



Jednota

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NUMBER 5933

How to Add to your IRA: There's Still Time in This Tax Season

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

If you are looking to add money to your traditional IRA or Roth IRA in the 2015 tax year, there's still time. But you need to do so before April 15, 2016.

Knowing Your Limits Is Important

IRA contribution limits for 2015 and 2016 are the same. The maximum amount you can contribute to a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA in 2016 is unchanged from the previous year: \$5,500 (or 100% of your earned income, if less).

Playing Catch Up May Be for You

If you are among the many people that are moving closer to retirement faster than you have been adding to your savings account, catch-up contributions may be for you. What are catch-up contributions exactly? These type of contributions are designed to help you make up any retirement savings shortfall by bumping up the amount you can save in the years leading up to retirement. If you are 50 or older, or you will reach age 50 by the end of the year, you may be able to make contributions to your IRA above the normal contribution limit. Catch-up contributions can be made to traditional and Roth IRAs, so you should review your options with your tax advisor.

The allowable amount of your catch-up contribution depends on the type of retirement plan you have in place and the tax year for which you are making the contribution. The maximum catch-up contribution for those age 50 or older remains at \$1,000.

continued on page 3



Kenneth Arendt

National President Emeritus Joseph R. Kristofik Passes into Eternal Life

January 16, 2016

It is with sadness that the National President, Executive Secretary, and all the National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada note the passing of Joseph R. Kristofik on January 16, 2016. He served as National President of the First Catholic Union from 1980 -1994.

See page 17 for more details.



Attention FCSU Graduating Seniors: The deadline for 2016 Jednota Scholarship Applications has been extended to **March 31, 2016**. Don't miss out on a chance for \$1,000 toward your college education. See page 6 for details.



Attention Jednota Bowlers: The March deadline to sign up for the 2016 National Bowling Tournament to be held **April 22 - 23** - is almost here. See pages 4 - 5 for details.

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You'll Fall in Love with our Rates!

8 Year Flex Premium Annuity or IRA	3.60%
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Open or add to your IRA account by April 15, 2016

Also Available

Park 2	2.15%
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Contact your branch officer or the Home Office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131
800.533.6682, annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com



Buy a product, become our member and have fun!

See 2015 Membership Cruise, pages 12 - 13

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES



February 2016

Universal Intention

Care for Creation. *That we may take good care of creation—a gift freely given—cultivating and protecting it for future generations.*



Life is a gift. Our very existence is a gift. We did not create ourselves nor are we chance products of blind forces of nature. And we are not God.

That may seem obvious, but from the beginning of human history, people have tried to be God. We see that even today in the way human beings use creation in ways that are contrary to God's will. According to Genesis 2: 15, humanity was created to work with God, "to cultivate and care for" the earth. Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*: "Once we lose our humility and become enthralled with the possibility of limitless mastery over everything, we inevitably end up harming society and the environment. It is not easy to promote this kind of healthy humility when we exclude God from our lives or

replace him with our own ego and think that our subjective feelings can define what is right and what is wrong."

This month we begin Lent, a time of conversion. Let's consider how we can be humble stewards and not exploiters of creation. As a start, Pope Francis proposes we simply "stop and give thanks to God before and after meals." Doing so "reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation; it acknowledges those who by their labors provide us with these goods; and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need."

Reflection

How do I experience creation as a gift that God has given me?

Scripture

Psalm 148 Praise the Lord from the heavens and from the earth!

Evangelization Intention

Asia. *That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.*

Early last year Pope Francis visited the Asian country of Sri Lanka where four major religions coexist: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity. Unfortunately ethnic and religious differences there have led to bloody conflicts. Meeting with representatives of these religions, the Pope said: "For the sake of peace, religious beliefs must never be allowed to be abused in the cause of violence and war. We must be clear and unequivocal in challeng-

ing our communities to live fully the tenets of peace and coexistence found in each religion, and to denounce acts of violence when they are committed."

All people are made in the image and likeness of God. God created everyone for eternal life—to be with God in the heavenly communion of saints. God desires this so much that he sent Jesus to shed his precious blood for the salvation of all. Thus all people are to be shown respect. In his speech, Pope Francis spoke of the importance of "dialogue, which is essential if we are to know, understand, and respect one another." True dialogue requires honesty: "for such dialogue and encounter to be effective, it must be grounded in a full and forthright presentation of our respective convictions. Certainly, such dialogue will accentuate how varied our beliefs, traditions and practices are. But if we are honest in presenting our convictions, we will be able to see more clearly what we hold in common. New avenues will be opened for mutual esteem, cooperation, and indeed friendship."

In true dialogue with non-Christians, we Christians need to listen respectfully, find common ground, and then in our turn to share the Gospel, in hopes that the Holy Spirit will open hearts to Jesus. We pray this month that opportunities for such sharing may increase in Asia, where Christians are in the minority

Reflection

From your experience, what are some of the things that we Christians hold in common with non-Christians?

Scripture

1 Timothy 2: 1-7 God our savior wills everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Joseph Fiennes, Star of Sony Pictures' New Film Release "Risen," Meets Pope Francis in Vatican City



VATICAN CITY, Feb. 3, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Joseph Fiennes, star of Sony Pictures' new film release *RISEN*, met Pope Francis in Vatican City today. Fiennes is in town with actress Mario Botto and the producers to promote *RISEN*, which opens in theaters nationwide in the U.S. on February 19th. The film will be screened at the Vatican tomorrow. *RISEN* is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection and the weeks that followed, as seen through the eyes of an unbelieving Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a high-ranking Roman Military Tribune. Clavius and his aide Lucius

(Tom Felton) are instructed by Pontius Pilate to ensure Jesus' radical followers don't steal his body and claim resurrection. When the body goes missing within days, Clavius sets out on a mission to locate the missing body in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

AFFIRM Films (a Sony Pictures Entertainment company) originally acquired worldwide rights from LD Entertainment on *RISEN* and will release the film in association with Columbia Pictures and LD Entertainment. Starring Fiennes (*Shakespeare in Love*), Tom Felton (*Harry Potter*), Peter Firth (*"Spooks"*) and Cliff Curtis (*Live Free or Die Hard*), and Maria Botto, and directed by Kevin Reynolds (*Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*), the action drama will be released in theaters nationwide on Friday, February 19, 2016.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 2	MONDAY, FEB. 22
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 30	MONDAY, MAR. 21
WEDNESDAY, APR. 20	MONDAY, APR. 11

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

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Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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FAX: 216-642-4310

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Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year Events to Take Place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius



The Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, on the grounds of Villa Sacred Heart, has been designated a special place of pilgrimage during the Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year. While the Basilica is the daily place of prayer for the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, it is also the site of ecumenical gatherings, pilgrimages, weekend and week-long retreats and days of prayer,

not only for the sisters, but for the general public. During this Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year, the Basilica will also house special Jubilee events, and welcome pilgrims throughout the year.

The Basilica is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for private prayer and pilgrimage. Guided tours of the Basilica are available by calling in advance, 570-275-3581. Evening Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration take place very Sunday evening from 4:00-4:30 p.m., January 10, 2016 – November 13, 2016, there will be public celebration of Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, coupled with Eucharistic Adoration. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius for individuals or groups upon request. For information on any event, about visiting the Basilica, or to make arrangements for a group pilgrimage, call 570-275-3581.

- A retreat for those discerning a vocation to Religious Life, May 27-29
- Directed 24-Hour Retreats, Feb. 19-20; March 18-19; June 10-11; Sept. 9-10; Oct. 28-29
- Silent Directed Retreat Weekends, Feb. 19-21; March 18-20; June 10-12; Sept. 9-11; Oct. 28-30
- Taize Prayer Services, March 11 from 7-8 p.m., and April 15 from 7-8 p.m.
- Day-Long Retreats
- March 5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., "People of the Passion"
- April 23 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., "Compassionate Caregiving: Dimensions of Religion and Spirituality in Health Care Settings"

Groups may also call to make arrangements for their own pilgrimage program.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.

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

HOME OFFICE
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016 - SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on *Friday, March 18, 2016 - Saturday, March 19, 2016.*

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 11, 2016.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 11, 2016.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

How to Add to your IRA

continued from page 1

You can contribute to both a traditional and Roth IRA in 2016, but your total contributions can't exceed these annual limits:

Contributions	2015	2016
Roth IRA Contribution Limit	\$5,500	\$5,500
Roth IRA Contribution Limit If Age 50+	\$6,500	\$6,500

Contributions	2015	2016
Traditional IRA Contribution Limit	\$5,500	\$5,500
Traditional IRA Contribution Limit, if Age 50+	\$6,500	\$6,500 ¹

1. Includes \$1,000 catch-up limit for age 50 or older.

Traditional IRA Deduction Limits for 2016

If you are covered by a retirement plan at work, use the following table to determine if your MAGI (Modified Adjusted Growth Income) affects the amount of your deduction. If you're not covered by a retirement plan at work, go to the IRS website www.ird.gov to view a more generous deduction table.

2016 Deduction Limits – Traditional IRA		
IF YOUR FILING STATUS IS ...	AND YOUR MAGI IS ...	THEN YOU CAN TAKE ...
Single or Head of Household	\$61,000 or less	a full deduction up to the amount of your contribution limit.
	more than \$61,000 but less than \$71,000	a partial deduction.
	\$71,000 or more	no deduction.
Married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)	\$98,000 or less	a full deduction up to the amount of your contribution limit.
	more than \$98,000 but less than \$118,000	a partial deduction.
	\$118,000 or more	no deduction.
Married filing separately	less than \$10,000	a partial deduction.
	\$10,000 or more	no deduction.

The income limits for determining how much you can contribute to a Roth IRA have increased for 2016. Consult your tax advisor or go to the IRS website www.irs.gov to find out what limits may apply to you.

2016 Contribution Limits – Roth IRA		
IF YOUR FILING STATUS IS ...	AND YOUR MAGI IS ...	THEN YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE ...
Married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)	< \$184,000	up to the limit
	>\$184,000 but <\$194,000	a reduced amount
	>\$194,000	zero
Married filing separately and you lived with your spouse at any time during the year	<\$10,000	a reduced amount
	>\$10,000	zero
Single, head of household, or married filing separately and you did not live with your spouse at any time during the year	<\$117,000	up to the limit
	>\$117,000 but <\$132,000	a reduced amount
	>\$132,000	zero

Information taken from www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans

The deadline for filing your 2015 taxes – April 15, 2016 – is right around the corner, so don't delay. For guidance on the FCSU annuity products that are IRAs, call the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 or your local FCSU branch.

A Newly Updated Resource for Slovak-related Topics

Interested in reading more about Slovakia? Now, thanks to Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J., of



John Carroll University, a central list of publications with Slovak-related topics has been newly updated for 2016.

This handy list includes ISBN numbers for those books published in Slovakia – which makes for easier identification when searching for them at the library or online. Websites for locating remaindered and used books, and where to purchase them, are included at the end of the file, as well.

Go to www.fcsu.com and click on Slovakia & The World tab to access this list.

Or, for more information, please contact Fr. Gerald Sabo at gsabo@jcu.edu.



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWL



United Slovak Fraternal
5th Annual
Bowling Tournament
April 22- 23, 2016

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 7:15 pm with the team event starting at 7:30 pm at Sawmill Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 7:00 PM at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus, OH. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – Holiday Inn Columbus, OH will be housing our guests for the week-end. The phone number to the hotel is provided below. You must identify yourself as a member of USF or United Slovak Fraternal to receive the group rate: \$114 / night (plus tax)

Deadline for hotel reservations is March 22.

Holiday Inn Columbus-Worthington (50 rooms)
7007 N. High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
614-436-0700

Saturday:

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

Mass - will be held at 5:00 pm at the hotel.

Banquet - will be held in the Holiday Inn. Cocktails at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM.

Sawmill Lanes: 4825 Sawmill Rd. Columbus, OH – (614) 889-0880

If you require additional information, please contact Rudy Ondrejco at your convenience at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal
Bowling Tournament
April 22-23, 2016
Columbus, OH



Would you like to sponsor a lane?

It is only \$50.00 to have a sign placed on a lane and your generosity will go far in making this event an enjoyable weekend for all!

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please mail this form in with the wording for your sign printed below and check payable to "FCSU Activities".

Please feel free to contact Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director with any questions at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is March 4, 2016.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Yes!! We would like to sponsor a lane. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Wording for Sign: _____

Mail to: FCSU Activities 234 Ilion St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Thank you in advance for your participation in this fraternal event.

There's Still Time to be a Part of the Jednota Memorial



A Site Dedicated to Members & Their Families

As highlighted in the October 21, 2015 issue of Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Union has recently dedicated a Memorial site for our members and their families on a permanently dedicated 1/2 acre of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. It sits on land that was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy"

statue is a key highlight of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks are Available for Purchase



It is important, however, to remember that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. You can remember a loved one, a branch or a district in our Society. All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" in the granite panels found throughout the Memorial will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted.

If you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

ERS: SAVE THE DATE IN APRIL



Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM			
DOUBLES & SINGLES			

2016 April 22 - 23, 2016
 Entries Close
 March 4, 2016

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union and
 National Slovak Society
 A/k/a the United Slovak Fraternal's

Sawmill Lanes
 Sawmill Road, Columbus, OH

Entry Fees - Members
 Prize Fee.....\$7.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$6.75
 Tournament Fee.....\$4.25
Total Each Event\$18.00

Entry Fees - Non-Members
 Prize Fee.....\$14.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$6.75
 Tournament Fee.....\$4.25
Total Each Event.....\$25.00

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

Banquet Fees
 Member.....\$25.00
 Non-Member\$40.00

Total Included.....\$_____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Team Name: _____ Captain Name: _____
 League: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ Phone: _____

All Events (X)	Attend 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)	Attend Banq (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)			
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Friday, April 22
 Registration 6:30 PM
 Bowlers: 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 23
 Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM

Team Events

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE
 RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND
 MUST BE RESUBMITTED

Substitutes **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

The Men's and Women's 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society 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 and the National Slovak Society wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Columbus, OH, in this tournament.

The 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Sawmill Lanes, 4825 Sawmill Rd., Columbus, Ohio. The tournament will be held April 22-23, 2016. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, April 22, at 7:15 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 4, 2016. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ENTRY 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 and National Slovak Society male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. 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 2014-2015 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2014-2015 season and with at least 21 games in the 2015-2016 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 or NSS 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, 2016, 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.

