



# 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

Volumne 118

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

NUMBER 5810

## PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Last night I was watching Monday Night Football and thinking about my Christmas Message. A lot of ideas came to mind. I could talk about our Society's excellent third quarter financial results or about any number of other business related issues. However, I decided to do that in more depth in a January 2010 issue because I have talked about those things frequently this past year.

While the game was getting lopsided I switched over to the "old movie channel". The movie was "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" starring Humphrey Bogart and Academy Award winner Walter Huston. I was glued to the TV set. It was a tale of hard work, greed, avarice and murder with a spiritual message.

This 1948 movie, set in the arid mountains of Mexico, told the story of an old gold miner (Huston) and his two younger companions. They all start out with almost nothing (including Bogart) but in ten months of mining they accumulate a fortune in gold dust which they split

*continued on page 5*



Andrew M. Rajec



*Dear Friends,*

The annual ritual of shopping for Christmas gifts is underway. Stores and web sites have customers searching for the special gift to be given to that special someone. Unfortunately, sometimes the one who receives the gift finds something wrong with it. It isn't the right size or color. It is something a person already has. It isn't what was wanted or needed.

Soon we will be celebrating the Solemnity of Christmas. In preparing for this most joyous occasion, it is good for us to think of the countless gifts God gives us through the birth of the Word become flesh.

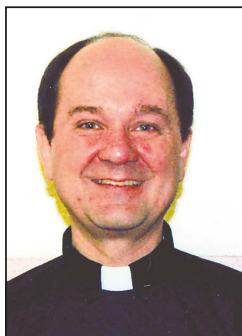
The angels announced one of these gifts when they proclaimed to the shepherds, "On earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests." God's gift of peace is his grace, his abiding presence, which is meant to draw us to a special relationship with him.

The Law of God written in our hearts is another gift. It is a law that tells us to always do what is good and avoid what is evil. Jesus revealed himself as the fulfillment of that Law and He tells us no one comes to the Father except through him.

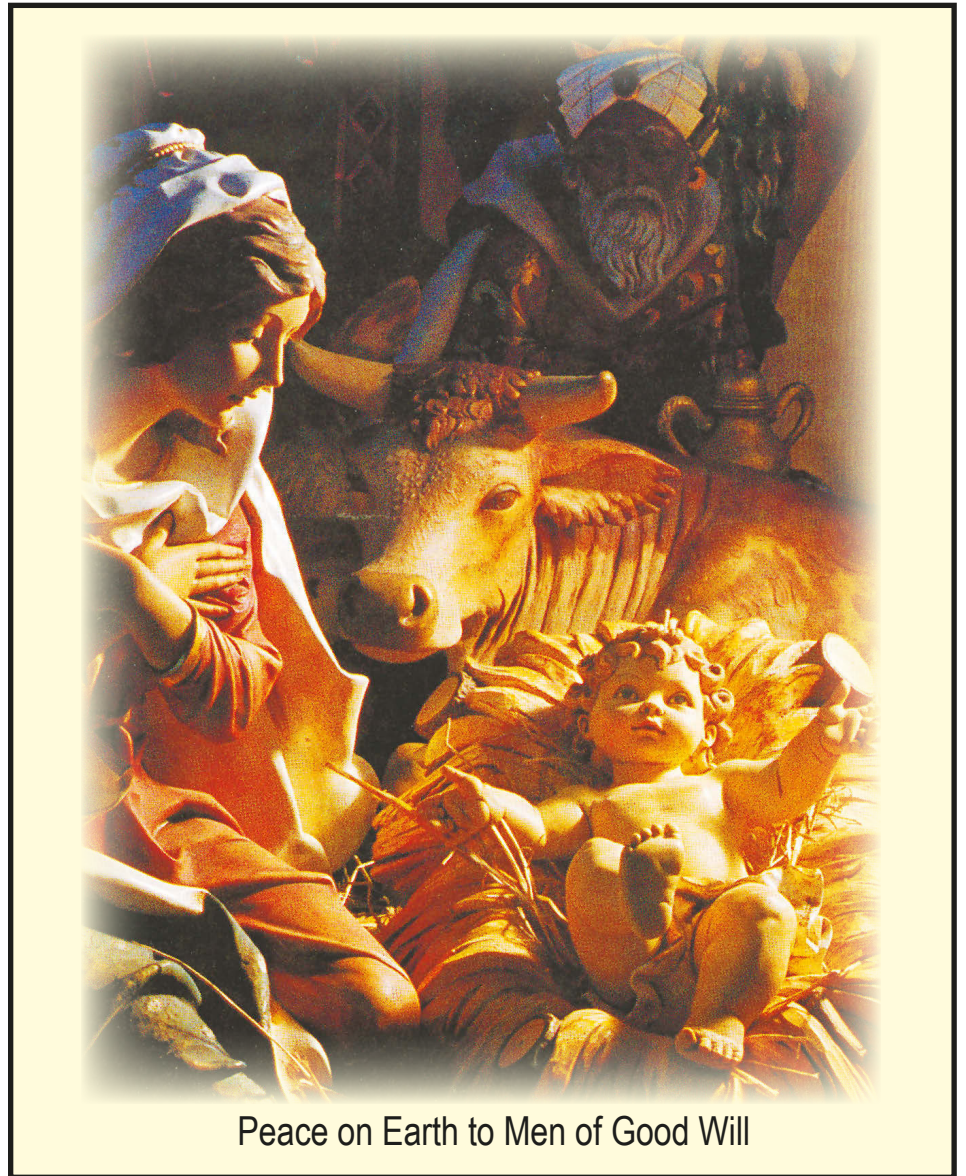
If and when we choose to disregard his Law and commit sin, we can turn back to God and, with true sorrow for what we did or failed to do, receive another special gift that comes to us through Jesus, divine mercy and forgiveness.

Joseph was told in a dream that Mary's

*continued on page 4*



Rev. Thomas Nasta



Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will

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

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2009 at 9:30 A.M. (telephonically).

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 18, 2009.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to December 11, 2009.

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

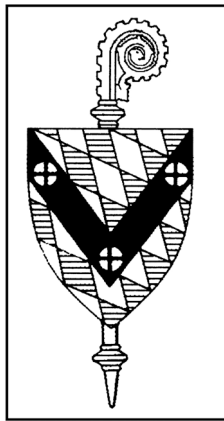
Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

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# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Campion P. Gavaler; Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B.

**December 20, 2009**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Luke 1:26-38**

### Gospel Summary

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

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

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

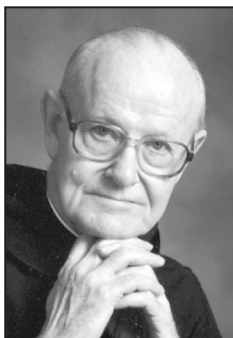
It is easy to ignore the mystery of God until the very end of life. It is also easy to live in fear of that mystery. However, human life will never be really successful until we learn to embrace God's mystery with trust and confidence. Mary shows us how to do that and what wonderful results will follow.

### Life Implications

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

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

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



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

**December 25, 2009**  
**Christmas Luke 2:1-14**

### Gospel Summary

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

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

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

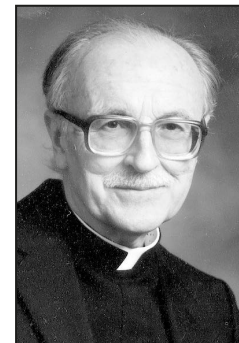
The meaning of Luke's Christmas story is completed by the prologue of John's gospel, the passage for Mass during the day (Jn 1:1-18). Christ is born of Mary so that he might be born and live in us. Those who accept the Word-become-flesh through faith become children of God, not by natural generation,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

### Life Implications

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

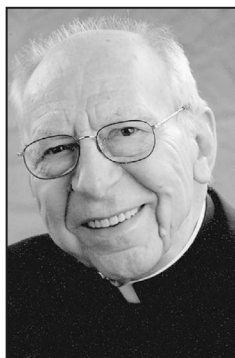
One of the surprises of God's self-giving to us is that it seems to be so ordinary, and thus can easily be overlooked. The Word that is God's self-giving to us was to be found not in a royal palace, but in a manger as a helpless baby in need of a mother's love. Today at our Christ-Mass the Risen Lord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

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



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

## Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



**Msgr. Edward V. Rosack**

### James 3

James had no real respect for the rich of his day, "As for you, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted, your fine wardrobe has grown moth eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion shall be testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. See what you have stored up for yourselves against the last days. Here, crying aloud, are the wages you have withheld from the farm-lands, who harvested your fields. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You lived in wanton luxury on the earth: you fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. You condemned, even killed the just man; he does not resist you." (James 5:1-6)

For these oppressed by the rich, James counsels, "Be patient, therefore, my brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil. He looks forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and the spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:7-8)

He continues, "Above all else, my brothers, you must not swear an oath, any oath at all either 'by heaven' or 'by earth.' Rather, let it be 'yes' if you mean yes and 'no' if you mean no. In this way you will not incur condemnation." (James 5:12) See Matthew 5:34-37 for Jesus' own words on this very subject.

James writes next of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (The Council of Trent 1545-1563, Session 14, declared the Anointing of the Sick to be a sacrament "instituted by Christ our Lord and promulgated by blessed James the Apostle.")

*continued on page 4*

# JEDNOTA

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## Christmas Greetings from the Vice President

On Christmas Day we will celebrate the coming of the Son of God to the human race.

With his birth he brought new faith and hope to the world for a better future. A hope that could really come true if we have faith, love, patience and participate in the sacraments.

Wherever 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 towards Men."

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

On behalf of my family and myself, I will pray that the light of Christ never ceases to brighten your hearts and your homes. May the peace of Christ and his holy love be with you and your loved ones this Christmas Day.



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.  
National Vice President

## Christmas Greetings from the National Treasurer George F. Matta

At this time, the joyous and most holiest time of the year we join together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We take time to reminisce of the night when the Baby Jesus was born, when the Angels came down from the Heavens to celebrate with the Shepherds of Bethlehem.

During the Christmas holidays, I think back to the days of my youth. With all the Christmas decorations and the joy and happiness from the shopping crowds. And it wasn't, Happy Holidays, but Merry Christmas.

And Christmas Eve was also very special, with the celebrating of our Christmas Eve dinner (Stedry Vecer) and the Midnight Mass, which were always crowded. It sure would be nice to see those days when the churches were crowded. We still carry on the tradition of Stedry Vecer, our entire family enjoys it and we look forward to carrying on that tradition.

Also, as we always do, we thank our Almighty Lord for the blessings he has bestowed upon us and may he continue to shower his blessings on us all, watch over our loved ones in the Armed Forces, protect them, bring them home safely and end this terrible war and bring peace to the world.

During this Christmas Season, my wife Florence and I and the entire Matta Family extend to all of you and your families a Merry and Joyous Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Veselé Vianočné Sviatky a Šťastlivý Nový Rok



George F. Matta

## A Holiday Message from the National Secretary

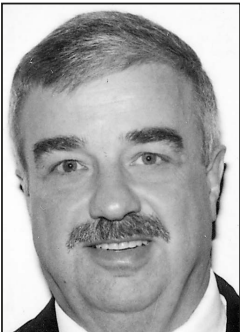
Our homes and trees are decorated. We have waited endlessly in line to pay for that special present. The baking is done. Christmas cards are in the mail. We are eagerly awaiting the biggest holiday of the year.

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary



Kenneth A. Arendt



## Coming Events

### December 13

-A special meeting of the George Onda District at 12:00 noon at the home of District Vice President George Sprock.

### December 15

-A Meeting and Christmas party of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, at 6:00 p.m. at Marino's Restaurant, Mahoning Avenue, Austintown, Ohio. Prince Pribina District's Annual Meeting at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by Christmas party and meeting

### January 3

-A special Meeting of the Msgr. Joseph Tiso District at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania.

### January 10

-A Meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District at 2:00 p.m. at the FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio.

## "PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective August 1, 2009, FCSU Life is offering the "Park Free Plus" Annuity...

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 **4.1%** 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:**

**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 \$100,000.00. 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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](http://www.fcsu.com) - E-mail: [FCSU@aol.com](mailto:FCSU@aol.com)

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# Insights and Viewpoints

## Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

"Is there anyone sick among you? He should ask the presbyters of the church. They in turn are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name (of the Lord). This prayer uttered in faith will reclaim the one who is ill, and the Lord will restore him to health. If he has committed any sins, forgiveness will be his. Hence, declare your sins to one another that you may find healing...Remember this, the person who brings a sinner back from his way will save his (the sinner's) soul from death and cancel a multitude of sins." (James 5:14-16 and 20)

Oil as a therapeutic agent is found in the Old Testament as in rabbinic literature and among the Greeks. In Mark 6:13, we read, "They (the Twelve) expelled many demons, anointed the sick with oil, and worked many cures." Mark 2 speaks of the paralytic at Capernaum and the intervention of Our Lord Jesus in this case. Note that there are two effects of the intervention of the Lord: "My son, your sins are forgiven," (verse 5) and "Stand up! Pick up your mat and go home." (verse 11) That is, forgiveness of sins and physical healing. In this Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, "...the Lord will restore him to health" and "forgiveness will be his."

The healing in this sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is independent of medical treatment.

By this sacrament, remember that we do not eliminate or rule out the role of the physician in our daily lives. See Sirach 38:1-8 and 12-15.

"Hold the physician in honor, for he is essential to you, and God it was who established his profession. From God the doctor has his wisdom, and the king provides for his sustenance. His knowledge makes the doctor distinguished, and gives him access to those in authority. God makes the earth yield healing herbs which the prudent man should not neglect; was not the water sweetened by a twig that men might learn his power? He endows men with the knowledge to glory in his mighty works, through which the doctor eases pain and the druggist prepares his medicines; thus God's creative work continues without cease in its efficacy on the surface of the earth... Then give the doctor his place lest he leave; for you need him too. There are times that give him an advantage and he too beseeches God that his diagnosis may be correct and his treatment bring about a cure. He who is a sinner toward his Maker will be defiant toward the doctor."



## 49TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

**THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL  
24 PUBLIC SQUARE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113  
PHONE: 216-696-5600; FAX: 216-696-0432**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010 through WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010**

By direction of the Executive Committee and with the approval of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at

**THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 24 PUBLIC SQUARE, CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113.**

All National Officers, Regional Directors, District Officers, Branch Officers, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union are notified herewith that the Convention dates are: **Saturday, August 14, 2010 – Wednesday, August 18, 2010** so they may schedule their 2010 calendars accordingly.

All Officers and Members are directed to review Section 11.03 through Section 11.08 of our By-Laws to determine delegate eligibility and duties and Section 11.09 through 11.12 for the Convention business. Election of delegates to our 49th International Convention must be completed by May 17, 2010, ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention (see Section 11.03c). However, to assure guaranteed hotel registration and room assignments, it is requested that all delegates to the 49th International Convention be elected as early as the annual meetings of the districts and branches in December 2009, or by **January 31, 2010** at the latest. **The final delegate count** shall be based on members as of February 1, 2010 (see Section 11.04c). Appointments to the various convention committees will begin as soon as delegate credentials are received and certified at our Home Office at 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131.

The National Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union are looking forward to a cost effective and productive 49th International Convention. All potential delegates to this 49th International Convention are requested to study our existing By-Laws, ask questions of the National Officers and Members of the Board of Directors, and review the programs and financial statements (see our website (www.fcsu.com) for the Financial Statements for 2006, 2007 & 2008). Proposed By-Law change forms will be sent out to the Branches and Districts in September 2009 and are due back by January 31, 2010.

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
National Secretary

## Publication Schedule for 2010

Issue Date	Deadline
January 6	December 28
January 20	January 11
February 3	January 25
February 17	February 8
March 3	February 22
March 17	March 8
March 31	March 22
April 28	April 19
May 12	May 3
May 26	May 17
June 9	May 28
July 7	June 28
August 4	July 26
September 1	August 23
September 15	September 3
September 29	September 20
October 13	October 4
October 27	October 18
November 10	November 1
November 24	November 15
December 8	November 29



## Message from Nasta

*continued from page 1*

son will be known as Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When we are troubled and all seems lost, it is Jesus, Emmanuel, who brings us the gift of hope, the assurance that we will never be abandoned.

