je popri Veľkej noci a Turicích najväčším cirkevným sviatkom. Spočiatku narodenie Pána nemalo svoj osobitný sviatok a od polovice 3. storočia pripomínalo sa na Východe spolu s inými „zjaveniami Pána“. Sviatok sa slávil 6. januára. Na Západe sa však v polovici 4. storočia začína objavovať osobitná spomienka Božieho narodenia (prvý záznam je z Ríma z r. 336). Sviatok sa slávil 25. decembra. Keďže 25. marca sa všeobecne slávil sviatok Zvestovania Pána, keď archaniel Gabriel zvestoval Márii, že bude Kristovou matkou, tak o 9 mesiacov (čo je čas vývinu dieťaťa v tele matky) podľa tohto datovania je symbolický deň narodenia Pána práve 25. december. Ďalšou hypotézou je dejinno – náboženská hypotéza, ktorá hovorí o christianizácii a novej kresťanskej interpretácii rímskeho sviatku narodenia Slnka. Kresťania tento pohanský sviatok Natalis Solis invicti použili a nanovo ho interpretovali v kresťanskom duchu. Rímski kresťania tento štátny sviatok Slnka začali sláviť ako vlastný sviatok narodenia Krista – ako Slnka na základe biblických citátov. Napr. Kristus ako Slnko spravodlivosti – Soliustitiae, Kristus – Svetlo sveta. Tento dátum bol všeobecne prijatý a veľmi rýchlo sa ujal. Sv. Ján Zlatoústý (347 - 407) vo svojej kázni prednesenej v r. 386 v Antiochii argumentuje, že rozhodnutie sláviť Božie narodenie 25. decembra je správne a bolo potvrdené rýchlym prijatím tohto sviatku v celom kresťanskom svete od Trácie po Cádiz.

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Vianoce

Radostné a požehnané vianočné sviatky želáme Slovákom po celom svete. Nech údiv Vianoc prinesie všetkým trvalé šťastie, pevné zdravie a lásku v rodine a nech udrží Vianoce v ich srdciach po celý rok 2011.

Viem, že nie som sám keď poviem, že je dôležité pre človeka spomaliť tempo denného života a oceniť si vianočné obdobie. Každý rok si želim mať radosť a pokoj cez Vianoce, aby Advent bol časom duchovnej obnovy a príprav na príchod Spasiteľa. Veď po toľkých živelných pohromách a zmenách vo svete sme unavení. Žiada sa odhodíť bremeno starosti a začať nový život. Ale vidíme, že dnešný svet si žiada zhon za darčekom, písanie karát, účasť na veselých spoločenských partiách, vianočné ozdobenie a iné starosti. Pri takejto činnosti ľudia zabudnú, čo je Advent a Vianoce.

Vianoce, to je ako žiarivé svetlo v studenej zimnej noci. Svet sa raduje, šťastné chvíle nastávajú, najkrajší čas v celom roku. Hviezdy na nebi pozerajú dolu na požehnanú krajinu, údolia a chodníčky. Kostolné zvony vyzváňajú a ohlasujú narodeniny malého Jezuliatka. Vianoce sú povzbudením nádeje, že sa nám narodil Spasiteľ – Božie Dieťa. Radujme sa tejto jedinej istote v našom živote. Prosme Novonarodeného, aby nám pomohol tu na zemi správne žiť, tešiť sa z Jeho darov a mať nezlomnú vieru, nádej a lásku, zbrane ktoré žiadna atomová zbraň nepremôže.

Radosť a krása Vianoc nemá páru. Lesy sú pokryté snehom, na domoch vidieť biele okenné tabule, dym sa kučeravo vlní z komínov a zo šedejve oblohy padajú na zem tancujúce snehové vločky.

Život, je ako unavená diaľnica. Roky sa zaraďujú do kartotéky, ale hlboko v nás zostáva niečo detského. Spev vianočných kolied prerušuje tichú noc a občas počuť cengot zvončekov na prechádzajúcich saniach. V tienistom kozube plápolá ohník a jeho žeravé uhličky pridávajú ku čaru večera. Pohľad na vianočnú sviečku naplňuje nás láskou a v srdci sa nám ozve Boh a zariadi si tam Betlehem. Dá nám tepla i svetla a odozenie bóle. Pokoj duše ako sladká harmónia dodá nám životnej radosti. Myšlienky nás zavedú do minulosti a dávne radosti nám zostávajú. To je kapitola

Pokračovanie na str. 23



Rudo L. Greguš

Kondolencia prezidenta Slovenskej republiky k úmrtiu Jána J. Karcha

Bratislava 29. októbra 2010

Vážená pani redaktorka,

s hlbokým zármutkom som sa z Vášho časopisu dozvedel o úmrtí pána Jána J. Karcha, Slovensku blízkeho človeka, významného krajanu, vojnového veterána a diplomata, ktorý nikdy nezabúdal na svoje slovenské korene a až do svojej smrti mal k svojej rodnej krajine vrúcny vzťah. Vyjadrenie mojej sústrasti som zaslal aj manželke Jána J. Karcha pani Lorette R. Karch.

Chcem znovu potvrdiť, že na Slovensku si vysoko vážime aktívny a plodný život i prácu Jána J. Karcha, nositeľa slovenského Radu Bieleho dvojkríža II. triedy. Vážime si jeho aktivizáciu krajanového hnutia, ktorá sa prejavila v reálnej, najmä politickej pomoci Slovensku i v procese prijímania Slovenskej republiky do Severoatlantickej aliancie. Poznali sme ho ako neúnavného organizátora najrôznejších aktivít v prospech slovenskej krajanovej komunity i slovensko-amerických vzťahov, ako aj dlhoročného prispievateľa do Vášho časopisu. Nezabudneme, čo Ján J. Karch urobil pre zachovanie slovenskej identity krajanov a pre šírenie dobrého mena Slovenska v Spojených štátoch amerických.

Čeť jeho pamiatke!

S pozdravom

Ivan Gašparovič
Prezident SR

Vážená pani

Teresa Ivanec

editorka

JEDNOTA, The First Catholic Slovak Union
Independence, Ohio