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprised of at least 1 person of the opposite gender are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

DOUBLES: Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

HANDICAPS: The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 65 pins. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

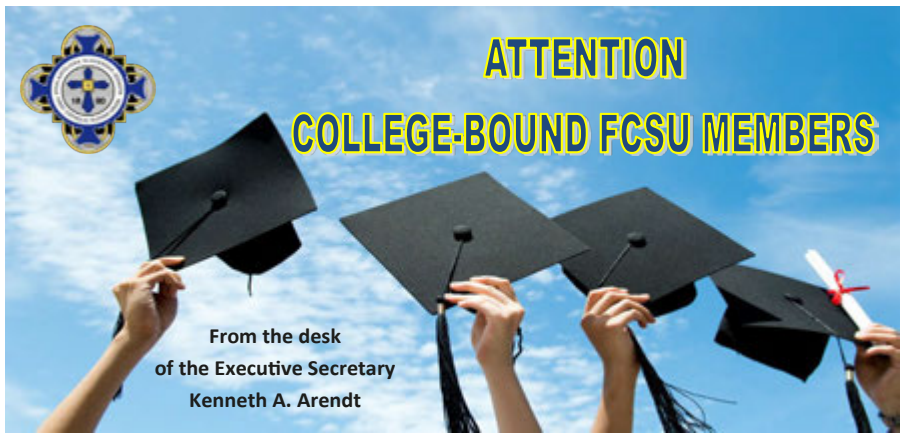
PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

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.



From the desk
of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

**THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
HAS EXTENDED THE DEADLINE FOR 2016
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS TO MARCH 31**

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

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

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

For rules, requirements and applications go to
www.fcsu.com/scholarships
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
March 31, 2016**



**ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA
JEDNOTARS**

An Evening of Fun &
Fraternalism

Saturday, March 19, 2016

7:00pm

Monsters vs. Manitoba Moose
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH

Special Offer Includes:

- Discounted End Zone Tickets!! (\$24 game day value)
 - Non-members: \$18 per ticket
 - Members: \$16 per ticket with possible deeper discount available through your branch

**To get your branch discount and order tickets, please
contact the representative in your branch:**

- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Greg Petrasek, 330-398-1888
- Branch 855: Tom Bardar, 216-956-5507



Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch.
Contact your branch officer for details!!

Deadline to order: Monday, February 29, 2016

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or by pick up at the Q's will call (located near box office), if arrangements are made in advance through your branch.

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. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

Lent: Spring Training for the Soul

Ever thought of Lent as spring training for the soul? The odds are against it, I know, and I admit I've never thought of it that way. More important here and now, however, is the fact that Father Joe Breighner not only thought about it, but wrote about it, too. And like most of the things he writes about, darned if it doesn't make sense. (I've written about Father Joe before; he's the columnist for the Catholic Review in Baltimore. He used to have a radio program called "Ask Father Joe," and there he held forth freely on whatever came up.)

As it happens, Lent has a number of things in common with spring training, among them the amount of time it takes (give or take a few days). This year Lent goes for most of February and March, beginning on Feb. 10, and winding up on Holy Saturday, March 26.

But more to the point, there's something that gets to the heart of the matter: Lent and spring training are all about getting back to basics. In baseball, the basics are hitting, pitching and fielding. In Lent, they're prayer, fasting and giving to the poor. The person who ignores those fundamentals is like the baseball player who tries to limber up without paying attention to the basics of the sport: he's likely to get nowhere fast.

"Just because we know the way doesn't mean we go that way," Father Breighner writes. "We always come back to basics."

He offers insights into one of those "basics," praying. "Prayer is different for all of us," he says. "Some like to pray in silence, and others like noisy places. Some like to sit at the front of the tabernacle, and others visit the presence of God within themselves. One size does not fit all."

The same thing goes with fasting, and here Father Breighner offers a personal reflection. "I thought fasting was simply a matter of making myself miserable," he writes. But that turns out to be not the meaning at all.

"Fasting is not a matter of 'giving something up' as 'letting things go.' We let go of our addictions to food, sex, anger, wanting and craving. We go into the desert of our own insides, and discover that when we let stuff go we are in the presence of God...Lent takes me back to basics, if I let it."

Finally there is almsgiving, giving to the poor. Of course, there's more to it than that. Give to the poor and worthy charities, by all means, but give of your time and energy as well.

"I'm convinced," Father Joe writes, "that the greatest gifts are not about how much we give, but how much of ourselves" is involved. That's all the difference, and it's a vital point.

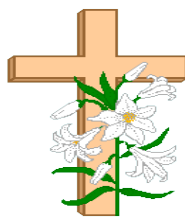
Father Breighner reminds us of another important distinction. "It was easy to be a believer on Easter Sunday," he writes. "It wasn't as easy on Good Friday." And he takes us from there:

"Much of life, I'm convinced, is lived on Good Friday. But if we take time to pray, if we take time to fast, and if we take time to give alms—giving of what we have and who we are—we will discover a moment of resurrection."

And that, in a sentence, is what Lent is all about. It's just a matter of getting back to basics. Spring training, that is—for the soul.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

**SLOVAK MASS & EASTER
CUSTOMS BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 19, 2016**



St. Adalbert Church

160 So. 15th Street, South Side
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

10:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary (in Slovak)

11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side



**** SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS ****

paska (sweet bread) sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)

- 12 Noon --
- * Homemade Baked Goods
 - * Craft Demonstrations
 - * Cultural Displays
 - * Imported Slovak gifts
 - * Slovak "Auction" /Raffle



ADMISSION FREE

Donations Gratefully Accepted

For more information, call (412) 481-8380



Branch 746 celebrates Christmas 2015



2015 Branch officers (L – R) Mary Karch (Treasurer), Joanne Polt (Vice President), Sabina Sabados (President), and Mary Kapitan (Secretary) welcome Fr. Jozef Krajnak, PhD to Branch 746 and to Holy Family Church

Branch 746 Celebrates the Holidays

Branch 746 hosted its annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 20th, 2015 at Mgrs. Komar Hall in Linden, NJ. Delicious Slovak food, catered by Julie Rada Catering, was enjoyed by all those that attended. The branch hosted its meeting prior to the party and discussed the success of Jednota's Meet and Greet cruise and Jednota's 125th anniversary celebrations a month prior which was organized by Region 1 in collaboration with local branches from NY, NJ, and CT and attended by 200 members and guests. At the meeting, Branch 746 welcomed its newest member and pastor of Holy Family Church, Fr. Jozef Krajnak, PhD. Elections were also held for new Branch officers for 2016 which are as follows: Sabina Sabados, President; Joanne Polt, Vice President; Mary Anne Ranahan, Treasurer; Mary Kapitan, Secretary. The Branch welcomed Mrs. Ranahan and congratulated Mrs. Mary Karch for her many years of exceptional service and dedication as an officer.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Branch 746 President

St. Thomas A'Becket Fish Fry Begins February 12, 2016



During the Lenten Season, St. Thomas A'Becket Church at 138 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA, will hold their Fish Fry on each Friday of Lent, beginning the First Friday of Lent, February 12, 2016, and including Good Friday. This will be held in the School Building at 139 Gill Hall Road. The hours are 3:30PM – 7:00PM. Take outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

The menu includes: baked or fried cod dinners, fried shrimp, combo dinner platter (fried fish and fried shrimp), tuna melts, and baked or fried fish sandwich. All of our fish is cod, and it's hand breaded. We also have soup, fries, pizza, homemade mac-n-cheese, and haluski. Dinners include: 2 sides and a beverage. Special additions: on Friday, March 18 we have homemade crab cakes and on Good Friday March

25 we have homemade pierogies (pirohy).

We also serve a limited lunch menu, with select items for take-out only from 11AM – 1PM. Please call 20 minutes in advance to 412-655-9966.

The public is invited. For more information, call 412-655-9966.

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN

Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 9-18, 2016

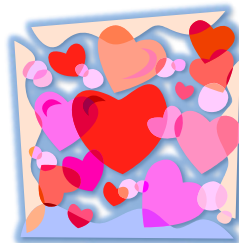


Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2016 Slovakia Heritage small group tour. From September 9 - 18, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical re-

search and ancestral village visits available.

For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

This Valentine's Day



Do Something For Someone You Love ...

Call the Home Office and
Check your Beneficiaries Today!

1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Attention HS Seniors in Branch 670: You May Qualify for \$1,000 Scholarship



Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2016 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria, up to three, one-time \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following

officers:

- Dorothy Petrus, 545 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033
- Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)
- Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: hyattfamily@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2016

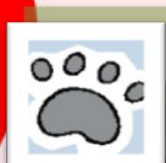
- Submitted by Joseph Matinko, Branch 670 Financial Secretary

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



*Or, for all my
Slovak-speaking
buddies,
Šťastný Valentín!*

*Tvoj priateľ,
Chewy*





Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin



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.

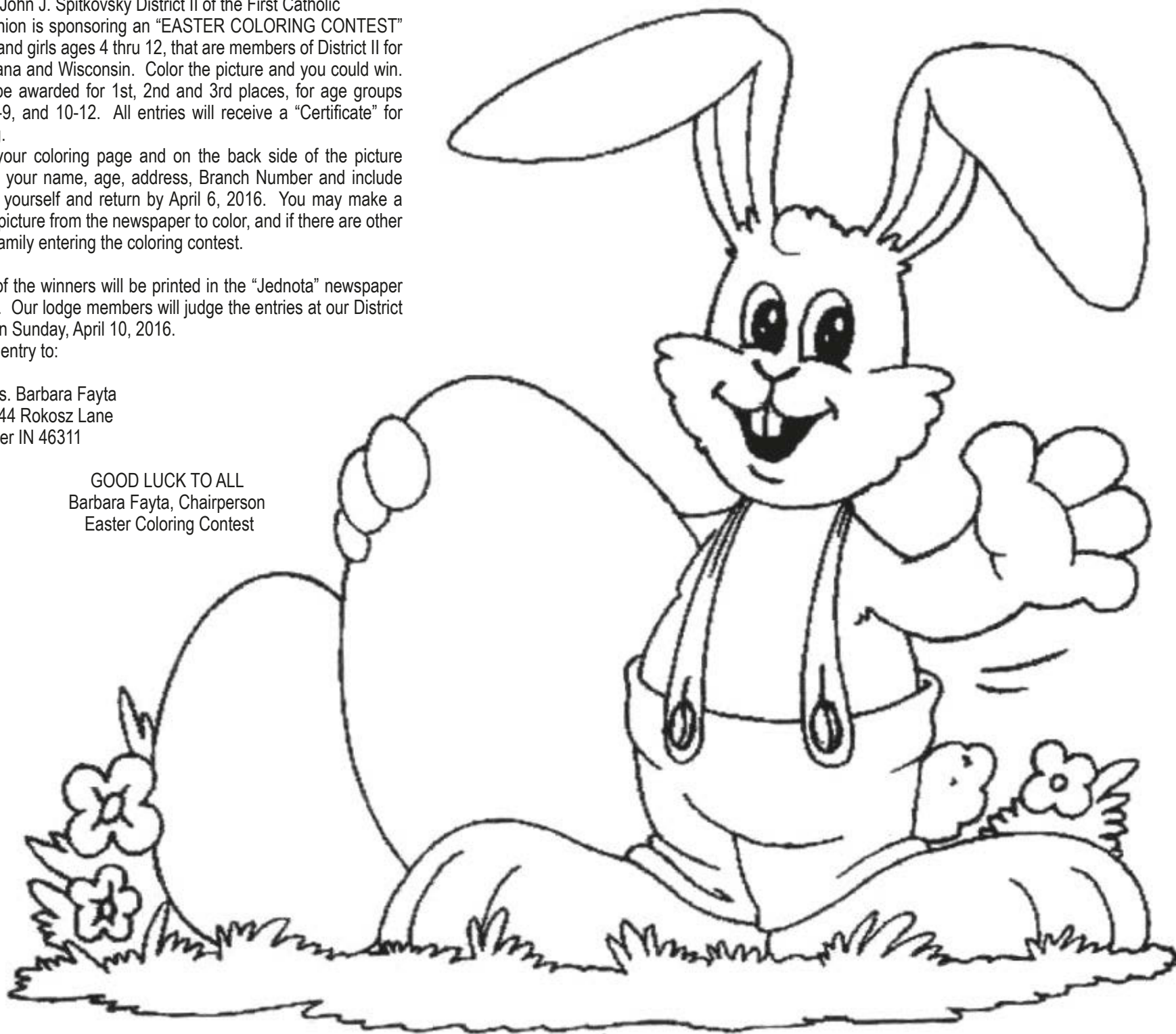
Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 6, 2016. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, and if there are other children in family entering the coloring 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 10, 2016.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



Saints Cyril and Methodius

*Prayer for Feast Day –
February 14*

Father, you brought the light of the gospel to the Slavic nations through Saint Cyril and his brother Saint Methodius. Open our hearts to understand your teaching and help us to become one in faith and praise. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- SISTERS OF SS CYRIL & METHODIUS
Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA

Lent



Lent 2016 begins
Ash Wednesday,
February 10th

Back by popular demand!
Extended to December 31, 2016

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



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



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

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

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

The Passing of Rev. Anton Srholec (1929-2016), Beloved Priest and Former Dissident

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

On January 7, 2016, the well known Slovak Roman Catholic priest and former dissident, Rev. Anton Srholec, passed away at age 86. Srholec was a popular and charitable priest who belonged to the Salesian order of Don Bosco. His death occurred a year after doctors had diagnosed his suffering from lung cancer.

Father Srholec had served 68 years as a Salesian monk, and as a priest for 45 years. He endured a life of persecution in former communist Czechoslovakia because of his wish to study theology and serve the Church and the poor. The regime imprisoned him for 10 years and he spent much of confinement in forced labor at the dreaded uranium mines at Jáchymov in the Czech lands, where the communists sent many priests, brothers, and nuns from Slovakia. Even though Pope Paul VI had ordained him in 1970, the communists prohibited from publicly practicing his faith. Following the 1989 Velvet Revolution, he was finally freed to serve the Church and the people of Slovakia, and spent the remainder of his life performing acts of charity, including his formation of a homeless shelter.