Jesus came into the world so that all who believe in him may have eternal life. Celebrating Christmas is celebrating the gift of salvation God gives to the world

Whether we open several gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or just one gift, remember the gifts that God gives us, gifts God knows we need and cannot do without, gifts given for us to have and to share, gifts that last forever.

Merry Christmas.  
Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

## 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 6	MONDAY, DEC 28
WEDNESDAY, JAN 20	MONDAY, JAN 11
WEDNESDAY, FEB 3	MONDAY, JAN 25

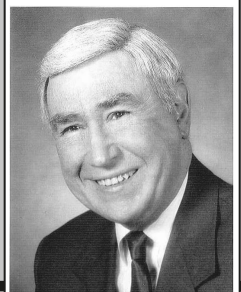
Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the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

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# MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

*By Joseph T. Senko*

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



## Avoid Magazine Subscription Scams

If a deal sounds too good to be true, it almost certainly is. And that's the case with many magazine subscription offers that you may receive over the phone or from someone selling door-to-door.

### Is It Really Free?

Some scam artists will try to get you to accept a "free" subscription offer or one that has been "prepaid." Unfortunately, they will typically ask you to pay a hefty processing fee that may add up to more than the newsstand price of the publication. In the end, the deal is no bargain.

### What Will It Cost Me?

Many magazine subscription offers from telemarketers and others are completely legitimate. Though the offers are legal, they may not necessarily be the best deal for you financially. According to the Federal Trade Commission, there are a few ways to make sure that you are spending your money wisely when it comes to subscriptions. First, ask what the total cost will be. If the salesperson doesn't answer or changes the subject, that's a sign that the deal may be a scam. If the salesperson says that the subscription only costs "pennies a day," for example, insist on an answer regarding the full price you will pay. You may find that those "pennies" add up to far more than you imagined.

### What's the Length of the Subscription?

Some sales people may say that you are signing up for a subscription that lasts several years. Once you verify the total cost and how long the subscription lasts, if you do the math you may find that you will be paying significantly more per issue than if you bought the magazine on the newsstand or through the publisher. You won't know this, though, until you get all the details. Find out how often the publication will come, how you will be billed, and what your cancellation rights are. Ask for a written copy of the contract before you agree to subscribe, to ensure you have all the necessary information in writing.

### What Company Are You With?

If you are suspicious about any salespeople, get more information about them before agreeing to a deal. For examples, salespeople who are not affiliated with the publisher may charge you more than the publisher would, so be sure you know who you're dealing with. In addition, unscrupulous sellers may claim to be raising money for charity. Ask them for identification and for evidence that they are connected to the group they claim to represent. If you think that may not be legitimate, you can report them to your local Better Business Bureau or to the state attorney general's office. To find the Better Business Bureau near you, visit [www.bbb.org/](http://www.bbb.org/).

### Why Should I Renew Now?

Telemarketers call to urge you to renew a subscription at a special price. Before you agree, check the expiration date on your magazine to make sure it is actually coming soon. The caller may simply be trying to sell you a longer subscription well before it's time to renew.

### More Information

For more information on understanding consumer scams and how they work, visit the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office consumer page <http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/consumers.aspx>

## Slovak Vocabulary at Christmas

Vianoce-----	Christmas
Štedrý večer-----	Christmas Eve Dinner
Polnočná omša-----	Midnight Mass
Vianočný stromček-----	Christmas Tree
Vianočný darček-----	Christmas present
Páska-----	Christmas (white) bread with raisons
Božie narodenie-----	Christmas Day
Vianočný čas-----	Christmastime
Veselé Vianoce-----	Merry Christmas
Na Silvestra-----	New Year's Eve
Šťastný Nový Rok!-----	Happy New Year

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**ATTENTION:**

## BRANCH AND DISTRICT OFFICERS!!

It has been announced that the 49<sup>th</sup> Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel located at 24 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, from August 14, 2010 through August 18, 2010.

Please refer to Section 11.04, Branch Representation and District (Okres) Representation when you elect your delegates to the convention. Special attention should be paid to 11.04(e), which states: "Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next convention shall be published at least twice in the official organ prior to the date of the next branch or district meeting." Once the date for the meeting to elect delegates has been established, please send the notice to: Anthony Sutherland, Editor, Jednota Newspaper, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057, phone – (717) 944-0461; fax – (717) 944-3107.

When electing delegates, please refer to Bylaw Section 11.03, "Qualification of Delegates."

If you have any questions concerning the above, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you,  
**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Executive Secretary



## PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*continued from page 1*

evenly among themselves.

However, during the film there are growing signs of distrust and greed, especially on the part of Bogart. The vein of gold eventually runs out, but before they can leave the area they are attacked by bandits. Overcoming the bandits, they work their way out of the mountains and head back to the main town with their gold dust on the backs of several donkeys. However, a series of events forces the old miner to stay in a small village along the way to help a native child, while the two younger men travel on with all the gold, arguing and fighting with each other. Bogart eventually shoots the younger man and takes all the gold dust for himself.

The bandits again find Bogart and kill him. Not recognizing the gold dust as valuable, the bandits throw it on the ground and take only the miners' donkeys and fur pelts.

The young miner who Bogart shot survives and together with the old miner they retrace Bogart's steps and try to find him and their gold dust. Unfortunately, before they can find Bogart a huge dust storm comes up that scatters all the gold dust that the bandits had discarded into the four winds.

Surprisingly, the old miner with his years of wisdom laughs hilariously seeing the irony of the situation and the ultimate futility of pursuit of material wealth. The young miner joins in the laughter and looks to the future with new-found knowledge and hope. Hollywood sometimes can send a religious message in an entertaining manner.

Ironically, the old miner (Walter Huston) died at the age of 66, in 1950, two years after the movie was made.

Perhaps at this time of the year we should all look at our blessings as did the old miner and his young companion and share them with our loved ones and even strangers in need. Material goods are nice to have, but the love of family and friends is more important.

"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. I know we will continue doing this, showing love and respect for each other as we work for the future. "Make every family a Jednota family."

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok.

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

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

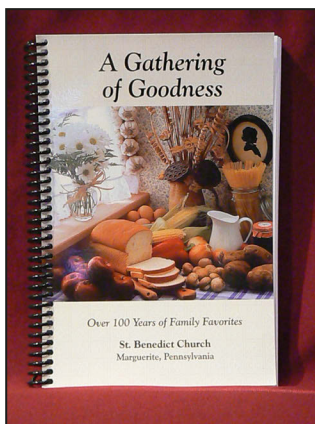
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day  
December 24 & 25, 2009

New Years Day  
January 1, 2010



## Book Corner

St. Benedict Church of Marguerite, PA is selling a parish cookbook featuring over 450 recipes. Included are recipes for appetizers, beverages, salads, soups, vegetables, main dishes, breads, desserts, canning and a special ethnic section with a description of the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner and the Blessed Easter Basket, along with numerous ethnic recipes. The cookbooks can be purchased for \$13.00, which includes shipping and handling within the U.S. Orders can be sent to St. Benedict Church, 260 Bruno Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Make checks payable to St. Benedict RAS. If you need additional information, please call Dolores Mehalic at 724-423-5813.



## Christmas Vilija Dinner in Youngstown

The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will be hosting their annual Christmas Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at the Father Snock Hall at St. Matthias Church, 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, Ohio. In addition to the traditional dinner, there will be singing of carols led by the St. Matthias Church Choir and a talk by Dr. Sherry Linkon about her Steel Valley ethnic community project. Another special guest will be His Excellency, George Murray, Bishop of Youngstown. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and may be purchased by sending a check to Frank Bator, 7007 Clingan Rd. Unit 111, Poland, OH 44514.



## Oplatky, etc.

The Christmas Season is fast approaching. Oplatky are available through Jankola Library. Other items, such as Slovak Christmas cards, books, tapes, and CD's may also be procured.

The oplatky, five per packet, for a donation of \$3.00, are thermo-sealed and securely packaged. Postage (all packages are sent by Priority Mail) is additional. Orders may be customized and packaged to meet specific needs.

For more information or to place an order, please contact Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M. or Sister M. Catherine Laboure, SS.C.M. at:

570-275-5606

Or write to:

Jankola Library  
Villa Sacred Heart  
Danville, PA 17821-1698

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- \*Ordinary Whole Life
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- \*Juvenile Life with Savings Plan
- \*Yearly Renewable Term
- \*10 Year Level Term
- \*20 Year Level Term
- \*Term to age 25
- \*Annuities

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

## O Fragile Baby!

O fragile Baby, sweet and warm  
Held by mother's loving arms-  
With a boundless and wondrous Love  
As chorus of angels sing above. Alleluia!

-Emmanuel- is born this Night". Alleluia!

O fragile Baby, asleep and warm  
Held now in Mary's loving arms-  
A bright STAR sheds its light  
Down on this holy, sacred night. Alleluia!

O fragile Baby, wrapped and warm  
Comes to us too, peaceful and calm-  
'We adore Thee with Mary and Joseph'

As angels, shepherds, wise men draw near. Alleluia!

O fragile Baby, opened eye and warm  
Now in the safety of Joseph's arms-  
Behold! he whispers, "Oh God Thy Son

**Francis X. Markley**

*FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT*

## First Catholic Slovak Union "Presidential Campaign" Insurance Incentives

For the 2010 convention we will have a year long presidential campaign. It will run from August 1, 2009 to the presidential banquet in August 2010.

### Special Convention Prizes Drawings of \$4,450.00 Cash

For every two (2) new insurance policies signed, the proposer would receive a certificate which would state that he/she has signed two (2) new insurance policies and the duplicate of this certificate would be held at the Home Office for a drawing at the completion of the Presidential Campaign. The drawing for \$4,450.00 in cash prizes will be held during the convention. Prize money will be paid when the insurance premium is paid. Five prizes will be awarded. First prize will be \$1,500.00 – Second prize will be \$1,200.00 – Third prize will be \$1,000.00 – Fourth prize will be \$500.00 and Fifth prize will be \$250.00.

Each proposer can sign as many members as possible, but will receive one (1) certificate for each two (2) new insurance policies signed. Example: Two (2) insurance policies, one (1) certificate. Four (4) insurance policies, two (2) certificates.

Term as well as reserve policies are eligible for these grand prizes.

Our insurance products are very competitive. Let's get everybody involved in sales during this "Presidential Campaign". Your Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the Membership and Marketing Committee wishes you the best of luck in your endeavor to secure new membership.

### First Catholic Slovak Union "Presidential Campaign" Annuity Incentives

For the 2010 convention, we will also have the same prizes for annuity procurements as we are having for new membership.

### Special Convention Prizes Drawings of \$4,450.00 Cash

For every \$10,000.00 in Annuity/IRA's brought in during the period August 1, 2009 to the August 2010 convention, the recommender will receive a certificate which will state that he/she brought in \$10,000.00. The duplicate of this certificate would be held at the Home Office for a drawing at the completion of the presidential campaign. The drawing for the \$4,450.00 in cash prizes will be held during the convention. Five prizes will be awarded. First prize will be \$1,500.00 – Second prize will be \$1,200.00 – Third prize will be \$1,000.00 – Fourth prize will be \$500.00 and Fifth prize will be \$250.00.

Each annuity proposer can bring in as much money as possible, but will receive one (1) certificate for each \$10,000.00 in Annuity/IRA's. Example: Bring in \$10,000.00 one (1) certificate, bring in \$20,000.00 two (2) certificates, and bring in \$30,000.00 three (3) certificates.

So take this opportunity to earn some great prizes and get people to invest in our Annuity/IRA's. Remember... our high paying Annuity/IRA rates are second to none.

Good Luck and God Bless!

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
Membership and Marketing Chairman**

# News From Slovakia

## International Christmas Bazaar Opens in Bratislava

"The World Under One Roof" is the slogan for Bratislava's traditional Christmas Bazaar, which was opened by Slovakia's First Lady Silvia Gasparovicova in the city's PKO Culture and Leisure Center on November 22.

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual event aims to bring various cultures closer to people in Slovakia while raise funds for charity.

"I believe that people will appreciate all kinds of culinary goodies this year too," said the wife of the Slovak president at the ceremonial opening of the event. She's hopeful that the funds raised will help improve the lives of youngsters living in children's homes, the sick and mentally challenged people all over Slovakia.

According to Zora Inka-Groholova from the International Women's Club, which organizes the bazaar, it's the largest joint event held by the diplomatic and international community living in Slovakia. A total of 38 countries are represented this year.

"At the Christmas Bazaar, every embassy in Slovakia has its own stall where it sells products, souvenirs and various delicacies and specialities from its country. It will give all the money that it raises to the International Women's Club, which will then use it for charity purposes exclusively in Slovakia," Groholova told TASR.

TASR

## Slovakia to Increase Troops in Afghanistan

Increasing the number of Slovak troops in Afghanistan, the state of Europe's economy and climate change were the main topics discussed by Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and his British counterpart Gordon Brown in London recently.

Brown stressed the importance of training Afghan troops in order to enable them to assume control over the country. Brown praised the fact that Slovakia will increase the number of its troops in Afghanistan (currently 250).

Fico said that the Slovak government sees an essential difference between the conflict in Iraq and the one in Afghanistan, so it is ready to increase the number of its troops in Afghanistan and change their mandate to enable them to operate in various parts of the country.

The Slovak premier thanked Britain for supporting Slovakia in its efforts to enter the EU and pointed to the symbolical date of the visit- November 17, the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution.

Fico stressed that there are no unresolved issues in relations between the two countries,



## Slovak Christmas Tree on Display in Chicago

During the holiday season, bring your family and friends to view the Slovak Christmas Tree on display at the Museum of Science & Industry's 'Around the World' exhibit in Chicago. The tree is decorated with imported ornament by members of the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District. The annual exhibit features trees from 55 countries, and is on display from November 20, 2009 through January 3, 2010. The museum is located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. For further information, call 773/684-1414, or visit [www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org).

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Slovak  
Tree Publicity Committee**



The Slovak Christmas Tree on display at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry

and that these good relations should be used to improve economic cooperation. Around 170,000 Slovaks are currently working in the United Kingdom, but Britain is only the fifth or sixth biggest investor in Slovakia.

TASR

## New Volkswagen Project to Create 1,500 Jobs

The New Small Family vehicle project was launched at Volkswagen's Bratislava facility on Monday, November 23 with the laying of the foundation stone in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Robert Fico.

New innovative small vehicles will be produced under the project. Production of the new Volkswagen model UP!, which is part of the New Small Family group, and the decision to locate production at the Bratislava facility was announced by the company's management in April. The estimated sum of the investment is €308 million.

The production capacity of the Bratislava facility should increase to 400,000 vehicles a year after the New Small Family line is launched.

According to chairman of the company board Andreas Tostmann, the production of the new small model will create 1,500 new jobs, while the construction of the new facilities will also provide work to approximately 1,800 people from many professions. In all, the new line of vehicles will mean work for 7,000 people not only directly in production but also among suppliers, with Slovakia enjoying a 50 percent share of this number of jobs.

Volkswagen's activities will significantly contribute to renewed economic growth in 2010 and 2011.

TASR

*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 2010 Scholarship Program.

Seventy (70) **ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS** in the amount of \$500.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a **ONE-TIME** "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional **ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS** of \$500.00 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 \$1,000 of reserve insurance (JEP Policy, 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 1<sup>st</sup>** of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$5,000 or more of term insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2006 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 ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term 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 our web site ([www.fcsu.com](http://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.**
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.**

Application forms can be obtained from a Branch Officer, the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA, or can be downloaded from the website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com).

