



Jednota

THE UNION

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Slovakia and Valentine's Day

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

Until the Revolution of 1989, Slovaks generally did not celebrate St. Valentine's Day on February 14th. Rather for Catholics, the date marked the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the Apostles of the Slavs who served as missionaries in bringing Christianity to Slavic peoples. The customs came mainly from England and France, and would later filter down to Slovakia in more recent times.

Origins

We know few facts about St. Valentine (*Valentina*, in Slovak); as a result, the Roman Catholic Church actually removed the feast day of Saint Valentine from the General Roman Calendar in its 1969 revision of its Calendar of Saints. Local or national calendars could keep the day if they wished, but the Church could find no evidence to justify St. Valentine's inclusion in its regular calendar. Apart from two revered Valentines being buried on the *Via Flaminia* (Flaminian Way) on February 14, real substantive details were lacking.

In Catholic traditions, several martyrs went by the name of Valentine. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius I had first established the feast on February 14, but the day had nothing to do with the celebration of romantic love. The day commemorated two early Christians who suffered martyrdom – Valentine of Rome (*Valentinus presb. m. Romae*) and Valentine of Terni (*Valentinus ep. Interamnensis m. Romae*). The first Valentine of Rome was a martyred priest from the third century (c. 269 AD), and he was entombed along the *Via Flaminia*, an ancient main road leading northward from the city of Rome to the Adriatic Sea. One may find his relics at the Church of Saint Praxed in Rome and also at the Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Another saint of the same name, Valentine of Terni (a city in Umbria, about 65 miles north of Rome), became bishop of Interamna (modern Terni) in 197 AD. He suffered martyrdom during the reign of Emperor Aurelian (ruled 270-275). The second St. Valentine was also buried aside the *Via Flaminia*, but in a different locale, at the Basilica of Saint Valentine in Terni (Basilica di San Valentino).

Yet another St. Valentine is mentioned in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. This third saint and some of companions were martyred in Africa, but we know little more than this. Thus all three saints were commemorated in ancient martyrologies on February 14.

People continued to identify the *Via Flaminia* with the Saints Valentine in the Middle Ages. During the early 11th century, people commonly referred to Rome's Flaminian Gate of Rome (now called the *Porta del Popolo*), as the Gate of St. Valentine. The name also derived from the name of a small nearby Church of St. Valentine.

Valentine's Day and Love

The identification of the St. Valentines with love did not occur until Medieval writers began

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Honoring Saints Cyril and Methodius

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

On February 14th, we as Slovaks in the United States of America, have the joy of celebrating two special Feast days. The first and most common one is St. Valentine's Day, which as been commercialized as a time for sending messages of love, care and appreciation.

Our primary honor, however, on this day goes to Saints Cyril and Methodius, our Slovak Patrons. Originally, this feast was celebrated on July 7th, until the calendar was restructured after the Second Vatican Council. In Slovakia, our Saints continue to be honored on July 5th.

With joyous hymn, Duša Kresťanská (Christian Soul), we raise our voices in grateful chorus and praise the Lord for Cyril and Methodius. They are truly the foundation and inspiration for the steadfast faith of the Slovak nation.

In the ninth century, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they taught and served the people spiritually and liturgically in their own language. Thus, the gift of faith was deeply rooted, survived and spread, despite 1,000 years of Magyar oppression which followed.

A firm devotion to the Mother of God is also a great strength and support. Images and statues, such as the Mother of Sorrows, as well as her triumphant Assumption into Heaven, are frequently found throughout the country.

Now, as the nation advances toward its 10th year as a Slovak Republic, we thank God for His continual guiding presence and support for the growth and the spread of the gift of Faith.

The complete hymn in Slovak, along with Sister Maria Theresa's translation and interpretation of the hymn in English can be found on page 3 of this issue.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.75% APY
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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



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Membership Meet
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Insights and Viewpoints



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

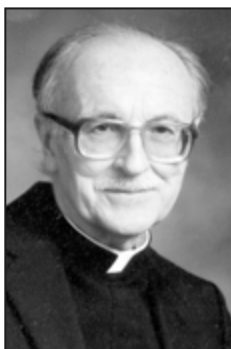
February 12, 2012

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 1:40-45

Gospel Summary

This passage continues the narrative of Jesus' mission immediately following his baptism in the Jordan and the call of the first disciples. As beloved Son and Messiah, his mission is to proclaim the good news of the coming of God's kingdom.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

God's rule over all creation would bring to an end the domination of Satan, characterized by all forms of untruth, violence, sickness and death. That the power of God's rule is present in Jesus becomes evident to the amazement of the people by his teaching with authority, his healing and his casting out demons.

This Sunday's gospel tells us of Jesus' cure of a man afflicted with leprosy (a term referring to any repulsive skin disease). A leper comes to Jesus and begs to be cured. Moved with compassion, Jesus touches the "untouchable" and cures him. He then sends him to a priest so that he can be reinstated into the community.

After curing the leper, Jesus had admonished him not to publicize what had happened. Mark here anticipates a major theme he will develop more explicitly in his gospel: namely, that people, even Peter and the rest of his disciples, will misunderstand Jesus' mission. The theme reflects an aspect of Satan's attempt to entice Jesus to redefine his mission solely to the satisfaction of people's temporal needs, and thereby to become the messiah of his own earthly, political kingdom. The kingdom of Satan would remain essentially in tact had Jesus succumbed to that temptation. John's gospel also alludes to Jesus' concern about the mistaken notion people had of his mission: "Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone...you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled" (6:15-26).

Jesus, however, is faithful to his Father's will to the end. Filled with divine compassion, he responds to the temporal needs of people for healing and for food; but ultimately he wants to give the gift of eternal life with God, the only gift that will satisfy the restlessness and the hunger of the human heart.

Life Implications

Since the Church is the means by which Christ extends his mission for the sake of God's kingdom through history, healing will be an essential characteristic of its service. Christians, through the urging of Christ's compassion, must bring healing to the world's sickness, making possible medical care even for the "untouchables" of our own society. In the Catholic tradition, Christ's compassionate hand touches the sick in a special way through the sacrament of anointing. The Church like Christ will be tempted to reduce the meaning of God's kingdom to the relief of people's obvious and pressing temporal needs. Christ's compassion, however, continues to extend beyond these needs to the deepest human need for personal transformation through communion in eternal, divine life. We can see how Christ's compassionate hand touches the sick in both aspects in the prayers appointed for the administration of the sacrament of anointing.

Like Jesus each of us will endure a trial of faith when beset by suffering and approaching death. Am I really God's beloved daughter? Am I really God's beloved son? Is it death that defines the meaning of human existence? The source of our hope is that we share Christ's own unconquerable hope through the gift of his Spirit. Jesus prayed to be delivered from suffering and death; nevertheless, as things worked out, he trusted in God's love through the experience of his suffering, abandonment, and dying. In our time of trial, as the Letter to the Hebrews tells, we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. "For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12-2).



February 19, 2012

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 2:1-12

Gospel Summary

This Sunday's gospel passage recounts the story of Jesus' cure of a paralytic. We must not be distracted by the ingenious efforts of the paralytic's friends to lower him through the roof because they could not get through the crowd. After all, this story is about salvation, not engineering!

Jesus seems to have sought out paralytics because his miracles are so often for their benefit. This makes good sense when we realize that the miracles of Jesus were intended to show that he came to liberate and therefore people with "frozen" muscles were prime candidates for illustrating this.

The story also makes it clear that the real liberation brought by Jesus is spiritual and eternal, which is revealed when Jesus declares that the paralytic's sins are forgiven. This is the only liberation that we absolutely must have. Cure of a physical ailment is most desirable but it is only a temporary relief.

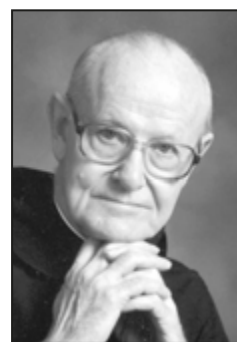
The scribes are shocked and scandalized to hear Jesus proclaim forgiveness of sins. Instead of rejoicing to hear that this wonderful power is now available, they choose to cling to their own narrow interpretation of religion. Human knowledge alone is ultimately pessimistic.

Life Implications

We are all in so many ways victims of paralysis in the sense that we find it very difficult to realize our potential. Low self-esteem, expressed usually in our fear of trying something new or of making a mistake, not only denies others the benefit of our gifts but also contributes to our own unhappiness. The only solution to this dilemma is our willingness to trust the goodness that God has put in our lives--a goodness that is revealed to us by the gift of faith.

This gift of faith is intended to do far more than merely help us accept the words of the creed. Its real purpose is to enable us to trust the goodness that comes to us from God, but also from loving persons and from the beauty of God's creation. Thus, faith enables us to see the often hidden goodness in life--a goodness that is sometimes hard to discern but which is always available to those who are looking for it. The effect of this experience of goodness is to liberate us and thus to enable us to let go of the evil and hurt that are also a part of every life.

This power of faith in our lives is not something that we can discover by simply wishing for it. Like the paralytic in this story, we too need to count on friends who are usually more than willing to help us to meet Jesus and to hear those precious words: "Your sins are forgiven," and, "Rise, pick up your mat and walk." When this happens, we will gladly join others in declaring, "We have never seen anything like this."



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14	MONDAY, MARCH 5

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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Slovakia and Valentine's Day

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writing about legendary saints. Jacobus de Voragine collected a set of hagiographies and published *The Golden Legend* (*Legenda aurea* or *Legenda sanctorum* in Latin). It became an instant best seller, for stories about the saints ignited devotion and popular enthusiasm. The legend alleged that the Roman Emperor Claudius II had persecuted Christians and personally interrogated St. Valentine. Intrigued by his conversations with Valentine, the emperor offered him amnesty if he would convert to paganism. When Valentine refused to abandon his faith, he was sent to the executioner. But legend had it that before his death, Valentine miraculously healed his jailer's blind daughter.

The story made no mention of romantic love. But later stories embellished the legend by mentioning an unsubstantiated Roman law which commanded young men to stay single so that he could build a larger army. The legend stated that Valentine secretly married young couples, and this accounted for his arrest and ultimate execution.

Since *Legenda Aurea* still provided no connections whatsoever with sentimental love, appropriate lore has been embellished in modern times to portray Valentine as a priest who refused an unattested law attributed to Roman Emperor Claudius II, allegedly ordering that young men remain single. The Emperor supposedly did this to grow his army, believing that married men did not make good soldiers. The priest Valentine, however, secretly performed marriage ceremonies for young men and women. When Claudius found out about this, he had Valentine arrested and thrown in jail. Later traditions claimed that Valentine wrote a card to his jailer's daughter, and so was born the idea of the first Valentine's Day card.

Some of the customs we practice today found their origin in the chivalric love tales of the Middle Ages from England and France. It became popular lore that February 14th marked the middle of year's second month, when the birds first began to mate. A passage in Chaucer's *Parliament of Foules* added to the lore, when he wrote:

For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day

Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate.

The rest is history. People began sending love letters or small tokens to their beloved, and the tradition became embedded in popular culture. By the 19th century, commercial interests seized upon this legend to help sell cards, flowers, and eventually sweets and other gifts for Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day in Slovakia

I have never seen references to Valentine's Day being celebrated in Slovakia in previous eras. When I lived overseas doing research in 1982, no one in Bratislava was wishing one another *Šťastný Valentínsky deň* (Happy Valentine's Day).

That changed after the Velvet Revolution of 1989. Valentine's Day customs gradually crept into Slovakia from the West, and enterprising businesses seized the opportunity as an excuse to sell cards, flowers, candles, and candies. So today one can see heart-shaped balloons and red roses for sale on the streets of Bratislava, and store fronts decorated with Valentine's Day paraphernalia, much like here in the United States.

Across Slovakia, young people have more recently adopted Valentine's Day as a growing custom. An increase in outdoor activities occur on that day, and some people decorate with colorful lights, scented candles, red roses, and other symbols of the day. Some Slovaks use the day as an excuse for social occasions or a party, since it is holy day and a day free from work obligations, the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius. It also frequently occurs shortly before Lent, so the *fašiangy* (pre-Lenten carnival) spirit can also be present. Some of larger cities stage live concerts to seize on the spirit of the festive mood.

Hotels have used the occasion to lure tourist business during a slow time of the year. The spa town of Trenčianske Teplice offers couples special weekend package deals on *Deň zalúbených* (Lovers's Day). The package includes amenities such as enjoying the spa's healing waters as well as good food and drinks along with music and dancing.

Today, I have noticed that some Slovak websites are promoting text messaging Valentine's Day greetings to one's lover. Slovakia is very much in tune with the worldwide technological revolution.

In ending this short column, it seems appropriate to list here a few Slovak *príslovia* (proverbs) about love. The first is more traditional, and perhaps, more realistic!

Zalúbená je, lebo presolila.

She must be in love, she oversalted the food!

Dnes je sviatok Valentína, milujem Ťa ako pohár vína.

Today is Valentine's Day, I love you like a glass of wine.

Miláčik, na Valentína chcem Ti povedať, že až do konca života budem Ťa milovať.

Honey, on Valentine's Day I want to tell you that I'll love you to the end of my life.

In conclusion, I wish all of you *Šťastný Valentínsky deň*, Happy Valentine's Day.

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Honoring Saints Cyril and Methodius

continued from page 1

Duša Kresťanská

Duša Kresťanská, zvelebuj Boha,
že nám Cyrila dal i Metoda.

SBOR:

Svätý Cyril, svätý Metod,
ľuď kresťanský ctí váš príchod,
že ste nám priniesli vieru Krista.

Prišli ste k našim pohanským predkom
Cvičili ste ich verne vo všetkom.

Hlásali Boha ste jediného,
Otca, Syna i Ducha Svätého.

Nachylné duše pri svätom krste
z hriechu pokuty očistili ste.

Pri birmovaní dar svätodušný
vyprosili ste pre ľuď poslušný.

Radili ste i hriešnikom vtedy
zmierit sa s Bohom v svätej spovedi.

Pri svätej omši zbonžne a vrele
podávali ste Kristovo telo.

Chorých modlitbami ste tešievali
a pomazaním posilňovali.

Súcich mladíkov na úrad kňazský
vysvätili ste pre ľuď kresťanský.

Žehnávali ste manželské stavy,
všetky ste viedli na dobré mravy.

Máriu, svätých ctíť ste učili,
keď ste Klementa telo nosili.

A Písmo sväté preložili ste
do našej reči lahodne, čiste.

Už osláveným vďaky vzdávame,
za apoštolov vás vyznávame.

Posilňujte nás v tej pravej viere,
ktorá otvára do neba dvere.

Christian Soul: We Raise Our Voices

We raise our voices in grateful chorus,
Praising the Lord for Cyril, Methodius.

Chorus:

O Saint Cyril, Saint Methodius,
Down through the ages your names are glorious,
You brought to countless souls the living Faith.


With ardent zeal you taught the Lord's message,
Shared words of wisdom in their own language.

Preaching God's mercy, love and redemption,
You helped our faith grow with conviction.

You have inspired love for God's mother,
In joy and sorrow, our intercessor.

Pray for us daily, strengthen and guide us,
To follow as God's Kingdom will call us.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SSCM
January 20, 2012



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JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH - APRIL - MAY - JUNE - JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER



Accent on Activities



2012 International Tournaments

February 2012



Bowling Tournament

Plans for the 2012 International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held in Wickliffe, Ohio, the weekend of May 4 - 6. This tournament is the first combined tournament, the First Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament, with the Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union, National Slovak Society, and Slovak Catholic Sokol. Registration forms can be under Fraternal Events at www.fcsu.com.

The Team Event will be held Friday evening. Doubles and Singles events will be held Saturday and Sunday, if needed. You can bowl as much or as little as you want by participating in as many events (Teams, Doubles, and Singles) you would like.

NEW THIS YEAR

While multiple and mixed entries are not allowed this year, those bowlers who no longer maintain a USBC average and have participated in at least 3 FCSU tournaments in the last 6 years will be able to have a handicap at this tournament. We will use your tournament averages from the last 3 tournaments you participated in to calculate your handicap.