His life exemplified standing up for what one believes in and engaging in an ongoing struggle to live one's faith actively, for the betterment of his fellow man.

Background

Anton Srholec was born on June 12, 1929 in the western Slovak city of Skalica. One of seven children in a farming family, his parents taught him about as Christians they were responsible to take care of others. As a boy, Srholec noticed the great faith of Franciscans and Salesians, and was inspired. He often attended the pilgrimages to nearby Šaštín. From the age of 15, he knew that he dreamed to be a priest.

As part of his formal education, he attended secondary schools at the gymnázia in Skalica, Trnava and Šaštín. By 1946, he had decided to enter the Salesian Order with aim of helping to educate poor youth. But politics interfered with his plans, for in 1950, the communists dissolved all religious orders, so he was compelled to graduate as a civilian, not a clergyman.

Prison Sentence

Frustrated in his efforts to study theology, Srholec tried to escape with a group of other Slovaks across the Austrian border illegally at the Morava River, which happened to be swollen at the time. They were forced to return to the train station. Aware of their attempt, the border patrol caught him with about 20 other seminarians and priests; the State Court in Bratislava could have condemned them all to death, but instead sentenced them to a combined 289 years of prison, and ordered Srholec to serve 12 years in hard labor. He was first imprisoned in the dungeons of the castle in Bratislava and later transported to Leopoldov prison. But he spent the bulk of his confinement in the Czech lands, 7 years, laboring at Příbram and mainly in the uranium mines at Jáchymov. He described how the camp worked him like a machine. His special devotion to Our Sorrowful Mother, the patron of Slovakia, helped him to endure his own trials and suffering. He stated, "I did not despair, as giving up my life for Christ was a reality, the way that it should be." He would detail his labor camp experienced in the book *Svetlo z hlbín Jáchymovských lágrov* (A Light from the Depths of Jáchymov Concentration Camps). Published first in Slovak, it would later also appear in English, German, and Slovenian translations.

After serving his sentence, the regime released him with the description "Schopný vykonávať akúkoľvek manuálnu prácu" (Capable of performing any type of manual labor). After prison, he worked for 10 years as a manual laborer. When a factory rejected his attempt to work at a factory warehouse, he found work in construction and in factories which produced of precast concrete and at blast furnaces of the steelworks in Ostrava in northern Moravia.

Both in prison and as a worker, he continued to pursue secretly his studies in theology. While in Ostrava, the regime permitted his study of foreign languages, and he passed



Anton Srholec at the November 2015 commemorative at Devin, Slovakia, to those killed at the border.



Unveiling a commemorative plaque to those deported to gulags in the former Soviet Union for forced labor, February 22, 2013. TASR



Anton Srholec at the site of the 1968 Soviet Shootings at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia.

state exams in both English and German. He then applied for admission to the seminary in Bratislava, but never received a reply, as the communists barred him from pursuing his vocational goals.

A Dissident Priest under Communism

Finally, after the thaw of the Prague Spring of 1968 which led to liberal reforms under Alexander Dubček, he obtained permission to go to Italy for 3 months. Granted a year extension by Italy, he graduated with a degree in theological studies from the Pontifical Salesian University in Turin. On May 17, 1970, Pope Paul VI ordained him and several other young men as priests.

After the communist regime tightened controls and "normalization" followed the Soviet-led invasion, he could have elected to stay abroad and not return to communist Czechoslovakia like many other emigrants, since he knew foreign languages. But instead he decided that God intended him to go back to Slovakia and serve his Church and people in his native country.

When he returned, the communist regime would not allow Srholec to pursue a clerical career. Thus he served as a *kostolník* (sacristan) at the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary church in Bratislava, commonly referred to as the Blumentál church; he also worked at several other smaller parishes near the city. Later, the then Dean managed to get state approval for his help with priestly work in the local church. He soon became a very popular preacher who stressed the power of words, and appealed particularly to youth. He even celebrated one Mass dedicated to human rights, the only one of its kind in all of Czechoslovakia. Srholec often met informally with youth and even some dissidents, sometimes in bars (*krčme*), carrying on lively discussions. He expressed some of his ideas in a number of samizdat publications.

The Secret police monitored his activities and decided to take action. Concerned about his mounting influence on young people and wanting him out of the Slovak capital, the State Security apparatus (*Štátna bezpečnosť*) pushed the government to rescind permission for Srholec to stay at his parish in Bratislava. The regime compelled the bishop to reassign him a parish administrator in Pernek, a more isolated village near Malacky northwest of Bratislava. While there, the secret police set him up. One evening in 1975, someone knocked on the rectory door and requested that Father Srholec to secretly baptize a child. When he opened the door, several unidentified men pounced on him and beat him up. Only the quick action of several sympathetic neighbors saved him from more serious injuries.

During his tenure at the church in Pernek, many faithful and friends continued to visit Srholec. Frustrated by his continuing popularity after 3 years, the communists insisted that he be transferred to a more distant parish in Veľké Zálužie, close to Nitra, and then as pun-

continued on page 18

Visit Slovakia "The Old Country"



Join the 19th Annual Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour July 8-July 22, 2016

Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as the "the old country?" Well now is the time for you to sit down and talk with the oldest members of your family to learn about their birthplaces in the old country. There is so much beauty and charm in their ancestral land, and it's all there just waiting for your visit. So get your passport and let's go.

Join Jim and Kay Bench as they host the 19th Annual Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour from July 8-July 22, 2016. We

will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities agreement so get your dancing shoes ready for the time of your life.

In 2016, you will see the capitol of Slovakia, Bratislava, located on the Danube River. Since joining the European Union, you will see how the villages, towns and cities have been restored to their former beauty. Unique to our trip is a reception with the mayor of our sister city, Spišská Nová Ves, complete with entertainment and a formal signing of the city registry for all tour participants. You will enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River (the natural border between Poland and Slovakia), visit villages such as Čičmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichý Potok (a village of 324 people), stay in a beautiful spa in Sliach and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and other amenities. Visit many of the Unesco sites, castles, and churches – especially the oldest church in Slovakia located in Nitra. Attend and participate in a mock wedding in traditional Slovak kroj. Wine tasting is a favorite to many participants. There are so many things to see and do, too numerous to mention in this short article. Remember, our trip is fourteen days so you really get to see Slovakia, visit family, and have time for shopping.

A Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour includes an English speaking tour guide, large air conditioned bus with restroom, first class hotel accommodations, great food and entertainment.

Kay and Jim are seasoned travelers, who must be doing something right as people are returning for their 5th and 6th time! The tour makes changes yearly. They have a luncheon several weeks before the tour leaves, along with travel agent Paul Hudak, to answer questions. They tell you what type of clothing to take, how to pack, weather conditions, money exchange, where and how to carry your money, medications etc.

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench:

- Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com
- Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900 e-mail skbench@gmail.com

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Call Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-Mail Paul@advintravel.com

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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63						64	65			66				
67						68				69				
70						71				72				

Across

- 1 Recurring event
- 6 Distress call
- 9 Carpet type
- 13 Poppycock
- 14 Before meal or cake
- 15 Grassy plain
- 16 Pointed arch
- 17 ET carrier
- 18 Main artery
- 19 Soave purveyor
- 21 Pollen producer
- 23 Canal site
- 24 Self-satisfied
- 25 "I get it!"
- 28 Shopper's aid
- 30 Small anchors
- 35 PA town
- 38 Goddess of the hunt
- 39 Headquarters
- 40 Fathers
- 42 Pecans, e.g.
- 43 Balances
- 45 Musical dronings
- 47 Leavening agents
- 49 Olympic sled
- 50 Attempt
- 51 Corrida cries
- 53 Kind of station
- 55 Dining-room attendants
- 59 Medical instrument
- 63 In disguise, briefly
- 64 Mai ___
- 66 Bounding main
- 67 Building block
- 68 Possess
- 69 Giraffe relative
- 70 Drunkards
- 71 Dowel
- 72 Mooned about

Down

- 1 Dog with a blue-black tongue
- 2 Cartoon bear
- 3 Penny, e.g.
- 4 Embankment
- 5 Optical unit
- 6 Acerbic
- 7 Bonehead
- 8 Weather word
- 9 Not too swift
- 10 Snowshoe, for one
- 11 Chip in
- 12 Egg on
- 15 Fell behind
- 20 Zodiac sign
- 22 Razor-billed bird
- 24 Natural plant alcohols
- 25 Monastery
- 26 Throw
- 27 Cruising
- 29 Mason's wedge
- 31 *Flintstones* pet
- 32 Scrawny
- 33 Door sign
- 34 Impudent
- 36 Egg producers
- 37 Waiter's offering
- 41 Damp

- 44 Fall guy
- 46 Brit. cafe
- 48 Crafty
- 52 Bar, legally
- 54 Perverted one, to some
- 55 Slant
- 56 Nullify
- 57 Aberdeen native
- 58 Hope and Crosby
- 59 Croon
- 60 Certain tide
- 61 Stare, open-mouthed
- 62 Oklahoma city
- 65 Wonderment

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2016

Issue Date

Deadline to Receive Information

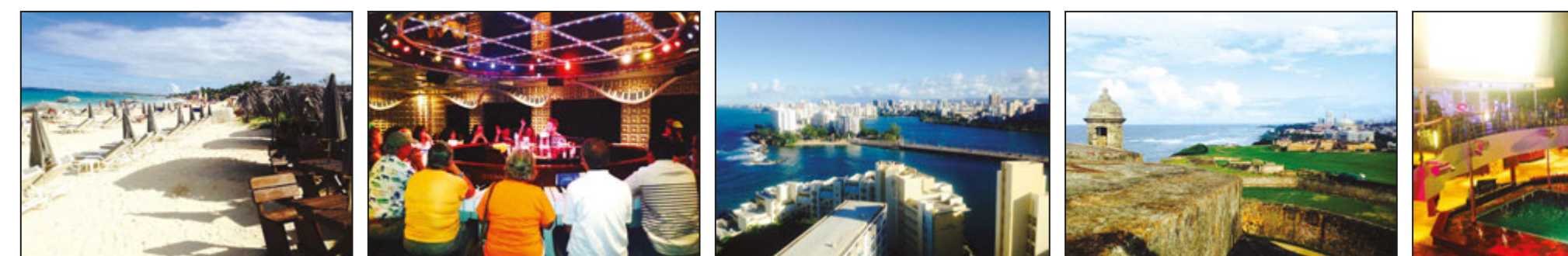
- March 2
- March 30
- April 20
- May 11
- June 15
- July 20
- August 17
- Sept 7
- Sept 21
- October 5
- October 19
- November 2
- November 16
- December 7

- February 22
- March 21
- April 11
- May 2
- June 6
- July 11
- August 8
- August 29
- Sept 12
- Sept 26
- October 10
- October 24
- November 7
- November 28

See Solution on Page 19



The FCSU Membership Meet Set Sail for Fun & Fraternal



To view all the photos from the FCSU 20

Membership Aboard Carnival Liberty Cruise Ship, Nov 15 - 22, 2015



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special members only pricing for the Saturday evening, March 19th Monsters Hockey game. Join other FCSU members and guests – from Branch 24 and other branches in our Ohio District 10 – for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland [Editor's note: please see page 6 of this issue for details].

Reservations are required in advance. Please call Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. The deadline is February 29, 2016

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 12:00 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 9:00AM at the Golden Corral's Restaurant Conference Room, 129 Matthew Drive, Uniontown, PA.

Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given as well as upcoming events for the current year. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast buffet. Call for reservations by March 1, 2016, and advise of any address changes, etc., or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 29, 2016, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, MICHIGAN

The 1st Thursday of each month except June and July @ 7:00PM are our meetings upstairs in the banquet hall. We have openings for Board Members. Please submit your letter of interest. Whether or not you want to be a board member, please join us @ the meetings. We are looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

Bingo is every Tuesday evening @ 7:00pm. Come out to support your club's auxiliary.

We'd love to see you! They cook some pretty good food that evening and most Friday evenings.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 21, 2016, at 10:00AM in the Church Hall of Christ Our Savior Parish (Holy Trinity).

We will conduct our Annual Audit and also discuss the activities for 2016. All members are encouraged to attend and take part in this fraternal function.

On behalf of all of our officers, we want to wish all members a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its regular meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. in the St. Patrick church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. On the agenda will be discussion for events of the new year. We cordially invite our members to attend our meetings. It would be greatly appreciated to see our members to attend our meetings. We wish you all a Happy New Year.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382K, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 6, 2016. The meeting will begin at 12:30 P.M. in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Branch Auditors will meet at noon to conduct the yearly audit of books. The meeting agenda will include future branch activities and donations, District 17 information, and FCSU program updates. Copies of the Annual Report submitted to the Home Office will be available for members to examine.

Light refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. serves as Branch President. Other officers include Vice President Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Secretary Michael J. Czankner, Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr., and Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

"J" Club 553 Monthly spaghetti dinner dates to keep in mind.

March 2, Please bring your friends and support the club.

Our first Fish Fry of the Lenten season is February 12th. This year our fish dinners are "all-you-can-eat" for \$10; if you would prefer a baked cod dinner, please call ahead to pre-order at a cost of \$12 per dinner.

To seat as many as possible we will not be accepting reservations in advance. Feel free to come early and get your tables, but we cannot hold empty tables when there is a line.

Bus Trip Feb 17th to Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh call Joe at 330- 784-5073

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandie Klucar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sunday, Feb. 24 – Breakfast 8:30am-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Thurs. March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Din-

ner....more info to follow.

Branch Meeting – Sunday, Mar 20 2pm.

Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go only. Call ahead to order.

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off

Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm; Sat 12noon-8pm. Come down and enjoy yourself!

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On March 19, 2016 we will celebrate Mass to honor our Saint Joseph Branch Patron Saint. The liturgy will be at 4:00 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church, and 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 20, 2016 with a Slovak mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril & Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social hall following the Mass.

A brief business meeting will be held in the Heritage room at 1PM.

Members who need assistance with their

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

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 11:30 AM at Amici Ristorante, 1700 W. Elizabeth Avenue in Linden. Agenda will include discussion of plans for a summer picnic and bus trip to Washington, DC in September. Okres meeting will follow at 12:30. There will be a luncheon following both meetings. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by April 1st if you plan on attending.

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 796 will hold its semi-annual meeting on February 28, 2016 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be at: Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 4102 South Church St., Whitehall, PA.