Applications must be postmarked by **Midnight, February 28, 2010.**

All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

# *FCSU 2009 Christmas Coloring Contest*

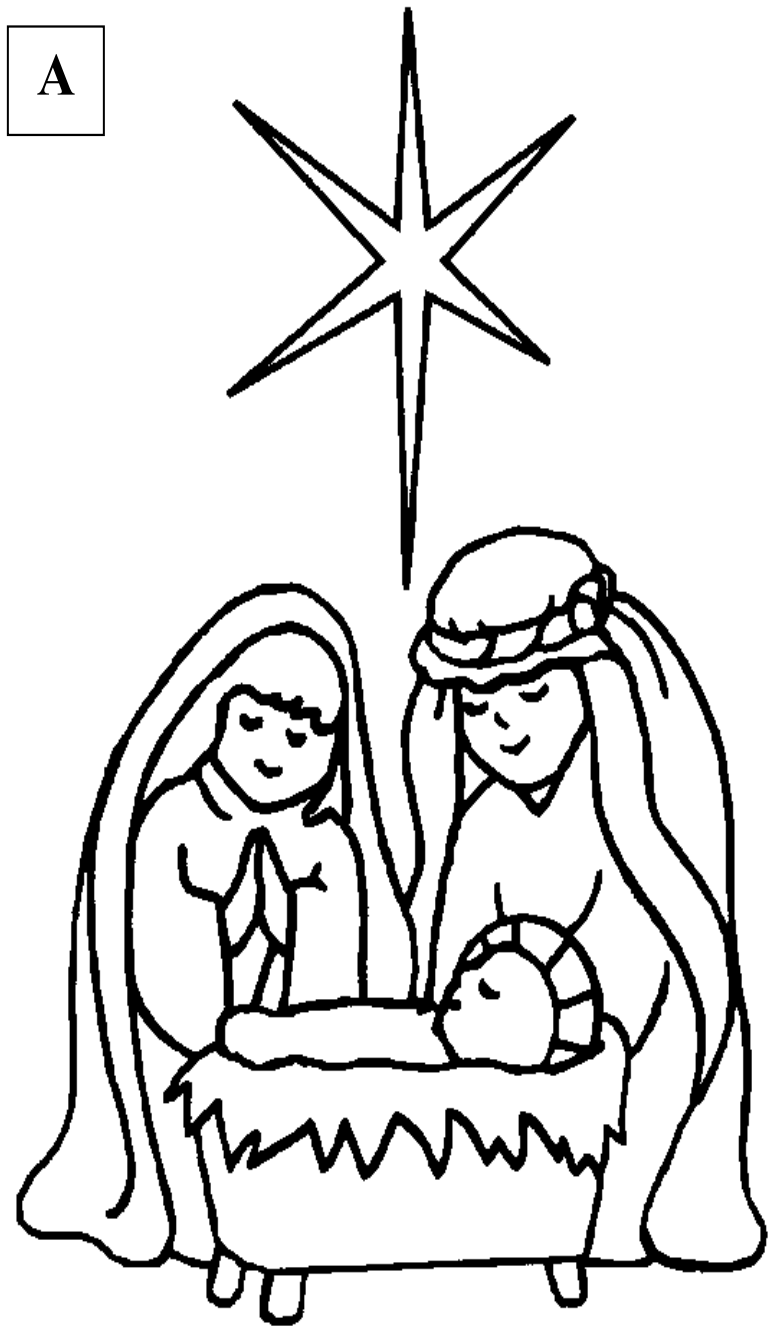
A

## **The Gift of God**

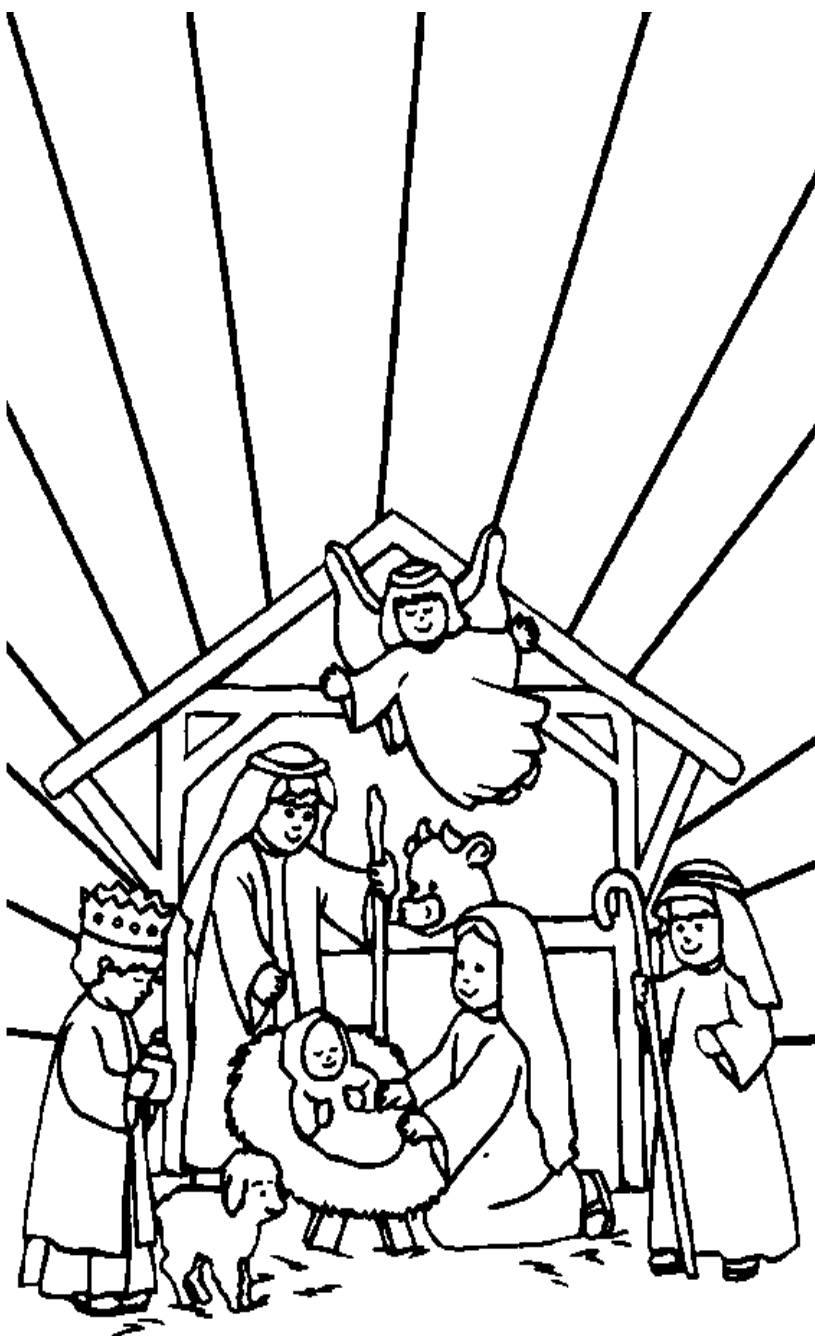
There was seen a radiance  
Glowing one night  
Near the little maiden Mary  
In blue and white.

"Lilies are not fairer,  
"Roses more red,  
Than the Child she sings to slumber,"  
An angel said.

So the shepherds ventured  
Through the white cold,  
And their eyes beheld the Infant,  
An hour old.



B



Long they gazed and wondered,  
Awkward in awe,  
At the paramount perfection  
Within their straw.

"Diamonds are but trifles!  
"Rubies no gem!"  
Cried the hearts that slaved for pittance  
Near Bethlehem.

So it was forever,  
After the night  
When the little maiden Mary  
Wore blue and white.

## Christ's Nativity

Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David), to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

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

C



### PRIZES

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

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

### RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:  
**4 – 6 year olds – picture A**  
**7 – 9 year olds – picture B**  
**10 – 12 year olds – picture C**
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2009**.
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, 2009*

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Hoodie Size (circle) Child S M L XL Adult S M L

Region 1 (New York, New Jersey, and New England States)	Joseph Minarovich
Region 2 (Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington D.C.)	Damian D. Nasta
Region 3 (Central Pennsylvania and SS. Cyril & Methodius District)	Carl Ungvarsky
Region 4 (West of Harrisburg, West Virginia, and Florida)	George Sprock
Region 5 (Western Pennsylvania, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh)	Regis Brekosky
Region 6 (State of Ohio)	Henry Hassay
Region 7 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Points West)	Rudolph Glugovsky
Regions 8 and 9 (Canada)	Milos Mitro



# 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 Arendt:

## ATTENTION BRANCH OFFICERS

This is a reminder of the requirements for receiving your branch stipend of \$4.00 per member which is due February 15, 2010. Please read the bylaw section 4.05 and 11.04 very carefully. It is very important that you follow all guidelines listed in order to qualify for the branch stipend. This bylaw will be strictly enforced and all requirements must be completed properly.

Please understand that a branch must have attended at least one (1) district meeting in two (2) out of the four (4) calendar years prior to the convention year, either in the calendar year 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009, in order to be eligible to send a delegate to convention. (Bylaw Section 11.04 f)

The following are the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend. Completing these requirements will qualify your branch to send delegates to the 2010 Convention which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio.

### Bylaw Section 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

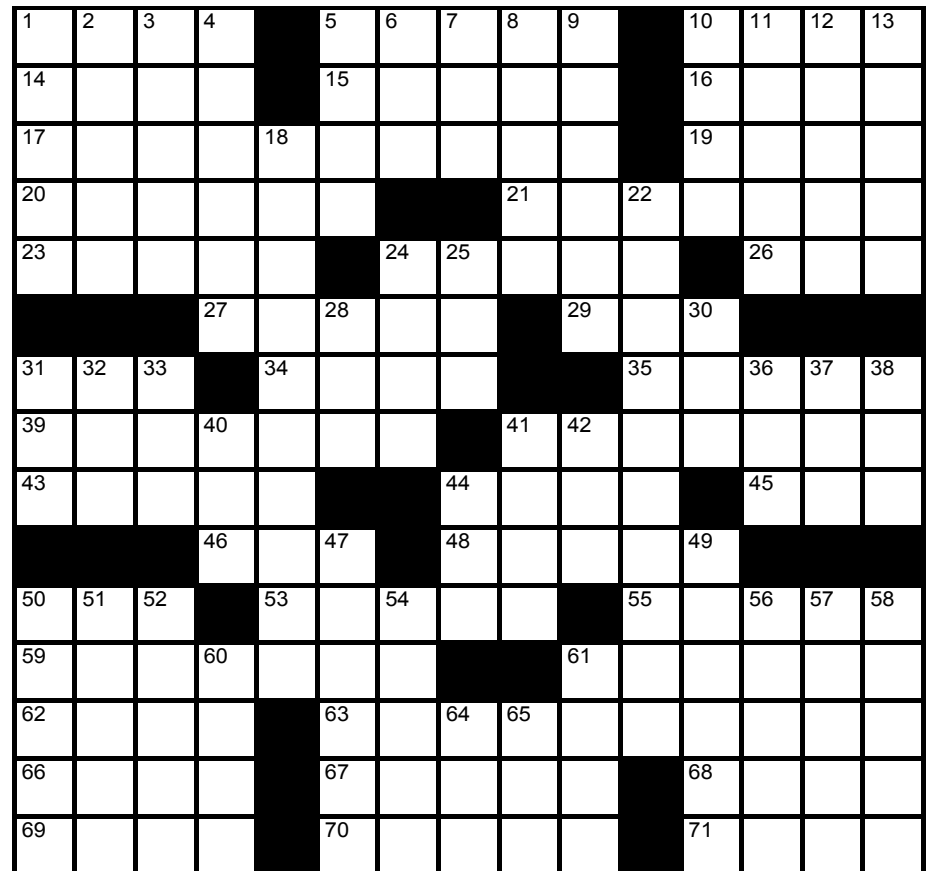
(c) The delegate count shall be based on members as of February 1<sup>st</sup> in the Convention year. The maximum number of delegates per branch will be twenty (20).

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

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

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

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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### Across

- 1 Sunblock ingred
- 5 Court reporter
- 10 Circuits
- 14 Eve's son
- 15 Wanderer
- 16 Promised land
- 17 Concern
- 19 Adjutant
- 20 Knitted fabric
- 21 Feminist Duncar
- 23 Beer mug
- 24 Explode
- 26 Turf
- 27 Actress Moorehc
- 29 Consumed
- 31 Emulator
- 34 Provoke
- 35 Actor's line
- 39 Dishonest
- 41 Ebbed
- 43 Unnatural
- 44 Way of life
- 45 Admiration
- 46 Singleton
- 48 Terrestrial lizard
- 50 King of Judah
- 53 Social class
- 55 Banana oil, e.g.
- 59 Web page icon
- 61 Store sign
- 62 Fem. suffix
- 63 Wolf spiders
- 66 Solar disk
- 67 Spam medium
- 68 Alps' highest pea  
\_\_\_ Blanc
- 69 Variety
- 70 Answer
- 71 Crusts in a loaf  
of bread, e.g.

### Down

- 1 Yesteryears
- 2 Terminate
- 3 Contradict
- 4 Actress  
Silverstone
- 5 Irritation
- 6 Child
- 7 Ostrich relative
- 8 Low-water mark
- 9 Ukrainian seapor
- 10 Toxic element
- 11 So long
- 12 Argentina city,  
San \_\_\_
- 13 Former golf grea  
Slamming Samm
- 18 Harmony
- 22 Your check to the  
IRS, e.g.
- 24 Conveyor
- 25 Consumption
- 28 Pinch
- 30 Compass point
- 31 Hotshot
- 32 Edgar Allen \_\_\_
- 33 Blunder
- 36 Crete mountain
- 37 Condensation
- 38 Dutch commune
- 40 Brazilian port

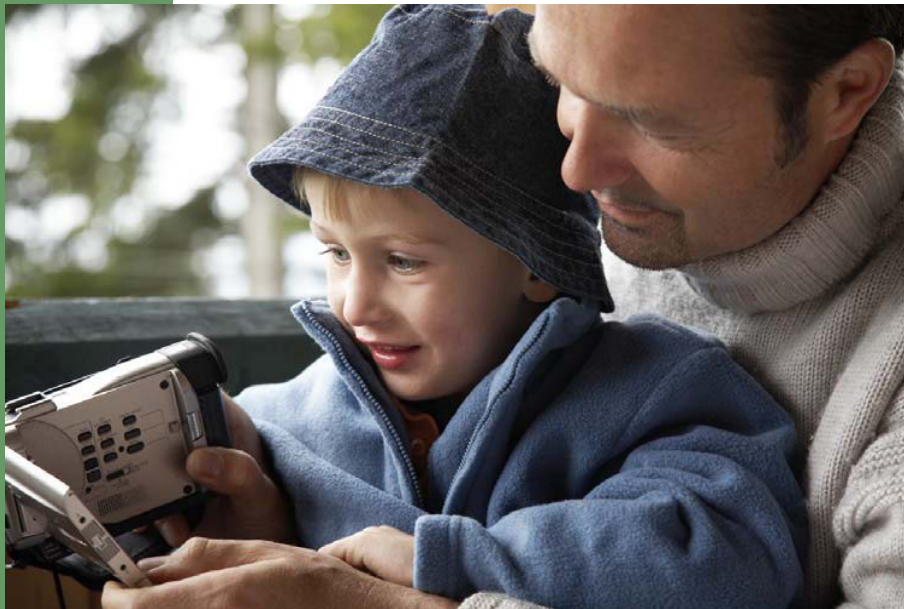
- 41 Intense anger
- 42 Gr. letter
- 44 Caress
- 47 Religious holiday
- 49 Take for granted
- 50 Regions
- 51 Fight
- 52 Subsequently
- 54 Dishonor
- 56 Claw
- 57 Antelope
- 58 Reposes
- 60 Hire
- 61 Exclusively
- 64 Knock
- 65 Be in pain

See Solution on Page 18

# FCSU LIFE

**PROTECT  
YOUR CHILDREN  
FOR ONLY  
\$14.00  
YEARLY!**

**This is not a misprint. Read on to find out how.**



## **YOUR FAMILY COMES FIRST.**

Your family is the center of your life. You would do anything for them. We are offering you this economical opportunity to guard your children and help them on their way to financial responsibility.

## **WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?**

The many benefits of insuring your children with JEP include:

- \$10,000 in term life insurance coverage to age 25, for children ages 0-21 — *for only \$14.00 a year.* (Contact the home office for larger amounts)
- Protection for your kids' future insurability by offering conversion at age 16 or older to a regular permanent policy — regardless of health (if policy has been in force for at least two years).
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## **CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Yes. We want you to receive our free, no obligation information on JEP! Simply call us at 1-800-533-6682, and we'll send you information and applications for the program. We're confident after reviewing our literature that you'll find this one of the best values to help your children for years to come.



**DON'T DELAY, CALL TODAY!  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER  
OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-533-6682**

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION**  
of the United States and Canada  
6611 Rockside Road  
Independence, OH 44131-2398



**NEW FROM FCSU**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that it can now accept credit cards for Insurance premium payments.  
\*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

**CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED**

Please contact the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further information or go to our website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) to download a payment form.