Even if your Branch, District, or Region does not send participants to the Tournament, you can still show your support of fraternal activities by sponsoring a lane at the bowling alleys. (Information on sponsoring a lane can be found below.)

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2012 International Bowling Tournament in Wickliffe, Ohio. Hope to see you there!

Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held in Sharon, Pennsylvania. This tournament will be a joint event with the National Slovak Society.

The tournament will be held the weekend of July 14 and 15. Details are still being planned for this event.



Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be a 12 - 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned. Judging is based on creativity.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

- \$50 - First Place
- \$30 - Second Place
- \$20 - Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, Branch number, age, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a **separate sheet of paper**. DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE

Mail your entry to:

Susan Ondrejco
Photo Contest
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

postmarked by October 1, 2012.



It's that time of year again! Our Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6, 2012. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor: \$50 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Branch, District, or Region name.

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to "FCSU Activities" to:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 13, 2012.



Requests (based on order received)				
Event	Date	Time	Date	Time
TEAM				
DOUBLES & SINGLES				

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 1st Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's

Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, National Slovak Society, and Slovak Catholic Sokol, a/k/a the United Slovak Fraternal's

Freeway Lanes

28801 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092

Captain Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Team Name: _____
 League: _____
 City: _____

Entry Fees

Prize Fee.....	\$7.00
Bowling Fee (3games)	\$6.50
Tournament Fee	\$2.50
Total Each Event	\$16.00

Optional Events

All Events	\$3.00
Senior Singles Event (60+)	\$5.00

Banquet Fees

Member	\$25.00
--------------	---------

Total submitted..... \$ _____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities
 Mail to:
 Susan Ondrejco
 234 Ilion St.
 Pgh. PA 15207

2012 May 4 – 6, 2012
 Entries Close
 March 16, 2012

All Events (X)	Banq (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT./POLICY NO. MUST BE FILLED IN	BRANCH/ ASSM NO.
		1.					
		2.					
		3.					
		4.					
Singles (X)	Banq (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)	<p>- Schedule -</p> <p>TEAM EVENT Friday, May 4 6 PM & 9 PM</p> <p>DOUBLES AND SINGLES Saturday, May 5 8:30 AM & 12:30 AM Sunday, May 6 9:00 AM (if needed)</p> <p><i>BOWLING FEES, AS WELL AS, ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK</i></p> <p><i>FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION</i></p> <p><i>INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED</i></p>		
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Substitutes on two-man teams **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.



United Slovak Fraternal's 1st Annual Bowling Tournament

May 4 – May 6, 2012

Schedule of Events

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 5:45 pm with team events starting at 6:00 pm and 9:00 PM at Freeway Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 6:00 PM at Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, OH. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – Embassy Suites of Beachwood, OH will be housing our guests for the weekend. The direct phone number to the hotel is (216) 765-8066. You must identify yourself as a member of United Slovak

Fraternal's Bowling Group to receive the rate of \$99 (includes tax).

Deadline for hotel reservations is March 16th.

Saturday:

Doubles/Singles Event - To begin at 8:30 and 12:30 pm

Mass - will be scheduled for 5:30 pm and be held at the Embassy Suites.

Banquet - will be held at Embassy Suites which begin 6:30 PM.

Sunday:

If needed - scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM,

Freeway Lanes: 28801 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092 – (440) 585-5800

Embassy Suites: 3775 Park East Drive, Beachwood, OH 44122 – (216) 765-8066

If you require additional information, please contact Susan Ondrejco at your convenience at 412-421-7967 or suo99@yahoo.com

Friday May 4th, 2012

- 5:00 PM Registration
- Freeway Lanes
- 28801 Euclid Avenue
- Wickliffe, OH 44092
- PM Opening Ceremonies
- PM & 9:00 PM Team Events
- PM Hospitality Reception

Saturday, May 5th, 2012

- 8:30 AM & 12:30 PM Doubles and Singles Events
- Freeway Lanes
- 5:30 PM Mass

- 6:30 PM Tournament Banquet
- Embassy Suites Hotel
- 3775 Park East Drive
- Beachwood, OH 44122

Sunday May 6th, 2012

- 9:00 AM Doubles and Singles (if needed)
- Freeway Lanes

See Rules and Regulations on page 20

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
(via telephone conference)
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Rev. Thomas Nasta (via teleconference by invitation
of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the November 2011 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT:

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered all the Executive Committee's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report for the different Regions and the report on our independent agents and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President stated we are continuing to add new agents. Vice President Harcar further stated he will be scheduling 2012 seminars. He recommends interested District and Branch officers to contact him with possible dates for their 2012 seminars.

The Vice President informed the Executive Committee that the Home Office will be working on a new marketing campaign for our annuity and insurance products. As more information becomes available the Committee will be informed.

Vice President Harcar stated he was reviewing various sites and ideas for the upcoming 2012 Membership Meet.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

The Executive Committee reviewed the Annuity Rate Survey Report concerning the current interest rates being offered by the other fraternal and financial institutions.

The President led a discussion on our current annuity interest rates. It was decided to maintain the current interest rates and the rates will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the Matlin Patterson (MPAM) Portfolio. He advised the Committee that he will invite Christopher Welker, Chief Operating Officer and Craig Ruch, Chief Executive Officer to make a full report at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

The President updated the Executive Committee on the upcoming joint Bowling Tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol, National Slovak Society and the Ladies Pennsylvania Catholic Slovak Union to be held May 4-6, 2012 in Eastlake, Ohio.

The President announced the FCSU Golf Tournament will be held in Huron, Ohio at the Thunder Bird Golf Course July 14-15, 2012.

The Fraternal Activities Director will be coordinating with the other Slovak Fraternals to hold joint bowling and golf tournaments in 2013.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Executive Secretary presented the projected 2012 budget to the Committee. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt to accept the budget and George Matta seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

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

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of November 2011:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 102,591.69
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 35,315.11
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated he is still reviewing bids received on adding a digital lighted sign to our existing sign on Rockside Road in front of the Home Office. The President said once the project is completed he will report to the Executive Committee.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

The President asked Father Thomas Nasta to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IRA'S ARE AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH

Eight-Year Flexible Premium	3.75%* minimum 3.00%
Six-Year Flexible Premium	3.50%* minimum 2.00%
Six-Year Fixed Rate	3.25%* minimum 2.00%

* Current rates

For more information and forms, please contact our Home Office,
your local Branch Office, or visit our Website at FCSU.com

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION • 6611 ROCKSIDE RD
• SUITE 300 • INDEPENDENCE OH 44131

PHONE 1-800-533-6682 • EMAIL FCSU@AOL.COM



**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



Feb 28, Deadline for First Catholic Slovak Union's 2012 Scholarship Program

The First Catholic Slovak Union is currently accepting applications for its 2012 Scholarship Program for those qualified members who are graduating from high school this year and entering an accredited college or university. But please be aware: the deadline to apply is fast approaching. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2012.

Scholarships Awarded

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

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

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

Scholarship Rules & Requirements

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2008 to be eligible under the rules of this period.
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2012 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com.
5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2012.
6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.
7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.
8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year (fall semester of 2013).



Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

Young Perspectives

My Life as a Slovak

By John Dzurec

There are many Slovaks in the greater Cleveland area, but not all of them follow their heritage. There are many great reasons why you should learn more about it, because if you dig a little deeper, you may find that there are many things to be proud of and to learn. I am a part of the Lučina Slovak Folklore Ensemble which is a dance group that travels all over to perform. Recently we have traveled to Slovakia and plan on taking a trip this summer to Disney. I have been dancing for about six years and always enjoy myself. We have people from every age group, starting with John Allen who is seven years old through Mary Chudy who is fourteen years old. I am the second oldest of 16 dancers. I have made many new friends from the dance group and plan on sticking with it for a long time to come. We have dances that could be suitable for all ages along with more advanced dances. We also do not require that you be Slovak to dance. You may have any background which also allows us to learn about each others heritage as well.



John Dzurec

I am an active Slovak as a part of my family too. Every year around Christmas we have dinner with my grandfather to celebrate Christmas. We say a Slovak blessing and eat all sorts of Slovak foods. We eat babalki, sausage, oplatki, perogis, figs, and mushroom soup. My whole family always enjoys socializing and playing games and then later we open all sorts of presents from our aunts and uncles.

For all the relatives I have in America I have about the same amount in Europe and specifically Slovakia. My family and I spent about a week in Slovakia visiting our cousins as well as touring all sorts of places such as Kocise and Bratislava. It was such a wonderful and exciting place to visit that after a week I still did not want to leave. I learned a little bit of Slovak while there but it's always better to know as much as you can. My mom is in charge of the Cleveland Slovak school which is also a huge help when communicating with relatives over seas. Communicating is easier than ever with skype, facebook, or e-mail. These allow me to talk with them whenever I want, but sometimes I wish I could speak Slovak.

I have a lot of Slovak packed into my day but I still wish I could have a little more because of all the exciting things I learn every day. I couldn't imagine not having an ethnic background and I feel bad for those who can't and don't connect with their heritage. I started when I was just a little kid but it's never too late to start, even if you are an adult. If you have a child, sign them up for Slovak School or Lučina, if you have relatives over seas, find them on facebook or e-mail them. All that I want is for people to understand and be proud of who they are, no matter what ethnicity.



(L - R): Beth Silva; Carlos M. Cardoso, CEO of Kennametal, Inc., and commencement speaker; Br. Norman W. Hipps, O.S.B., president of St. Vincent College.



(L - R, first row): Ruben Silva, Drew Silva, Beth Silva, Geraldine Hricik, Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, O.S.B.

Branch 181 Member Beth Hricik Silva Achieves Master of Science

Beth Hricik Silva graduated from St. Vincent College with a Master of Science in Health Services Leadership, December 17, 2011. The Right Reverend Douglas Nowicki, O.S.B., Archabbot and Chancellor presided. Mass was at the Mary Mother of Wisdom Chapel, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA.

Beth is the daughter of Tom and Gerry Hricik. She is a member of Branch 181, United, and also a graduate of Edinboro University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Beth is employed at Excella Health.

Congratulations, Beth!

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



Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls – ages 4 thru 12 – that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by **April 14, 2012**. You may make a copy to color, and you may make additional copies for any other children in the family who are entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆

Branch 313 Elected Officers In January



Branch 313 had their election of officers at their meeting on January 14, 2012. All officers were re-elected. (L – R) First Row: Joe Bugel, President; Ken Jurenak, Vice President. Back Row: Rudy Bernath, Director, Region 7; Marge Dickinson, Auditor; Darlene Johnson, Auditor; Vickie Bugel, Auditor; Curtis Johnson, Secretary/ Treasurer.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/ Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities

15th Heritage Tour Set For July 10 - 24, 2012



Bratislava is one of the many cities featured on the 15th Youngstown/Spisska Nova Vest Sister Cities Heritage Tour

Join us as we host the 15th Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia July 10 - 24, 2012, visiting such cities as Bratislava, Piestany, Trnava, Presov, Banska Bystrica, Nitra, Sliac, Spisska Nova Ves and more. Spend time in the Tatra's, raft ride on the Dunajec River, visit historical sites, see many beautiful churches and castles while enjoying cultural performances. Discover your roots—side trips to ancestral villages available with advance notice.

For more information contact:

Jim and Kay Bench
428 West 4th Ave.
Derry, Pa. 15627

Phone 724-694-5101---cell phone 724-858-5843
e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

or
Adventure International Travel
PO Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Phone 216-228-7171 (Toll free 800-542-2487)
e-mail paul@aits.webmail.com

Scenes From Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba and Branch 785 Meetings In Toronto, Canada

The annual meetings of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba (District 19) and Branch 785 were held Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 in the parish hall of Sts. Cyril & Methodius church in Mississauga Ontario. 25 members gathered for a luncheon in the church hall preceding the meetings.

The first meeting was for the Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba district.

The annual reports were presented by President Mike Kapitan and Treasurer John Tokarsky. Fraternal Director Mike Kapitan reviewed the Jednota bowling and golf tournaments held in the US and the local combined Jednota/Sokol golf tournament held in Toronto.

The annual Slovak Catholic Family Day picnic was held on Sunday Aug. 14, 2011. It was sunny and cloudy during the day with rain starting after 6:30pm. There were over 500 in attendance.

Elected officers for Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba are as follows:

- President -Mike Kapitan:
- Vice president -Joe Jursa:
- Treasurer -John Tokarsky
- Recording Secretary -Sharon Tomas:
- Fraternal Activities -John Tokarsky
- Auditors - Ed Forma, Helen von Friedl

The second meeting was for Branch 785.

Milan Zoldak was absent due to a prior family commitment. Vice President Jim Szabo presented Milan Zoldak's annual report. Treasurer Ed Forma presented his report.

Jerry Siman reported on the great centre pages in color of our Slovak Family Day picnic and also our 2nd Annual Pig Roast in the Jednota paper. Jednota editor Teresa Ivanec published all the pictures and articles submitted to her. All the members at the meetings were pleased that we are now getting good exposure in the Jednota paper.

Auditor Joe Tomko confirmed that the books are all in order. Regional Director Milos Mitro reviewed the events that took place in 2011 at the Board of Directors meetings.

Elected officers for Branch 785 are as follows:

- President -Milan Zoldak:
- Vice President -Jim Szabo:
- Treasurer -Ed Forma:
- Recording Secretary -Sharon Tomas:
- Public Relations -Jerry Siman:
- Auditors - Joe Jursa, Helen von Friedl

Submitted by Jerry Siman



(L-R) Anne Forma, Terry Tomko, Irene Gorman, Helen Herca, Arnold Herca



(L-R) John Tokarsky, Helen von Friedl, Anne Mitro



Front row: Helen Herca; Back row: (L-R) Emil Jursa, Harry Romolock, Maureen Jursa, Jenny Romolock, Joe Jursa



(L-R) Stan Pella, Emil Jursa



Emil Jursa administers the oath of office to Helen



(L-R) Mike Kapitan, Jim Szabo, Sharon Tomas, Milos Mitro, Ed Forma



(L - R) Front row: Al Fedor, Slavo Kovac, Jerry Siman; Back row: Sharon Tomas, Milos Mitro, Ed Forma

Pittsburgh District Semi-Annual Meeting – Dec 11, 2011

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, the Pittsburgh District held a crowded and busy Fall Meeting at Holy Trinity Parish in West Mifflin, PA. The meeting was attended by 63 members representing 11 branches. This was by far the largest attendance in many years. Steve Krivy of host Branch 35 gave a warm welcome to all. Father Josko Grosko provided the invocation. Cathy Matta read a Christmas poem and reminded everyone to keep our Slovak traditions alive. Branch 35 served an excellent dinner with outstanding Christmas cupcakes as dessert.

FCSU President Andrew Rajec attended the meeting with his wife Idka. He spoke about the future of the organization. He urged the district and branches to increase the number of fraternal events and family activities. He also suggested that the district host a sales seminar which would discuss the newer issues in fraternal insurance sales.

National Treasurer George Matta and Regional Director Regis Brekosky reported on sales of insurance and annuities. National Activities Director Susan Ondrejco listed the many contests and tournaments open to FCSU members.

Many thanks to Joe Yuros, District Treasurer, and other members of Branch 35 for providing the photos of these events.