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

Zdar Boh!

Michael Fabian, President

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

28th Treasures of Slovakia Tour in July 2016



The glorious Krakow Cathedral is a highlight on the 5 Countries Tour.

Treasures Tours is conducting the Treasures of Slovakia trip for the 28th year in a row! It includes all the best of Slovakia from east to west and north to south. The trip will run July 8 - 17, 2016 with an early bird special on July 7.

The popular trip includes highlights of Bratislava; the medieval Banka Bystrica; the folklore festival at Detva; Kezmarok's International Crafts Festival; the high Tatras; the walled town of Levoča; the glorious Spiš Castle; Stara Lubovna's museum of village homes; a raft ride on the Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park; a tour of Presov and Kosice to marvel at St. Elizabeth's Cathedral and the spectacular Singing Fountain; Bardejov, the Pearl of Sarris, a UNESCO treasure and Slovakia's other walled town with St Egidius Church; charming Cicmany with home; a village wedding in Krakovany; a tour of medieval Cerveny Kamen Castle; traveling the Royal Carpathian Wine Road and visiting a wine museum; and back to Bratislava for a festive farewell dinner.

We can find your long-lost family and have driver-guides who will take you to your ancestral villages - we have a 98% success rate!

Land price is \$2,299 and we can help people find flights. A Prague add on offers a hotel in the old town, two half days sightseeing to the Castle and Old Town with a super local guide, and then time to shop for garnets, crystal and crafts.

Another trip offered spends several nights in Slovakia... the 5 Countries, 5 Cultures trip July 23 – Aug. 1 which includes a stay in Bratislava, a visit to the Modra ceramics outlet, and a stay in Zdiar in the Belianske Tatry. The trip also includes a cruise on the Danube in the gorgeous Wachau Valley with castles on every hilltop and vineyards everywhere. Romantic Budapest with sightseeing both on land and on the Danube and magical Krakow with options to visit the Royal Salt Mine and Auschwitz Camp high on tour goer's lists. And everyone loves charming Straznice in the Czech Republic enjoying sampling the wine and kolacky and the rich folk culture in the Skansen museum and Straznice and Milotice Castles as well as dinner in a family vineyard, watch the wine drawn up in a crystal wine pipe. This trip is also \$2,299 for the land tour.

The tours are organized by Helene Cincebeaux and Jozef Kaufmann who have led more than 80 trips over the past 27 years. Contact Helene for day-by-day itineraries and other info – helenezx@aol.com or call 585 342-9383 or write her at 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617. Helene is the Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International and Editor of Slovakia for the past 26 years, and a member of Branch 278 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. She has authored 4 books on Slovakia and numerous articles and maintains Slovak Pride, a 33,000 surname and village data base.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2016. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

Robert Ľapák Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2016 following the 5:00P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, Pa. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the former Convent. On the agenda will be results of our Stedry Vecer, news and plans of our branches in the new year. All branches are encouraged to attend to secure your stipends. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 12:30 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Amici Ristorante, 1700 W. Elizabeth Avenue in Linden. A luncheon will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016, at Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports. Also on the Agenda will be information regarding the status of designated "Home Office Branches" in our District.

Branch 774 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 18th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 1PM at Bogey's Restaurant at Duck Hollow Golf Club, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA, 15901. All district members are welcome. Election of officers for the new year will be held.

Dinner will be served. If planning on attending, please call James Marmol by Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 724-437-0892. Those attending are asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Kostik District will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 6:00PM at St Matthias Church, located on Shady Run Road Youngstown OH. The agenda will be

the election of officers. This is a makeup meeting for the January 19th meeting which was cancelled due to inclement weather. All member branches are urged to attend.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 213 will host the spring business meeting, planned for Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 1PM at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. The meeting will include officers' reports and a discussion of the requirements for becoming a licensed fraternal insurance agent.

Branch 60 will host the Fathers' Day brunch on Sunday, June 19. Annie Ondrejco is coordinating a summer picnic. More details will be provided at the spring meeting. Branch 276 will host the annual winter business meeting at a date in November to be determined later.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: March 7 – Egg Decorating. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** The 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia is planned for August 28 to September 10, 2016. This tour will include Vienna and Poland. Contact Joe Senko for details.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees (412-956-6000). The Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. The Spring classes are for beginners. Saturday summer classes for children are being planned.

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

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook.

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

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

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

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International is holding its next meeting in October 2017 in Pittsburgh. Further information can be found at www.cgsi.org.


** FCSU information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com

Anyone with additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice should send information to manasta@verizon.net

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

District II Annual 2016 BRUNCH AND PLAY



On **Sunday, May 15th, 2016**, a Brunch and Play are scheduled at the **Center for Performing and Arts, Theatre at the Center**, located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Brunch starts at 12:45 pm, the play follows brunch at 2:30 pm. The play this year is a musical called **"Nice Work If You Can Get It"**. It is a lively musical filled with exciting dance numbers, glittering costumes and a wonderful love story with well-known songs by Gershwin.

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

For more information, call Lynda Tanis at: 1-630-247-7521. Make checks payable to: Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II and mail to Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618. The deadline is March 15, 2016. Checks will not be honored after this date.



PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY



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

Member's Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

List all names of those attending the back of this sheet and mail together with check to:
Lynda Tanis at: 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.

Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES, is the following:

14.01 General Rules

- a) Branch and district meetings must be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. **Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.**

In Memoriam

Dr. Paul Fundarek (1921-2016)

M. Mark Stolarik



On Saturday, January 16, 2016, the Slovak community of Ottawa lost one of its most prominent and distinguished members at the age of 94—Dr. Paul Fundarek. Born in the northwest Slovak city of Veľká Bytča on August 14, 1921, Paul was a cousin of Dr. Jozef Tiso, the president of the first Slovak Republic (1939-1945), who was also born in Veľká Bytča. In 1932 Paul completed grade school in his home town and 'gymnazium' in the city of Trenčín in 1940. After graduating he enrolled in the Law School of the Slovak University (now called Comenius University) in Bratislava and graduated with a J.D. degree in 1944. While studying in Bratislava, Paul lived at the Catholic dormitory 'Svoradov' and actively participated in its national activities. With the approach of the Russian Front in April of 1945, Paul and his younger brother Rudolf, joined a

group of young Catholic activists in emigrating to Austria, to avoid the fighting, and the coming communist dictatorship.

Between 1945 and 1949 Paul and his brother joined various supporters of Slovak independence in Austria and France. Initially he worked with the Rev. Augustín Záh, who was the Papal Legate for Slovak Refugees in Austria, and who was based in the village of Aurolzmünster, a major center of Slovak refugees. In 1946 Paul enrolled in the economics department of the University of Innsbruck for a year and a half. By June of 1947 he and his brother decided to move to Paris, where there was an active community of Slovak intellectuals—the Rev. Jozef Vavrovič, the Rev. Felix Litva, S.J., Dr. Ladislav Jankovič and Dr. Jozef Mikuš. While in Paris Paul studied political science at the Sorbonne and graduated in June of 1949.

In August of 1949 Paul and his brother emigrated to Canada, where they would spend the rest of their lives. They first lived in Montreal and made friends with earlier political émigrés, including Dr. Jozef Kirschbaum, Dr. Karol Murín, Kornel Piacek, and others. After a few months in Montreal the two brothers decided that prospects were better in Toronto and they moved to that growing Metropolis. Paul quickly found employment in the civil service of the Government of Ontario and joined the large Slovak community which was centered around Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church. He also joined Branch 7 of the Canadian Slovak League and Branch 785 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Paul also organized a Slovak Choir, which performed at Slovak national celebrations. He and his brother also founded a newspaper called *Náš život*, which was financed by the Slovak entrepreneur Štefan Roman, and whose goal was to recruit Slovaks from the pre-war emigration to support the drive for Slovak independence led by the post-war émigrés.

Meanwhile, Paul wanted to improve his life in Canada and decided to go back to school. In a few years he became a Chartered Accountant and in 1958 found employment with the Ministry of Finance in Ottawa. At the same time he married the love of his life, Evelyn Brown of Bonavista, Newfoundland. They were married at Sts. Cyril and Methodius parish in Toronto by the Rev. Michael Shuba, with the assistance of the Rev. Jozef Vavrovič, who by then had moved from Paris to Ottawa.

In Ottawa Paul Fundarek met and befriended Imrich Stolárík, who in 1951 had founded Branch 63 of the Canadian Slovak League. Paul quickly joined Branch 63 and actively participated in all of its activities. Indeed, he served as vice-president of Branch 63 for over 40 years. Paul eagerly participated in March 14th Slovak Independence Day celebrations, Slovak radio programs on the French CKCH station, on the monthly "Slovak Spectrum" television broadcasts and in writing articles and letters to the editor of both Slovak and English-language newspapers. Paul also financially supported the occasional Slovotta newsletter of the Ottawa Slovak community, which was edited and published by George Frajkor. He also supported the Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa. Paul Fundarek was particularly helpful to the author of this tribute in the 1990's, when Mark Stolarik was president of the Canadian Slovak League and certain enemies of the League claimed that its finances were not in order. Paul Fundarek, as a Chartered Accountant, voluntarily studied all of our financial records and declared them to be in good order.

Just as Slovakia was about to become independent on January 1, 1993, Paul joined the Slovak community of Ottawa on New Year's Eve in celebrating this happy occasion at the newly-established Slovak Embassy in Ottawa. At the stroke of midnight, with a rousing speech of thanksgiving, Paul led us all in toasting Slovakia's independence and in singing the traditional Slovak national anthem 'Hej Slovaci,' followed by the new 'Nad Tatrou sa blýska,' much to the surprise of His Excellency Anton Hykisch, the newly-appointed Slovak Ambassador to Canada.

In March of 1985 Dr. Paul Fundarek decided it was time to retire and devote more time to his family. By then he had reached the level of Deputy Director of his division in the federal civil service. He then spent more time with Evelyn and his daughters Elaine and Diane and their husbands and children. By the time of his death he had five grandchildren.

Not only his family, but the entire Slovak community in Ottawa, mourns his passing.

May he rest in peace! Nech mu je kanadská zem ľahka.

Join Us for Our 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors

August 28 – September 10, 2016



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Šaštín, Skalica, Trenčín, Bojnice, Rajecké Teplice, Čičmany, High Tatras, Ždiar, Stará Ľubovňa, Košice, Bardejov and Prešov.

As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of the Dobšinská Ice Cave, a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, spa treatments, and a welcome reception with the Mayor of Prešov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland.

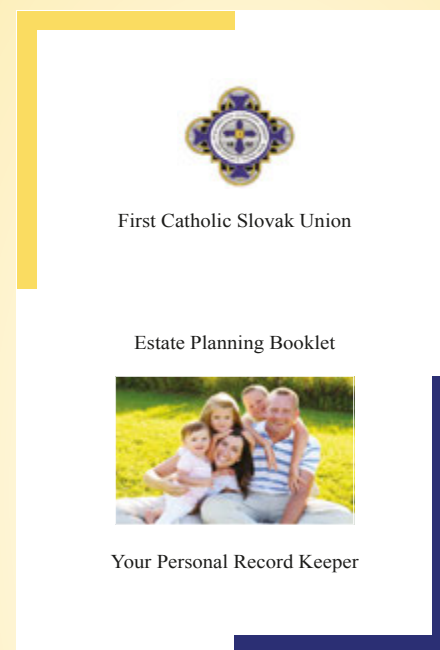
While in Poland we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane, and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air-conditioned bus, and a professional guide and more. At \$3899, this is the lowest price of any deluxe tour to Slovakia. For a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul and Branch 254 Member

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate - from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

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.

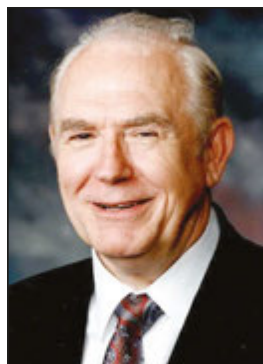
Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
0004K	Catherine Martrano	181K	Anna M Levine	450K	Agnes B Dubray	716K	Joan K Horvath
005P	Helen Marie Korem	181K	John E Surma	450K	Jozef Valencik	731K	William A Hodos
005P	Marie E Seman	200K	Laura A Shiring	484K	George J Colesar	743K	Irene E Prochaska
006K	Betty Jean Sirotnak	226P	Joseph A Remek	493K	Joseph F Hribik	746K	Joseph P Kocsik
024K	Ronald R. Golias	260K	Frank S Brajer	505K	Eleanore F Miller	746K	Helen Regina Sutter
038K	Ronald John Tokarchik Jr	260K	Paul Kuzma	543K	Bernadine E Genis	796K	Alois Fabian
040K	William E. Ehling	260K	Sr Therese Sliva	553K	Henry S Ray	796K	Bernard E Makovsky
040K	Margaret A Kettman	270K	Stephen M Havran	571K	Helen Labik	857K	Helen G Sukosky
098K	Rose V Reynolds	312K	Andrew T Yuschak	587K	Edward P Hancovsky	900K	Margaret Cherniack
102K	Joseph A Durcanin III	372K	Bernard Rubal	595K	Irene M Sanocki	900K	John F Homnack
132K	Josephine L Puder	373K	Irene Smolak	670K	Margaret Adamek	924K	John V Gregg Sr
136K	Margaret Wilcko	380K	Joseph Torek	670K	Joseph J Misanik	924K	Dennis W Paul
173K	Eleanor M Dragon	425K	Victoria A Lipovsky	682K	Fred P. Latessa		
181K	Robert Muoio	429K	Mary A Rozic	716K	Alice V Bendik		

*Processed through the month of January

OBITUARIES

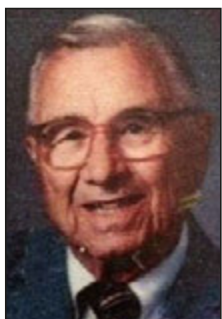
National President Emeritus Joseph R. Kristofik Passes into Eternal Life January 16

Joseph R. Kristofik, age 89, passed into Eternal Life on January 16, 2016. Beloved husband of the late Julia Kristofik for 43 years. Loving father of Joanne (Farouk) Tootia, Joseph (Carol) Kristofik, Michael (Kathy) Kristofik, Robert (Catina) Kristofik, Karen (Mike) Leskie-Lantelli and the late Mary Lousie Kristofik. Dear grandfather of 11 and great grandfather of 4. Brother of Edmund (Mary Ellen) Kristofik. Mr. Kristofik served as National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union from 1980 – 1994, and he served as an officer of Branch 615 for many years.