**We accept:  
Visa,  
Mastercard,  
and Discover**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES  
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2009**

- The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.75% ( 4.641% APR)
  - The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.50% ( 4.402% APR)
  - The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.00% ( 3.922% APR)
  - The first year annual yield on a new "Park Free Plus Annuity" is 4.1% ( 4.018% APR)
  - The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.25% ( 4.162%APR)
  - The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.25% ( 4.162% APR)
- If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

**4.75%**

**FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY  
FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA**

**Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 4.75% (4.641% APR)**

Under the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity, you may make periodic payments into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at, or greater than, the guaranteed rate. You can open the account with as little as \$500.00 and make additional deposits (\$25.00 minimum) as your financial situation allows. Additional deposits are not mandatory.

At the retirement age you choose, the funds accumulated in the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity may be withdrawn using any of the FCSU's lump sum or periodic income settlement options.

**Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:**

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

**CONTACT THE HOME OFFICE OR YOUR LOCAL BRANCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT FCSU.COM**

**SPECIAL REMINDER**

There has been a change in our address. The new address for sending all articles is Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. Please do not use the old 1011 Rosedale Avenue address. You may continue to send by fax at 717/944-3107 or by email at [editorjednota@yahoo.com](mailto:editorjednota@yahoo.com). Thank you.

**FCSU LIFE**

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR  
2 or 3 YEAR PAYMENT PLAN ON A SINGLE  
PREMIUM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN**

Enjoy all the advantages and convenience of Single Payment Life Insurance except the payments are made in installments. This enables you to purchase the larger face amount that you need and want, but avoids the necessity of paying the entire premium in one payment. The balance due premium will be a loan against the policy cash value.

**Plan I - 2 payments**, the initial premium is 60% of the single premium. *The balance must be repaid within one year from the issue date to avoid interest expense on the loan.* The balance of the premium can be paid in twelve equal monthly installments, or in one sum at the end of one year.

**Plan II - 3 payments**, the initial premium is 40% of the single premium. *The balance must be repaid within two years from the issue date to avoid interest expense on the loan.* The balance of the premium can be paid in twenty-four equal monthly installments; or in two additional payments, 30% at the end of one year and 30% at the end of two years from the issue date.



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- **Minimum face amount \$10,000 male age 50; female age 55; thereafter \$5000**



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**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING**

**The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR\* ANNUITY AND IRA**

**AVOID STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY**

**EFFECTIVE 10/1/2009**

**4.25% (APR 4.162%)**

**\*Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years**

**SIX YEAR  
FIXED RATE  
4.25%  
(4.162% apr)**

Our **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR** annuity offers you the following benefits:

- A much higher interest rate than other current low rates available
- Rate is guaranteed for 6 years. No interest rate fluctuation or changes
- The power of annuity tax deferral.
- A safe, secure and competitive investment for your retirement (IRA) funds
- Opportunity to lock-in a competitive rate for 6 years and avoid the turmoil of stock market volatility

The **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR** annuity has the following features and terms:

- Interest rate fixed for 6 years
- 10% penalty free annual withdrawal (based on contract cash value at the beginning of each year)
- 6-year withdrawal penalty period: 1<sup>st</sup> year-6%, thereafter reduces 1% each year for next 5 years. Bank withdrawal penalties are much higher
- Not applicable to any settlement option annuity funds, or interest only annuities
- Annuity withdrawal prior to age 59 ½, subject to Federal Excise Tax Penalty
- Minimum deposit \$5,000

COMPARE OUR **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR ANNUITY RATE** TO YOUR LOCAL BANK RATES

**DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!**

Contact our Home Office or your local branch for more information!

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6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300  
P.O. Box 318013  
Independence, OH 44131-8013  
Call 1-800 Jednota or 1-216-642-9406

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Our annual Christmas Party will be held following the meeting. If you have any questions, please call 216/228-8179. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Marie A. Golias, Secretary**

## BRANCH 5P- EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Sunday afternoon, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Leonard J. Zavada, President, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the nominations and election of delegates to the National Convention and a discussion of future branch activities.

**Leonard J. Zavada, President**

## BRANCH 6- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at 1406 North Baker Street, Streator, Illinois. The election of officers for Branch 6 and the election of delegates to the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will take place. We urge all eligible members to attend this meeting. Please call 815/672-1764 or 815/822-8851 before December 13 if you plan to attend.

**Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 7- HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbane Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. All 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 13, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, The Election of Officers will take place. We will also be electing Delegates to the National Convention in Cleveland.

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 23- JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will hold a Semiannual Meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at Our Son's Restaurant, Broad Street in the Cambria City section of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be regular business and the election of officers. All members are invited to the meeting. A luncheon will be held following the meeting.

**Elaine Capretti, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will have their Branch and Christmas Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at the Karlin Club, 5304 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at the Karlin Club, 5304 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of Officers and 2010 Convention Delegates. Refreshments will be served. Veselé Vianoce!

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 40- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2010,

at 2:00 p.m. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington Street, Streator, Illinois. On the agenda will be officers' reports, discussion of branch activities, election of branch officers and election of delegates to the 49th FCSU International Convention. A lunch will follow the meeting. Please respond by January 6 to your financial secretary at 815/672-6682.

**Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 45- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 49th Convention in Cleveland. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold a Special Meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Vice President Steven J. Gerba, 188 DiMarco Drive, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting will be to confirm the Delegates selected to serve for the 2010 National FCSU Convention at the Annual Meeting held November 15, 2009. Refreshments will be served. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please call the Vice President at 215/637-6530 or the President at 610/356-7956 for directions.

**Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 60- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Secretary Margaret Perla, 1937 Dearborn Drive, White Oak, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports and a discussion of branch activities. All members are urged to attend. The election of officers and election of delegates to the convention will take place at our annual meeting on January 10, 2010. A Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year to all!

**Margaret M. Perla, Secretary**

## BRANCH 60- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Secretary Margaret Perla, 1937 Dearborn Drive, White Oak, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a discussion of branch activities, and the election of officers and election of delegates to the 49th Convention to be held in August 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

**Margaret M. Perla, Secretary**

## BRANCH 122- EXPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 122, will hold a Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 27, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Genevieve Lachmanek. There will also be a special meeting on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the same location. Officers and Convention Delegates will be elected. For more information call Patrice Kerr at 412/243-1333.

**Genevieve Lachmanek, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 157- NORTH CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 12:00 noon in the upstairs room at the Slovak Center, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. The election of officers and a discussion of future activities will be on the agenda. The Christmas Party will follow the meeting.

Best wishes from Branch 157 for a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

**Grgeory Harakal, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162-

## UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at K2 Engineering, Inc., 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The election of branch officers and the selection of delegates to the National Convention are scheduled. Officers' reports, discussion of branch activities and the upcoming convention will be on the agenda. The meeting will be followed by a brunch at a local restaurant. All members and guests are invited to attend both the meeting and the brunch. For more information call Dolores at 724/ 437-4983.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 169P- JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 169P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, December 28, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slivovsky residence, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be branch reports, election of officers, and election of delegates to the 49th FCSU convention.

Call us for information on the safest and best investments offered by the FCSU.

**Betty Slivovsky, Secretary**

## BRANCHES 173 AND 232- GREATER WILKES-BARRE AREA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, and the Holy Trinity Society, Branch 232, will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The meeting will be for general business and the election of delegates to the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio.

We request that all members make an effort to attend. In any event, please contact Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, at 15 Grove St., Mountain Top, PA 18707 or 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.

**Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President**

## BRANCH 199- HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Sophie Pipak. The Election of Officers will be held at that time. A good turnout is requested.

**Sophie Pipak**

## BRANCH 199- HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Sophie Pipak. The Election of Officers will be held at that time. In addition, the Election of Delegates for the 2010 Convention in Cleveland, Ohio will also be held. A good turnout is requested.

**Sophie Pipak**

## BRANCH 213- RENFREW, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 213, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at 3061 Kensington Court. The agenda will consist of election of officers for the New Year, a discussion of branch activities, and the election of delegates to the FCSU Convention in 2010. All members are asked to attend.

The officers of Branch 213 wish everyone a Holy, Happy and Prosperous Holiday.

**Joe Belechak, Secretary**

## BRANCH 228- LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, will hold a meeting on Monday, December 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30th Street and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio. This meeting will be a very important. In addition to our normal annual elections, we will be electing representatives for the

49th International Convention of the FCSU to be held August 14-18, 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio. We expect to be permitted to seat six (6) or possibly seven (7) representatives at the convention for our branch. We will also be voting for alternates to serve if a representative is unable to attend. We hope to have all representatives and alternates decided upon at this meeting so the certification process can begin as soon as possible. Representing a branch at the convention is a truly special experience as you help to decide the direction of the FCSU for the next four (4) years. Please contact any of the branch officers if you are interested and of course come to the meeting.

As a reminder, our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held unless needed as during convention time. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaws review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. The terms of Ed Firment and Andrew Mihalik expire on December 31, 2009.

The Branch 228 Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at the American Slovak Club. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to begin at 6:30 p.m. Once again, please contact any of the branch officers with your intent to attend as reservations are a must. There is a lot of activity going on in both the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come and join in the fun. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club! Happy Holidays for all.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 3, 2010, at 12:00 noon at Panera's Restaurant in the Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads, Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include election of officers and the election of convention delegates. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412/343-5031.

**Albina Senko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 259- STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will have a Mass celebrated on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the branch. Following the liturgy, the Annual Meeting will be held at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, Ohio. All members are welcome and are urged to attend this meeting. The 49th International Convention will also be on the agenda, along with the election of officers for the branch for the coming year.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall in St. Elizabeth Church. The Election of Officers for the coming year along with the Nominations for Delegates to the Convention will be held. Plans for 2010 will be discussed. Any changes to the Bylaws must be submitted by January 31, 2010. We urge members to attend and to participate in the discussions that relate to improving the Society as a whole.

**Charles M. Terek, President**

## BRANCH 290- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. There will be nomination for

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delegates to the Convention. Please attend. Call Joe at 732/469-5256 for the location of the meeting.

**Joseph Minarovich, President**

## BRANCH 292- WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania. Convention delegates will be elected. All members are asked to attend.

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C.**

## BRANCH 293- LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Katherine Drexel Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. It should be noted that the election of delegates to the National Convention will take place at this time.

Anyone needing services or more insurance should contact: Robert J. Lakata, 527 East Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232, or leave a message at 570/645-4872.

**Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 312- BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Nicholas Society, Branch 312, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 3, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at 1121 Monastery Dive, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the election of delegates to the National Convention. All members of Branch 312 are urged to attend this meeting.

**Micki Smolleck, Secretary**

## BRANCH 320- STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the Ss. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, wish all the members and their families a Happy and Holy Holiday.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 320- STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the Ss. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, invite all their members to attend the next meeting of the branch on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran at 724/929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. On the agenda will be the election of officers, a discussion of the upcoming convention, and the election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention. This convention will be held August 14 through August 18, 2010 at the Renaissance Cleveland, Hotel. Refer to Qualifications of Delegates in the Bylaws Section 11.03. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 327- POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 327, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 9:15 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church Social Hall, 370 South Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

**Georgia Zeleznick, Secretary**

## BRANCH 372- BEVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, Pennsylvania. The election of delegates to the 49th Jednota Convention will be held at this meeting.

**Michael Hudak**

## BRANCH 410- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Ss. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 10,

2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2010 and the nomination and election of delegates to represent Branch 410 at the 49th FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio in August 2010. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 421- NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 421, will hold a Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

**Lillian R. Stager, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 27, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Jozef Valencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio. The election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 484- GRACETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the Coral Site Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Coral, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be financial reports, election of officers for 2010, and election of delegates to the 49th Convention. All members are welcome.

**Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 493- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Election of Convention Delegates and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, November 28, 2009, at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, Illinois. The meeting will start at 2:00 p.m. followed by a delicious dinner. If you plan to attend, please call the financial secretary Robert Tapak Magruder at 773/505-0117 or 502/244-6643 by November 24. Members of other FCSU lodges who attend will pay via separate checks.

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold a lodge meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. The election of officers for 2010 will be held. Anyone interested in running for office must submit in writing their intentions to run for office. The letter must include the specific office you are running for this year. Please send your letters to Vera Thomas, 1232 Steve Dr., Akron, OH 44319. Vera is the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Letters must be received by December 18, 2009. A discussion concerning delegates to the upcoming convention will also be held.

Take an active role in your lodge. Please attend the meeting.

The officers of Branch 553 wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

**Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 567- ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will have their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend meeting and support us. The Bake sale of nut and poppy seed rolls was a success. The election and swearing in of officers will take place. The annual report will be given.

We wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

**Rosalie Favere**

## BRANCH 580- DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 580, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of the president, Michael J. Cvejkus, 1401 Hudson Avenue, Duquesne, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers, election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention in Cleveland, and a discussion of future activities.

**Michael J. Cvejkus, President**

## BRANCH 595- MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 595, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in the Tatra Hall, Muskegon Heights, Michigan. On the agenda will be election of officers for 2010 and election of delegates (2) to the convention. The members are asked to please attend this meeting.

**Louis A. Kollar, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 644- MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 644, will hold its Semiannual and Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael R. Jablonsky, 1215 Foster Avenue, Apt. 305, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This may be the most important meeting of Branch 644. Your input at the meeting will decide if Branch 644 is to remain an active branch of the Jednota.

The officers of Branch 644 wish to extend a Blessed Christmas to all members and may the New Year bring you Good Health, Happiness and a Better Tomorrow.

**Michael R. Jablonsky, President/Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will have a Mass celebrated for the deceased members on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

Following the liturgy, we will have a meeting at St. Matthias Church Rectory. The meeting will include the election of officers for 2010 and the election of delegates to the 49th International Convention.

**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 13, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey. The agenda will include the election of officers for 2010 and the election of delegates to the 49th Convention. A holiday get-together will follow the meeting.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCH 769- ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Saturday, December 19, 2009, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, New York. The meeting will provide information regarding the upcoming Jednota 2010 International Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio August 14-18, 2010, as well as other items of concern to the membership.

**Henry J. Pochily, President**

## BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold its next regular meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kathy Persun, 158 Davidson Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. Nomination of officers will be held at this meeting.

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

**Kathleen Persun, Secretary**

## BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold a meeting for all members on Monday, December 14, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the club, 147 West 7th Avenue, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The topic for discussion will be the sale of the club building and property at 147th 7th Avenue from the St. Clement Society to the Slovak American Club. Your input in this matter is of great importance.

**Kathy Persun**

## BRANCH 844- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Christmas Mass on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with the presentation of gifts for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Christmas.

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

We hope to see you all there. The officers of Branch 844 would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 855- PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold a meeting for the newly elected officers on Friday, December 11, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Kolesar. We will be making plans for the 49th Convention in Cleveland, Ohio in August 2010.

**Linda L. Kolesar, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 857- LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 857, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary Andy Herman, 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, Pennsylvania. We will be holding election of branch officers for 2010 as well as delegates for the 2010 Convention.

The officers of Branch 857 extend to all wishes for a safe, happy and Holy Holiday Season.

**Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 888- WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at 4649 Perth Road, West Palm Beach, Florida. On the agenda will be future branch activities, a treasurer's report and items of mutual interest to the membership. Contact David Rafaidus, president, at 561/776-0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and further information. All branch members are invited to attend.

**David Rafaidus, President**



# St. Florian Choir Christmas Concert

St. Florian Choir will present "Sleep, Little Baby, Sleep, a special holiday concert consisting of classical and modern Christmas music on Sunday, December 13, 2009. The program, under the direction of Dr. Stephen J. Whisdosh, will begin at 3:00 p.m. in St. Florian Church, United Pennsylvania. Please come and join the choir in ushering in the Christmas Season.



## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT-MONONGAHELA VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

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

**Frances Tarquinio, Secretary**

**REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-CLEVELAND, OHIO**

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio. The meeting is being held to discuss the upcoming convention. Delegates will be elected to attend the convention. Please take an active role in your district and attend this meeting.

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

**REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN**

The date selected for the next Semiannual meeting of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District has been changed. We have been informed by the Benedictine Sisters that the date chosen will not work for them. So the next District Semiannual Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. (the Sunday following Easter).