**Margaret Nasta,
District Recording Secretary**



**Branch 35
servers**



**President Rajec
addressing the
membership**



**Branch 35
members**



**District
officers (L –
R): Kariann
Barnes,
Joseph Yuros,
George Matta
II, Margaret
Nasta**



**Melissa Colbaugh shows off the delicious
dessert cupcakes**



**Clem
Jurica
and
Father
Joseph
Grosko**



**Branch 2
members**



**George Matta II
conducting the
meeting**



**Branch 35
with FCSU
National
President
Andrew
Rajec and
wife Idka**



**Branch 276
members**



**The Fall Meeting of the
Pittsburgh District was
well attended, with 63
members representing
11 branches.**



Slovak American Center Awarded Scholarship Winners in December

A meeting of Branch 844 was held after its Annual Slovak Christmas Mass on December 18, 2011 during which winners of the Scholarship Grammy Awards in California were announced. The Slovak American Center in Los Angeles announced the scholarship competition as open for area students who are Slovak or are of Slovak descent in April, 2011. Eligible applicants were asked to write an essay on the subject "Why I want to know and preserve my Slovak heritage," with a \$500.00 first prize, \$300.00 second prize, \$200.00 third prize, and \$100.00 fourth and fifth prizes. Fr. Pavol Sochulak judged the essays with following results:

1. Jakub Balun
2. Jessica Valo
3. Kristina Konkol-Mroczkowski
4. Christopher Konkol-Mroczkowski
5. Matej Balun

The Consulate General of the Slovak Republic joined in the award ceremony and Milan Kovac Vice Consul presented winners with prizes of books as well.

The Slovak American Center wishes to congratulate the winners and wish all participants a very good and successful school year 2011/2012.

Paul Skuben
President, SAC, Branch 844

Editor's Note: To read the top two winning essays of Jakub Balun and Jessica Valo, go to fcsu.com and click on Branch Information tab and select 844 from list of branch options



Former U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia to Address Jednota Members and the Greater Cleveland Slovak Community



Please join us for our Fr. Furdek Lecture speaker, former U.S. Ambassador, Vincent Obsitnik, who will discuss his personal and professional experiences and the current state of affairs in Slovakia and Europe.

Ambassador Obsitnik was born in Slovakia and is the first Slovak-American to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic. He immigrated with his parents to the United States, prior to the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany. His father first worked as a coal miner in Pennsylvania and eventually

the Obsitnik family moved to New Jersey, where he grew up.

After graduating from the Naval Academy with Honors, Ambassador Obsitnik served for five years as an officer in the U.S. Navy, in destroyers and submarines. He received his MBA from American University in Washington, DC and led a very interesting business career that included time with IBM, Unisys, and Litton Corporations. He also started and became President of International Investments Inc., a consulting company, working in the areas of joint ventures, technology licensing and privatization projects between the U.S. and Central Europe

In addition to being Ambassador, Mr. Obsitnik was appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. During his time on the Commission, he worked to bring international attention to the plight of the 17th and 18th century Greek Catholic wooden churches of Slovakia and through his leadership, two of the most endangered churches were restored.

Ambassador Obsitnik is fluent in the Slovak language and has an understanding of Russian. He is a marathon runner and plays tennis and squash. He is married to the former Annemarie Harden. They have four sons and twelve grandchildren.

It should be a wonderful event!

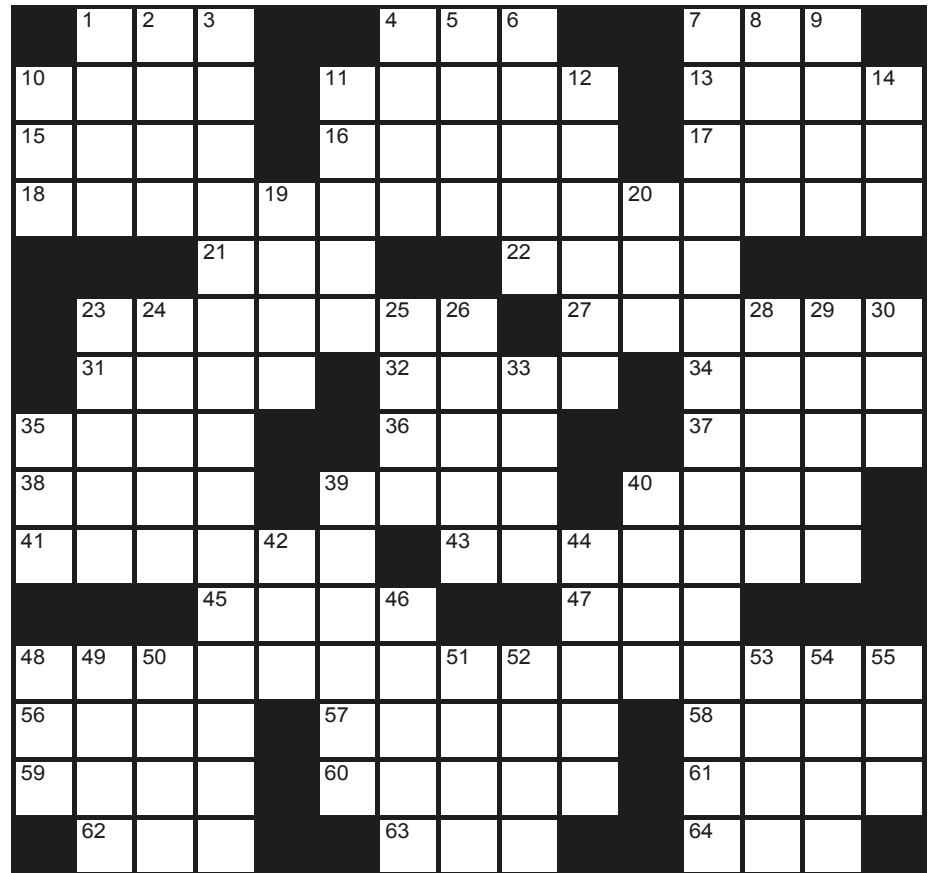
Monday, February 27, 2012
Crowne Plaza - Cleveland South - Independence
5300 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131

Reception: 5:30pm
Talk: 6:00pm to 6:45pm
Q/A Session: 6:45pm to 7:00pm
Admission: Free

Attire: Business casual

RSVP: Andrew Rajec, Jr. from the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800-533-6682, ext 112. Thank you!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2012 puzzlejunction.com

Across

- 1 Cigar future
- 4 Sharp curve
- 7 ___ knows?
- 10 Samoan capital
- 11 Genuflected
- 13 Present
- 15 Actors Bruce or Laura
- 16 Daisylike flower
- 17 Persia
- 18 Dry runs of a play
- 21 Sheep
- 22 Beer measure
- 23 Equilibrium
- 27 Natural gift
- 31 Flair
- 32 Minerals
- 34 ___ collar
- 35 Ireland
- 36 Extinct N.Z. flightless bird
- 37 Filmed
- 38 Want
- 39 Heels
- 40 Solar disk
- 41 Peril
- 43 Ugliness
- 45 Harvest
- 47 Dignitary (Abbr.)
- 48 Indisposed
- 56 Beef or pork
- 57 Sea duck
- 58 Oleaginous
- 59 Shaft
- 60 Lamentably
- 61 Bear dipper
- 62 Distant (Pref.)
- 63 Parcel of land
- 64 ND indian

Down

- 1 Copycat
- 2 Patriarch
- 3 Grimm characters
- 4 Noun suffix
- 5 Osiris' evil brother
- 6 Catch some Z's
- 7 Political campaign circuit
- 8 Wife of Zeus
- 9 Spoken
- 10 Append
- 11 Actress Allen or Black
- 12 Attributes
- 14 Printer's marks
- 19 Aquatic bird
- 20 Genetic material (Abbr.)
- 23 Bib. town near Jerusalem
- 24 UFO occupant
- 25 Medical condition
- 26 Decay
- 28 Anesthetic
- 29 Not anybody (2 wds.)
- 30 Explosive (Abbr.)
- 33 Effortless

- 35 Finish
- 39 Packing boxes
- 40 Orient
- 42 Always (Poet.)
- 44 Each and ___
- 46 Medical bottle
- 48 Kill Bill's Thurr
- 49 Succeeding
- 50 Valley
- 51 Taro root
- 52 Raised mark on 1 skin
- 53 Employ
- 54 Other
- 55 Swedish shag rug

See Solution on Page 19

Scenes from the Membership Meet of the First Aboard the Norw

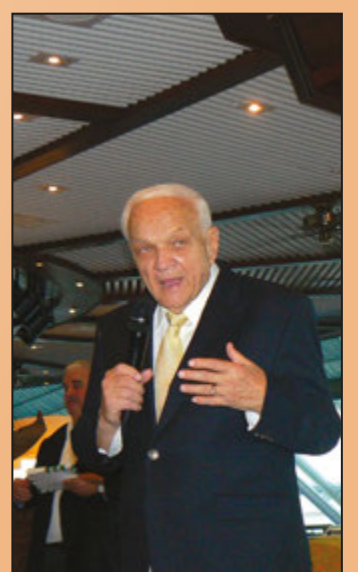


*More photos
Feb 15th issue*

Catholic Slovak Union, November 14 - 18, 2011 Vegeian Sky Cruise



to come in the
ue of Jednota



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 2 will sponsor a skating party for its members at the North Park Skating Rink 6 to 10:30 PM (7:30 to 10 PM skating session) on Friday, February 10, 2012.

Following a brief meeting of Branch 2, Branch 2 will provide admission, skate rental, and refreshments for all members of the branch who wish to join us. Activities for non-skaters will also take place.

If you'd like to join us, please RSVP by February 3, 2012 either by calling 412-766-3222, 412-421-1204, or via email to smojr@verizon.net

Anna Ondrejco, Treasurer

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10 K. J., held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 4 at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River St., Olyphant, PA.

Officers for 2012 were elected as follows: President, Daniel Spegar; Vice-President, Gaza Mika; Secretary-Treasurer, William Spegar, Recording Secretary, William A. Nalevanko, and Auditors, Carol Spegar, Mary Ann Spegar and Florence M. Nalevanko.

Donations in the amount of \$6,500 were approved for distribution in 2012 to the following: La Salle Academy, Jessup, PA; Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, and the Mid Valley Senior Center, Olyphant, PA; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund, Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, PA; Valley Community Library, Peckville, PA; and, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, PA.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast, to follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, PA, on Sunday, June 24, 2012. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Fraternally,

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2012. A Mass in honor of our patron St. Joseph will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Ss Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall at the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award of US Savings Bonds will be given to the following members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2011:

- Emily Agoglia
- Sierra Frye
- David Gerics
- Joseph Paglia
- Christopher Zahor

This award recognizes the dedication and many years of service that Margaret Evancho gave to Branch 19, especially to its youth.



St. Matthew's Society - Branch 45 - To Host Fasiangy Dance Party in New York City

We are kindly inviting you to the annual Fasiangy Dance Party, which will be held Sunday, February 19, 2012 after the Slovak mass at 12:30 p.m. in the church hall of St. John Nepomucene on 411 East 66th Street, New York City. The admission is \$25.00 Lunch, coffee, and Slovak-style homemade cookies will be included in the price of the admission ticket. During the dance party the raffle will be drawn and children from the Slovak school will have a special performance. Entertaining will be a well-known Slovak music band Kontakty. We are looking forward to your attendance.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

We cordially invite our members to this special meeting. We also will meet on April 15 and June 10, 2012.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 invites all of its members to enjoy Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Hamilton Bulldogs at 7:30PM on April 13, 2012 at the Q for only \$5 a ticket. Enjoy a family-friendly night of minor league hockey, dollar hot dogs and dollar soda pop - PLUS a special Cavs promo and an open skate after the game. For details, see flyer in this issue of Jednota or call Tom Ivanec at 216-668-7797.

BRANCH 132 - WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

All meetings will be held the second Sunday of the month at 1:30PM on every second month throughout the year. Meetings are held at the home of President Susan Salko. Please phone Susan at 973-906-1145 if you plan on attending.

Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, February 19, 2012, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian's. The meeting will be held in St. Florian's Formation Building, 4261 Rt. 981, PO Box 187, United, PA, 15689. This meeting represents the first meeting of the year to plan activities for 2012. All members are welcome.

Fraternally,

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Bylaw committee of Branch 200 will be meeting @ 6:00pm Thursday, February 2, 2012.

Our regular monthly meetings will be held March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, & Dec. 6th.

There will not be any monthly meetings in June, July, or August.

**Vicki L. Schaub,
Beneficial Financial Sec./Tres.**

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, will begin holding their monthly meetings again at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held.

Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current and future activities.

See you at the Club!

**Thomas B. Zuffa,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will be having a meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2012, at Christ Our Savior Church at Holy Trinity at 1:30PM.

We will be discussing this year's upcoming events; increasing membership and conducting an

audit.

All members are encouraged to attend and take part in this meeting.

The Officers of Branch 259 wish all members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 312 - BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at 1:00PM at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Labtrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of officers. For more information, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

Fraternally,

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382K, Scranton, Pennsylvania, will conduct its Annual March Meeting at Noon on Sunday, March 4, 2012, in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

The agenda will include spring and summer events, donations, District 17 report, and updates from the Home Office. Copies of the Annual Report to the Home Office will be available. Auditing of the books will take place.

Light refreshments will be served. All Branch 382 members are encouraged to attend. Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is Branch President. Other officers include Vice President Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Recording Secretary Michael J. Czankner, and Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 419 - WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Stephen the Martyr, Branch 419, will hold its annual meeting March 4, 2012, at Norm's on North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, beginning at 1:00PM. Activities of Branch 419 will be discussed. Members are urged to attend this meeting. Please notify Marie Gryzko at 570-824-4125 so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

Marie Gryzko, President

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 450 invites all of its members to enjoy Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Hamilton Bulldogs at 7:30PM on April 13, 2012 at the Q for only \$5 a ticket. Enjoy a family-friendly night of minor league hockey, dollar hot dogs and dollar soda pop - PLUS a special Cavs promo and an open skate after the game. For details, see flyer in this issue of Jednota or call Margaret Valencik at 216-676-0497

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its annual meeting at the home of Jozef Valencik on Saturday, February 11, at 2:00 pm. The address is 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, OH. The election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Monthly meetings are held at Tatra Hall, Sixth Street and Sherman Blvd., on the third Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. (September through May).

As always, you can call 231 733 7525 for additional information of current events.

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The next monthly meeting for Branch 595 will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2012 at Tatra Hall, Sixth St. & Sherman Blvd. at 2:00PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

Other February events at Tatra Hall:

• FEB. 05: POLKA DANCE, FROM 4:30PM - 7:00PM

• FEB. 05: TAILGATE CHILI COOKOFF, FROM 1:00PM - TILL GONE

• FEB. 12: PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER, FROM 11:30AM - 3:00PM

• FEB. 26: ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST, FROM 8:30AM - 12:00NOON

For additional information, call Hall Manager Dave Cooper at 231-733-7525

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 11, 2012, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:00 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586-254-0225.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik
President/Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Okres meeting will follow at 1:00 PM. Agenda will include discussion of planned activities for the upcoming year.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 and Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church (194 Laird Avenue NE, Warren, OH) will co sponsor a Sts. Cyril & Methodius Feast Day Dinner on February 12. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30AM followed immediately by a Slovak dinner of stuffed cabbage with mashed potatoes, kielbasa and sauerkraut, potato pierogi, Slovak green beans, pickled beets, kolachi, and coffee. Slovak music will be provided during dinner by our vice president, Fred Brunetti.

The cost of the full dinner will be \$12. Tickets will be sold after all masses on January 28 & 29, February 4, 5 & 11. For information or tickets you may also call Eleanor Fairbanks (330-392-5947), Barbara Reynolds (330-399-4850) or Mae Stark (330-372-2424). Don't delay--tickets are limited to 130 and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Hope to see you there!

**Joy Brunetti
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday Feb. 26 at 1pm in the church basement of Holy Trinity R.C. Church.

All members are invited to attend. We will be selecting delegates to attend the district meeting this Spring. God Bless.

**Jerry Lloyd
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 invites all of its members to enjoy Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Hamilton Bulldogs at 7:30PM on April 13, 2012 at the Q for only \$5 a ticket. Enjoy a family friendly night of minor league hockey, dollar hot dogs and dollar soda pop - PLUS a special Cavs promo and an open skate after the game. For details, see flyer in this issue of Jednota or call Linda Kolesar at 440-886-0206.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue in Linden, NJ. Election of officers will take place. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 15, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 276 will host. Please RSVP by April 1 by contacting Branch President Margaret Nasta. Please email manasta@verizon.net or leave a message at 412-672-0379.