Visitation was held at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi, MI, on Monday, January 18, 2016 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington, MI, at 1:30 PM. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association – www.alz.org. Online condolences may be offered by going to www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

ALBERT T. FECKO BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA



Albert T. "Al" Fecko, 97, passed away peacefully Tuesday morning at the Highlands at Wyomissing, PA.

Born Feb. 20, 1918, in Shamokin, PA, he was a son of the late George and Anna Parana Fecko. Both of his parents were immigrants from the Czech Republic.

Al was a 1936 graduate of Shamokin High School. He worked at his parent's cafe until 1942, at which time he enlisted in the Navy. Al served his country during World War II, and was honorably discharged from active duty in 1946. He received the following decorations: the European Theater Ribbon with one star, the Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Medal.

Al moved on to become a rural mail carrier for the United States Postal Service in Shamokin until his retirement in 1979. He served as a president of the Rural Letter Carriers Association for Snyder, Union and Northumberland counties from 1954 to 1976.

In 1980, Al married Marie Zalewski, and moved to Shenandoah. They had a loving

marriage until Marie passed away in 2000. He spent much of his time playing golf and traveling with his wife. In Shenandoah, he was a member of Divine Mercy Parish, formerly St. Stephen's Church, the A.P. Damato Medal of Honor Post 792, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Shenandoah Rescue Hook and Ladder Fire Company. Al was a member of the St. Mary's Beneficial Society, Branch 75, since February 1986.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Marie, Al was preceded in death by two brothers, George and Thomas Fecko; five sisters, Mildred and Catherine Fecko, Veronica Kelly, Pauline Alexandro and Anna Olson.

Surviving are his nephews, George Olson, Henry "Hank" Zale, Ray Zale and Chris Zale, and his nieces, Anna Marie (Poplowski) Reiding and Christine Poplowski.

A funeral service was held Friday, January 22, 2016, at the Walukiewicz-Oravitz Fell Funeral Home, Shenandoah. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 9 a.m. in St. Casimir Church, the sacred worship site of Divine Mercy Parish, Shenandoah, with the Rev. Ronald C. Bocian, pastor, officiating. Interment with military honors followed in St. Casimir Cemetery, Shenandoah Heights, PA.

- Submitted by Ronald Anderson,
Branch 75 Financial Secretary

MARGARET RUTH SINTICH BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



Margaret Ruth (Holp) Sintich, age 87 of Uniontown, PA, went to be with her Lord on Wednesday, November 4, 2015.

She was born on March 15, 1928 in Lemont Furnace, PA, daughter of Paul and Anna (Burick) Kolp (Holp).

She was the last surviving member of her immediate family, preceded in death by her parents; husband of 57 years Joseph B. "Clint" Sintich, Jr.; their infant son, Joseph B. Sintich, III.; brothers, George, Joseph, and Paul Kolp; and sisters, Helen Tonio, Agnes Trimbeth, and Mary Giglio.

Margaret was a member of St. Mary (Nativity) Roman Catholic Church. She graduated from North Union High School, and was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union. Her spiritual faith and love for her family were held deeply within her heart.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, John David Sintich and wife Gail of Aiken, SC; Carol A. Linnen and husband Kenneth of Grindstone, PA; Nancy J. Meucci and husband Frederick of Uniontown, PA; and Joanne Gonzalez and husband James of Oil City, PA; 12 grandchildren: Jake Sintich, Katie Dukes and husband Matt, John Sintich, III. and wife Melissa, Liz Sintich, Jen Moats and husband Chris, Andrea Jenkins and husband Tim, Colleen Linnen, Melanie Brashear and husband Tim, Fred Meucci, Nick Meucci and wife Bonnie, Meghan Frost and husband Ian, and Nathan Wallace; eight great grandchildren, Kayla, Chris, Casey, and Cameron "Bamma" Moats; Lily Sintich, Olivia Jenkins, Gavin Brashear, and Jack Sintich; and many nieces and nephews and their families. Special thanks to the staff and caregivers of Annalisa's Personal Care Home, Perryopolis, PA.

Friends were received at the Stephen R. Haky Funeral Home, Uniontown, PA, Friday, November 6, 2015; and on Saturday, November 7, 2015, when Prayers of Transfer were also said.

The Funeral Mass followed on Saturday, November 7, 2015, in St. Mary Nativity Roman Catholic Church, Uniontown, with Rev.

Father Peter L. Peretti as celebrant. Interment will be held at St. Mary (Nativity) Cemetery, Uniontown, PA.

JACK NELSON SPERRY – BRANCH 915 – LAKEWOOD, OHIO

Jack Nelson Sperry went to rest in Our Lords hands on July 24, 2015. Jack was born at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville Florida. He travelled the world with his parents while his father was in the Navy.

He had an intense love for Cuba as he spent his preschool years there.

Jack went to high school in Taveres, FL, from Southern College of Optometry in Tennessee. There are not enough words to describe this incredibly strong and gentle man. Jack never knew a stranger. He could talk to prince or paupers. He loved to share his knowledge and his sense of humor and enjoyed making people laugh. He loved all things Slovak and Russian and collected a large collection of Russian literature numbering more than a 1000 volumes. He was respected by his colleagues as an eye doctor, by his patients as a caring giving and knowledgeable health care provider, by his friends as a person to be counted upon. He loved music and played a mean trumpet once having toured with the State Department in the Middle East. He loved to cook and nurture people not only in food but in Spirit.

Jack is survived by his wife Kathleen and four children. Eve, Jeremy, Jamie and Christopher who will remember forever that he taught his daughters self-confidence and beauty and his sons strength and gentleness.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2016, in observance of Presidents' Day.

The Passing of Rev. Anton Srholec (1929-2016), Beloved Priest and Former Dissident

continued from page 10

ishment for his continuing activities, to Záhorská Ves about 38 km northwest of Bratislava.

By 1985, the communist state decided to deny Srholec permission to perform any church activities, arguing that he was violating rules of the Office for Church Affairs. Particularly disconcerting to communist authorities was his involvement in festivities at Velehrad, the former capital of the former Great Moravian state, which was home to a huge monastery and the Basilica of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. At the time, the Church was hosting a great pilgrimage in commemoration of the 1100 year anniversary of the death of St. Methodius. Father Srholec busied himself in organizing a youth program, and paid a price for doing so. The 1985 pilgrimage turned into a huge religious protest against the communists, and the state again compelled Srholec to perform manual labor and refrain from all religious activities. So he had to spend the last four years before his 1989 retirement employed in a warehouse in Ružin hospital in Bratislava, and later for the construction firm Doprastav.

Freedom at Last

After the overthrow of communism in the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Father Srholec became fully engaged in public life, as well as lecturing and writing. During the initial stages of the revolution, he spoke at several demonstrations, and cherished the new found freedom. But with it came responsibility and he sought to use his talents to assist others. He served on the Helsinki Committee for minority rights in the Slovak section of the Society for Arts and Sciences, and was a board member of Konta nádeje (The Hope Fund). He also actively assisted the Confederation of Political Prisoners of Slovakia (KPVS) and many other social welfare organizations. For instance, he organized concerts to raise funds for charity and was later awarded the humanitarian of the year award.

In addition, Father Srholec became an active member of the International Ecumenical Association (IEF), Theological Forum, and met with many theologians for pointed discussions. He promoted theological research which would help revive of the Slovak nation and lead to renewal in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. His German-speaking abilities enabled him to participate in theological seminars in Germany, where he cultivated friendships with people such as Bishop Kamphaus of Limburg, the late theologian Karl Rahner, and the Austrian Ambassador, Gabriele Matzner Holzer). He often would discuss and share ideas about how to live out one's by faith in his small, humble country of Slovakia. He published his thoughts in several short books: Experiment lásky (Experiment in Love, 1989), Nová rodina v novom svete (A New Family in a New World, 1989), and Každodenné zamyslenia (Everyday Meditations, 1995).

Many people honored Father Srholec's devoted service to others, and he received a host of awards in recognition for his contributions to improving society. Even American Catholics took notice. In 1992, American believers even managed to arrange an invitation to President Clinton to attend a prayer breakfast at the White House.

But in his retirement years, he really did not seek awards, but dedicated the bulk of his efforts towards assisting the needy, especially homeless people. In 1992, he founded a re-socializing center for the homeless, called Resoty, which was located in the Bratislava quarter of Podunajské Biskupice. Despite his age, he worked at the center with an Irish nun, Sister Sarita from the Presentation Sisters Order, whom he said had a good heart and took authority. They cared for about 60 homeless people in need of shelter and 40 other non-residents. Father Srholec considered this one of his greatest accomplishments.

Conclusion

In a December 2012 interview with RTVS (Slovak Radio and TV Service), Father Srholec had called himself an old man, but he was always smiling and optimistic about what people could do to make change happen. He proved energetic in helping people make life brighter, while stressing the need to deal with living in a free modern culture in an open manner and coping with it in a Christian manner. He talked about living one's Christian faith, and he practiced what he preached. Above all, he wished for peace and love in Europe, in families, and in different countries.

Reminder...

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

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

Slovakia took note of his unselfish life and unending service to others in need. In October 2015, a 96 minute film produced by Alena Čermáková documented his fascinating life story.

As he approached certain death from cancer, Father Srholec requested that people would not bring flowers to his funeral, but rather "support an act of love," or donate to his homeless shelter Resoty, or some other charitable organization. An overflowing crowd of over 1500 people would attend his January 12 funeral at his beloved Blumentál church in Bratislava where he had spent much of his pastoral life. His body was then transported for burial to his hometown of Skalica.

The Catholic Church credited Father Srholec for providing a perfect example of "fighting for faith, freedom and humanity." The Provincial of the Salesians, Jozef Isolde, told how he had devoted his life to others and reached out to the very weakest in society. Perhaps the Church of Brethren's (Cirkev Bratská) Daniel Pastirčák's poignant comments after the Communion best expressed the humility of Father Srholec. "Here was a shepherd who smelled like sheep. Although he had no parish of his own, he was that priest who knew all of Slovakia..." Despite his age, he remained young at heart. "In his presence it was easy to believe that God is love."

Both Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico and President Andrej Kiska also offered their condolences on his passing, though Fico only sent a delegate to the funeral. President Kiska stated that Srholec "found God in good deeds and the smiles of people. Srholec helped make Slovakia a better and nicer place, and wanted it to be a true home for people, not a home being abandoned by its inhabitants." Father Srholec has provided Slovakia and the world an example of selfless devotion to helping others and serving God. The Slovak people will remember his enchanting and "ever-present" smile, his kind heart, and his boundless devotion to truth and love.

Awards received by Father Srholec

June 1999 - Trnava University awarded him a doctor of humanities for his social work.

September 1999 - his hometown of Skalica awarded him honorary town citizenship.

October 1999 - he received the Cardinal König prize in recognition for his work for faith and freedom.

1995, 1999, 2002 and 2003 - he was a laureate and in 2001 the chief winner of the award of the Slovak Humanitarian Council, which organizes a variety of activities for the benefit of socially disadvantaged and handicapped.

2003 - President Rudolf Schuster awarded him the Order of Ludovít Štúr.

2004 - The Federation of Slovak Christian Intellectuals (Ústredie slovenskej kresťanskej inteligencie) granted him the Cyril and Methodius medal.

2014 - He received the Crystal Wing - special Lifetime Achievement Award.

2015 - Austria awarded him the Leopold Kunschaka prize for his work and social activity in the area of human rights during the communist era.

2015 - He was granted the White Crow Award (ocenenie Biela vrana), which "honors Slovaks who take personal risks as whistleblowers by challenging unethical or corrupt behavior."

Feb. 2015 - At the Slovak National Theater, he received the prestigious Crystal Wing Award for his lifetime of work and humanitarian contributions.

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News From Slovakia

Slovak Economy to Grow Faster than Expected

Bratislava, January 26 (TASR) - The Slovak central bank (NBS) has increased its estimate of the country's GDP growth for 2015 by 0.2 percentage points to 3.5 percent year-on-year, according to an updated medium-term forecast released by NBS.

As well, the Central Bank has changed its estimate for 2016 from 3.1 percent to 3.2 percent. In 2017, GDP should grow by 3.3 percent, which represents an improvement of 0.1 p.p. compared to the previous prognosis.

As explained by NBS Deputy Governor Jan Toth, the change in the prognosis was motivated by the low oil prices, among other factors. It's estimated that the oil prices should fall by 29 percent y-o-y in 2016 and a further 23 percent in 2017.

Another significant factor should be the arrival of UK carmaker Jaguar Land Rover to Slovakia, as well as expected voluminous public investments related to the drawing of EU funds.

"The low oil prices should be a positive factor for the Eurozone economy. On the other hand, there's a negative effect represented by China, which is important for Slovakia via Germany. These effects will be neutralized mutually, however, so foreign demand will remain unchanged," said Toth.

Meanwhile, NBS has revised its estimates for inflation downwards. According to an updated prediction, inflation should reach 0.4 percent in 2016, while in December it was forecast by NBS to be 0.7 percent.

"An acceleration of inflation has thus been postponed to 2017," said Toth, adding that it may reach 1.8 percent.

Real wages should increase by 3.3 percent y-o-y in 2016 and by 2.1 percent in 2017. Back in December, the estimate for 2016 was at 2.9 percent.

S&P Confirms Slovakia's rating at A+ with Stable Outlook

Bratislava, January 30 (TASR) - The Standard & Poor's rating agency on Friday confirmed Slovakia's rating at A+ with a stable outlook, whereby Slovakia, along with Ireland, has now the ninth-best rating from among 19 Eurozone countries.

The agency estimates that Slovakia's real GDP growth should exceed 3 percent year-on-year in each of the next few years, while the country's public finances are expected to be further consolidated, partially thanks to a gradual reduction in the public finance deficit. The agency also calculated in the arrival of large foreign investments, most notably that of British carmaker Jaguar Land Rover to Nitra, stability of the country's banking sector and good tax collection.