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary**

**REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN**

The officers of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District wish all our members and their families a "Veselé Vianočné a Šťastlivý Nový Rok, Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurcenko, President John Jurcenko, Vice President Rudolph Bernath, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Fayta, Recording Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder, Chairman of Auditors Joe Bugel, Auditor Bob Elias, Auditor Shirley Uram, Sgt at Arms Peter Turner, Director of Fraternal Activities George Kelchak, and Region 7 Director Rudy Glogovsky

**PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-CALIFORNIA**

The Prince Pribina District will celebrate the Christmas season with a Slovak Mass on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Following the liturgy, the traditional Slovak dish "Kapustnica" will be served in the cafeteria, sponsored by the Vice Consul of the Slovak Republic in Los Angeles. Come and enjoy the festivities with Slovak music and Christmas Carols.

The Prince Pribina District and the St. Joseph Society, Branch 844, will hold their Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. The election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention will take place at this meeting.

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

**Paul Skuben**

**GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

The George Onda District will hold a special meeting to elect the District Delegate to the 49th International Convention. This meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the home of the District Vice President George Sprock. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

**Linda L. Gonta, Secretary**

**REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting and Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at Marino's Restaurant, Mahoning Avenue, Austintown, Pennsylvania. The party will follow a short meeting. Reservations can be made by calling Carlie Peshek at 330/779-3927, Nancy Scavina at 330/758-4536, or Paul Ritz at 330/744-2377.

Nominations for District Delegate to the Jednota Convention in 2010 will be accepted at this meeting on December 15. Reservations must be made in person.

**Carlie Peshek, Presiden**

**MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT-ALLEGHENY-KISKI VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will hold a special meeting on Sunday, January 3, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to elect the District delegate to the 49th International Convention scheduled to take place in Cleveland in August 2010. We will also finalize District 11's proposals for Bylaw amendments or resolutions. Other business will be conducted as necessary. Representatives from all branches should call okres secretary Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

**Grace M. Charney, Secretary**



**Dale and Joan Maxwell (left) and Ken and Pat LaPorte.**



**Members of Branch 153 at their annual luncheon meeting.**



## Chicago Branch 153 Holds Annual Meeting

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153 in Chicago, Illinois, held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at the home of John Jurcenko. Following the meeting, all enjoyed a fraternal luncheon at the Andrews restaurant in Park Ridge, Illinois. There members Ken and Pat LaPorte were honored on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and Dale and Joan Maxwell were honored for being married 56 years. Congratulations to both couples.

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

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# Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar in Chicago



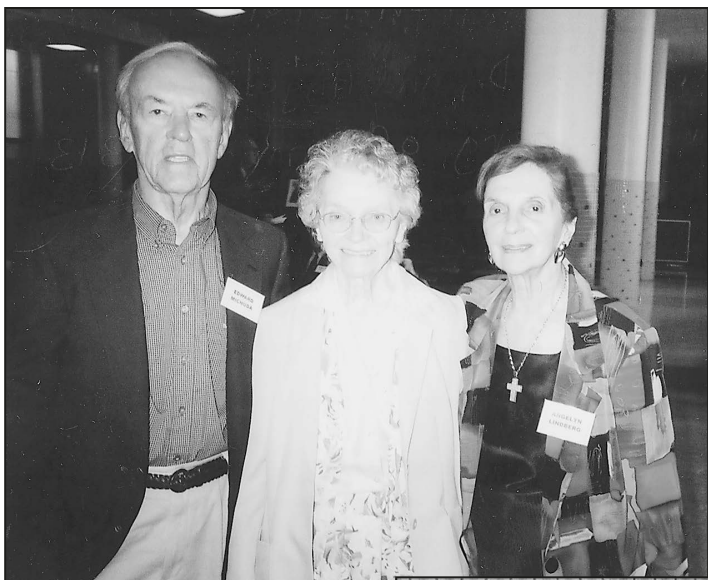
**Speaker  
Father  
Marek**



**Edwin  
Bach of  
Branch  
762**



**Dorothy and  
John Jurcenko of  
Branch 153**



**Ed Michuda,  
Sister Christella  
Michuda, S.S.N.D.,  
and Angelina  
Michuda Lindberg  
of Branch 313**



**Branch 706 members,  
top row, L-R Ed Uram,  
Barbara Fayta and Art  
Fayta. Bottom row L-R  
are Shirley Uram and  
Alice Nemcek**



**Branch 493 members, L-  
R Valerie Vesely, Robert  
Tapak Magruder, Don  
Cummings and Pete  
Turner**

Jednota members were well represented among the 74 attendees at the most recent Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar. The Midwest District of the Slovak Catholic Federation sponsored the annual seminar on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Casimir on Chicago's south side.

Father Marek Sitar, a young priest from the Archdiocese of Trnava in Slovakia, spoke on "SS. Cyril and Methodius: Their Life, Mission and Journey as it continues Today." A question and answer session followed the talk. Father Marek was ordained in 2003, and is fluent in English. He served for one year at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish in Sterling Heights, Michigan, before coming to the Archdiocese of Chicago. He now serves as the Associate Pastor of St. Germaine Parish in Oak Lawn, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Every Sunday afternoon after completing his duties at St. Germaine, Father Marek says a Mass in Slovak for the large Slovak expatriate community in the Chicago area.

Attendees enjoyed a catered buffet luncheon. Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District officers John Jurcenko, Dorothy Jurcenko and Robert Tapak Magruder serve on the Board of Directors of the SCF Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar.

**Robert Tapak Magruder**

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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

## Obituaries

### Sister Mary Michael Baksi, SCN

Sister Mary Michael Baksi ended her earthly life of 80 years on November 20, 2009. At the time of her death, Sister was a member of the Sister of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky. (The Vincentian Sisters of Charity, Pittsburgh, merged with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in 2008).

Born in Homestead, Pennsylvania, Sister entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Michael's Parish in 1947 and served God and the Church for 62 years. She attended Duquesne University where she earned both a Bachelor of Education and Master of Arts Degree.

During her years of ministry, Sister taught in both elementary and secondary schools as well as served as elementary school principal in the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and Johnstown-Altoona of Penn-

sylvania, Youngstown, Ohio, and Mobile, Alabama. Sister also served as Director of Novices for 6 years.

Sister Mary Michael was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Anna; brothers, John, Michael, Joseph; and sisters, Mary and Anne. She is survived by her Sisters in Community, and by cousins and friends.

Friends were received at the St. Louise Convent (formerly the Vincentian Motherhouse) on McKnight Road in Pittsburgh. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Louise Convent Chapel. Burial followed in the Sisters' cemetery on the convent grounds.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Office of Congregational Advancement, P.O. Box 9, Nazareth, KY 40048-0009.

# YOUTH ROUND-UP

Some of the younger members of Branch 213 in North Braddock, Pennsylvania are really achieving. Here is some news about what they are doing:

Ellen Caparosa has been invited as an undergraduate at NYU to present the findings of her project regarding brain activity in regard to fear and anxiety. She will present her findings at the annual meeting for the Society of Neuro Science in Chicago.

Ian Campayno is appearing in the National Broadway Tour of the musical, "Wizard of Oz" as a swing for the role of "The Scarecrow".

Julia Belechak was awarded the title of 2009 National American Teen Pennsylvania and will represent Pennsylvania at the National Pageant in Anaheim, California.

Benjamin Puntari was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for achieving High Honors for the Class of 2011 at Central Catholic High School in Oakland, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Louis Belechak was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Extracurricular Science Competition and elected President of the National Honor Society for the Class of 2010 at Central Catholic High School in Oakland.

Michael Campayno has the lead role in the fall production of "Carousel" to be held at the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University of Pittsburgh.

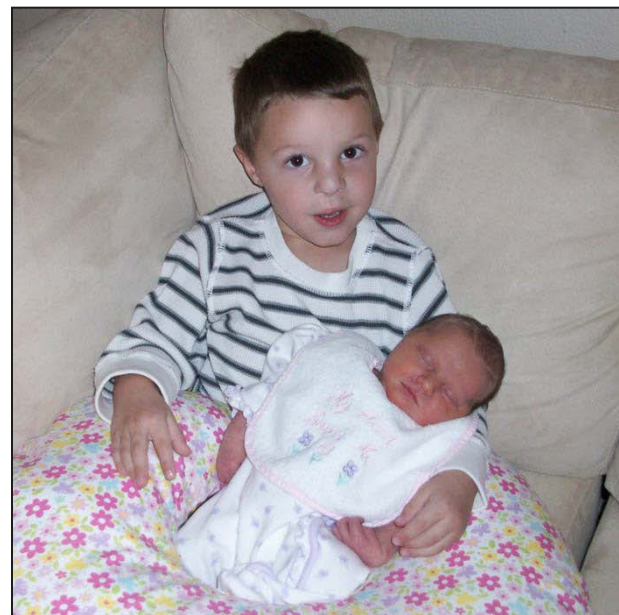
Joshua Nixon completed his studies at Seton Hill University and graduated with honors.

Anthony Shaffo is doing a great job as mascot for the Woodland Hills football team.

**Joe Belechak, Secretary, Br. 213**



It was a great thrill for William and Lorraine Micek of Northampton, Pennsylvania to see their grandson Zachary Lennis win the South Carolina State Football Championship. The school record was 12 wins and 1 loss. Zachary played both defense and offense. He was a strong safety-wide receiver, quarterback, punter, and kick return. He set a new record for his Hilton Head Christian Academy with 94 receptions. Zachary was named Division 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Star. He is a tri-sport athlete playing baseball, basketball and football. Zachary and his grandparents are members of Branch 567 in Allentown, Pennsylvania



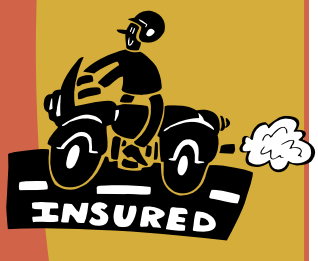
Erin Schwartz, daughter of National Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt, and her husband Joe welcomed their second child Ava Helen on October 28, 2009 at 6:41 p.m. in Henderson, Nevada. Ava weighed in at 7.1 lbs. and measured 19 inches long. She was also welcomed by her big brother, Anthony. This is the fourth grandchild for Kenneth and his wife Theresa. Erin and her family reside in Las Vegas, Nevada and are members of Local Branch 228.

## Fraternal Benefit

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- Accidental Loss of Life
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  - Evacuation & Repatriation
  - Spouse or Domestic Partner Employment Training Expense
  - Permanent Total Disability Benefit

### Quarterly Premium Rates

Principal Sum	Single	Family
\$100,000	\$12	\$18
\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
\$500,000	\$60	\$90

Premiums can be paid with Credit Cards, Debit Cards, or a Bank Account.

### Special Fraternal Benefit

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# Zlaté jubileum vzniku Malého seminára v Ríme a jeho realizácia

Alojz Ondrejka, SDB

Doménou našich čias sú Jubilejné roky. Náš rok 2009 ich má niekoľko. Skončil sa Rok sv. Pavla a začal sa Rok kňazov, saleziáni slávia 150. jubileum svojho založenia a mohol by som vymenovať ďalšie...

Pri slávení môjho osobného zlatého kňazského jubilea nemôžem však nespomenúť jedno, čo ma nadväzuje: jubileum vzniku Malého seminára v Ríme aj so slovenským gymnáziom. Viedli ho saleziáni. Z Malého seminára v Ríme po čase vznikol Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda.

Páter Ľudovít Macák, SDB, napísal roku 1959 v časopise Slovenský kňaz pri príležitosti našej kňazskej vysviacky: „Naši tohoroční novokňazi v Bolengu viac ako dva mesiace pred svojimi vysviackami poslali svojim starším bratom list, v ktorom spomínali kritickú situáciu v súvislosti s kňazským dorastom na Slovensku. Pýtali sa, či by sa nedalo dačo podniknúť z našej strany, teda tu, v zahraničí. Potom nadhodili myšlienku, aby sa začalo tu, v zahraničí – ak to bude možné –, s prípravou mladších chlapcov na kňazský stav... V liste spomenuli, že to by bol najkrajší dar k ich vysviacke, a prejavili ochotu prispieť vlastnou spoluprácou. Myšlienku podporili kňazi v Ríme a rozhodli sa urobiť všetko pre to, aby sa vec uskutočnila. Otec Ľudovít pred letnými prázdninami oznámil msgr. Štefanovi Náhalkovi, členovi Rady pre emigráciu a vedúcemu Slovenského katolíckeho ústredia v Ríme, že sa do toho diela pustí, a Otec Štefan prisľúbil zasa hmotné zabezpečenie. V júli roku 1959 po primáciách týchto novokňazov prítomní saleziáni pod vedením don Silvestra Taligu dielo podporili. Don Macák predložil návrh diela slovenským kňazom na kongrese „Kirche in Not“ v Königsteine, kde všetci prítomní prejavili súhlas a ponúkli spoluprácu. Cestou domov Páter Macák získal piatich mladých chlapcov, seminaristov. Don Taliga vymohol u predstavených v Turíne, aby sme mohli začať študovať spolu s talianskymi študentmi (podobne ako prví slovenskí saleziáni), kým by sa nenašlo vhodné riešenie. Podarilo sa to a prijali nás v saleziánskom aspirantáte pri Katakombách sv. Kalixta na Via Appia Antica v Ríme.

Počas návštevy benediktínskeho opáta Teodora J. Kojiša, OSB, z Clevelandu sa na Sviatok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie dohodlo, ako sa bude postupovať, kto sa ujme povolenia diela, a to na príslušnej rímskej kongregácii, a kto sa postará o hmotné zabezpečenie. Keď biskup Andrej G. Grutka prišiel v októbri, nadšene sa ujal realizovania tejto iniciatívy.

Na vianočnom stretnutí v Ríme u inžiniera Antona Bugana dňa 26. decembra 1959 slovenskí diecézni a rehoľní kňazi prijali rozhodnutie vybudovať v Ríme slovenský dom Cyrilo-metodiánum, ku ktorému by sa pridružila i výchova kňazského dorastu. Kým prvé roky študovali chlapci, ktorých počet pomaly rástol, spolu s talianskymi spolužiakmi v spomínanom Saleziánskom ústave sv. Tarcizia pri Katakombách sv. Kalixta, v lete roku 1961 sa naši študenti aj so svojimi slovenskými predstaviteľmi presťahovali do blízkeho saleziánskeho oratória s priestraným divadlom, ktoré si svojpomocne premenili na nové sídlo Malého seminára. V tomto skromnom prostredí nás v školskom roku 1962/1963 hneď po svojom príchode na Druhý vatikánsky koncil navštívil biskup Andrej G. Grutka a tie podmienky, v ktorých sme boli ubytovaní, ho povzbudili k ďalším rozhodným krokom pri realizovaní začatého diela.

Práve v tom čase sa pripravovali dôstojné oslavy 1 100. výročia príchodu vierozvestov sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda k našim predkom. Ideologická deformácia totalitného komunistického režimu na Slovensku nepripustila, aby sa vyzdvihol náboženský význam tejto udalosti, preto bolo potrebné a spravodlivé, aby sme sa o to postarali my, slovenskí krajanovia žijúci v zahraničí.

Pri 1 000-ročnom jubileu Štefan Moyses a Karol Kuzmány dokázali, podľa príkladu predchádzajúcich nadšencov za cyrilo-metodské dedičstvo, postaviť celonárodný pomník na „tisícročnú pamiatku pokresťančenia Slovákov a zavedenie písomnosti slovenskej“, a to Maticu slovenskú. Vedený ich príkladom Msgr. Andrej G. Grutka, americký biskup slovenského pôvodu, ohlásil 14. apríla 1962 na vlnách Vatikánskeho rozhlasu program 1 100-ročného cyrilo-metodského jubilea: „Prišiel som do Ríma preto, aby sme podnikli potrebné kroky ku oslave jedenásťsto-ročného jubilea príchodu sv. Konštantína-Cyrila a sv. Metoda ku našim otcom. Toto význačné jubileum pripadá na budúci rok. Chceme ho osláviť hlavne tak, že primerane dnešným časom budeme pokračovať v apoštolskej práci svätých bratov, ktorí doniesli našim otcom svetlo kresťanstva a zapojili slovenský národ medzi kultúrne kresťanské národy.