The meeting agenda will include officers' reports and discussion of national and district business items. We will also discuss upcoming national and district events for 2012. Please email the district secretary if you have an item for the agenda or an upcoming Slovak cultural event that you would like to advertise.

The Annual Meeting in the Fall is still in the planning phase. There is, as yet, no host branch. Please consider hosting and contact the district president in April.

Plan to attend the District Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 17, at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 38 will host and Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. Mass begins at 9:30 with brunch to follow. Further details will be provided later.

The district is still collecting e-mail addresses from each branch in order to improve communications. If we don't already have your e-mail, please contact the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net. The Pittsburgh District thanks everyone who attended the meeting in December. We had the largest crowd in many years. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the April meeting. Watch for our district notices on-line and in the Jednota.

Fraternally

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2012, at 1PM which will be held at Denny's Restaurant meeting room located at 653 W. Main Street in Uniontown, PA. Dinner will be served from the menu and each person is asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

Reservations need to be made by March 8, 2012 by contacting James Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Barbara Holly at 724-438-0697. Election of officers will take place and district business will be discussed.

Fraternally,

Barbara A. Holly, District Secretary



Branch 89 Meeting in January



FCSU Branch 89 held a meeting on January 21, 2012, in Wauwatosa, WI. The members discussed several Slovak fraternal events and afterwards enjoyed a fraternal lunch. Pictured (L – R): Paul Novak, Recording Secretary/Treasurer; Robert Budjac, Auditor; Mike Novak, President; Joe Hlavak, Vice President; and Dan Loduha, Auditor. Dan has a son who is a member of the Slovak Tatra Dancers. Not pictured is Lou Dodulik, Financial Secretary.

Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



Check out the redesigned FCSU website @ www.fcsu.com.

Same great resource – now with a great new look!

Let us know what you think. We want to hear from you.

MARDI GRAS

Saint Procopius Church Social Hall
New Salem, PA

FEBRUARY 19
Sunday 12 Noon til 4 PM

Full Ethnic Menu

All your favorite home-made foods from the Italian, Polish-Slovak, Irish, and American Stands! Holupki, pierogi, holushki, stuffed shells, hot sausage, spaghetti & meatballs, chicken soup, breaded chicken, Irish pastries, pork sandwiches, a bake sale and lots more. Games and raffles will also be available.

Fun for the whole family



Friday, April 13, 2012

7:30pm

Monsters vs. Hamilton Bulldogs
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH



Special Offer Includes:

- \$5 Ticket!! (\$18 game day value)
- \$1 hot dogs & \$1 sodas
Presented By Pepsi & FS Ohio
- Free post game skate
-must provide own skates
- Cavaliers Night at the Monsters!

To order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 216-668-7797
- Branch 450: Margaret Valencik, 216-676-0497
- Branch 855, Linda Kolesar, 440-886-0206



Special FCSU member rate of only \$5 per ticket, courtesy of your FCSU branch
Deadline to order: March 19, 2012

Upper Endzone	Total
# OF \$5 TICKETS <small>(\$18 game day value lower level end zone and corner seats)</small>	\$

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please fill out completely)

NAME _____ DAY PHONE () _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

CHECK/MONEY ORDER (MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YOUR LOCAL BRANCH)

METHOD OF DELIVERY:
pick up at will call (near box office)

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Orders must be placed online, by mail, fax, or phone. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.





Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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



Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
023K	Anna Kopco	200K	Kevin P Brewer	484K	Bryan R Sholtis	796K	Pauline E Lakuta
024K	Cecilia R Mazur	260K	Dorothy F Dunn	580K	John J Sabol	831K	Margaret I Faber
040K	Edward Burash	292K	Andrew D Ferko	618K	Anthony Prusak	831K	Elizabeth Ledoux
055K	Nancy M Starecky	293K	Rose Skrabak	636K	Rose Konesky	855K	Edward Stephen Walick
075K	Mary Ann Keefer	308K	Josephine H Chizmar	670K	John G Kuma	856K	Frank John Lysy Sr
075K	Fr Paul T Rindos	313K	Margaret P Nedorost	682K	Joseph Charles Pavlick		
153K	Anthony J Fabianich	356P	Edith Yaccino	686K	Donald Drinka		
162K	George P Litavec	417K	John W Sheckler Jr	738K	Michael R Vavrek		
169P	Jennie F Maschue	480K	Thomas F Plevak	743K	John J Birosak		

* Processed in the month of Jan 2012



OBITUARIES

SUZANNE KOVAL GENNAULA BRANCH 367 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Suzanne Koval Gennaula, 87, of California, died Saturday, January 7, 2012. She was born Thursday, May 22, 1924, in Humphreys, daughter of the late John Koval Sr. and Mary Relousky Koval.

Mrs. Gennaula was a graduate of Hurst High School, Class of 1942, and Seton Hill University, Class of 1946. She was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Sigma Kappa Phi and La Victoria De Espana. She was the president of the Spanish Club and was the marshal of Sigma Kappa Phi as she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She taught Spanish and English for 35 years in California Area School District.

She was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Ladies Guild, California Democratic Women's Club, Pennsylvania State Education Association, National Education Association, Center in the Woods, California Area Historical Society and The First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota).

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Charles J. Gennaula, whom she married November 22, 1954; their children, Janice Bryner and Chris Gennaula and wife Wendy; and grandchildren Anthony Gennaula, Rachel Bryner, Thomas Gennaula and John Bryner.

Also surviving are a sister-in-law, Esther Koval, and nieces and nephews Mary Ann Duda, Robert and wife Eleanor Firment, Lois and Husband Karl Stinebiser, Ronald and wife Suzan Firment, Robert Spirko, Carol and husband Roy Byornson, Betsy and husband Ken Stack, Patricia and husband Gary Kissinger, Jane and husband George Church, Judy and husband Niles Sefchick, Philip and wife Martha Koval, Ronald and wife Gwen Koval, Sandy and husband Jack Herbert, Joanne and husband John Bogges, Joseph and wife Jeannie Spirko, Dr. Patricia and husband Dr. Paul Simmons, Dr. Barbara and husband Randy Leuker, Jack Keenan and Jim and wife Mary Ann Keenan; and numerous great- and great-great-nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, deceased are a son-in-law, Col. Drew A. Bryner; brothers Joseph Koval and wife Bess, John Koval Jr. and wife Mary, Charles Koval and wife Sally and George Koval; and sisters Ann Firment and husband John, Elizabeth Spirko and

husband Michael, Mary D. Koval, Verna Spirko and husband Joseph, Frances and husbands Lee Keenan and William Cochran.

Friends were received from 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, January 10, in Mariscotti Funeral Home Inc., and until 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 11, when prayers of transfer were said followed by an 11 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial in St. Thomas Aquinas Church with Father George Moneck as celebrant. Interment was at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 12, 2012 in St. Vincent Cemetery, Latrobe, PA.

- Submitted by Audrey Balazik, Branch 367 President

JOHN JOSEPH VRLIK BRANCH 762 – WHITING, INDIANA

John Joseph Vrlík, an 88 year-old lifelong resident of Whiting, IN, passed away on January 9, 2012. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Margaret (nee Polunc); his children, Jean (James) Shuba of Santa Fe, NM, Janice (Thomas) Beda of Virginia Beach, VA, Judy (Jerome) Oblon of Katy, TX, and Robert (Pamela) Vrlík of Crown Point; his five grandchildren, Lauren (Ryan) Hart, Erin (Garrett) Gowan, Ryan Beda, Alyssa Beda, and Jackson Vrlík; great-grandson, Caden Gowan; sister-in-law Betty Polunc and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Steven (Betty) Vrlík, Amelia (Joseph) Kosteba, and Margaret (Charles) Simaga; and his in-laws, John (Margaret) Polance, Mary (John) Cengel, Anne (George) Vrlík, and Joseph Polunc.

Funeral services were held on Monday, January 16, 2012, 9:30am at the Baran Funeral Home, Whiting; a Mass of Christian Burial was offered at 10:00am at the Immaculate Conception Church, Whiting with the Rev. Stanley J. Dominik, officiating; interment, Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville; visitation at the funeral home was offered on Sunday, January 15, from 2:00 to 6:00pm.

John Vrlík was born February 25, 1923 in Whiting, Indiana to John Vrlík, Sr. and Catherine Vrlík. He was a part of both the school and congregation at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for over 80 years, and was a member of the Holy Name Society. He was a graduate of Whiting High School, Class of 1941 and was a member in the Knights of Columbus, Pope John XXIII Council 1696. Proud of his Slovak heritage, John served

as the Financial Secretary for the First Catholic Slovak Union's Branch 762 for several years, was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies' Assoc., Branch 452 and participated in decorating the Slovak Christmas Tree at the Museum of Science & Industry, Chicago for many years. John enlisted in the Army Air Corp in 1943 and went overseas to England in 1944. He completed 29 missions, which included fighting against the Germans in a B-24 as a ball-turret gunner. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant, serving in the European theatre and was honorably discharged in October of 1945. He was a member of the VFW Walter Kleiber Post 2724 and the American Legion Allied Post 369 who posted colors at the funeral home

on Sunday at 5:00pm and conducted military honors at the funeral. Following WWII he became a valued employee at Amoco Oil (BP) Whiting Refinery, retiring after 40 years of service. John loved his family and traveling with his wife, Margaret, enjoyed tending to his garden, was an avid fisherman, and always looked forward to Whiting's annual Independence Day Parade. He will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends who loved him. The Whiting K of C Wives Club offered prayers on Sunday, January 15, at 3:30pm; the St Anne Sodality of Immaculate Conception Church offered prayers that same day at 4:00pm.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 762 Financial Secretary

FCSU LIFE

Single Premium Insurance Winter Special!

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

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a **FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD** to present with the certificate!

Features:

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





- Mark Fayta, chairman, Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree committee



Wife Judy Fayta, Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree committee member



Museum Tradition Room with Slovak Handmade Ornament

Spitkovsky District Honored for Slovak Christmas Tree

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky – District 2 – committee members of the Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree decorated a Slovak Christmas tree at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago II, this past holiday season. They have since been honored by the Museum, which chose two of their handmade Slovak ornaments to be displayed in a special commemorative exhibition at the museum.

The commemorative exhibition, featuring unique pieces from the Museum's Collections and photos, is part of the Museum's celebration of its 70th year of "Christmas Around the World" which began in 1942. Our committee members have been decorating the Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree for the past 16 years.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all of our Committee Members for their many hours and 16 years making this possible.

Mark Fayta
Committee Chairman, Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree

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

St. Thomas A'Becket Fish Fry Begins Feb 24th

During the Lenten Season, St. Thomas A'Becket Church in Jefferson Hills, PA, will hold their Fish Fry beginning the first Friday of Lent, February 24, 2012. Following that, the Fish Fry will be scheduled every Friday during Lent, including Good Friday. They will be held in the School, 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hill, PA, 15025, from 3:30PM to 7:00PM.

The menu includes: fried fish dinners, baked fish dinners, shrimp dinners, fish sandwiches, French fries, coleslaw, haluski, soup, homemade desserts, a weekly "special" and more. The Special for Good Friday will be pirhoy (pierogy).

Take out dinners are available. The telephone number is 412-655-9966. Everyone is invited!

- Sister Mary JUDITH SEMAN, SCN



Two Heritage Tours Explore the Heart and Heartland of Slovakia

Not everyone can go back to the unchanged landscapes and villages of their ancestors, but in Slovakia, a visitor can step back in time to medieval city centers, villages of wooden houses, and timeless landscapes to relive Slovakia's rich heritage.

Two 2012 Slovakia Heritage Tours will offer participants a chance to explore Slovakia, up close and personal, as part of a small-group, relaxed-pace, ten-day tour.

From June 29-July 8, the **Two Festivals, One Heritage Tour**, will step off with the lively traditional folk music at the Vychodna Folklore Festival of Dance and Music nestled in the Tatry Mountains. It will finish at the Detva International Folk Festival, well-known as a place where visitors can experience traditional dance, music and crafts first-hand.

From September 7-16, the **Slovakia Heritage Tour** will celebrate the beautiful fall weather and harvest season with a visit to the Modra/Pezinok Harvest and Wine Festival in the small Carpathian Mountains outside of Bratislava. A day trip to Budapest will highlight the thousand-year influence of the Hungarian empire on Slovakia.

On the way, both groups will experience picturesque villages, spectacular mansions and castles, folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral rural landscapes, a blend of well-preserved historic buildings and Soviet era remnants, as well as Slovakia's vibrant new role as a part of the European Union.

Through special programs and visits to historic sites, participants will step back in time to discover the culture and traditions that recall a bygone era when many Slovaks left their country for new worlds.

Tour participants will also be able to arrange personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as to arrange for genealogical research to trace their family history.

"Since this is a small group tour, our comfortable minivan provides a lot of flexibility to follow the interests of the group. We like to add on special cooking, film, religious, craft, and social service visits if the group is interested" said Judith Northup-Bennett, the tour organizer. "With this tour I want to help people interested in Slovak culture find their own ties. I think there is a persistent yearning in all children and grandchildren of immigrants for our country of origin.....a yearning that can only be satisfied when we discover our important cultural roots."

To strengthen the personalized touch of the tour, Slovakia heritage has partnered with Peter Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours who is committed to sharing his passion and love of his native land with people from many countries. "I like leading small groups because we can be flexible and enjoy everything. We can make the tour fun and interesting for everyone," he explained.

For a packet and more information on the September tour, contact Judith Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 and at connectionswork4u@hotmail.com; or visit the web site at: <http://slovakiaheritage.com> where there are detailed itineraries of each tour.

OVERVIEW:

2012 SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOURS

June 29-July 8 & September 7-16, 2012

<http://slovakiaheritage.com>

PRICE: \$1,999 complete, land-only package

Limited small-group tour. Ask about our \$100 Early Bird discount.

TOUR INCLUDES: 10 day minibus tour across Slovakia; 9 nights in 3 & 4 star hotels/lodges(double w/bath); breakfast each day & 3 dinners; full-time tour leader; 24/7 native Slovak guide/interpreter; admissions to historic sites, festivals, museums, cultural activities and special programs.

ADD-ONS AVAILABLE: Genealogical research & optional personal visits to ancestral villages; special guides & interpreters; extension tours to Prague, Krakow,Vienna.

Contact:

Slovakia Heritage Tours

Judith Northup Bennett

6 Cooleyville Rd Ext, New Salem, MA 01355

(978)-544-5144

connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

News From Slovakia

Slovakia to Apply for Another Period of UNHCR Membership in 2015

Bratislava, January 11 (TASR) - Slovakia wants to become a member of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR) again and therefore will stand as a candidate along with other Eastern European countries in 2015, the Foreign Affairs Ministry announced on this date.

According to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Slovakia's first period of council membership between 2008-11 was successful and showed that the Slovak diplomatic services are mature and highly professional.

One of the main activities that Slovakia was engaged in during its first period of membership was the effort to ratify a new international agreement - the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which made it possible to file a complaint in cases in which the Convention is violated.

UNHCR is the most significant human rights body within the UN and is responsible for boosting the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. It's made up of 47 member states, with each state holding a mandate of three years.

Sedgwick Updates Radicova on U.S.'s New Defense Strategy

Bratislava, January 16 (TASR) - Even though the new U.S. defense strategy shifts focus on to the Pacific region, the importance of cooperation with Europe continues to be high, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick said during his meeting with Slovakia's Prime Minister Iveta Radicova on this date.

"The size of a country isn't important. What matters is its standing within NATO, its fulfillment of commitments and its reliability. Slovakia is indeed a reliable partner and, just like the U.S. has rolled out a new strategic evaluation of the defense and new decisions, Slovakia too is working on a parallel strategic evaluation," said the Slovak premier.

Radicova's talks with Sedgwick, which lasted for the better part of an hour, revolved mainly around the situation in Libya, Egypt and other countries that lie in the zone of interest of both Slovakia and USA.