"I'm happy that we've been evaluated as a reliable and stable country again. Our effort is bearing fruit, including in seeing higher trust by investors in our economy, for example," said Finance Minister Peter Kazimir.

Slovakia has had a long-term rating from S&P at A+ with a stable outlook since July 2015. The agency at the time praised improvements in the country's macroeconomic and fiscal situation, increasing its rating from A with a positive outlook to A+ with a stable outlook.

Ten more Slovaks Awarded Title of Righteous Among the Nations

Bratislava, January 28 (TASR) - Ten Slovaks were awarded the honorific title of Righteous Among the Nations for saving Jewish fellow citizens during WWII at a ceremony in the historical parliament building on Zupne Square in Bratislava on Wednesday evening (International Holocaust Remembrance Day).

The event was attended by representatives of Israel along with Slovak President Andrej Kiska and Parliamentary Chairman Peter Pellegrini.

The names of those awarded the title are: Jan Varga and Anna Vargova, Jozef Krajcovic and Anna Krajcovicova, Stefan Kassa and Maria Kassova, Branislav Handl and Otilia Handlova, Augustin Lacika and Valeria Lacikova.

Descendants of the above were presented with the title documents by Knesset members Yitzhak Vaknin and Oded Forer, Israeli Ambassador to Slovakia Zvi Aviner-Vapni and Israeli consul to Slovakia Avital Gershon.

The names of those honored will be carved into the Wall of Honor in the Garden of the Righteous at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. They will join those of 546 brave women and men from Slovakia and almost 26,000 individuals from other countries.

Ambassador Aviner-Vapni said in his speech that those honored weren't born as heroes, but they made decisions in difficult times that made them heroes. "And the greatness of this heroism can be understood only when we try to imagine the danger that they risked for themselves and their close ones in order to save others," said Aviner-Vapni.

Kiska praised the bravery of the people as well. "Those honoured now and those in the past represent indispensable life models of solidarity, hope and the love of freedom. They personify values that we have to protect, all the more so in these times, when these values are threatened by violence, extremism and intolerance," said Kiska.

One of the direct witness of how Jews were saved was Maria Panikova, daughter of Stefan Kassa and Maria Kassova, who protected the Weiss family of four in Hodrusa (now the village of Hodrusa-Hamre, Banska Bystrica region). At the turn of 1944-45 the Kassas provided shelter to the Weisses at an abandoned goat farm and brought them food. Mrs Panikova remembers the moment when one of the Weisses was at the Kassas' house at the same time that German soldiers came. "They asked us whether there were partisans in our house. Mum said no. If they had shone a light into a corner, they would have found the father of the family we were helping. They would have shot us all," said Panikova, her voice breaking.

Righteous Among the Nations awards are presented annually to express respect and admiration for the heroic actions of ordinary people who risked their lives to save persecuted Jewish fellow citizens. They serve as an expression of the gratitude of the Jewish people towards non-Jews who have saved Jews.

Branch 493's Annual Meeting & Christmas Party

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, held its Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon/Party on December 5, 2015. The 19 attendees gathered at Mabenka Restaurant in Burbank, IL for the events.

- Submitted by Robert Ľapák Magruder, Financial Secretary



Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

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Another UNESCO listing for Slovakia



After the fujara flute and Terchova music, the bagpipe has also been listed as UNESCO intangible heritage.

In fact 'Bagpipe culture' was the exact name of another successful project of the Slovak Republic that was registered on the UNESCO list of intangible heritage.

The bagpipe tradition is visible throughout Slovakia with some regional differences. The very distinctive sound of this musical instrument made from metal, wood and leather can be heard at folk festivals between June and September all over Slovakia.

Events specifically dedicated to bagpipes include the Bagpipes Carnival, an international bagpipers' and bagpipe music meeting in Malá Lehota, Žarnovica region, which started the last Friday before Ash Wednesday, or February 5th this year.

An international bagpipe festival, "Castle Walls Echo," takes place at Slovenská Ľupča

Castle at the end of August, which is an international festival of bagpipe music. Travelers to Slovakia can also enjoy the Gajdovačka – International Bagpipe Festival connected with the international competition of young bagpipers at Oravská Polhora in September.

The Association of Slovak Bagpipers has approximately 40 places where the bagpipe tradition is alive and piping. The production, playing and singing with bagpipes is most popular in Bratislava, Northern Orava, Nitra and its surroundings, the area of Pohronský Inovec, Zvolen, Banská Bystrica, under Poľana, Gemer, Malohonta, and Tekov.

In 1993 UNESCO included into historic Slovak landmarks Spišský Castle and its surroundings, Banská Štiavnica and Vlkolínec. In 2000 the historical Šariš town Bardejov was added, in 2008 the wooden churches of the Carpathian range, and in 2009 the Spiš town of Levoča.

- From a post on the portal Slovakia.travel which was developed as part of the National Unified Tourism Information System of the Slovak Republic. This is an official central, online promotional and information system of the tourism in the Slovak Republic.

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Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)

Bratislavsko

Región sa nachádza na Podunajskej a Záhorskej nížine pri Malých Karpatoch a Záhorskej nížine po oboch stranách Dunaja.

Jeho centrom je starobylá Bratislava (do r. 1918 známa ako Prešporok), ktorá bola obývaná už 4000 rokov pred našim letopočtom. Kelti tu razili v 2.-1. st. nášho letopočtu mince – biateky, rytina ktorého sa nachádzala aj na bývalej slovenskej päťkorunáčke. V 4. st. tu mali Rimania svoje vojenské opevnenia a tábory.

Najstaršie pamiatky na Slovanov sú z 9. st. z obdobia Veľkomoravskej ríše. Od r. 1526 bol Prešporok snemovým, korunovačným a hlavným mestom Uhorska. V katedrále sv. Martina zo 14. st. korunovali 9 uhorských kráľov a 8 kráľovien, medzi nimi aj Máriu Teréziu, za vlády ktorej malo mesto najväčší význam. Tu na zasadnutiach snemu v r. 1847- 48 požadoval Ľudovít Štúr zrušenie poddanstva.

Pri návšteve mesta by sa mali turisti orientovať predovšetkým aspoň na tieto z mnohých kultúrnych, historických a národných pamiatok:

- Bratislavský hrad na 85 m vysokej žule z r. 1423-1500, rytina ktorého je aj na slovenskej 10 a 20 centovej euro minci
- Hrad Devín (zrúcaniny) na brehu pri vtoku Moravy do Dunaja z r. okolo 846, ktorý v r. 1809 takmer zničili vojská cisára Napoleona a v r. 1811 vyhorel
- Univerzita Academia Istropolitana, ktorú v r. 1465 založil kráľ Matej Korvín
- Lýceum (stredná škola) z r. 1829, ktoré sa stalo po príchode Ľudovíta Štúra naň žriedlom prebúdzania sa slovenského národného povedomia



Minca Biatek.



Chorvátsky Grob husacie hody.

Za zmienku stojí aj Chorvátsky Grob, stredisko Chorvátov, ktorí sa tu pred stáročiami usadili a ich potomkovia si podnes uchovávajú svoju reč, zvyky i pohostinnosť. Známe sú tam každoročne usporiadané *Husacie hody*.

O Bratislave (Prešporoku) sa zachovalo viac pesničiek. Jednou z nich je aj :

*Pri Prešporoku na Dunaji /:húsky sa perú:/,
vezmi šuhaj karabínček, /:zastreľ si jednu:/.
Ja tie húsky nezastreším, ja tie húsky znám, znám.
To sú húsky mojej Zuzky, /:čo k nej chodievam:/...
Lúčime sa s posledným regiónom krásnej vlasti.*

Andrej Štelmák, Sliach

- Stará radnica zo 14.- 15. st.
- Primaciálny palác (1777-1781), sídlo ostrihomského arcibiskupa
- Barokový palác Uhorskej kráľovskej komory z r. 1753 – 1756
- Gotický kostol františkánov z r. 1279
- Korunovačný kostol sv. Martina zo 14. storočia

- Sad Janka Kráľa (pomenovaný po revolučnom básnikovi), ktorý patrí medzi najstaršie parky v Európe a je oázou pokoja nielen pre Bratislavčanov, ale aj pre cudzincov

Z okolitých obcí a miest je pozoruhodná Stupava, kde sa našli zvyšky rímskeho tábora, ktorý tu mal v 1. st. predsunutú posádku.

Nedaleký Svätý Jur je zaujímavý kostolom sv. Juraja, našou najcennejšou renesančnou pamiatkou, vápencovým oltárom z r. 1527 a vzácnou gotickou drevorezbou „*Smrť Panny Márie*“.

Veľmi navštevovaná je aj Marianka pútnické miesto v údolí Malých Karpát, známa svojím kostolom z r. 1577 a drevenou soškou Madony z r. 1270.



Marianka-socha Madony.



Sad Janka Kráľa so starobylým altánkom.



Hrad Devín.



Korunovačný kostol.

Správy zo Slovenska

Prezident venoval mesačný plat resocializačnej komunite Antona Srhoľca

Resocializačnej komunite Antona Srhoľca - Resoty venoval prezident Andrej Kiska svoj decembrový plat vo výške 5220 eur. Ako informoval tlačový odbor Kancelárie prezidenta SR, spravil tak v súlade so želaním zosnulého kňaza a saleziána Antona Srhoľca, ktorý si prijal, aby jeho príbuzní a blízki podporili jeho dielo a konali skutky lásky. Občianske združenie Resoty pôsobí už 24 rokov, pričom pomáha bezdomovcom. Kiska rozdeľuje každý mesiac na základe návrhov neziskových organizácií svoj čistý príjem rodinám, ktoré sa ocitli v núdzi. Anton Srhoľec zomrel 7. januára vo veku 86 rokov.

Slováci pracujúci v cudzine lámu rekordy

Od júna do septembra odišlo za prácou zo Slovenska 12-tisíc ľudí. Menej ako rok podľa Štatistického úradu v treťom štvrtroku pracovalo v zahraničí takmer 154-tisíc ľudí, čo je najviac prinajmenšom od roku 2010. Hlavným dôvodom odchodu ľudí do cudziny je podľa odborníkov práca. Buď si ju na Slovensku nevedia nájsť, alebo im nevyhovuje výška platu. „Výsledky naznačujú, že ak chce Slovensko priťahovať mladú generáciu študujúcu v zahraničí domov, musí sa postarať o zlepšenie podmienok života a práce v krajine“, uviedol pre denník riaditeľ Podnikateľskej aliancie Slovenska Peter Kremský. Počet Slovákov, ktorí sa rozhodli usídiť v cudzine natrvalo sa zvyšuje. Od roku 2014 si trvalý pobyt u nás odhlásilo približne 2800 ľudí vo veku od 15 do 60 rokov, teda v produktívnom veku.

„U.S. Steel láka desiatky ľudí na odchod, ponúka bonus 19-tisíc eur“

V U.S. Steel v Košiciach ponúkajú zamestnancom, ktorí sa rozhodnú odísť do predčasného dôchodku štedrú odstupnú - až desaťnásobok mzdy. A keďže priemerný plat v administratívnej oceliarni dosahuje nadpriemerných 1900 eur mesačne, odstupné by sa malo pohybovať až na úrovni 19-tisíc eur pre jedného zamestnanca. Odborári odhadujú, že z fabriky by takto mohli odísť desiatky ľudí, maximálne sto zamestnancov.

MONITOR: Tretné stíhanie v kauze Jána Sokola zastavili

Polícia zastavila tretné stíhanie v kauze bývalého trnavského arcibiskupa Jána Sokola. V prípade išlo o chýbajúce peniaze v trnavskej arcidiecéze. Informoval o tom spravodajský portál Aktuality.sk. Polícia tretné stíhanie pre zločin skresľovania údajov hospodárskej a obchodnej evidencie zastavila koncom minulého roka s odôvodnením, že skutok sa nestal. Znalecký posudok mal preukázať, že peniaze nezmizli, ale boli nesprávne zaúčtované.

TI: V indexe vnímania korupcie sa Slovensko umiestnilo na 50. mieste

Najmenej skorumpovaným štátom na svete je opäť Dánsko, ktoré 27. januára v zverejnenom indexe vnímania korupcie spoločnosti Transparency International (TI) dosiahlo 91 zo 100 bodov. Druhé miesto obsadilo Fínsko (90 bodov) a tretie Švédsko (89 bodov). Slovensko spolu s Maďarskom a Chorvátskom sa spomedzi 168 hodnotených krajín umiestnilo na 50. priečku, keď získalo 51 bodov, čo je o jeden bod viac než vlani. Česká republika sa so ziskom 56 bodov umiestnila na 37. mieste. Ešte o

dve priečky vyššie je so ziskom 60 bodov Slovinsko. Z krajín Vyšehradskej štvorky (V4) je podľa TI najmenej skorumpované Poľsko, ktoré so ziskom 62 bodov skončilo na 30. mieste. Na konci rebríčky sú medzi najskorumpovanejšími štátmi sveta Kórejská ľudovodemokratická republika (KĽDR) a Somálsko - obe krajiny dostali iba osem bodov. Len o tri body viac získal Afganistan, ktorý je podľa aktuálneho indexu TI tretím najskorumpovanejším štátom sveta.

TURIZMUS: Za dobrodružstvom Slováci najradšej cestujú do Ázie či Južnej Ameriky

V rámci cestovania za dobrodružstvom do vzdialených a exotických krajín to v súčasnosti Slovákov najviac ťahá do Južnej Ameriky či Ázie. Takéto cesty vystriedali v minulosti obľúbené výlety do Číny a Indie. Vplyva to z prieskumu cestovnej kancelárie CK Victory Travel. Záujem cestovateľov sa však obracia aj na krajiny Blízkeho a Stredného východu a ľudia sú ochotní vycestovať za dobrodružstvom na viac ako dva týždne. „Najväčší záujem medzi milovníkmi dobrodružného cestovania bol v minulom roku o zájazdy do Peru, Thajska, Malajzie, Kambodže, Indonézie, Singapuru a neustále populárna zostáva Kuba,“ vymenoval výkonný riaditeľ cestovnej kancelárie Juraj Uvira. Slovákov však podľa neho láka aj Japonsko a Bali.