Svätí bratia Konštantín-Cyryl a Metod vychovali slovenských mladíkov a priviedli ich do Ríma, aby ich tu dali vysvätiť za kňazov. My tiež vychovávame kňazov pre Slovensko. Preto pracujeme na vybudovaní Ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. V tomto Ústave sa budú vychovávať mladíci za kňazov pre Slovensko. Prijal som záštitu nad prácou na budovaní tohto Ústavu, lebo my, americkí Slováci, sa chceme odvdáčiť Slovensku za to, že nám poslalo svojho času kňazov do Ameriky, aby sa starali o našich slovenských vysťahovalcov. Z našej strany je budovanie Ústavu prejav vďačnosti, ale aj pomoc trpiacim slovenským katolíkom. Toto dielo sa zadarmo začalo a iste sa zavŕši tak, aby sa stalo dôstojným pomníkom, ktorý postavia Slováci v strede kresťanstva pre našich slovanských Apoštolov...”

Potom informoval poslucháčov o ďalších úlohách tohto diela, ako je vydávanie náboženskej literatúry na prehlbenie kresťanského života u Slovákov podľa geniálneho príkladu našich vierozvestov, ktorí boli zakladateľmi písomníctva a kultúry našich predkov, a prosil všetkých, aby sa spolu s ním pripravovali na veľké jubileum našich apoštolov. Doslovne povedal: „Sotva budete môcť prejavíť všetko, čo by vám kázala vaša viera a vaše slovenské srdce. Modlite sa však s nami za zachovanie dedičstva sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda aj napriek tým ťažkostiam, ktoré musíte prežívať...”

Keď prišiel biskup Grutka na otvorenie Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu, zaujímal sa o prácu na budovaní Ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda aj o prípravu osláv cyrilo-metodského jubilea. V sprievode svojich kolegov, amerických biskupov, navštívil sídlo slovenských študentov, čo študovali pri Katakombách sv. Kalixta na Via Appia Antica pod starostlivým vedením slovenských saleziánov, a priniesol im mikulášske darčeky. 6. decembra, za účasti celej rímskej slovenskej rodiny, posvätil slávnostne pozemok, na ktorom sa mali začať práce na stavbe Ústavu. Sám ich začal prvým výkopom a ostatní prítomní ho nasledovali. Po ukončení prvej časti koncilu sa vracia Otec biskup do Ameriky, aby vyhlásil sériu zbierok na materiálne zabezpečenie stavebných prác pri budovaní Ústavu.

Americkí Slováci výzvy podporili a tešili sa, že ešte v priebehu jubilejného roka bude Ústav posvätený. V jednotlivých amerických mestách so slovenskými farnosťami sa konali miestne oslavy.

Mimoriadnou slávnosťou v Ríme bolo posvätenie a položenie základného kameňa Ústavu. Oslavy jubilea v širšom rámci slovenských rímskych komunít sa končili 13. mája 1963 audienciou u pápeža Jána XXIII. Na slávnostnej audiencii posvätil Svätý Otec v Konzistoriálnej sieni základný kameň Ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda a podpísal apoštolský list Magnifici eventus k jubileu vierozvestov.

Kardinál Eugen Tisserant položil v ten istý deň pápežom požehnaný základný kameň do zostavanej budovy Ústavu za hojnej účasti Slovákov z Ríma a misionárov, čo pôsobila medzi Slováckmi v zahraničí.

V budovaní sa usilovne pokračovalo, aby sa práce ukončili do slávnostnej jubilejnej púte, keď

mal byť Ústav posvätený -- ako pomník tohto jubilea.

Program osláv 1 100-ročného jubilea v Ríme bol veľkolepý. Pripravovali ho slovenskí kňazi z Ríma spolu s predstaviteľmi amerických Slovákov už niekoľko rokov. Jubilejná púť do Večného mesta sa konala v dňoch 11. až 16. septembra 1963. Vernosť „dedičstvu otcov“ potvrdzovali stovky slovenských pútnikov z Európy aj zo zámoria. Pútnikov z Ameriky viedol biskup Andrej G. Grutka, z Kanady biskup Michal Rusnák a veriacich sprevádzali ich duchovní pastieri. Slováci z európskeho zahraničia prišli pod vedením svojich misionárov. Hojná bola i účasť cirkevných, rehoľných a laických spoločenstiev slovenského etnika. Prišlo veľa vzácnych hostí. Malí seminaristi sa zúčastnili všetkých jubilejných slávností a boli predmetom obdivu prítomných pútnikov.

Aj vysokí cirkevní hodnostári mali účasť na jednotlivých slávnostiach: počnúc dekanom kardinálskeho zboru kardinálom Eugenom Tisserantom cez štátneho sekretára kardinála Hamleta Cicognaniho až po kardinála Karola Confalonieriho, sekretára Konzistoriálnej kongregácie.

Pred začiatkom osláv msgr. Štefan Náhalka, riaditeľ Slovenského ústavu svätých Cyrila a Metoda a hlavný organizátor osláv, oboznámils programom aj našich bratov a sestry na Slovensku prostredníctvom Vatikánskeho rozhlasu.

Osobitné denné trasy viedli pútnikov po stopách našich apoštolov od Baziliky sv. Klementa nad hrobom sv. Cyrila k Bazilike Panny Márie Snežnej, kde pápež Hadrián II. schválil liturgické knihy, ktoré sv. Konštantín-Cyryl a sv. Metod preložili do reči našich predkov. V piatok večer 13. septembra sa zišli slovenskí pútnici v rímskom Koloseu, pamätník utrpení a prenasledovania prvotnej Cirkvi, aby s horiacimi sviecami v rukách vykonalí Krížovú cestu za prenasledovanú Cirkev na Slovensku.

Nezabudnuteľným dňom sa stal 14. september, keď po sv. omši v byzantskom obrade a staroslovenskej reči prijal slovenských pútnikov na osobitnú audienciu pápež Pavol VI. v Klementovej sieni Vatikánskeho paláca. Za spevu V sedmobrežnom kruhu Ríma Sv. Otec zasadol na pápežský stolec a potom mu biskup Andrej Grutka predstavil slovenských pútnikov. Pápež ho srdečne objal, prejavil radosť z prítomnosti toľkých vzácnych hostí a predniesol dojímavý príhovor. Medzi iným povedal: „Drahí synovia slovenského národa, uctieajte si aj naďalej pamiatku vašich svätých, vzdávajte im hold a nasledujte ich. Veď od čias dávneho stredoveku oni osvetľujú ešte i dnes cesty, ktorými sa musí uberať duch slovenského národa v terajšej dobe a v budúcnosti... Vaša prítomnosť na tomto mieste svedčí o oddanosti vášho národa, o jeho oddanosti viere o bohatstve jeho duchovných, mravných a kultúrnych tradícií, ale aj o jeho problémoch. Obraciate našu pozornosť na národ dobrý, ťažko pracujúci, nábožný, voči ktorému prechovávame veľký obdiv a náklonnosť a za ktorý prosíme Boha o ochranu a posilu...“ Po udelení apoštolského požehnanja pobudol s prítomnými v srdečnom rozhovore. Pred odchodom Svätý Otec vzal do ruky slovenskú zástavu, pobožkal ju a poželhal.

Vyvrcholením jubilejných osláv bol 15. september, Sviatok Panny Márie Sedembolestnej, keď sa urobila posviacka Slovenského ústavu svätých Cyrila a Metoda: na štrnástom kilometri starovekej konzulárnej cesty Via Cassia. Slovenský ústav svätých Cyrila a Metoda, teda sídlo Malého seminára, sa stáva akýmsi živým pomníkom tohto jubilea. Za hojnej účasti jednak pútnikov jubilea, jednak početných hostí dekan kolégia kardinálov kardinál Eugen Tisserant, člen Francúzskej akadémie, vykonal konsekráciu kostola, ktorý sa stal prvým kostolom v Ríme zasväteným sv. Cyrilovi a sv. Metodovi. Po konsekrácii nasledovala slávnostná sv. omša s homíliou biskupa Andreja G. Grutku. Medzi iným pripomenul: „My, tuná v Ríme zhromaždení, pripomíname si tisícstoročné jubileum príchodu svätých Cyrila a Metoda na Slovensko. Ako Konštantín-Cyryl a Metod, aj my sme prišli do Ríma k pápežovi Pavlovi VI. v duchu zbožnosti a vernosti... kvôli zachovaniu viery našej a našich bratov a sestier všade, kde sú, a obzvlášť na Slovensku, milom kraji otcov našich, vyjadriť vďačnosť za dar viery Kristovej, ktorú tak krásne zaštepili do srdca našich predkov svätí bratia, apoštoli Slovanov...“ Počas celej posviacky, ako i počas celej sv. omše spevy a piesne spieval Sixtínsky zbor z Vatikánu.

Oslavy sa skončili slávnostným banketom, kde početní rečníci pripomenuli prítomným najmä štedrosť darcov, ktorí sa podieľali na materiálnej pomoci pri realizácii Slovenského ústavu svätých Cyrila a Metoda, tohto dôstojného pamätníka tisíc stého cyrilo-metodského jubilea, nového sídla Malého seminára.

Nasledujúceho dňa, 16. septembra, celebraval biskup Grutka v Bazilike sv. Praxedy hlaholské bohoslužby so slávnostným pokračovaním za dôstojné oslavy, ktoré sa konali v Ríme.

Dojmy účastníkov boli plné nadšenia a doznievali vo všetkých krajanových denníkoch a časopisoch, napríklad rímsky slovenský mesačník Hlasy z Ríma uverejnil: „Po rímskych slovenských cyrilo-metodských oslavách ostávajú pre Slovákov viaceré vzácne prejavy a dokumenty a ostáva ako ich hlavné dielo Slovenský ústav svätých Cyrila a Metoda a ostáva aj zážitok opravdivého bratstva a jednoty. Všetky tieto skutočnosti vyrastajú z našej autentickkej cyrilo-metodskej tradície, ktorá dávala každej povedomej slovenskej generácii podnety k zdravým iniciatívam ... aby sme jednotní tvorili nové hodnoty v kresťanskom a slovenskom duchu pre dobro Cirkvi, nášho národa i celého ľudstva.“

Jubilejné oslavy konané v Ríme nie sú jediným zviditeľnením slovenských osláv 1 100. výročia príchodu našich vierozvestov, ani nie sú vyjadrením všetkých slávností, ktoré sa tam usporiadali v tomto jubilejnom roku. Mali by sme ešte pripomenúť aspoň prenesenie relikvií sv. Cyrila do Ríma a ich uloženie v Bazilike sv. Klementa, ako aj slúženie hlaholskej sv. omše biskupom Grutom v Bazilike sv. Petra na Druhom vatikánskom koncile, kde zviditeľnil význam našich vierozvestov. Tí už pred jedenástimi storočiami preložili a v liturgii používali reč našich slovenských predkov. A práve reč našich predkov, teda Slovákov, sa v tom čase koncil rozhodol prijať a ustanoviť za ďalší bohoslužobný jazyk pre celú Cirkev. Tieto vzácne udalosti si preto zasluhujú osobitné zviditeľnenie pri príležitosti ich výročí!

Pri tomto 50. výročí vzniku Malého seminára v Ríme nesmieme zabúdať ani na podnet saleziánov, lebo ich návrh sa stal impulzom osláv 1 100-ročného jubilea a posviacky novovybúdaného sídla v Slovenskom ústave svätých Cyrila a Metoda. Ústav je zasa vyvrcholením prác oslovených a nadchnutých jednotlivcov a stal sa akýmsi našim pamätníkom, inštitúciou pamäti nášho národa. Avšak za všetko sa chceme a musíme poďakovať Všemohúcemu Bohu za dar štedrosti, akej sa nám dostávalo v hojnej miere počas polstoročného trvania Ústavu, a za dar ducha, čo sa mohol v Ústave v Ríme rozvinúť. Ďakujeme za celé to dielo, ktoré sa postupne rozširovalo aj na úseku vydavateľskom, aj na úseku duchovnej starostlivosti o Slovákov v zahraničí.

Pokračovanie diela Malého seminára v Ríme ako Pápežského kolégia pre slovenských kňazov je dôstojným pokračovaním diela svätých Cyrila a Metoda aj dnes.

V čase spomínaného cyrilo-metodského jubilea sa naša vlasť nachádzala v neblahom a nežičlivom politickom období, keď jubileá takého významu boli zaznávané, preto nám nebolo možné naplno zvýrazniť jeho nesmiernu dôležitosť v našich náboženských dejinách. Teraz by sa patrilo, aby sa dohnalo to, čo sa vtedy nútene zanedbalo...

## Konferencia venovaná rodine HOVORME O TOM

Rodina v 3. tisícročí. Na túto tému sa uskutočnila 6. novembra 2009 v Bratislave 2. medzinárodná konferencia, na ktorej sa zúčastnili významní cirkevní i laickí predstavitelia zo Slovenska i zo zahraničia.

Prof. Stanislav Vojtko vedie farnosť pri kostole Ducha Svätého v Dúbravke, mestskej časti Bratislavy a je tiež profesorom na Rímskokatolíckej cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulte Univerzity Komenského. Od chvíle, čo si prečítal apoštolský list rodinám, ktorý v roku 1994 napísal Sv. Otec Ján Pavol II., pri príležitosti Roku rodiny, snaží sa čo najlepšie naplňať skutkami myšlienky v ňom obsiahnuté. Založil v Bratislave vzdelávací Inštitút rodiny, stal sa jeho riaditeľom a už viac než päť rokov plní Inštitút svoje poslanie, vzdeláva a vychováva odborníkov. V týchto dňoch bol oficiálne premenovaný na Inštitút rodiny Jána Pavla II.

Na konferencii zorganizovanej Katolíckou univerzitou v Ružomberku, Teologickou fakultou v Košiciach a Inštitútom rodiny Jána Pavla II., odzneli zaujímavé prednášky: Prof. ThDr. Tomasz Jalonek z Poľska hovoril na tému „Muž a žena z pohľadu Starého zákona“, biskup, Mons. František Rábek, vojenský ordinár, mal prednášku na tému „Ako muž a ženu ich stvoril“. Štvrté prikázanie – cti otca svojho i matku svoju – bolo základnou myšlienkou prednášky Dr. hab. Romana Bogacza. MUDr. Anna Záborská, poslankyňa Európskeho parlamentu, hovorila o „Zodpovednom materstve“ a Ing. Ján Figel', donedávna komisár EÚ, súčasný predseda KDH, hovoril na tému „Súčasná slovenská rodina v spoločnej Európe“. Na konferencii si prítomní vypočuli i ďalšie prednášky slovenských odborníkov: „Manželský zväzok“ (Prof. RNDr. Ladislav Csontos, SJ, PhD., „Zodpovedné otcovstvo“ (ThDr. Michal Baláž, PhD.) a „Výchova v rodine“ (Prof. ThDr. Stanislav Vojtko, PhD.). K slovu sa dostali i účastníci konferencie z radov Centra pre rodinu a sociálnu starostlivosť z Ostravy, Fóra života, Focoláre, Slovenskej spoločnosti pre rodinu a zodpovedné rodičovstvo i saleziánski pracovníci, ktorí sú známi svojím zameraním na mládež a rodinu.

Ako vidieť z obsahu hlavných tém konferencie, výchova v rodinách patrí medzi tie najdôležitejšie úlohy v živote spoločnosti. Rodina je i pre Cirkev základnou bunkou, nuž a akú rodinu tvoríme my sami, taká bude i naša spoločnosť. Úlohou vlády i celého štátu a v našom prípade i EÚ, je vytváranie podmienok najmä pre viacdetné rodiny, aby v nich vyrastali dobre vychované deti. Situácia vo svete, ale i v rodinách na Slovensku je ohrozovaná demoralizáciou rôznych faktorov. Niektoré liberálne krajiny už neprikladajú rodine prvoradý význam a tieto vplyvy ohrozujú i naše, slovenské rodiny. Sme svedkami vysokej rozvodovosti, ktorá nepriaznivo vplyva najmä na deti vyrastajúce v neúplných rodinách. Na druhej strane sme svedkami toho v akých strašných podmienkach vyrastajú deti v rómskych osadách i toho, koľko detí žijúcich rodičov vyrastá v detských domovoch. Zamyslime sa nad tým a zahrňme ich do našich modlitieb.

Anna a Jozef Biroš

### MODLITBA ZA RODINU

Pane, Ty si Otcem každej rodiny na Zemi. Ty si Otcem 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.