In response to tension between USA and Iran, Radicova emphasized that "all recourses need to be employed to avoid conflict - an open conflict in particular."

The U.S. official praised Slovakia's involvement in ISAF mission in Afghanistan and called Slovakia a serious and reliable security partner of NATO.

Transport Among Four Key Areas for Bratislava in 2012

Bratislava, January 11 (TASR) - Transport, bolstering Bratislava's position as a tourist destination, promoting the idea of open self-government and new development plans have been set as four key areas for the capital city in 2012, mayor of Bratislava Milan Ftacnik announced at a press conference on Wednesday.

Turning to the area of transport, Ftacnik spoke of his intention to invest available resources in building cycle-routes as indicated in the land-use plan. Plans have also been made to expand environment-friendly transport as a whole.

Also on the city's agenda for 2012 is the reconstruction of the Old Bridge (Stary Most) and the launch of railway construction work in the borough of Petržalka. If the city's application is successful, both projects should be co-financed by the European Commission, said Ftacnik.

"If some plans aren't carried out this year, we'll ensure that relevant projects are ready for next year, said Ftacnik, adding that the city will continue to apply austerity and remedial measures in 2012.

SaS to Bring 'Fasiangy' Parties to Major Towns Across Slovakia

Bratislava, January 12 (TASR) - Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) plans to bring 'fašiangy' parties to Slovak towns and cities as part of its campaign for the March early general election, TASR learnt from head of the party's campaign and Economy Minister Juraj Miskov on Thursday.

[The period of entertainment, balls and carnivals that lasts until Shrove Tuesday in Slovakia is known as "fašiangy" - ed. note]

"We'll bring caravans and a caravan show to each regional capital. We'll bring folk music ensembles and masks. We'll serve tea and sauerkraut soup," said Miskov, adding that the party's visits will go beyond the regional capitals, as other towns and villages are also on the schedule.

SaS announced on Tuesday that it would use caravans in the campaign instead of the truck that it employed ahead of the June 2010 general election. Two campaign teams will travel in three vintage caravans each reminiscent of the hippie era. The party aims to travel the length and breadth of Slovakia and to visit all district towns.

"We're coming to people offering our green program and four core issues, that is no tax hikes, especially direct taxes, then a debt-free Europe, a corruption-free Slovakia and jobs instead of welfare benefits," said Culture Minister Daniel Krajcer (SaS).

Bratislava Airport Saw Drop in Passengers But Rise in Revenues in 2011

Bratislava, January 16 (TASR) - Bratislava's M.R. Stefanik airport (BTS) expects that the number of travelers using the airport in 2011 will be found to have shrunk by 4 percent year-on-year, BTS spokesperson Dana Madunicka told TASR on Monday.

It is estimated that close to 1.6 million people flew in or out of the airport last year. Despite the drop, airport revenues probably rose by a few percent in 2011.

When it comes to international transport, 2011 followed very much the same trends seen the year before. However, a drop has been experienced in air transport within Slovakia ever since no-frills airline SkyEurope went bust in 2009.

Despite unrest in certain Arab counties in early 2011, which resulted in the cancellation of dozens of flights, the airport saw an increase in public interest in charter flights. "In a year-on-year comparison, all the summer-season months posted growth of over 10 percent," said Madunicka on developments in charter flights. As usual, July and August were the busiest months, posting 17- and 16-percent rises respectively.

NBS: Slovakia's 2011 Inflation Faster than in Eurozone as a Whole

Bratislava, January 16 (TASR) - The average rise in prices in 2011 followed the trend in the eurozone and speeded up in comparison to 2010, but the pace of price growth was faster in Slovakia than in the euro area as a whole, the country's central bank NBS said in its commentary on the developments on this date.

The average EU-harmonized inflation rate over the past 12 months reached 4.1 percent in 2011, up from 0.7 percent seen the year before.

The price developments in 2011 were due to the impact of higher energy and foodstuff prices as well as the introduction of measures aimed at consolidating public finances and the increase in the VAT rate (from 19 to 20 percent), said NBS.

Energy prices rose by 10.5 percent in 2011 year-on-year, while 2010 saw a contraction of 1.3 percent.

Last year's annual rise in foodstuff prices of 5.5 percent was the result of developments on global markets concerning food commodities, with poor crops in 2010 also a factor.

Meanwhile, NBS predicts the inflation rate to decelerate slightly to 4 percent in January.

Exhibition of Traditional Japanese Crafts Opens at SNM on Sunday

Bratislava, January 13 (TASR) - The Japanese Embassy in Slovakia and the Japan Foundation are set to open an exhibition called 'Japanese Crafts - Tradition and Skills' at the Slovak National Museum (SNM) on Sunday, January 15, 2012.

The exhibition will be opened until February 19, showcasing handmade products from traditional materials with the use of traditional techniques.

"The exhibition features products of famous Japanese ceramics, textile and smith workshops including varnished, wooden, bamboo and paper items which have been used in everyday life by people from various regions of Japan," Zuzana Zelinska from the Culture Department of the Japanese Embassy told TASR.

Following the Meiji modernization period (1868-1912), much of handmade production in Japan was replaced by machine production. Despite the rapid expansion of machines, production in small independent factories throughout the country was retained, however. These manufacturers then provided shelter to exceptional craftsmen, artists and artisans, said Zelinska.

Crystal Wings Bestowed for Special Accomplishments

Bratislava, January 16 (TASR) - Professor Ivan Koza received the 'Crystal Wing' extraordinary award for life-long achievements in cancer research and treatment at the 15th annual ceremony at Bratislava's Incheba Expo Arena on Sunday, January 15, 2012.

"It's such a nice surprise ... We still haven't reached the peak, but looking back in hindsight at what it was like when I was a beginner 45 years ago, there's just no comparison. We should be happy to have recourse to treat and even cure many patients," said Slovakia's most renowned oncologist. "This demanding field always entails a lot of work and we have no time to grow old," he added.

A total of 12 people out of 27 nominees received accolades for accomplishments in various fields such as philanthropy, economics, sports, architecture, and the visual arts. The 'grand jury' was headed by the director of food retailer co-op Jednota Slovensko Gabriel Csollar. The event was held under the auspices of Prime Minister Iveta Radicova.

The prize in the philanthropic category went to Andrej Kiska for founding the non-profit charitable organization 'Good Angel', which helps families that have found themselves in need due to a child falling ill, and to Vladimir Krcmery for setting up a team of doctors and scientists called Tropicteam, which undertakes research and provides help to the needy in underdeveloped countries.

Promoting higher education among our youth Fourteen \$1,000 College Scholarship Grants Awarded by the Slovak League of America

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1907, awarded a total of fourteen \$1,000 college scholarship grants to deserving American students of Slovak ancestry. Each applicant for the 2011 grants, which are designated as The Leo J. Danihel Memorial Scholarship Grant, had to complete a scholarly 5-page minimum paper on some theme from Slovak history or culture. This year's grants honor the memory of the late Leo J. Danihel, a prominent American of Slovak ancestry who was a successful businessman and promoter of Slovak culture and heritage in the United States. Mr. Danihel was a past president of the former Slovak World Congress.

The Slovak League of America is pleased to introduce this year's college scholarship recipients. All of this year's recipients are members of the Slovak fraternal affiliated with the Slovak League of America. The following received grants:

Karyn E. Chojnicki of Spraggs, Pa. is currently in her junior year at Waynesburg University majoring in Early Childhood/Special Education. The topic of her essay was "Slovakia: A History of the Land and its People. She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the National Slovak Society.

Lauren R. Cirrincione of Pittsburgh, Pa. is currently a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh where she is a Pharmacy major. The title of her essay was "Slovensky jazyk - Maintaining the Integrity of the Slovak Language. She is a member of the National Slovak Society.

Julia A. Dugas of Slovan, Pa. is in her senior year at the Shadyside School of Nursing in Pittsburgh, Pa. The title of her essay was "The Circle of Kosice and Pittsburgh." She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Mark J. Konzelmann of Woodland Park, N.J. is currently in his freshman year at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, N.Y., where he is majoring in Criminal Justice. The title of his essay was "What Should Young Slovak Americans Know About Slovakia." He is a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Evan W. Martino of Bethesda, Md. is currently a junior at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. where he is pursuing a double major in Romance Languages and Economics. The title of his essay was "Slovak Immigration to America: The Saga of My Slovak Family." He is a member of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Alyssa C. Matlon of Inver Grove Heights, Minn is currently a sophomore at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., where she is currently pursuing a double major in English and Library Science. The title of her essay was "Vilija: A Slovakian Christmas Tradition." She is a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Elizabeth A. Nace of Camphill, Pa. is currently a sophomore at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa. She is pursuing a double major in Health Sciences and Pre-Optometry. The title of her essay was "Slovak Wedding Traditions." She is a member of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Casey P. Parker of Cleveland, Oh. is currently a sophomore at Cleveland State University where he is pursuing a major in Nursing. The title of his essay was "Slovak Culture: Grounded in Faith." Casey is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

John E. Payerchin of Dunbar, Pa. is currently in his sophomore year at Penn State University, at its Fayette campus. He is currently majoring in Computer Engineering. The title of his essay was "Articular Churches." John is a member of the National Slovak Society.

Jessica Salley of Andover, Mass. is currently in her sophomore year at the University of New Hampshire at Durham. She is majoring in Speech and Language Pathology. The topic of her essay was "Slovak Culture, History, Language and Tradition: Marriage." She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Jonette M. Senko of Baton Rouge, Louisiana is currently in her junior year at Louisiana State University. She is currently majoring in Spanish. The title of her essay was "Easter in Slovakia." She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Michael J. Sipos of Estero, Florida is currently in his sophomore year at the University of Florida. He is currently majoring in Zoology. The title of his essay was "Slovakia and Language." He is a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Danielle A. Veliky of Donora, Pa. is currently a sophomore at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is pursuing a major in Speech Pathology. The title of her essay was "A Story, a Background, a Culture." She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Susanne M. Pohl of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. is currently in her junior year at Michigan State University. She is majoring in Spanish Secondary Education. The title of her essay was "Inspirational Slovak Roots." Susanne is a member of the First Catholic Slovak

Union. In addition to the scholarship recipients, the following applicants, whose essays were not selected for the grant, will receive a stipend of \$50.00 each as a small token of our gratitude for their efforts, having completed the application process. A total of 88 young people sought application for this year's scholarship grants, however only 26 fully completed the process and submitted the essay.

Melissa M. Fedor, Dunmore, Pa.; Emily M. Hruska and Natalie A. Hruska, both of Hermitage, Pa.; Hannah L. Kucharzak, Chicago, Ill.; Michael C. Lafko, West Seneca, N.Y.; Katelyn Monteleone, Spring City, Pa.; Jeffrey D. O'Brien, Mokena, Ill.; Margaretann L. Ostrowski, Reinholds, Pa.; Denis Rams, Fairless Hills, Pa.; Elise Schwer, Bedminster, N.J.; Anna J. Sabo, Charleroi Pa.; and Lauren N. Wietchy of Sterling Heights, Mich.

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry was founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1907. In 1972, it established its scholarship program to assist American students of Slovak ancestry achieve their educational goals. Over the years, hundreds of students have received scholarship grants to assist them in their quest for a good education. Providing scholarships to deserving students has been an important program of the Slovak League of America. Tax deductible donations to assist in this program are most welcome and may be sent to the League's national office. Make checks payable to Slovak League Scholarship

Fund and send same to: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055. We are especially grateful to Mrs. Mimi Danihel, vice president of the Slovak League for California and the Western States, who generous donation given in memory of her husband, Leo J. Danihel, funded this year's grants.



Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands Showcases Legacy of SS. Cyril and Methodius in February

In 863 two brothers who were clerical figures, diplomats, and missionaries, arrived in Great Moravia from Constantinople to teach Christianity to Slavic peoples in their own language. They brought with them translations of holy texts made with an alphabet of their own devising. Theirs is a legacy of religion, art, and culture that reached a wide part of the Slavic world, for which they were named Co-Patrons of Europe in 1980 by Pope John Paul II, along with St. Benedict. In America countless churches, fraternal societies and an order of nuns were named after them.



The Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands and the Community Art Center of Cambria County will pay tribute to the saints during the month of February with an exhibition and programs entitled The Legacy of SS. Cyril and Methodius at the Community Art Center of Cambria County 1217 Menoher Blvd. Johnstown, PA 15905

As part of the tribute, the museum will mount an exhibit, In the Footsteps of SS. Cyril and Methodius, photographs taken by Nicholas Bocher on a tour of Slovakia arranged by the Sisters of Cyril and Methodius to celebrate the order's 100th year in eastern Pennsylvania. Examples of Slovak needlework and traditional dress from the collections of Nicholas Bocher, Susan Kalcik, and Annett Kristofco will be on display along with an exhibit lent by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania and Michael Stretanski, which tells the story of Rev. Jozef Murgas, Slovak priest, artist, architect, and scientist, who served the Slovak immigrants in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Another example of Slovak folk crafts can be seen in a collection of corn husk dolls lent by Joseph Senko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in Pittsburgh, PA.

In addition to these ongoing exhibits, several programs open to the public will focus on specific aspects of Slovak culture. The opening reception will be held Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 1PM to 3 PM at the CACCC museum and will feature a brief talk by Susan Kalcik on the history of SS. Cyril and Methodius and an introduction to the photographs displayed by Nicholas Bocher. On Sunday, February 12, Susan Kalcik will give a power point presentation on the traditional dress (kroj) of Slovakia. The video Interrupted Lives: Catholic Sisters Under Communism will be shown at 1 PM on Sunday, February 19, 2012, and the program will be rounded out on Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 1PM to 3 PM with a presentation on Slovak Lenten and Easter traditions and foods.

For more information contact Susan Kalcik or Nick Bocher: 255-5517 or the CACCC: 255-6515.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Rules and Regulations

continued from page 5

The Men's and Women's 1st Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the Slovak Catholic Sokol, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the Slovak Catholic Sokol, wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Wickliffe, Ohio, in this rapidly growing tournament.

The 1st Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Freeway Lanes 28801 Euclid Ave, Wickliffe, OH. The tournament will be held the weekend of May 4 - 6, 2012. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 4, at 5:45 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 16, 2012.
PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. PRIZE FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY

THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

In submitting this entry, the captain and the team members agree to forfeit all rights to prize money as well as the total entry fees in the event that any information listed herein should be found to be false. We are not responsible for errors in averages made in filling out this entry form. No refunds of tournament entry fee.

USBC Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, National Slovak Society, and Slovak Catholic Sokol male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. *Note that Slovak Catholic Sokol members must be members for at least three months SPL or one year for all other policies prior to the date of the tournament with a minimum of \$3000 coverage. Slovak Catholic Sokol bowlers must be policy holders, not social members. Slovak Catholic Sokol members enrolled after January 1, 2008, require a minimum of \$5000 insurance coverage to participate.* All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

Only members with USBC Membership Cards will be eligible for the USBC special awards in this USBC Certified Tournament. Bowlers without USBC Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Committee at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2010-2011 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2010-2011 season and with at least 21 games in the 2011-2012 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU, LPSCU, NSS, or SCS tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2012, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the entry form at time of entry.

AVERAGE CHANGES: The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Committee.

It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average.

Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

HANDICAPS: MEN – The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. **WOMEN** – The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 45 pins.

Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee.

Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

LINE-UP CHANGES: All participants must bowl according to where they are listed on the submitted entry form. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

ABSENTEES: To alleviate absentee problems, the Tournament Committee will provide a replacement bowler when notified of the absentee.

TARDY BOWLERS: Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed. USBC Rule 322

SCORING: Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Committee within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.