„Slováci sa vyzbrojujú“

Počet zbraní, ktoré majú Slováci v držbe, dosiahol maximum prinajmenšom za ostatných šesť rokov. Podľa policajných štatistík za minulý rok vzrástol počet zaregistrovaných zbraní oproti predošlým rokom asi o tretinu. Pribudlo ich celkovo viac ako 11.200 kusov. Skutočný počet zbraní, ktoré vlastní Slováci, je zrejme oveľa vyšší, ako ukazujú štatistiky. „Je pravdepodobné, že u nás nie je 300-tisíc zbraní, ale pokojne aj milión“, tvrdí Ľudovít Miklánek zo Združenia vlastníkov strelných zbraní Legis Telum. Zvýšený záujem o zbrane súvisí podľa predajcov najmä s aktuálnymi témami o bezpečnostných rizikách, ktorými sú terorizmus a utečenci.

Železnice opravili stanicu za milióny eur. Teraz stojí zavretá

Železnice Slovenskej republiky (ŽSR) investovali milióny eur do opravy budovy železničnej stanice Bratislava-Predmestie. Stanica je napriek rekonštrukcii zatvorená pre verejnosť. Stanicu začali rekonštruovať približne pred tromi rokmi. Predtým stanicou prechádzalo 16 vlakov. V súčasnosti ju dopravcovia obchádzajú. ŽSR tak novootvorenú budovu zavrela, ale musí ju chrániť pred opätovnou devastáciou. Paradoxne, oproti tejto stanici je stanica Bratislava-Vinohrady, ktorá je v zlom stave, no denne ňou prejdú stovky ľudí.

Mladých voľby nepriťahujú

U prvolivčikov na Slovensku prevláda nezáujem o blížiacu sa marcovú parlamentnú voľbu. Nezáujem prvolivčikov o tieto voľby súvisí aj s tým, že ich nevnímajú ako prelomové. Vplyva to z kvalitatívneho prieskumu Katedry politológie na Univerzite Komenského v Bratislave. Od účasti vo voľbách odrádzajú prvolivčikov aj korupčné kauzy, pre ktoré vnímajú politikov ako ľudí neschopných priniesť nápravu. Najmladší voliči podľa prieskumu, ktorý robila katedra nevidia šancu na zmenu. Sú znechutení ešte od kauzy Gorila.

TASR a výber zo slovenskej tlače

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Spomienkova oslava Slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

1. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana, Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v **nedelňu dňa 13. marca 2016 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia** v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street v New York City. Spomienkova oslava bude zahájená svätou omšou obetovanou za Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu a obeť slovenského národa. O 1:00 hodine začne samotný program oslavy Slovenskej štátnosti. Nakoľko v minulosti dosiahlo Slovensko samostatnosť dvakrát a to 14. marca 1939 a opäť po dlhom čase boja za slobodu slovenského národa dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie poznamenané v rokoch päťdesiatych rozsudkami smrti pre tých, ktorí nenásilnou cestou chceli dosiahnuť sebaurčenie a štátnu samostatnosť slovenského národa. Na záver bude podané občerstvenie a možnosť zakúpenia rôznych nápojov v bare. Bližšie informácie môžu podať Henrieta Daitová: (201) 641-8922; Jozef a Anna Korčák (201) 670-8162. Vstup na oslavu je voľný.

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

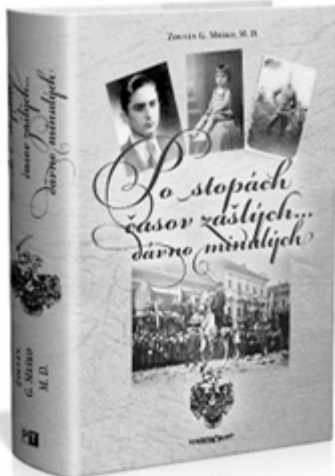
Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedelňu 6. marca 2016** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdži.

Mária Juráši - pokladníčka

Po stopách časov zašlých dávno minulých

Zoltán G. Meško

O knihe: Autor kráča niekoľko storočí po stopách svojich predkov, ktoré ho privedú do jeho rodných Košíc. Tu preživa najkrajšie roky 20. storočia a svoje čarovné detstvo. Takmer fotograficky zaznamenáva dobové reálie a atmosféru vtedajších Košíc. Viedenská arbitráž, odtrhnutie rodných Košíc od Československa a následná mozgová porážka milovaného otca otrasie základmi idyllických čias a ukončí bezstarostné detstvo. Napriek tomu sú roky dospievania plné študentských dobrodružstiev, ale aj potešenia zo štúdia. V decembri 1944 po brutálnom zásahu nemeckej jednotky ho takmer odvliekli do Nemecka. „Zázračná“ infekcia a odvážny zásah matky ho preniesie do jeho prvej emigrácie – do slovenského štátu. Po návrate do Košíc umiera otec. Zmaturoje, prihlási sa na vysokú školu do Bratislavy a štúdium ukončuje doktorátom medicíny. Zoltán G. Meško, M. D., F. A. A. P., F. A. C. C. (1928), promoval na Lekárskej fakulte v Bratislave v roku 1952. Pracoval na Detskej klinike v Košiciach, kde sa špecializoval na detskú kardiológiu. V roku 1956 sa stal primárom Ústavu pre detské choroby srdcové. Do roku 1968 pôsobil ako asistent na Prvej detskej klinike v Bratislave. Po odchode z republiky v roku 1968 pokračoval v špecializácii na Children's Hospital na Harvard University v Bostone. Nakoniec pôsobil ako ordinár a profesor detskej kardiológie v Saint Francis Hospital na State University of New York-Stonybrook do roku 1996. Je členom Royal Society for Medicine v Londýne a diplomatom American Academy of Pediatrics a American Academy of Cardiology. Je držiteľom Hynkovej medaily Lekárskej fakulty UK a Zlatej medaily Slovenskej spoločnosti internej medicíny. *Počet strán: 512; Jazyk: slovenský; Dátum vydania: 3. novembra 2015; Vydavateľstvo: Marenčin P*



Väčšina občanov Spojených štátov amerických odsudzuje interrupcie

Úplná väčšina Američanov si praje sprísnenie potratového zákona. Vyplýva to z prieskumu verejnej mienky Inštitútu Marist. Výsledky uvádzajú, že viac než 80 percent respondentov - z nich dve tretiny sú v skupine "pro choice", teda priaznivcov potratov - sa vyslovilo pre obmedzenie prípustnej hranice na prvé tri mesiace tehotenstva. Väčšina Američanov považuje potraty za škodlivé a odsúdeniahodné. Šesťdesiatosem percent je proti financovaniu abortov z verejných prostriedkov a 51 percent opýtaných uznáva právo lekárov na výhradu vo svedomí.

Prieskum dala vypracovať organizácia Kolumbových rytierov. Podľa Carla Andersona, ktorý stojí na jej čele, prišiel čas, otvoriť v Spojených štátoch celonárodnú debatu na tému potratov. Hoci sa Američania ešte stále pomerne výrazne delia na priaznivcov a odporcov prerušenia tehotenstva, ukazuje sa, že v názore na neskoré potraty, vládne v spoločnosti široká zhoda.

RV

Študent VŠMU získal prvú cenu na festivale sci-fi filmov v New Yorku

Slovensko zaznamenalo ďalší úspech za oceánom. Študent réžie Vysoké školy múzických umení (VŠMU) Martin Kazimír získal prvú cenu na štvrtom ročníku medzinárodného festivalu sci-fi filmov The Philip K. Dick Science Fiction Film Festival, ktorý sa konal od 14. do 17. januára v New Yorku. Mladý tvorca uspel so snímkou "Chronos". "Je to desaťminútový študentský film o vyčerpanom podnikateľovi v podaní Richarda Stankeho, ktorý sa ocitne v hotelovej izbe, kde plynie čas naopak," informoval o tom Martin Kazimír.

Tridsaťpäťročný tvorca zo Slovenska získal prvú cenu v kategórii krátkych filmov. Kazimírov "Chronos" uspel v konkurencii 80 filmov, ktoré na festival prihlásili súťažiaci z vyše 20 krajín sveta.

The Philip K. Dick Science Fiction Film Festival nesie meno kultového amerického spisovateľa Philipa Kindreda Dicka. Podľa románov tohto autora nakrútili také snímky ako Minority Report, Blade Runner či Total Recall. Okrem kategórie krátkych filmov sa udeľovali ceny aj v ďalších desiatich kategóriách.

TASR

Slovenská liga oznamuje

Slovenská liga udelila 27 štipendií americkoslovenským študentom

Slovenská liga v Amerike poskytla desiatim americkoslovenským študentom na univerzitách a kolegiách štipendia v obnose \$1000.00. Podmienkou pre udelenie štipendia bolo napísať písomnú prácu o slovenskej histórii, kultúre, tradíciách a pod., alebo o histórii a práci americkoslovenských spolkov a inštitúcií. 27 študentov poslalo na posúdenie písomné práce. Z nich komisia vybrala desať na štipendium v obnose 1000 dolárov. Ďalších 17 žiadateľov, ktorí poslali písomné práce bolo odmenených obnosom 100 dolárov.

Štipendia boli udelené na uctenie pamiatky Dr. Ladislava a Dr. Catherine Hinterbuchner, ktorí vo svojej záveti venovali finančný dar pre Štipendijný fond Slovenskej ligy. Oba boli doživotnými členmi Slovenskej ligy a Dr. Ladislav Hinterbuchner bol počas viacerých termínov jej prvým podpredsedom.

Nasledujúci študenti dostali štipendia v obnose \$1000.00:

Sidney A Bittinger z Marieta, Georgia, ktorá študuje architektúru na University of Tennessee v Knoxville, TN. Poslala esej na tému History of Slovak Language. Je členkou Ženskej pennsylvanskej slovenskej kat. jednoty (LPSCU).

Julie Ann Gurega z Waldwick, NJ, ktorá študuje business a médiá na Fordham University v NYC. Poslala prácu s titulom Proud of Being Slovak. Je členkou Slovenského kat. sokola (SCS) a 1. kat. slovenskej jednoty (FCSU).

Victoriana Hall Kienzle z Malvern, PA, ktorá študuje Fashion Merchandising na University of South Carolina. Jej práca má titul A Slovak Christmas, The Most Beautiful Festival of the Year. Je členkou LPSCU.

Andrew J. Konzelmann z Woodland Park, NJ. Študuje žurnalistiku a históriu na Rowan University v Glassboro, NJ. Je členom SCS a 1. katolíckej slovenskej ženskej jednoty (FC-SLA).

Julia Kováčová z Fraser, MI, študuje business a marketing na Macomb Community College. Jej esej má titul Losing Our Mother Tongue, The Importance of Language. Je členkou FCSU a Slovenskej ligy.

Rose M Polney zo Swoyerville, PA, študentka farmacie na Wilkes University vo Wilkes Barre, PA. Poslala písomnú prácu s titulom History of Slovak Culture. Je členkou SCS.

Joachim J. Piskach z Independence, OH, študent strojárskoho inžinierstva na University of Akron, OH. Jeho práca má titul Slovak Customs and Traditions. Je členom FCSU a FCSLA.

Garret Anton Pruzinsky z Whitehall, PA, ktorý študuje Business Accounting na Seton Hall University v South Orange, NJ. Napísal štúdiu na tému Slavs to Americans. Je členom FCSLA a FCSU.

Jessica Salley z Lincoln, NE. Je postgraduálnou študentkou v odbore Special Education na University of Nebraska v Lincoln, NE. Poslala esej na tému Slovak Castles. Je členkou FCSU.

Kaitlin N. Trokan z Pewaukee, WI. Študuje anglický jazyk a literatúru na University of Wisconsin v Milwaukee, WI. Jej esej nesie titul Slovak Fairytales. Je členkou SCS a FCSU.

Študenti, ktorí dostali po 100: Randy L. Czankner z Northampton, PA, Rachel Durbin z Lowelville, OH, Mark W. Frantz z Morgentown WV, Lauren E Getz z Youngstown, OH, Alexander Holba z Clemson, SC, Megan Horensky z Glattington, PA, Madison N. Hutchinson z Drowsburg, PA, Jenna Kienzle z Malvern, PA, Dušan Kolesar z Edison, NJ, Rachel Kuzma z Elyria, OH, Charles G. Kucharzak z West Lafayette, NJ, William Kucharzak z Phoenix, AZ, Hannah Pruzinsky z Whitehall, PA, Lisa Salley z Lincoln, NE, Michael Skvarek z Sharonville, IN, Tessa M. Sighiatti z Athens, GA a James A Staley z Whiting, IN.

Štipendijný fond Slovenskej ligy bol založený v roku 1972. Od toho času Slovenská liga udelila už vyše 500 štipendií americkoslovenským študentom, ktorí napísali štúdie a eseje na rôzne témy so vzťahom k slovenskej histórii a kultúre alebo k americkoslovenskému životu. Týmto programom Slovenská liga pomáha zveľaďovať slovenské národné povedomie u mladej generácie Slovákov v Amerike.

Dary sú odpočítateľné z daní

Štipendijný fond Slovenskej ligy (Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc) je inkorporovaný ako nezisková dobročinná inkorporácia. Dane na Štipendijný fond sú odpočítateľné na daňových priznaniach. Možno ich poslať na dolevedenú adresu.

Nové číslo Slovák

V novembri 2015 vyšlo ďalšie vydanie Slovák, ktoré na 150 stranách obsahuje štúdie a články zo slovenskej histórie a zo súčasnej problematiky slovenského života na Slovensku a v slovenskej diaspore. Slovák 2015 si možno objednať na adrese Slovenskej ligy za \$10.00, vrátane poštovného. Staršie vydania Slovák sú na predaj za \$ 5.00.

34. zbor SL v Detroiti oslavuje

Predseda 34. zboru Slovenskej ligy v Detroiti Jozef Krajčovič oznámil, že oslava stého výročia 34. zboru je naplánovaná na nedeľu, 13. marca a bude spojená s tradičnou oslavou slovenskej štátnosti. Miestom oslavy bude spoločenská hala pri slovenskom kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v detroitskom predmestí Sterling Heights. Začne sa krátko po slovenskej sv. omši. 34. zbor pozýva na oslavu slovenskú verejnosť z Detroitu a okolia.

Adresa Slovenskej ligy v Amerike: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison Street, Passaic, NJ 07055. Tel. 073 472 0993, Fax no: 973 835 3723.