## Americký Kongres schválil rezolúciu k 20. výročiu Nežnej revolúcie

Bratislava/Washington (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák prebral vo Washingtone text rezolúcie Snemovne reprezentantov Kongresu USA k 20. výročiu novembrových udalostí v bývalom Československu. Rezolúciu navrhol kongresman John Mica, ktorý ju aj odovzdal ministrovi Lajčákovi.

Rezolúcia, ktorú vo štvrtok (19.11.) večer schválila Snemovňa reprezentantov jednomyseľne (426 hlasov za, 0 proti), pripomína udalosti v strednej a východnej Európe z roku 1989, osobitne Nežnú revolúciu v bývalom Československu. V texte vysoko hodnotí vývoj v SR a ČR za uplynulých 20 rokov, oceňuje príspevok oboch krajín ako členov NATO a EÚ k obhajobe a presadzovaniu spoločných hodnôt demokracie a slobody a potvrdzuje blízke priateľstvo a spojenectvo USA so Slovenskom a ČR. Dokument obsahuje aj gratuláciu a želanie úspechov a prosperity národom oboch krajín. V preambule sa rezolúcia odvoláva na osobitný vzťah USA so SR a ČR založený na zdieľaných demokratických hodnotách, spoločných záujmoch a silnom puto priateľstva, vzájomného rešpektu a blízkej spolupráce. Potvrdzuje, že USA vnímajú obe krajiny ako spoľahlivých a dôležitých partnerov.

Predkladateľ rezolúcie John Mica a jeho kolegovia Joe Sestak a Joe Wilson sa zúčastnili aj na slovenskej galavečeri vo Washingtone, ktorou za účasti ministra Lajčáka vyvrcholila séria akcií k výročiu 17. novembra v USA. Kongresmanom Micovi a Sestakovi pri tejto príležitosti udelil šéf slovenskej diplomacie Zlaté medaily MZV SR za ich osobný príspevok k prehľbovaniu slovensko-amerických vzťahov.



## Minister Lajčák otvoril na Veľvyslanectve SR v USA výstavu k Novembru '89

Bratislava/Washington (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák absolvoval v utorok 17. novembra, v prvý deň svojej pracovnej návštevy Washingtonu stretnutie s honorárnymi konzulmi Slovenskej republiky, ktorí pôsobia v rôznych štátoch USA. Lajčák ocenil prácu a aktivity jednotlivých honorárnych konzulov pri propagácii a celkovom zviditeľňovaní Slovenska v USA. Poďakoval sa im za usporiadanie viacerých kultúrnych a spoločenských podujatí spojených s pripomenutím si 20. výročia Nežnej revolúcie. Honorárnym konzulov zároveň vyzval, aby naďalej aktívne pôsobili smerom k podpore Slovenska a jeho záujmov, ako aj celkovej kultúrnej a ekonomickej prezentácii SR v Spojených štátoch amerických.

Na pôde slovenského veľvyslanectva vo Washingtone Lajčák následne slávnostne otvoril výstavu obrazov s názvom „Spomienky na Slovensko – Memories of Slovakia“. Výstava pozostáva z vyše 30 diel známych slovenských umelcov, ktoré zo svojich súkromných zbierok zapožičali krajanja a americkí priatelia Slovenska žijúci v USA. Minister vo svojom otváracom vystúpení zdôraznil význam udalostí z Novembra 1989, ktoré pre SR otvorili cestu k slobode, demokracii, prosperite a nezávislosti. Krajanom v USA poďakoval za ich príspevok k ochrane a zachovávaní slovenskej kultúry a dedičstva v Spojených štátoch a vyzdvihol úspešný príbeh Slovenska za ostatných 20 rokov. V rámci stretnutia s krajanmi odovzdal šéf slovenskej diplomacie zlatú medailu ministrovi zahraničných vecí Jurajovi Slávikovi, ktorý patrí medzi významné osobnosti krajskej komunity v USA.



Pokračovanie zo str. 24

## Advent – príchod Krista, ktorý túžobne očakávame

častejšou účasťou na bohoslužbách, ako aj s „domácou cirkvou“, ktorou je rodina. Nachádzajme si viac času na spoločné rozhovory, vzájomnú pomoc, ale i na spoločnú modlitbu, najmä večer pri adventnom venci. Zvlášť si dajme záležať na svätení nedele. Nech je jej stredobodom stretnutie s Kristom a Cirkvou pri svätej omši, chvíle pokoja a lásky v rodine, pozornosť voči chorým, starým a osamelým, prípadne pohyb a uvažovanie v prírode. Venujme viac pozornosti čítaniu Svätého písma: už svätý Hieronym povedal, že kto nepozná Písmo, ten nepozná Krista.

Praktizujme skutky lásky k blížnemu: Boží Syn prišiel medzi nás v osobe chudobného Dieťaťa. Podľa jeho vlastných slov mu môžeme prejavovať lásku v malých a chudobných: „Čokoľvek ste urobili jednému z týchto mojich najmenších bratov mne ste urobili“ (Mt 25, 40). Zvlášť súčasné prejavy ekonomickej krízy sú naliehavou výzvou na kresťanskú solidaritu voči tým, čo trpia nedostatkom. Otvorené oči a otvorené srdce nám povedia, komu a ako by sme mali pomôcť.

Pripravme novonarodenému Pánovi jasličky: obnovme peknú tradíciu stavania betlehemov v rodine – a najmä vo svojom srdci. Boží Syn sa narodil ako človek preto, aby sme sa my mohli stať prijatými Božími synmi a dcérami a mali sme tak večný život. Podmienkou však je, aby sme ho s vierou prijali. Tak píše evanjelista Ján: „Tým, ktorí ho prijali, dal moc stať sa Božími deťmi“ (Jn 1, 12). Uprímnou svätou spoveďou vytvorme podmienky na to, aby sme na Vianoce mohli v Eucharistii prijať do čistého srdca toho istého Krista, ktorý sa pre našu spásu stal človekom.

Na záver vás, milí bratia a sestry, chceme informovať, že celý budúci rok 2010 bude Rokom kresťanskej kultúry na Slovensku. V spolupráci s Ekumenickou radou cirkví, s Ministerstvom kultúry SR, so samosprávou, médiami a s farnosťami sa chceme rozličnými podujatiami kresťanskej kultúry pripravovať na slávenie 1 150. výročia príchodu svätých Cyrila a Metoda do našej vlasti, ktoré pripadá na rok 2013. Budeme radi, keď prejavíte záujem o kresťanskú kultúru – a to nielen ako obdivovatelia. Podľa svojich možností a schopností vytvárajte kultúrne hodnoty preniknuté kresťanským duchom. Najdôležitejšie však je, aby sme sa kresťanmi nielen nazývali, ale aby sme nimi aj boli celým svojím životom.

K tomu vám vyprosujú Božiu pomoc a želajú požehnaný advent

slovenskí biskupi, TK KBS



Obraz Jána Pavla II.



Pohľad na účastníkov konferencie.

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Výročná schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu a Spolku č. 844 IKSJ spojené s Vianočným posedením

Srdečne pozývame slovenskú verejnosť na Vianočnú svätú omšu, ktorá sa bude slúžiť v nedeľu 20. decembra 2009 o 11:00 hodine v St. John Bosco Chapel at St. Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Prosíme všetkých tých, ktorí by mali záujem si vykonať vianočnú svätú spoveď, aby prišli skôr. Father Pestun bude spovedať od 9:00 hodine ráno. Po omši bude v školskej kafetérii, pod patronátom slovenského vicekonzula v Los Angeles, tradičná konzulárna slovenská kapustnica.

Ti, ktorí sa chcú zúčastniť iba pohostenia kapustnicou pri hudbe a priateľskom posedení, nech sa dostavia o 13:30 hodine na horeuvedenú adresu. Tiež prosíme naše šikovné slovenské ženy, aby priniesli ukážky svojho vianočného pečiva.

Výročná schôdza okresu Princa Pribinu a St. Joseph Branch 844 IKSJ sa bude konať o 17:30 hodine na ktorej si prítomní zvolia delegátov na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ. Tešíme sa na každého z vás a dovidenia.

Pavol Skubeň

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 10. januára 2010 o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši, v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. Program schôdze bude zameraný na výber delegátov na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ, ktorá sa uskutoční v dňoch od 14. – 18. augusta 2010 v Clevelande. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov, aby sa na tejto schôdzi zúčastnili čo v najväčšom počte.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

### Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília v New Yorku

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na Štedrovečernú večeru – Vigíliu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 20. decembra 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street, NYC. Vstupné je \$ 20.00 v čom je započítaná aj večera. Lístky na Vigíliu si môžete objednať na Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na tel. čísle (212) 734-4613; Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 6412-8922.

## Vianočná verzia Prvého listu Korintánom

Keby som svoj dom dokonale vyzdobil jedľovými vetvičkami, blikajúcimi svetielkami a vyhrávacími zvončekmi, ale nemal by som lásku k svojej rodine, nebol by som ničím iba dekorátorom.

Keby som sa namáhal v kuchyni a piekol kilá vianočných keksov, labužníckych maškrt a keby som k jedlu prestrel nádherný stôl, ale nemal by som lásku k svojej rodine, nebol by som ničím iba kuchárom.

Keby som pomáhal v charitnej jedálni, v domove dôchodcov spieval koledy a všetok svoj majetok minul na blahobyt, ale nemal by som piesne pre svoju rodinu, nič by mi to neosožilo.

Keby som ozdobil vianočný stromček žiariacimi anjelmami a háčkovanými hviezdami, zúčastnil sa tisícich osláv a v zbere spieval kantáty, ale nemal by som v srdci Ježiša Krista, tak som nepochopil, o čo vlastne ide.

Láska prerušuje pečenie kvôli objatiu dieťaťa.

Láska necháva bokom ozdoby kvôli pobozkaniu manželského partnera.

Láska je priateľská napriek náhleniu a stresu.

Láska nezavídi iným ich domácnosť s vyberaným vianočným porcelánom a priliehavými obrusmi.

Láska neokrikuje deti, aby uhli z cesty, ale je vďačná, že sú a že môžu stáť v ceste.

Láska nedáva iba tým, ktorí môžu niečo vrátiť, ale s radosťou obdarúva práve tých, ktorí darčekom odpovedať nemôžu.

Láska všetko znáša, všetko verí, všetko dúfa, všetko vydrží.  
Láska nikdy nezanikne.

Videohry sa rozbijú, perlové retiazky sa roztrhnú, tenisové rakety zhrdzavejú, ale dar lásky zostáva ...

TK KBS



FOTO TASR - Henrich Mišovič

Pre kresťanov sa 29. novembra 2009 začalo štvortýždňové obdobie adventu - duchovnej prípravy na slávenie spomienky narodenia Ježiša. Prvá adventná nedeľa je zároveň začiatkom nového cirkevného roka. Symbolom tohto predvianočného obdobia je adventný veniec so štyrmi sviečkami, ktoré sa postupne zapalujú počas štyroch adventných nediel. Na snímke omša v kostole svätého Gorazda v Nitre.

## Začal sa Advent, pripomína čakanie ľudstva na príchod Ježiša Krista

Bratislava (TASR) - Väčšina kresťanov 29. novembra začala adventnú prípravu na Vianoce. Prvá adventná nedeľa je súčasne v Katolíckej cirkvi začiatkom nového liturgického roka a už tradične aj dňom celocirkevnej zbierky na charitu. V katolíckej cirkvi na prvú adventnú nedeľu tradične čítajú Pastiersky list biskupov Slovenska.

V gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sa liturgické obdobie prípravy na Vianoce, nazývané Filipovka, začalo už 15. novembra, deň po sviatku sv. apoštola Filipa.

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

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

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

Tradičia adventného venca sa rozšírila v 19. storočí z Nemecka. Známym je príbeh o adventnom venci, ktorý vyrobil nemecký evanjelický pastor Johann Henrich Wichern. Narodil sa v roku 1808 v Hamburgu ako najstarší syn a mal sedem súrodencov. Vyštudoval teológiu, stal sa vychovávateľom a evanjelickým pastorom, neskôr pôsobil ako učiteľ v hamburskej nedeľnej škole. Keďže túžil starať sa o chudobných ľudí, rozhodol sa zriadiť útulok pre chudobné a opustené deti. Vďaka vynaloženému úsiliu a milodarom sa mu podarilo tento plán realizovať. V útulku, ktorý nazval Drsný dom, opustené deti nielen bývali, ale sa aj priučili remeslu. Na základe neustálych otázok týchto detí, koľko dní ešte zostáva do Vianoc, sa Johann H. Wichern rozhodol vyrobiť drevený veniec s 24 sviečkami - 19 tenšími, ktoré predstavovali všedné dni a štyrmi hrubšími sviečkami symbolizujúcimi štyri adventné nedele. Dnes sa s adventným vencom možno stretnúť aj v mimonáboženskej oblasti. Často aj sekulárnemu človeku pripomína, že je tu zvláštne obdobie, upozorňujúce na príchod Krista.

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

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

## Láska Božia, nádej naša ...

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

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

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

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

Anna Trojčáková

## Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Hlavné mesto SR** a jeho obyvatelia majú nový monumentálny pamätník z ostnatého drôtu s názvom Srdece Európy. S podstavcom váži vyše štyri a pol tony, má šírku takmer päť metrov a výšku viac ako štyri metre. Pri príležitosti 20. výročia Nežnej revolúcie ho slávnostne odhalili na bratislavskom Hviezdoslavovom námestí. Podľa primátora Andreja Ďurkovského je to umelecký dar všetkým Bratislavčanom, ktorí sa v nevládných novembrových dňoch pred 20 rokmi zhromažďovali na námestiach. Prejavovali odvážnu morálku v čase, keď nebolo isté, či vtedajší režim nepoužije mocenskú silu. Nový pamätník je zväčšenou replikou pôvodného diela výtvarníka Daniela Brunovského, ktoré bolo inštalované 10. decembra 1989 na rakúskej strane Dunaja pri Devíne - na mieste, kde sa symbolicky pred dvoma desaťročiami začal strihať drôtený plot, ktorý oddeľoval vtedajšie Československo od krajín vyspelej západnej Európy. Vtedy sa v rámci podujatia Ahoj Európa vydali tisíce Slovákov na pochod po oboch brehoch Dunaja - z Bratislavy do Devína a Hainburgu.

• **Slovenskú akadémiu vied (SAV)** 18. novembra navštívili zástupcovia U.S. Army International Technology Center - Atlantic (USAITCA) - zámorského úradu veliteľstva americkej armády pre výskum, vývoj a inžinierstvo. Úlohou tohto úradu je pestovať medzinárodné vzťahy a napomáhať rozvoju medzinárodnej spolupráce v oblasti základného vedeckého a technologického výskumu formou vytvárania partnerstiev s finančnou podporou vybraných projektov. Na stretnutí zástupcovia vybraných ústavov SAV v krátkych prezentáciách oboznámili amerických hostí s celkovým zameraním svojho pracoviska, ako aj s konkrétnym výskumom, ktorý spadá do sféry záujmu USAITCA.

• **Slovensko** bude v novej Európskej komisii (EK) zastupovať Maroš Šefčovič. Jeho nomináciu 18. novembra schválila vláda. Šefčovič je v súčasnosti eurokomisárom zodpovedným za oblasť vzdelávania, odbornej prípravy, kultúry a mládeže. Toto portfólio prebral 1. októbra po rezignácii Jána Figela, ktorý sa stal predsedom KDĽ. O budúcich portfóliách kandidátov na komisárov rozhodne predseda EK José Manuel Barroso po konzultácii s predsedami vlád a hláv štátov členských krajín Európskej únie. Slovensko už dlhodobo avizuje svoj záujem o oblasť energetiky, prípadne ekonomického zamerania.