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Rate Effective February 1, 2012

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Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

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

VYHLÁSENIE ÚČASTNÍKOV OKRÚHLEHO STOLA MATICE SLOVENSKEJ

Matica slovenská, kultúrna a vlastenecká ustanovizeň, ktorá vznikla v roku 1863 ako „jednota milovníkov národa a života slovenského“ v záujme vzdelanosti, kultúry a blahobytu národa, stala sa svedomím národa. Vychádzajúc z toho sme my, účastníci Okrúhleho stola slovenskej inteligencie, prijali toto vyhlásenie s cieľom zásadnej zmeny v živote našej spoločnosti, ktorý je poznačený totálnym panstvom peňazí, a zároveň hmotnou, ale predovšetkým morálnou chudobou, keď posvätnými prestali byť tradičné hodnoty nášho národa a namiesto dobra, spravodlivosti a ohľaduplnosti majú navrch rozkrádanie, podplácanie a klamstvo. Preto od budúcich poslancov Národnej rady a slovenskej vlády v mene občanov Slovenskej republiky požadujeme:

1. V praxi jednoznačne presadzovať a zabezpečiť kontinuitu našich definovaných národnostných záujmov, vychádzajúcich z ústavy. Tomu podriadiť každú konkrétnu činnosť štátnych a samosprávnych orgánov. Medzi prioritami nesmie chýbať ani záujem o dostačujúcu obranu nášho štátu.

2. Vypracovať vlastnú národohospodársku koncepciu v nadväznosti na naše členstvo v Európskej únii. Zohľadniť pri tom možnosti využívania polohy nášho štátu, ako aj vlastných zdrojov, osobitne pôdy. Žiadame konať v súlade s ústavným princípom sociálne a ekologicky zameraného trhového hospodárstva, čo si žiada, aby sa štát práve v čase krízy angažoval pri tvorbe nových hodnôt. Presmerovať zdroje určené na podporu zahraničných investorov na podporu našich tradičných odvetví a primeraného a ekologického využívania prírodného bohatstva, predovšetkým pôdy, dreva a vody.

3. Spracovať a uviesť do života štátnu politiku v kultúre, vede, výchove a vzdelávaní. Štát podporí kultúru a vzdelanosť ako jednu zo svojich prvoradých priorít, podporí osvedčené kultúrne ustanovizne a spolky, a to podľa veľkosti ich vplyvu a dosahu na spoločnosť. Pripraví sa nový zákon o Matici slovenskej, aby táto osvedčená ustanovizeň mohla intenzívnejšie pôsobiť na zachovanie kultúrneho dedičstva a rozvoj vlastenectva vo všetkých formách. Prehodnotí sa aj rozdelenie kompetencií medzi štát a samosprávu najmä v oblasti školstva, kultúry a národnej pamäti. Práve tu sa ukazuje široký rozsah kompetencií samospráv ako deštruktívny.

4. Zabezpečiť všeobecnú znalosť štátneho úradného jazyka, ako integrujúceho prvku v štáte, a zároveň umožniť každému príslušníkovi národnostnej menšiny, aby mohol slobodne používať svoj materinský jazyk tam, kde je v ňom schopný komunikovať. Uzákoniť slovenčinu ako jediný úradný jazyk a umožniť, aby vzdelanie a uspokojovanie duchovných potrieb na celom území bolo prístupné v slovenčine. Starostlivosť o národnostné menšiny, žijúce na slovenskom území, sa oprie o uznávané prvky susedných štátov, osobitne Maďarska, ako základu pre jej zabezpečovanie na báze vzájomnej reciprocity.

5. Považovať posilnenie zdravého vlastenectva za dôležitú úlohu štátu a samosprávy a nimi financovaných zariadení. V záujme toho sa úroveň vyučovania dejepisu musí dostať na úroveň okolitých štátov. Štát podporí tvorbu pôvodných audiovizuálnych, hudobných, výtvarných, knižných a iných diel porovnateľne s európskym štandardom, s osobitným prihliadnutím na šírenie pozitívnych morálnych hodnôt, vznikajúcich na našom území v minulosti, stará sa o záchranu a využívanie kultúrnych pamiatok a zachovanie kultúrneho dedičstva a tradičnej ľudovej kultúry.

6. Štát musí mať dosah na obsah vysielania verejnoprávnych médií v záujme šírenia a presadzovania štátnej politiky vo všetkých oblastiach. Jasne treba vymedziť miesto a zaradenie (podriadenie) verejnoprávnych médií v záujme šírenia objektívnych informácií. Ak sú platené štátom, musia šíriť jeho politiku a zastávať záujmy štátu. Vláda je predsa povinná zabezpečiť dostatok relevantných a pravdivých informácií pre obyvateľov.

7. Slováci žijúci v zahraničí musia byť predmetom osobitnej starostlivosti. Štát vytvára podmienky pre zachovanie nimi vytvoreného hmotného i nehmotného dedičstva mimo hraníc Slovenska a prostredníctvom verejnoprávnych ustanovizní pomáha ich kultúrnemu a národnému životu v zahraničí.

8. Pristúpiť k zmene volebného systému tak, aby do parlamentu mohli byť volení a zvolení aj nezávislí kandidáti z radov inteligencie. Zásadne prehodnotiť rozsah úradov a administratívnych nákladov na všetkých úrovniach.

9. Spracovať jasnú a stabilnú koncepciu zdravotníctva a sociálneho zabezpečenia, aby slúžili všetkým na štandardnej úrovni 21. Storočia. Nepripustiť transformáciu zdravotníckych zariadení na účastinné spoločnosti a minimalizovať komerčné prvky v systéme v záujme využívania vyčlenených zdrojov na starostlivosť o občanov a nie na fungovanie súkromných poisťovní.

10. Štát vypracuje takú koncepciu v oblasti rómskej politiky, ktorá povedie k prekonalniu základných problémov v živote Rómov a ich spolužití s väčšinou, a pre ich kultúrne a vzdelanostne povznesenie. V zásade pritom pôjde o rovnosť práv a povinností tejto skupiny obyvateľstva v porovnaní s väčšinovým a o umožnenie uplatnenia sa tejto komunity aj prostredníctvom obrábania pôdy, ako možného východiska rastu ich kultúrnej a sociálnej úrovne.

Toto očakávame od reprezentantov, ktorým občania v marcových voľbách dajú svoje hlasy. Očakávame, že v predvolebnom boji sa k týmto požiadavkám jednotlivé politické strany zásadne vyjadria. To určite pomôže aj voličom rozhodnúť sa, komu odovzdajú svoj hlas.

V Bratislave 13. januára 2012.

Náboženské symboly v ľudových piesňach

**Motto: Spievanky, spievanky, kdeže ste sa vzali,
či ste z neba spadli, či ste v háji rástli?**

Keď naši praprapredkovia zanechali zaužívaný kočovný a pastiersky spôsob života, začali si zakladať osady, neskôr aj obce a mestá. To sa z nich stávali už roľníci, poľnohospodári.

Aj popri ťažkej práci si nôtli občas smutné, inokedy veselé spievanky. Kdeže sa vzali? Nespadli veru z neba, ani v háji nevyrástli, ba ich ani dievčence či chlapci nenašli. Oni si ich totiž vymysleli, zložili pri práci, na zábave pri tanci, pri lúčení s milou či odchode do cudziny, pri prekárani sa, radosti, žiali... Dali im krásne myšlienky, priliehavé melódie, upravili do veršov a rýmov. A nie ich je málo: zbojnícke, pastierske, banícke, svadobné, regrútske, uspávanky, ľubostné, žartovné... Pripomína nám to aj jedna z nich:

**Spievaj že si spievaj, spevavé stvorenie,
veď je spev najmilšie tvoje potešenie.**

A máme ich preto, lebo sa ústnym podaním prenášali z pokolenia na pokolenie, ale aj vďaka ich zberateľom, ktorí navštívili stovky osád, obcí, a usilovne si ich zapisovali, upravovali do nôt. Boli to väčšinou učitelia a ľudia, ktorí mali úzky vzťah k ľudovej piesni, napr.: hudobný skladateľ Béla Bartók, básnik Ján Kollár, Ján Kadavý, Karol Ruppeld, ale najmä profesor Karol Plicka, ktorý ich počas svojho života zozbieral okolo 40.000.

K novším zberateľom a ich horlivým propagátorom, ktorí si ich už nahrávali a poniektoré aj upravili, patria: Pavol Tonkovič, Pavol Poloczek, Teodor Hirner, Ján Gallo, Ján F. Kveton, Ondrej Demo...

Osobitnú pozornosť si zasluhujú však také piesne, v ktorých je zmienka o náboženských symboloch ako: boh, kňaz, kostol, kaplnka, kríž, fara, nebo, anjel, čert, svätý... Vznikali po príchode kresťanstva na naše územie, ktoré malo už tu hlboko zapustené korene, v období výstavby kostolov, kláštorov, náboženských stánkov. V piesňach sa slovenský národ upieral k Bohu, vyjadroval mu vďaku, lásku, úctu, oddanosť, úfnosť, i sťažnosť na pretrvávajúcu nepravosť v časoch poroby a poddanstva..., alebo si len tak povzdychol, zabožekal, zastonal...

Objavovali sa takmer súčasne so vznikom piesní, ktoré sú zhromaždené v cirkevných kancionáloch a spievajú sa pri jednotlivých náboženských obradoch, sviatkoch príležitostiach ako: fašiangy, Veľká noc, Turíce, advent, Vianoce, Nový rok...

Cirkev bola od príchodu kresťanstva na Slovensko úzko spätá s každodenným životom pospolitého ľudu a má značný podiel aj na zrode ľudových piesní, v ktorých sa objavujú slová, výrazy, myšlienky súvisiace so vzťahom k viere, oddanosti k Bohu, jeho učeníkom... Uvediem niekoľké, zoradené do okruhov, ktoré predstavujú iba zlomok z mnohých ako:

1/ ďakovné:

Už nám Pán Boh pomohol, susedovi nemohol...; ... Čipkárú, čipkárú, pre živého boha, či mi je čipčeka na čepiec hotová...

2/ vyjadrujúce sťažnosť:

Ach, Bože moj, čo to takie, že paropci ňe jednake..., Už som sa vydala, Bože, Hospodine, veď sa mám nachodiť s hrncom po dedine..., Bože môj, otče môj, jak je ten svet zmotaný! Čo vystojí chudobný poddaný..., Darmo ma, mamička, do školy dávate, zo mňa kňaz nebude, darmo nakladáte..., Mal som milú, už ma nechce, nech ju za to pán Boh stresce... Ach, Bože, prebože, už som dolietala, už som svoje drobné deti, vychovala...

3/ vyjadrujúce závišť, ohováranie:

Na košickej turňi dva holubky šedza, ľudze jim zavidza, že še radzi vidza..., Jaj, Bože, prebože, môj mladý vek, veď mi ho závidí každý človek..., Ej, čo som ja, Bože môj, taký ovravený? Vzali ma do reči tie detvianske ženy...

4/ vyjadrujúce kliatbu:

Bodaj by vás, vy mládenci čerti vzali, keď ste vy mňa na ten tanec nepozvali..., Bodaj ce, mily muj, zjasna Perun zabil, ket najvekša ľubosc, ta ši me zochabil...

5/ konštatujúce súčasnosť:

Na tú svätú Katarínu, katarínsku nedeľu, zverbovali šuhajička na vojnu..., Ide svätý Jur, nesie nám leto, aby tráva rástla, tráva zelená..., Na Hriňovej kostol maľovaný, chodí doňho dievča spod Poľany..., Na svätého Jána tri sviece horia..., Láska, Bože, láska, kde ťa ľudia berú..., Čože je to za krásne vtáča, čo po farárovom dvore kráča..., Z badinského kostolíčka vyletela holubička... Fašiangy, Turíce, Veľká noc ide, kto nemá kozucha, zima mu bude...; ... Tam hore na vršku stavajú kaplnku, v nej budú sobášit' tú moju frajerku... Bože môj, dievčence, čože by z nás bolo, keby tých pesniček na svete nebolo...

6/ vyjadrujúce želanie:

Vysoko, hviezdička, dobrú noc Anička, ešte vyššie nebe, Pán Boh daj aj tebe..., Dobrú noc, má milá, dobrú noc, nech ti je sám Pánboh na pomoc..., Ožeň sa, synáčku, s Pánem Bohem, vezmi si dievčatko sebe roveň..., Svätý Jáne, ja ťa prosím, ja to dievča dostať musím, bráni otec, bráni mať, ja to dievča musím mať...

7/ vyjadrujúce lúčenie:

Zbohom ostávajúte, hej, mamičkine prahy, čo vás prekráčali moje biele nohy..., Zbohom ostaň, moja milá, ja už viacej neprídeme, zajtra ráno za vojačka rukujem...; ...Keď na kone sadali, na Boha volali: „Bože nám pomáhaj v našom bojení.“ ...; ... Nič mi nie je, môj miláčik, Bože môj, len ma bolí moje srdce za tebou...; ... Košielku mi šije, na mňa si spomína, vráť mi bože, vráť mi toho môjho syna...

8/ žartovné:

Smrtná nedeľa, čoš' priletela? Azda bys' nám krásu, pre tú našu chasu čariť vedela... Dievča, dievča, biely anjel, kde ja teba večer nájdeme..., Ket ja išla z koscela, nazadek ja patrela, či še mi faldy rozvíjaju, či za mnu paropci popatraju..., Videl som si frajerčičku v kostole, pozerala pravým očkom po sebe...; ... Dávajú ma za čizmára, čizmár Boha nezná, kopytom sa žehná, nepôjdem zaň...

Príspevok je iba skromným prínosom k obohateniu poznatkov v tejto oblasti, a ani zďaleka nevystihuje celkovú problematiku týkajúcu sa vzťahu kresťanstva a jednotlivých cirkví k ľudovej piesni.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliač, Slovakia



Sviatok Sv. Valentína neobchádza ani Slovensko

Čokoládové srdiečka sú pre niekoho neodmysliteľnou súčasťou Sv. Valentína.

FOTO TASR/AP

Oznámenia Spolkov a okresov

Fašiangová zábava Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v NYC

Srdečne Vás pozývame na Fašiangovú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu dňa 19. februára 2012 po svätej omši o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$ 25.00. V cene vstupenky je započítané hlavné jedlo, káva a koláč. V priebehu zábavy bude losovaná tombola a predstavia sa aj deti zo slovenskej školy. Zabávať vás bude skupina Kontakty. Tešíme sa na vašu účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Kultúrne a spoločenské podujatia

Tradičný Slovenský ples v New York City

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku (SKS) pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na tradičný reprezentačný Slovenský ples, ktorý sa bude konať v sobotu 4. februára 2012 v priestoroch prestížnej New-yorskej spoločenskej inštitúcie The New York Athletic Club na adrese 180 Central Park South.

Na tomto plese bude poctený Dr. Zoltán Meško, ktorý pred 15 rokmi zorganizoval v spolupráci so SAKS-om akciu Srdce k srdcu (Heart to Heart), v rámci ktorej bolo založené Detské kardio-centrum v Bratislave a viacerí slovenskí lekári dostali možnosť študovať v Londýne a USA na zdokonalenie ich odbornosti.

Ples sa začne recepciou o 6. hodine a bude pokračovať večerou o 7. hodine. Tanečná hudba bude hrať od 7. hodiny. Na programe je aj krátky zábavný a spoločenský program a bohatá tombola, v ktorej bude možné vyhrať (na vstupenku) letenky na Slovensko a iné hodnotné ceny.

Pozvánky na ples alebo ďalšie informácie si možno vyžiadať od Zuzky Krémár – tel. číslo: (973) 357-1209. Do videnia na 20. výročnom Slovenskom plese v New Yorku.

Výbor SAKS-u

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

20. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 18. februára 2012 v Knights of Columbus Hall 3200 S. 103rd Street v Greenfield, WI. Zábava bude od 6:00 do 11:00 hodiny večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 hodiny večer. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Vstupné je \$ 5. 00 za osobu. Na toto podujatie zároveň srdečne pozývame aj členov Knights of Sts. Mary & Joseph Society, Spolok č. 89 IKSJ v Milwaukee, WI.

Bližšie informácie: Betty Valent, tel. č. (414) - 425- 6137 alebo Emily Kosso, te. č. (414) 464 - 1063.

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Spolku sv. Štefana, Spolku sv. Matúša, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických slovenských spolkov si vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 11. marca 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East, 66th Street, NYC.

V minulom storočí Slovensko dosiahlo samostatnosť dvakrát: 14. marca 1939 a po dlhom čase boja za slobodu opäť dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie slovenského národa na jeho ceste k sebaurčeniu a štátnej samostatnosti.

Na oslave si pripomenieme aj významné dni v slovenskej histórii a v tejto súvislosti chceme vzdať úctu bojovníkom za samostatnosť slovenského národa. Presný program bude k dispozícii pred oslavou. Po programe bude možnosť zakúpenia slovenského jedla a rôznych nápojov v otvorenom bare. Pre bližšie informácie volajte Milan R. Dait: (201) 641 – 8922; Jozef Bilik (718) 463 – 2084. Vstup na podujatie je voľný.

Snežienky

Snežienky, biele, ako mliečko,
hlávky k zemi klonia,
snád', čakajú, na teplé slniečko?
Azda ich len hlávky nebolia?
Vyzerajú, akoby sa modlili.
Či, aj kvietky sa modlia?
Ba, čože si medzi sebou šušujú?
Akúže, to reč používajú?
Vraj, aj po slovensky snívajú.
Údajne, čakajú na malé detičky,
čo ich poviažu v malé kytičky,
ako darček, pre svoje mamičky.

Jozef Smák



Pavol Hrušovský pozval pápeža Benedikta XVI. na návštevu Slovenska

Predseda Národnej rady SR Pavol Hrušovský 18. januára 2012 opätovne pozval pápeža Benedikta XVI. na návštevu Slovenska. Pozvanie v mene všetkých troch slovenských ústavných činiteľov mu odovzdal na generálnej audiencii vo Vatikáne.

„Pred návštevou som sa stretol s pánom prezidentom a s pani premiérkou, ktorí ma splnomocnili, aby som aj v ich mene Svätému Otcovi pripomenul, že pozvanie považujeme za dôležité. Boli by sme radi, keby na návštevu prišiel a duchovne nás obrodil,“ povedal Hrušovský po stretnutí s pápežom.

Najvyššiemu predstaviteľovi katolíckej cirkvi odovzdal pozlátenu plastiku od výtvarníčky Gordany Turuk s motívom Cyrila a Metoda, ktorí sú podľa Hrušovského „symbol patrónov našej Európy“.

„Svätého Otca to veľmi zaujalo a potešilo,“ poznamenal šéf slovenského parlamentu, pre ktorého bolo stretnutie s pápežom udalosťou. Dar bol podľa jeho slov vyhotovený osobitne pre Svätého Otca. „Bol to mimoriadny dar pre mimoriadnu osobu,“ uzavrel Hrušovský.

TASR

Vianočné stretnutie Slovákov v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Vianočné stretnutie Slovákov a priateľov Slovenska, ktoré pripravilo Slovensko Americké Centrum sa uskutočnilo v nedeľu 18. decembra 2011 v Los Angeles, Kalifornia. Podujatie najprv zahájila obetovaná svätá omša po ktorej sa vyhodnotila súťaž o štipendium (Scholarship) pre študentov z Kalifornie. Slovensko Americké Centrum vyhlásilo túto súťaž v apríli a podmienkou pre študentov bolo napísať literárnu kompozíciu (essay) na tému: „Prečo chcem poznať a zachovať si svoje slovenské dedičstvo“, s cenami pre víťaza \$ 500.00, druhá cena \$ 300.00, tretia cena \$ 200.00 a štvrtá cena \$ 100.00. Predložené kompozície vyhodnotil otec Pavol Sochulak s nasledovnými výsledkami:

1. miesto - Jakub Balun; 2. miesto – Jassica Valo; 3. miesto – Kristina Konkol –Mroczkowski; 4. miesto Christopher Konkol –Mroczkowski; 5. miesto Matej Balun;

Knižnými odmenami prispel pre súťažiacich Generálny Konzulát Slovenskej republiky, ktoré odovzdal Vice- Consul Milan Kováč.

Slovensko Americké Centrum gratuluje víťazom a praje všetkým zúčastneným súťažiacim veľa študijných úspechov v školskom roku 2011/2012.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda SAC

Vítazná literárna kompozícia

Prečo chcem poznať a zachovávať si svoje slovenské dedičstvo?

Narodil som sa 25. 6. 1993 v Trstenej, malom meste na severe Slovenska. V Trstenej som nastúpil aj do školy. Spomínam si ako sme na predmete dejepis okrem iného preberali aj významných ľudí, ktorí sa narodili v našom meste. Už vtedy ma zaujalo jedno meno, bol to Štefan Furdek. Asi aj preto, lebo sme bývali na ulici, ktorá niesla jeho meno.

Štefan Furdek sa narodil 2. septembra 1855 v Trstenej a zomrel 18. januára 1915 v Clevelande, USA. Bol to slovenský rímskokatolícky kňaz, spisovateľ a národný buditeľ. Štefan Furdek žil od roku 1882 v USA. Bol spoluzakladateľom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v USA, Matici slovenskej v Amerike a prvým predsedom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike.

V dobe keď nám pani učiteľka rozprávala o tomto významnom človekovi, ktorý sa narodil v našom meste ma ani nenapadlo, že raz budem tiež žiť v USA a budem raz aj členom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, tej Jednoty pri ktorej zrode bol rodák z môjho mesta. Pred dvoma rokmi, keď som bol na návšteve Slovenska v svojom rodnom meste zastavil som sa aj pri pamätnej tabuli, ktorá je umiestená na rodnom dome Štefana Furdeka.

Pred šiestimi rokmi som sa spolu s mojimi rodičmi presťahoval do USA. Počas študovania na High School som okrem štúdia hrával aj za svoju školu štyri roky Volleyball. Šport ma vždy zaujímal a okrem toho, že ho sám aj robím vo voľnom čase rád ho aj sledujem v televízii. Ako sa hovorí, som športovec telom aj dušou. Pri tejto príležitosti chcem spomenúť meno kapitána hokejového klubu Boston Bruins, Zdena Cháru. V Národnej hokejovej lige USA je veľa klubov a veľa kapitánov. Ale iba jeden je zo Slovenska. Zdeno je vynikajúci hráč so svojím tímom Stanley cup.

Mohol by som tu spomínať veľa mien a príbehov ľudí, ktorí sú nejakým spôsobom spojení so Slovenskom, vedci, výskumníci, kozmonauti, športovci, lekári, umelci ale aj úplne obyčajní ľudia, ktorí jednoducho z rôznych dôvodov odišli zo Slovenska a žili, alebo žijú v zahraničí. Boli by to mená úspešných poctivo pracujúcich ľudí, ktorí na svoju či už rodnú, alebo krajinu svojich predkov nikdy nezabudli.

Chcel by som tiež spomenúť mojich rodičov v roku 2005, keď som mal 10 rokov sa im naskytla príležitosť legálne sa prisťahovať do Spojených štátov. Aj napriek tomu, že mali na Slovensku zázemie a dobrú prácu, rozhodli sa, že skúsia život za oceánom, aj napriek všetkým prekážkam. Veľa sme sa o tom rozprávali a jedným z ich dôvodov bolo to, že chceli mne a môjmu bratovi dať šancu študovať tu v Spojených štátoch.

A tu som chcel vlastne odpovedať na otázku, prečo chcem poznať a zachovávať si svoje slovenské dedičstvo? Snáď preto, že som sa tam narodil, mám tam starých rodičov, rodných príslušníkov a priateľov, preto, lebo som hrdý na to, že moje korene sú spojené s krajinou, ktorú je na mape veľmi ťažko nájsť, ale aj napriek tomu sa moja rodná krajina môže pochváliť, že dala svetu veľa významných ľudí v rôznych oblastiach. Zachovávanie slovenského dedičstva preto beriem ako prejav úcty ku všetkým mojim predkom, ľuďom, ktorí Slovensko preslávili po celom svete, ako aj prejav vďaky k mojim rodičom. Som hrdý na to, že som sa tam narodil a vždy keď môžem vysvetľujem ľuďom okolo mňa, kde Slovensko je a aká je to krajina, asi aj preto som na high school dostal prezývku EURO.



Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda má duchovný rozmer

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Slovenské knieža v Panónii Koceľ krátko po Cyrilovej smrti požiadal pápeža, aby sa Metod vrátil ako učiteľ. Druhý z vierozvestov sa vracia na Veľkú Moravu. Pri návrate v Bлатноhrade v Panónii, kde vládol Pribin syn Koceľ, sa zastavil a na základe jeho žiadosti o obnovenie panonskej diecézy (s vedomím Rastislava i Svätopluka), sa vracia späť do Ríma. Pápež ho vo Večnom meste vysvätil za panónskeho, respektíve moravsko-panónskeho arcibiskupa a pápežského legáta pre kraje ovládané Rastislavom, Svätoplukom (Nitriansko) a Koceľom okolo roku 870. Metod sa už ako arcibiskup vracia na Veľkú Moravu. Počas cesty ho zajali Frankovia. Po necelých troch rokoch ho intervenciou pomohol vyslobodiť pápež Ján VIII., pravdepodobne na žiadosť Svätopluka I. V roku 873 sa Metod ujal správy cirkvi na Veľkej Morave. V roku 880 v Ríme opäť obhajoval svoje pôsobenie a uspel. Po jeho smrti v roku 885 však postupne získava rozhodujúci vplyv latinský klérus a Metodovi žiaci, obhajujúci slovanskú liturgiu, museli z Veľkej Moravy odísť. Usadili sa najmä na území vtedajšej Bulharskej ríše.

Duchovný odkaz vierozvestov a patrónov Európy je silný aj v súčasnosti. Konštantín (Cyril) a Metod sú zdrojom nábožnosti, solidarity a slovenskej vzájomnosti, najmä pre Slovákov, Moravanov, Čechov, Bulharov i Macedóncov.

TASR

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Program Erasmus**, ktorý európskym študentom poskytuje štipendium na štúdium alebo stáž v zahraničí, v akademickom roku 2010/2011 využilo 2,458 slovenských vysokoškolákov. Najviac z nich na štúdium vycestovalo do Česka (291), Nemecka (267) a Francúzska (213). Do programu sa okrem študentov v akademickom roku 2010/2011 zapojilo aj 715 vysokoškolských učiteľov a 160 vysokoškolských pracovníkov. Celkovo tak do zahraničia za vzdelaním cez Erasmus vycestovalo o vyše 400 Slovákov viac ako v predošlom akademickom roku. Spomedzi slovenských vysokých škôl využili možnosť stáže v zahraničnom podniku najviac študenti Ekonomickej univerzity. Na stáž vycestovalo 60 z nich. Päťdesiat sedem svojich študentov vyslala na prax do zahraničia Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita v Nitre. Naopak, na slovenské univerzity prišlo cez Erasmus zo zahraničia približne 920 študentov.

• **Verejné** a súkromné vysoké školy, ale aj Slovenská akadémia vied (SAV) môžu do 27. februára 2012 požiadať o nenávratný finančný príspevok vo výške od 500,000 do dvoch miliónov eur na zlepšenie svojej kvality. Výzvu na predkladanie projektov vyhlásila Agentúra ministerstva školstva pre štrukturálne fondy EÚ (ASFEU) koncom minulého roka. Na projekty, ktoré môžu školy a SAV realizovať vo všetkých krajoch okrem Bratislavského, agentúra vyčlenila 50 miliónov eur z Operačného programu Vzdelávanie. ASFEU o tom informuje na svojej internetovej stránke.

• **V tomto roku** je na území mesta Bratislava plánovaný začiatok výstavby prvej etapy veľkého európskeho dopravného projektu TEN-T z Paríža do Viedne, ktorý je schválený od roku 2004. Prvá stavba vedie od železničnej stanice Rača cez Predmestie a Filiálku po železničnú stanicu Petržalka na pravej strane Dunaja a v rozhodujúcej miere povedie tento úsek v tuneloch. Práve v tejto dopravne veľmi frekventovanej časti širšieho centra hlavného mesta bude najväčšia počiatočná výstavba, kde v podzemí vznikne celá prestupná železničná stanica. Jej stavba výrazne ovplyvní nielen mestskú dopravu, ale aj komfort obyvateľov bývajúcich v blízkosti Trnavského múta a v okolitých uliciach.

• **My vám** zo srdca dávame program a vy ho so srdcom prijmite, bolo mottom stretnutia 6. januára ktoré už po dvanásťkrát zorganizovali v rámci Trojkráľového poludnia na Rainerovej chate vo Vysokých Tatrách. Podľa miestneho chatára Petra Petrasa sa pri snehovom betleheme zišlo asi 400 ľudí. Súčasťou akcie bol nefalšovaný folklór v podaní lendackých betlehemcov a goralskej muziky. Okrem programu si mohli návštevníci Rainerovej chaty pozrieť aj tradičný snehový betlehem. Chatárovi pri jeho tvorbe pomáhal syn, priateľ zo Starej Lesnej a dotvárať figúry aj rezbár z Novej Lesnej.

• **Podľa** prieskumu spoločnosti Gravitas sa v Bratislave stavajú menšie byty. Kým priemerná rozloha už dokončeného jednoizbového bytu je takmer 47 metrov štvorcových (m²), v rozostavaných projektoch je to len 34,5 m², čo je o 26 percent menej. Podľa realitných maklérov sa spoločnosti prispôbujú požiadavkám klientov, ktorí uprednostňujú menšie, no lacnejšie byty. V metropole Slovenska je aktuálne viac ako 2,900 voľných bytov, takmer 60 percent z nich sú dokončené a skolaudované. Pre nový trend menších bytov už developéri menia aj svoje projekty.

• **Tisíce** ľudí zo Slovenska sa vydalo nedávno na nákupy do prihraničných obchodov Maďarska. Nákupná turistika vzrástla do nevidaných rozmerov, dôvodom je rekordne slabý kurz forintu voči euru. Za jedno euro zaplatili aj 320 forintov. Ceny potravín sú tak v Maďarsku v priemere lacnejšie o 40 percent, odevy na niektorých miestach až o polovicu. Dve tretiny vozidiel parkoviska reťazca Tesco v Komárome mali slovenské evidenčné číslo. Nakupovať tam prišli aj zo vzdialenejších okresov, ako Nové Zámky, Galanta, či Dunajská Streda.

• **Slovenská** agentúra pre cestovný ruch (SACR) chce v tomto roku propagovať Slovensko najmä v stabilných severovýchodných krajinách, na Ukrajinu či v dejisku letných olympijských hier, vo Veľkej Británii. Agentúra chce tak reagovať na hospodársku situáciu vo svete. Z krajín, ktoré sú výrazne zasiahnuté krízou, nemožno očakávať početné príjazdy turistov, skonštatoval generálny riaditeľ SACR Peter Belinský. V Českej republike chce SACR osloviť mladšiu a strednú generáciu, ktorá už nemá žiadne väzby na bývalé Československo. V Ruskej federácii využijeme fenomén KHL, ktorý dokáže prilákať turistov, v Nemecku sa zameriame na juh krajiny a vo Veľkej Británii využijeme na propagáciu letné olympijské hry v Londýne, zhrnul plány agentúry zástupca generálneho riaditeľa SACR František Stano.

• **Minister** školstva Eugen Jurzyca (SDKÚ-DS) 12. januára prostredníctvom videokonferencie podpísal memorandum o akademickej spolupráci s Kalifornskou technickou univerzitou (California Institute of Technology). Slovenské univerzity spolupracujú s California Institute of Technology už osem rokov. Obe strany mali záujem zakotviť túto spoluprácu do memoranda. Medzinárodná akademickej a vzdelávacia spolupráca bude zahŕňať vedenie spoločných výskumných projektov vrátane výmeny výskumných pracovníkov a pracovníkov riadiacich výskum a doktorandov, organizovanie prednášok a sympózií. Okrem toho umožní výmenu akademickej informácií a materiálov. California Institute of Technology sídli v meste Pasadena v Kalifornii a bola založená v roku 1891. So školou je spojených 31 držiteľov Nobelových cien. V rebríčku 400 najlepších univerzít vo svete The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2011-2012 sa CALTECH umiestnil na prvom mieste.