• **Tohtoročná** 19. konferencia detských hematológov a onkológov zo Slovenska a Českej republiky sa uskutočnila v dňoch 20. až 22. novembra v Košiciach. Organizátorom odborného podujatia bola Slovenská lekárska spoločnosť v spolupráci s Oddelením detskej onkológie a hematológie (ODOH) košickej Detskej fakultnej nemocnice, ktoré si v týchto dňoch pripomína 25 rokov svojej existencie. Záštitu nad podujatím prevzal primátor Košíc František Knapík, rektor Univerzity Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach Ladislav Mirossay a riaditeľka Detskej fakultnej nemocnice v Košiciach Ingrid Urbančíková. Nosnými témami prednášok boli napríklad otázky týkajúce sa anémie, leukémie, nádorov centrálného nervového systému či detských transplantácií. Priblížili aj novú formu liečby nádorových ochorení prostredníctvom liekov, ktoré brzdia, respektíve potláčajú tvorbu ciev v tumoroch a nádoroch. Táto metóda zaznamenala v poslednom období viacero úspechov.

• **To**, že na východe Slovenska je najvyššia miera nezamestnanosti je starý známy smutný fakt. Tamojší obyvatelia sa musia poriadne obracať. V obci Ulič, v okrese Snina ale prišli na dobré riešenie. Vznikla tam galéria miniatúr kostolíkov, ktoré sú pre tento kraj charakteristické a takto získali prácu nezamestnaní. Míni galériu tvorí 7 replík drevených kostolíkov z Uličskej doliny. Tri z nich dodnes stoja v Topoli, v Ruskom potoku a v uličskom Krivom. Niektoré už len v skanzenoch, alebo dávno neexistujú. Tie vyrábali len od oka na základe fotiek alebo archívnych dokumentov. Pri niektorých siahli hlboko do minulosti. Repliky vyrábali chlapi v obecnej chránenej dielni z dubového dreva pod vedením majstra. Takto chceli spropagovať svoj region no zároveň splnili aj iný účel.

• **Lyžiarstvo** v Krompachoch má asi 140. ročnú tradíciu. Na najvyššom bode lyžiarskeho strediska Plejsy veriaci postavili kríž, symbol našej spásy a v sobotu odpolednia 28. novembra 2009 bol požehnaný ThLic. Štefanom Kosturkom. Posviacka kríža začala modlitbou prvých vešpier z prvej adventnej nedele a potom nasledovalo požehnanie kríža. Každý návštevník lyžiarskeho strediska, ktorý sa naň vyvezie lanovkou, bude počas výstupu hľadieť na tento kríž. Po požehnaní nasledovalo malé agapé pre všetkých účastníkov. Hmla a sychravé počasie neodradilo mnohých účastníkov tohto nezvyčajného začiatku nového Liturgického roka, ba naopak symbolizovalo stav ľudstva pred príchodom Ježiša Krista na tento svet, ktorý žil v tme a hriechu a svojím príchodom nám priniesol svetlo a nádej. Spev Príde Kristus Spasiteľ náš, ktorý na záver účastníci zaspievali sa rozlieval po celom okolí.

• **V kongresovej hale Slovenskej poľnohospodárskej univerzity (SPU)** v Nitre od 25. novembra prebiehala odborná konferencia o univerzitných informačných systémoch s názvom UNINFOS 2009. Počas trojdňového programu tu 13 firiem predstavilo 90 účastníkom moderné akademické programy zamerané na modernizáciu a elektronizáciu vzdelávacích programov a služieb pre študentov a pracovníkov univerzít. Súkromné spoločnosti na konferencii predstavili možnosti implementácie najmodernejších technológií pre infraštruktúru v akademickom prostredí, moderné nástroje e-learningu, program virtualizácie pracovných staníc na univerzitách, moderné systémy pre vyučovanie informatiky, nové formy komunikácie v univerzitnom prostredí a množstvo ďalších technológií a moderných systémov umožňujúcich skvalitnenie výučby a výskumnej činnosti na vysokých školách.

• **Bratislavské** letisko mení imidž. Nový terminál s kapacitou 3.5 milióna pasažierov ročne majú otvoriť už v lete 2010. Symbolickým lákadlom pre cestujúcich bude model dvojplôšnika Caproni, v ktorom tragicky zahynul M.R. Štefánik. V reálnej veľkosti bude visieť v odletovej hale letiska. "Podvozok lietadla bude prichytený oceľovými lanami až k nosnej konštrukcii strechy", vysvetľuje Boris Schultz, jeden z architektov, ktorí navrhli interiér. Zdlhavé čakanie na letisku spríjemní aj dvojnásobný počet obchodov so svetovými značkami. Predajne budú vybavené aj monitorom s aktuálnym časom priletov a odletov, pasažieri sa tak nemusia strachovať, že let zmeškajú.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## Sláva Bohu na výsosti

Odtiaľ, kde slnko vychádza,  
k najvzdialenejším končinám  
nech zaznie pieseň Kristovi,  
ktorý sa z Panny zrodil nám.

Pôvodca sveta blažený,  
v krehké sa telo oblieka,  
aby zachránil stvorenie  
a v tele spasil človeka.

Panenské lono Márie  
mení sa náhle v Boží chrám;  
a slovom počne Ježiša  
tá, ktorá muža nepozná.

Z Panny Matky sa zrodil Pán,  
ktorého anjel zvestoval,  
a v lone matky skrytý Ján  
radosťou nad ním zaplesal.



On nepohrdol jasľami,  
pokorne leží na sene;  
o trošku mlieka prosí ten,  
čo živí všetko stvorenie.

Zástupy v nebi plesajú,  
spievajú Bohu anjeli,  
aby pastieri Pastiera  
a svojho Tvorcu videli.

Ježišu z Panny zrodený,  
sláva ti, Bože útechy;  
Otcovi, Duchu Svätému  
nech sa česť vzdáva  
navěky.

(Z vianočného hymnu  
Liturgie hodín)

## Dobrá novina - Koncert vďaky



Foto: TK KBS/ Danica Olexová

Kolednícka akcia Dobrá novina, ktorá si tento rok pripomína 15 rokov od svojho vzniku. Koncert vďaky Dobrej noviny sa konal 28. novembra vo veľkej sále Univerzitného pastoračného centra v Bratislave.



## Čestné občianstvo Bratislavy kardinálovi Tomkovi

Kardinálovi Jozefovi Tomkovi udelili 18. novembra, Čestné občianstvo Hlavného mesta SR Bratislavy. Na mimoriadnom slávnostnom zasadnutí mestského zastupiteľstva v Primaciálnom paláci ho z rúk bratislavského primátora Andreja Ďurkovského za neprítomného kardinála Tomka, prevzal apoštolský nuncius Svätej stolice v SR Mario Giordana. Čestnými občanmi Bratislavy sa stali aj Václav Havel a Maximilian Pammer.

Z ďakovného listu kardinála Jozefa Tomka vyberáme niekoľko spomienok na obdobie krátko pred a po novembri 1989: „Náš boj o slobodu ducha bol bojom o dušu národa. Cez Bratislavu som iba mimoriadne prechádzal asi dvakrát, keď mi vláda už nemohla odoprieť vízum pre medzinárodné ohľady. Konečne prišiel revolučný november roku 1989. Pamätám sa na pád berlínskeho múra, po ktorom onedlho nasledovali ďalšie pády. Po prvých správach som sa vo Vatikáne stretol s Jánom Pavlom II. Išli sme si s úsmevom naproti a obaja sme naraz vyslovili jedinú myšlienku a istotu: Boh je pán dejín!

Ten istý pápež a náš priateľ navštívil už v apríli 1990 bývalú republiku a venoval jeden deň Slovensku, ktoré sa zhromažďilo na rozmoknutom starom letisku vo Vajnorochoch. Pri výstupe na mokré letisko kľakol si na podhodený plášť a pobožkal slovenskú zem. Na také momenty by sa nemalo zabúdať.“

Podľa Štatútu Hlavného mesta SR Bratislavy sa čestné občianstvo udeľuje osobám, ktoré sa významným spôsobom zaslúžili o hlavné mesto a jeho obyvateľov alebo o mier a priateľstvo medzi národmi alebo osobám, ktoré obohatili ľudské poznanie vynikajúcimi tvorivými výkonmi. O udelení čestného občianstva sa vydáva listina, ktorú podpisuje primátor a ktorá sa pečatí pečatou Bratislavy. Čestný občan sa zapisuje do Zlatej knihy Bratislavy. -jak-



Kardinál  
Jozef Tomko

TK KBS



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Ročník 118

STREDA, 9. DECEMBER, 2009

Číslo 5811

## VIANOCE 2009



St. Catherine Laboure Church, Harrisburg, Pa.

*Boh sa zjavuje ako dieťa, aby premohol našu pýchu.  
„Stal sa malým, aby nás oslobodil od tej ľudskej predstierananej veľkosti,  
ktorá pramení z pýchy. Slobodne sa vteliť, aby nás urobil  
skutočne slobodnými, slobodnými milovať ho.“*

— Pápež Benedikt XVI.



## Advent – príchod Krista, ktorý túžobne očakávame

### *Pastiersky list na Prvú adventnú nedeľu*

Milí bratia a sestry!

Na začiatku nového liturgického roka vás pozdravujeme ako vaši duchovní pastieri a dávame vám niekoľko podnetov na duchovne kvalitnejšie prežitie adventu a celého začínajúceho sa cirkevného roka.

Advent nám pripomína obdobie očakávania Spasiteľa. Nádej na jeho príchod živil Boh v ľuďoch účinkovaním prorokov. Tak sme to počuli aj 28. novembra 2009 v prvom čítaní z Knihy proroka Jeremiáša: „Blížia sa dni – hovorí Pán –, keď splním prísľub spásy, ktorý som dal Izraelovmu a Júdovmu domu. ... V tom čase vyklíči z Dávida spravodlivý výhonok, ktorý bude konať právo a spravodlivosť na zemi“ (Jer 33, 14-15). Oboznamovaním sa s tým, ako Boh v Starom zákone pripravoval príchod Spasiteľa, a s tým, ako vytrvalá nádej dávala mnohým silu prekonať životné ťažkosti a snažiť sa o spravodlivý život, môžeme lepšie poznať veľkosť Božieho daru, ktorým je pre nás i pre celé ľudstvo Ježiš Kristus. Kresťanský advent nás však zameriava aj na očakávanie druhého, slávneho Kristovho príchodu na konci čias. Príde už nie ako bezmocné Dieťa, lež so svojou božskou mocou ako Sudca živých i mŕtvych, aby nastolil večné Božie kráľovstvo. V evanjeliu Prvej adventnej nedele nás Ježiš naliehavo vyzýva: „Preto bďte celý čas a modlite sa, aby ste mohli uniknúť všetkému tomu, čo má prísť, a postaviť sa pred Syna človeka“ (Lk 21, 36).

V našom prostredí je však veľmi silný tlak na nás, aby sme prežívali obdobie adventu ako záležitosť zaobstarávania najrozličnejších vecí, ktoré nám nanucuje reklama a preplnené supermarkety. Snažia sa nás presvedčiť, že radosť Vianoc spočíva v čo najväčšom konzume. Iste, k sviatočným chvíľam patrí aj atmosféra útulného domova, prejavy pozornosti voči našim blízkym a primeraná hojnosť na stole tiež. Ale sám Ježiš Kristus nás upozorňuje na nebezpečenstvo prehnaneho konzumu: „Dávajte si pozor, aby vaše srdcia neotťaželi obzerstvom, opilstvom a starosťami o tento život, aby vás onen deň neprekvapil“ (Lk 21, 34).

Dúfame, že z toho čo sme povedali je každému múdreému kresťanovi jasné, na čo by sa mal počas adventu zamerať, v čom je podstatná hodnota tohto obdobia a čo sú iba doplnky, ktorým nesmieme venovať toľko pozornosti, že by udusili podstatu. Dôverujeme vám, milí bratia a sestry, že nájdete spôsob, ako sa v duchu týchto zásad správne zachovať.

Radi by sme vám teraz predložili niekoľko praktických návrhov na kresťanský správne prežívanie tohto vzácneho obdobia. Prežívajme advent v spoločenstve s Cirkvou: čím

Pokračovanie na str. 21

## VINŠ SLOVÁKOM CELÉHO SVETA - A NIELEN IM

Sviatky Narodenia a nového občianskeho roka osviežujú nielen pamäť,  
ale i národný cit a duševnú pohodu v ňom.

Tak by tomu malo byť aj v tomto roku.

Všetkým Vám, Vaším blízkym, ale i priateľom Neslovákom želáme Bohumilé sviatky Narodenia, zdravý vstup do Nového roka 2010, desiateho výročia Veľkého Jubilea,

ktorého posolstvo šľachtí slovenský národ na celom svete.

K *V i a n o c i a m* 2009 privolávame:

Pokoj Pánov nech je i naďalej medzi nami!

*Stanislav Bajaník*

*riaditeľ*

*Krajanského múzea Matice slovenskej*

*Bratislava*

## Vianočná výzdoba v Košiciach

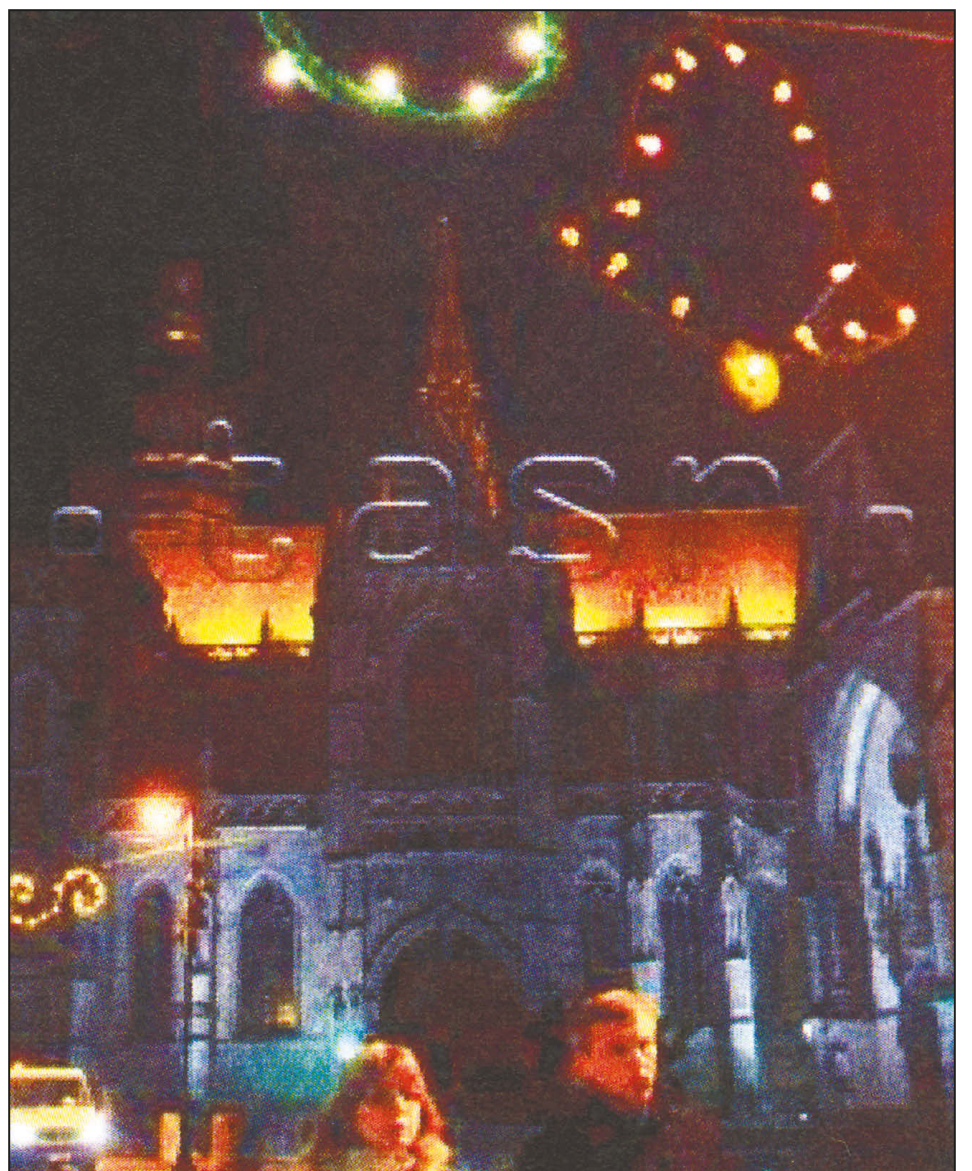


FOTO TASR - František Iván

Vianočná výzdoba v Košiciach na Hlavnej ulici 1. decembra 2009, v pozadí Dóm sv. Alžbety.