• **Na slovenskom** pracovnom trhu je podľa najaktuálnejších štatistík Ústredia práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (ÚPSVaR) SR zamestnaných viac ako 22,000 cudzincov. Z približne 2,35 milióna pracujúcich je tak zo zahraničia každý 105. zamestnanec. Najviac je na Slovensku registrovaných zahraničných pracovníkov z Rumunska, a to 4,586. Nasleduje 3,338 Čechov, pričom práve v ich krajine sú Slováci najpočetnejšou skupinou. Po Česku nasledujú ďalší susedia SR, a to Poliaci (2,191), Maďari (2,185) a Ukrajinci (983). V prípade Ázijčanov je v SR najviac Kórejčanov (886). Po nich nasledujú Vietnamci a Číňania, ktorých je spolu necelých 600. Pre firmy na Slovensku pracujú aj ľudia z exotických krajín, po jednom sú evidovaní zamestnanci z Rovníkovej Guiney, Portorika, Kapverd, Trinidádu a Tobaga.

• **Fotograf** Filip Kulisev sa stal prvým profesionálnym fotografom z krajín strednej a východnej Európy, ktorý získal v Londýne najvyššie ocenenie, certifikát a titul Fellowship (FBIPP) od Britského inštitútu profesionálnych fotografov (BIPP). Porota zložená z držiteľov tohto ocenenia vyzdvihla jeho diela zachytávajúce prírodné scenérie. V tejto kategórii sa tak stal len tretím držiteľom tohto ocenenia na svete. BIPP je medzinárodne uznávaná profesijná organizácia s viac ako storočnou históriou. Má viac ako 3,200 členov na celom svete, ktorí zastupujú všetky oblasti fotografického umenia. Cieľom organizácie je vzdelávať, podporovať a hodnotiť profesionálnych fotografov.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Od havárie vojenského špeciálu uplynulo už šesť rokov

19. január je dňom úcty a piety, ktorú pozostali a armádni i štátni predstavitelia Slovenskej republiky a Maďarska prišli vyjadriť na miesto nedokončenej misie vojakom a zamestnancom rezortu obrany, ktorí tragicky zahynuli na kopci Borsó neďaleko maďarskej obce Hejce. Na pietnom zhromaždení pri príležitosti šiesteho výročia tragickej udalosti, pri ktorej zahynulo 42 ľudí po páde vojenského špeciálu AN-24 si to pripomenuli zástupcovia ministerstiev obrany Slovenskej republiky a Maďarska, diplomati, vojenski a cirkevní predstavitelia a pozostali obeť nešťastnej udalosti.

Vojenský špeciál An-24 so 43 príslušníkmi armády SR havaroval pred šiestimi rokmi na kopci Borsó, pri maďarskej obci Hejce, asi 50 km pred cieľom svojej cesty v Košiciach. Haváriu prežil len jeden člen kontingentu, ktorý sa vracal z mierovej misie v Kosove. Martin Farkaš, ktorý sa nedávno vrátil z pôsobenia v misii v Afganistane sa tiež zúčastnil spomienkového pietneho aktu, položil veniec k pamätníku obeť a zapálil sviečku za svojich priateľov, ktorí tragédiu neprežili.

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FOTO TASR – František Iván

Na snímke kladenie vencov.

The memorial observance on January 19, 2012 marking the sixth anniversary of the crash of the Slovak military aircraft in Hejce, Hungary. The crash claimed the lives of 42 Slovak soldiers returning from a tour of duty in Kosovo.

UKF v spolupráci s biskupstvom vychovávajú budúcich misionárov

Absolventi stredných škôl budú mať možnosť v budúcom akademickom roku študovať na Univerzite Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre misijnú prácu. Nový študijný program otvorila univerzita v tomto akademickom roku, štúdium misijnej práce zabezpečuje Katedra náboženských štúdií na Filozofickej fakulte UKF v spolupráci s Rímskokatolíckym biskupstvom Nitra. „Podľa našich prvých prieskumov sú študenti s výučbou misijnej práce spokojní, máme pozitívne ohlasy,“ uviedol hovorca Nitrianskeho biskupstva Miroslav Lyko. Misijnú prácu študuje zhruba 40 denných študentov, rovnaký počet plánuje prijať univerzita aj v novom akademickom roku.

Základ štúdia misijnej práce tvoria náboženské disciplíny, antropológia a charitatívna služba. Štúdium je určené rovnako pre dievčatá ako pre chlapcov. „Už v tomto ročníku máme pestré zloženie študentov, je medzi nimi aj rehoľná sestra. Viacerí študenti už majú skúsenosti s prácou v dobrovoľníckych organizáciách v zahraničí, napríklad v Tibete či v afrických krajinách,“ uviedol Lyko. Absolventi misijnej práce nájdu uplatnenie v kresťanských detských kluboch, v práci s mládežou, v kluboch seniorov, v rómskej misii, v nešťastných inštitúciách a organizáciách, v medzinárodných inštitúciách, pri organizovaní a zabezpečovaní misií v treťom svete i ako projektoví manažéri či koordinátori dobrovoľníkov.

TASR

ITF Slovakiatour predstaví históriu kráľovských miest

Prešovský samosprávny kraj (PSK) sa aj tento rok bude prezentovať na medzinárodnom veľtrhu ITF Slovakiatour 2012 v Bratislave. Dôraz bude klásť na jedinečnosť regiónu a históriu miest Bardejov, Levoča, Kežmarok a Stará Ľubovňa. Hovorkyňa PSK Veronika Fitzeková pripomenula, že na území kraja sa nachádzajú až dve tretiny všetkých kultúrnych pamiatok Slovenska. Zároveň je tu päť národných parkov a 180 chránených území, ktoré ponúkajú návštevníkom množstvo prírodných krás. Fitzeková uviedla, že v roku 2001 Bardejov, Levoča, Kežmarok a Stará Ľubovňa vytvorili úspešnú marketingovú značku - Slovenské kráľovské mestá, pod ktorou sa spoločne prezentujú. Zdôraznila, že tieto mestá si zachovali mimoriadne bohatú kultúrnu identitu a mnohé pamiatky sa dostali do zoznamu svetového dedičstva UNESCO. „Každé mesto privedie so sebou na veľtrh reálnu postavu zo svojej histórie. Návštevníkom sa počas štyroch dní predstaví bardejovský kat, levočská Biela pani, kežmarská Čierna pani, či mešťan Gašpárek zo Starej Ľubovne,“ vysvetľuje hovorkyňa.

Tohtoročnou špecialitou expozície Prešovského kraja budú i makety drevených kostolíkov. Tie obyvatelia vo verejnej ankete hlasovaním zaradili medzi „sedem divov Prešovského kraja“.

Priamo v expozícii Prešovského kraja sa počas výstavy budú prezentovať viacerí vystavovatelia - mestá Prešov a Vysoké Tatry, Združenie cestovného ruchu Vysoké Tatry, Regionálne združenie tatranských a podtatranských obcí, Štátne lesy TANAP-u a ďalšie subjekty z oblasti cestovného ruchu.

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Sloviaktour opened its annual fair on travel and wellness and fitness in Bratislava on January 19, 2012. In the photo is an exposition of brochures on the Orava region.



FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškás

V areáli bratislavskej Incheby vo štvrtok 19. januára 2012 odštartoval veľtrh cestovného ruchu ITF Slovakiatour. Na snímke expozícia oravského regiónu.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 121

STREDA, 1. FEBRUÁRA 2012

Číslo 5857



FOTO TK KBS/ Peter Dzurjanin

Cyrilometodská púť na Devíne dňa 5. júla 2011.

Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda má duchovný rozmer

Slovenská republika si 5. júla štátnym sviatkom pripomína kresťanských vierozvestov svätých Cyrila a Metoda. Deň slovanských vierozvestov Cyrila a Metoda je 5. júla štátnym sviatkom aj v Českej republike. Pod názvom Deň slovanskej písomnosti a kultúry slávia sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda 24. mája v Ruskej federácii aj na Ukrajine. Štátnym sviatkom pod názvom Deň Cyrila a Metoda je 24. máj i v Bulharsku. Pápež Ján Pavol II. v decembri 1980 vyhlásil svätých bratov Cyrila a Metoda za spolupatrnov Európy a tento cirkevný sviatok sa slávi 14. februára.

Na území dnešného Slovenska bolo kresťanské učenie rozšírené už pred príchodom Cyrila a Metoda. Kresťanstvo do tejto oblasti preniklo v období Rímskej ríše, čo dokazujú viaceré archeologické nálezy, napríklad z Bratislavy-Rusoviec, alebo odkrytie ranokresťanskej kaplnky na Devíne pochádzajúcej zo 4. storočia.

Príchod Slovanov na súčasné naše územie sa datuje minimálne na začiatok 6. storočia. Kresťanstvo začína výraznejšie prenikať medzi Slovanov, žijúcich na území súčasného Slovenska, v prvej tretine 9. storočia. Už jeho relatívne zakorenené pozície dokazoval kostol v Nitre vysvätený v roku 828 salzburským biskupom Adalrámom, kde vládlo pohanské kniežatstvo Pribína. Okolo roku 833 dobytím Nitrianskeho kniežatstva moravským Mojmirom I. vznikla Veľká Morava.

Učenie Ježiša Krista nadobúda medzi Slovanmi čoraz významnejší dosah. Kresťanský panovník Veľkej Moravy Rastislav ponímal toto náboženstvo ako silný fenomén, ktorý bude schopný podporiť existenciu ranostredovekého štátu. Veľkú Moravu stále ohrozovala rozpínavosť Frankov. V ich službách boli aj duchovní preferujúci latinskú liturgiu. Viacerí z nich chceli svojou činnosťou oslabiť Veľkú Moravu a dostať ju do priameho područia Východofranskej ríše. Obmedzili by tým postavenie Rastislava. Ten sa obrátil na pápeža, aby mu poslal učiteľa, ktorý by uprednostňoval šírenie kresťanskej viery v reči, akou hovorí jeho ľud. Učiteľ by mal ďalej vychovať miestny klérus a bol by oddaný vládnucej dynastii. Posolstvo nenašlo odozvu u pápeža, ale kladne naň reagoval byzantský cisár Michal III. Na Veľkú Moravu vyslal dvoch vierozvestov. Na misiu išli Konštantín a Metod. Pochádzali zo Solúna, v okolí ktorého v tom čase žila početná slovenská menšina a jej jazyk obaja ovládali.

Konštantín ešte pred odchodom na misiu vytvoril písmo, prispôbené pre slovenskú reč, hlaholiku a preložil základné state súvisiace s kresťanskou vieroukou: výber evanjeliových čítaní - Evanjeliár. Po takejto príprave prišli obaja zvestovatelia viery v roku 863 na Veľkú Moravu. Obyvateľstvo spolu s miestnou vládnucou mocou byzantskú misiu prijalo. Východofranskí mocenski predstavitelia a ich klérus sa na to pozerali s nevdôľou.

Po trojročnom pôsobení na Veľkej Morave na spiatocnej ceste do Byzancie oboch šíriteľov Kristovho učenia zastihlo v Benátkach pozvanie pápeža Mikuláša I. do Ríma. Vo Večnom meste ich už však vítal nový pápež Hadrián II., pred ktorým obhájili svoje dielo. Dosiahli kodifikovanie slovanskej reči ako ďalšieho liturgického jazyka, v ktorom možno vykonávať kresťanské obrady. Chorľavý Konštantín ostal v Ríme, kde sa utiahol do kláštora, prijal meno Cyril a v roku 869 skonal.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Hospodársku a sociálnu radu OSN povedie slovenský diplomat

Hospodársku a sociálnu radu OSN povedie prvýkrát od vzniku samostatnej SR slovenský diplomat. Stáleho predstaviteľa SR pri OSN v New Yorku, veľvyslanca Miloša Koterca zvolili za predsedu rady akklamáciou v utorok 10. januára. Naposledy bol zo Slovákov vedením rady poverený v roku 1947 Ján Papánek, ktorý stál pri samotnom vzniku OSN a následne v nej Československo zastupoval.

Za priority, ktoré budú dominovať tohtoročným rokovaniam na pôde Hospodárskej a sociálnej rady OSN, Koterec vo svojom nástupnom prejave označil budovanie globálne účinnej rozvojovej architektúry a posilnenie spolupráce s ďalšími globálnymi a regionálnymi inštitúciami a organizáciami vrátane Medzinárodného menového fondu a Svetovej banky. Osobitný dôraz bude počas svojho pôsobenia klásť na aktívnu zaangażovanosť rady na prípravách Konferencie OSN o trvalo udržateľnom rozvoji Rio+20 a na implementáciu jej záverov. Výročné ministerské zasadnutie Hospodárskej a sociálnej rady, ktoré sa uskutoční v New Yorku v júli, sa bude zameriavať na podporu zamestnanosti, odstránenie chudoby a zabezpečenie trvalo udržateľného rozvoja v rámci naplňovania miléniových rozvojových cieľov.

Veľvyslanec Koterec počas svojho pôsobenia na poste stáleho slovenského predstaviteľa pri OSN zastával niekoľko významných funkcií vrátane predsedu Výboru Valného zhromaždenia pre odzbrojenie a medzinárodnú bezpečnosť a člena medzinárodnej komisie pre výber prokurátora Medzinárodného trestného súdu.

Hospodárska a sociálna rada je jedným z hlavných orgánov OSN. Jeho úloha a relevantnosť v súčasnosti významne narastá vzhľadom na potrebu riešenia pretrvávajúcej hospodárskej a finančnej krízy. Informoval o tom tlačový odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR.

TASR



Miloš Koterec

Americký veľvyslanec predstavil premiérke novú obrannú stratégiu USA

Napriek tomu, že nová strategická obranná smernica USA sa sústreďuje na oblasť Tichomoria, význam spolupráce s Európou ostáva aj naďalej rovnako vážny. Premiérku Ivetu Radičovú o tom ubezpečil americký veľvyslanec na Slovensku Theodor Sedgwick, ktorý jej túto stratégiu bližšie predstavil.

“Nie je podstatné, aká veľká je krajina, podstatné je, aké má postavenie v rámci NATO, ako si plní svoje záväzky, aký spoľahlivý je partner. SR spoľahlivý partner je a tak ako USA pristúpili k príprave nového strategického hodnotenia obrany a nových rozhodnutí i SR pripravuje takéto strategické hodnotenie,” podčiarkla premiérka. Bielu knihu obrany pripravoval exminister obrany Ľubomír Gallo (SaS), po jeho uvoľnení však bol tento projekt pozastavený. O tom, či sa bude plniť, rozhodne nová vláda.



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Predsedníčka vlády SR Iveta Radičová poverená riadením ministerstva obrany SR sa stretla s americkým veľvyslancom v SR Theodorom Sedgwickom na pôde ministerstva obrany SR v Bratislave 16. januára 2012.

Acting Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova met with American Ambassador Theodore Sedgwick in Bratislava on January 16, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Slovakia's position in NATO and other defense issues.

Približne hodinové rokovanie premiérky a amerického veľvyslanca sa sústredilo predovšetkým na udalosti v Líbyi, Egypte a ďalších krajinách, ktoré sú v zóne záujmu oboch krajín. Na tlačovej konferencii sa otvorila aj téma politického napätia medzi USA a Iránom. “Treba použiť všetky prostriedky na to, aby k žiadnemu konfliktu a hlavne otvorenému nedošlo,” zdôraznila predsedníčka vlády.

Americký veľvyslanec tiež vyzdvihol úlohu Slovenska v medzinárodnej operácii ISAF. “Slovenský EOD tím zachránil 27. októbra veľa životov, keď odpálil kamión zaparkovaný pri základni v Kandaháre,” povedal Sedgwick, ktorý považuje Slovensko za vážneho a spoľahlivého bezpečnostného partnera Severoatlantickej aliance.

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