Daniel F. Tanzone
Predseda

Nina Holá
tajomníčka

Po stopách činnosti KM MS počas roku 2015

Rok Ľudovíta Štúra priniesol oproti hektickému a komplikovanému roku 2014 do Matice slovenskej čiastočnú stabilizáciu a istejšie finančné krytie naplánovaných aktivít. KM MS si tak ako každý rok plnilo svoje úlohy vo viacerých oblastiach.

V oblasti vedy a publikačnej činnosti sme zostavili 32. ročník zborníka Slováci v zahraničí, do ktorého tento rok prispeli krajanovia z Chorvátska, Rumunska, Maďarska, Poľska, Srbska, USA a Austrálie. Počas roka sme sa zúčastnili vedeckej konferencie o histórii slovenskej obce Podvlnk: *Podvlnk v toku dejín, pri príležitosti 400. výročia udelenia dedičnej školtčieho Martinovi Vlčkovi* a konferencie k životu a dielu doktora Ľudovíta Markušovského v Štrbe.

V oblasti archívnej činnosti, akvizície fondov a rozvoja knižnice KM MS, výpožičiek a konzultačných služieb sme naďalej pokračovali v preregistrovaní fondov KM. Momentálne máme na pôžičky pripravených 68 825 kníh a časopisov. Tento rok sme do KM prijali štedré knižné dary najmä od Spolku Slovákov v Poľsku a od Slovenskej národnej knižnice. Medzi najväčší unikát môžeme zaradiť knihy od Švajčiara Urs. H. Kellera, s ktorým sme dohodli prevoz vzácných publikácií po jeho otcovi – veľvyslancovi vo Švajčiarsku.

Keďže knižný fond uložený v Dome Jozefa Cigera Hronského sa nám postupne podarilo takmer celý vytriediť a zaregistrovať, začali sme v priebehu roka spracovávať archív.

Počas roku 2015 sme z fondu uloženého v A MS detailne a úplne presne popisali 87 škatúľ. Ich inventár opisuje každú jednotlivinu, ktorá sa v škatuliach nachádza. Spoločne je popísaných 15 762 archívnych materiálov.

KM MS pracuje aj na neustálej registrácii audiovizuálneho materiálu i fotografií. Fotografie, ktoré KM tento rok spracovávalo, sa týkali najmä oblasti krajanov v období Československa.

V oblasti stykovej činnosti s krajanmi a iných príbuzných činnosti sme v roku 2015 rozvíjali kontakty najmä pomocou elektronickej pošty.

Už začiatkom roka sme krajanov informovali o možnosti podania rozličných projektov – od menších projektov na Zilinský samosprávny kraj, cez väčšie projekty na FPÚ, až po veľké projekty na získanie dotácií z EÚ. KM sa ponúka ako partner, ale aj ako možný žiadateľ.

Spoločne so slovenskou víkendovou školou vo Francúzsku a v Írsku sme vypracovali veľký makrogrant na podporu výučby slovenského jazyka pre krajanov v západnej Európe. Je spojený s mnohými školiacimi aktivitami na Slovensku a s radom intelektuálnych výstupov. Výsledky podpory, či nepodpory projektu sa dozvieme až na koncom júna roku 2016.

Podarilo sa nám uskutočniť viaceré služobné cesty do zahraničia. Boli sme súčasťou 15. Dní slovenskej kultúry v Rijeke v Chorvátsku, otvárania slovenského domu v Podvlnku a vedeckej konferencie o jeho histórii. V októbri sme cestovali do Novej Belej na podujatie venované slovenským bibliofilom „*Kniha poľsko-slovenská, minulé ako aj súčasné*“. Pri príležitosti tohto podujatia sme si našli čas aj na vzájomný rozhovor o problematike MO MS v Poľsku, z ktorého vyšlo niekoľko spoločných zámerov. Krajanov sme vítali aj u nás v Martine, v Matici i v sídle KM MS. Boli to návštevy jednotlivcov i inštitúcií z krajín Európy (Srbsko, Chorvátsko, Rumunsko, Švédsko, Poľsko). Asi najsilnejšie zarezovala návšteva detí z celej Európy pri príležitosti tábora pre krajanov, ktorý financoval ÚSZZ, ale i návšteva izraelskej umelkyne so slovenskými koreňmi, pani Esther Schilo. Tento rok sme sa na niektorých krajanov obrátili s požiadavkou, či by sme s nimi mohli pripraviť rozhovory do SNN, vďaka čomu boli ich snahy a aktivity prezentované aj na stránkach slovenských periodík.

Tiež sme boli úspešní vo vybavovaní sponzorských kníh a didaktických materiálov pre slovenskú školu v kanadskom Calgary a pre knižnicu v Novej Belej (Poľsko). Pre Calgary sa KM podarilo sponzorsky vybaviť viac ako 600 kníh, ktorých prevoz do Calgary zabezpečilo MZV SR. KM momentálne hľadá vhodný spolok, ktorému by darovalo ďalšiu časť knižnice slovenskej a svetovej beletrie od Eleonóry Kránerovej, ktorej pozostalosť spravuje p. Anna Vagovská (časť z nej bola odovzdaná Slovákom v Rumunsku). Pri rokovaní RSZZ pri MS Matica venovala pracovné listy venované J. C. Hronskému predsedníčke Spolku francúzsko-slovenského priateľstva, p. Edite Manákovéj, ktorá ich darovala krajanom pri príležitosti Mikulášskeho posedenia vo Francúzsku. Tiež sme výber pracovných listov z produkcie MS zaslali organizácii Petit Slavik vo Francúzsku. Do chorvátskych Lipovčan sme zaslali Národný kalendár na rok 2016 a stolový kalendár Ľ. Štúra. Knižne sme podporili aj 11. ročník literárnej súťaže Jána Kolára v Prahe.

Ešte začiatkom roka sme boli oslovení matičiarimi zo Štúrova a Petržalky, aby sme podporili výzvu „*Rozširujeme slovenskosť medzi Slovámi v Maďarsku!*“ KM k výzve napísalo sprievodný list a adresovalo ju Domom Matice slovenskej, MO MS, ZO MS a VO MS. Na podporu tejto výzvy sme spustili fórum, ktoré je momentálne kvôli rekonštrukcii webstránky pozastavené. Na výzvu reagovali viaceré MO MS a tak podujatie „*Spoločnými chodníkmi v znamení prehlbovania priateľstva*“ v Mlynkoch (Maďarsko) podporil aj MO MS zo ŽSK – MO MS Sučany, ktorý krajanom za Maticu slovenskú odovzdal zásielku kníh.

V oblasti styku so slovenskou verejnosťou a mládežou naďalej sprístupňujeme a lektorujeme expozíciu k životu a dielu Hronského. Za rok 2015 k nám prišlo 3181 návštevníkov.

Na zahraničných služobných cestách v Poľsku a v Rijeke sme v mene Spolku francúzsko-slovenského priateľstva odovzdali pamätne medaily súborom: FS Hajduky (Poľsko), FS Spiš (Poľsko), ľudovej kapele Krištofa Pironka (Poľsko), FSS Slovenska z Rijeke (Chorvátsko), tamburašskému orchestru Zametski koren (Chorvátsko), FS Bystrčan (Slovensko), ZS Lira Lipovčany (Chorvátsko). Do Chorvátska sme udelili aj Cenu Matice slovenskej – bronzovú medailu MS pre MO MS Rijeke.

V roku šk. roku 2014/2015 KM spolupracovalo s MK, MŠ, ŠPÚ a Jazykovedným ústavom Ľudovíta Štúra v Bratislave na súťaži *Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko...* Odborným porotám, ktoré pracovali na vyhodnocovaní štyroch kategórií bolo tento rok zaslaných viac ako štyristo prác. Matica slovenská a jej Krajanové múzeum sa spolu s ÚSZZ podieľali na organizácii IV. kategórie súťaže – ktorá registruje a posudzuje práce zahraničných Slovákov. Tento rok do tejto kategórie prišlo presne 103 prác z pera najmladších i takmer dospelých krajanov.

Práce adresované do Krajanového múzea Matice slovenskej prišli takmer zo všetkých kútov sveta. Z Chorvátska sme dostali práce z Iloku, Josipovca i Našíc, z Maďarska si tvorivosť vyskúšali deti z Budapešti, Dabaša i Jásču. Slovenské deti z Rumunska písali v mestách i dedinách: Alešd, Bodonoš, Gemelčička i Nadlak, zo Srbska prišli práce z Báčskeho Petrovca, Kovačice, Kysáča, Nového Sadu, Padiny, Pivnice i Starej Pazovy a nečinné neostalo ani zámorie: do súťaže sa zapojili deti z víkendovej školy v Lindene a zo slovenskej školy v New Jersey.

V roku 2015 sa KM MS sfunkčnilo Radu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorá je najvyšším poradným orgánom predsedu MS v oblasti krajanovej problematiky. Spoločne zasadanie sa uskutočnilo 11.11.2015, z ktorého sa prijalo jedenásť spoločných záverov.

Krajanové múzeum MS postupne vkročilo do roku 2016. Rok 2015 bol čiastočne žičlivejší na krajanové styky, prinášal výzvy a ponúkol možnosť overiť prvé pokusy realizovať „nové“. Veríme, že rok 2016 bude opäť o čosi stabilnejší, v mnohom vyváženejší a najmä, ponúknu sa v ňom neobmedzené možnosti, ako byť pre krajanov prínosnejší.

Zuzana Pavelcová

Spojené štáty zavádzajú nové vízové pravidlá pre Európanov

Spojené štáty začali 21. januára 2016 zavádzať zmeny podľa zákona o zlepšení bezvízového programu (VWP) a zabránení cestovania teroristom, ktorý Kongres schválil v decembri minulého roka. Informovalo o tom Veľvyslanectvo USA v Bratislave.

Americký úrad colnej a hraničnej ochrany prijíma každý deň viac ako milión cestujúcich prichádzajúcich do Spojených štátov a v jeho záujme je uľahčovať oprávnené cesty pri zachovaní čo najvyššieho štandardu bezpečnosti a ochrany hraníc. Podľa nového zákona do Spojených štátov už nie sú oprávnení vycestovať občania krajín zapojených do programu VWP, ktorí cestovali do Iránu, Iraku, Sudánu alebo Sýrie, alebo sa nachádzali na území týchto krajín v čase od 1. marca 2011. To isté platí pre občanov krajín zapojených do programu VWP, ktorí majú zároveň aj občianstvo Iránu, Iraku, Sudánu alebo Sýrie. Tieto osoby budú môcť požiadať o vízum prostredníctvom riadneho vízového procesu na veľvyslanectve alebo konzuláte vo svojej domovskej krajine.

Americké veľvyslanectvá a konzuláty sú podľa americkej ambasády v Bratislave pripravené spracúvať zrýchlenou cestou žiadosti osôb, ktoré potrebujú americké vízum na vycestovanie do USA z naliehavých obchodných alebo humanitárnych dôvodov.

Od 21. januára sa podľa veľvyslanectva ruší elektronické cestovné povolenie (ESTA) tým cestujúcim, ktorí sú držiteľmi platnej autorizácie ESTA a v žiadosti o ESTA uviedli, že majú dvojaké občianstvo Iránu, Iraku, Sudánu alebo Sýrie. Podľa nového zákona môže americké ministerstvo pre vnútornú bezpečnosť udeliť výnimku z týchto obmedzení, ak sa zistí, že je v záujme presadzovania práva alebo národnej bezpečnosti Spojených štátov.



FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

V Martine v Múzeu slovenskej dediny sa konalo podujatie Už sa fašiang kráti. V sprievode sa na ňom predstavili maškary z regiónov, pochovávala sa basa, tancovalo sa a hrali ľudové muziky. Martin, 31. januára 2016.

A traditional Slovak village fasiangy took place in the Martin Museum village on Sunday, January 31, 2016.

Zahraniční Slováci chcú viac podpory aj voľby cez internet

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zaviazala a ktorý sa i skutočne pred krízou rozdeľoval – išlo o zhruba 1,3 milióna eur,” uviedol s tým, že aj táto suma je nižšia než podpora, ktorú svojim občanom dáva Maďarsko či Poľsko. “Rozhodne nezodpovedá tomu, že v zahraničí žijú dva milióny Slovákov, ktorí pre Slovensko vytvárajú hodnoty,” povedal Skalský. Dnes je podľa neho na granty vyčlenená polovičná suma a aj tá každoročne klesá zhruba o stotisíc eur.

SZSZ volá aj po zriadení Centra slovenského zahraničia v Bratislave, ktoré pripravuje. Má prezentovať históriu slovenského vystaňovalectva a komunit v zahraničí, ale aj trvalo prezentovať súčasnú kultúru krajanov v hlavnom meste Slovenska. Združenie chce tiež obnoviť Komisiu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri Zahraničnom výbore NR SR so zastúpením krajanov. “Aby sa prehĺbil dialóg so slovenskou politickou scénou,” vysvetlil Skalský.

Jednou z dôležitých požiadaviek je aj väčší komfort volieb zo zahraničia. Dnes sa dá voliť poštou, čo je pomerne komplikované. Zahraniční Slováci by prijali voľby cez internet alebo aspoň možnosť voliť na zastupiteľských úradoch. Poukazujú, že napríklad v Českej republike to tak funguje.

Celkovú účasť Slovákov zo zahraničia na marcových parlamentných voľbách (5.3.) odhaduje Skalský na 40.000-50.000. Z toho približne 15.000 poštou, zvyšok podľa neho na voľby pricestuje. Voličov v zahraničí je pritom podľa SZSZ 200.000 až 300.000.

TASR



Sv. Cyril a Metod tvoria v dejinách Slovanov dôležitú kapitolu

Od vyhlásenia sv. Cyrila a Metoda za spolupatrónov Európy pápežom Jánom Pavlom II. uplynulo 35 rokov.

Solúnski bratia patria medzi najväčších misionárov kresťanstva v dejinách Európy. Uctievať si ich ako tých, ktorí stáli pri kultúrnom a náboženskom zrode nášho národa, keď priniesli vieru, zostavili slovanské písmo a preložili do staroslovienskej liturgickej a biblickej texty.



Súsošie sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Nitre.

Cyriľmetodský duchovný odkaz je silný aj v súčasnosti.

Začiatkom 9. storočia vznikla na dnešnom území západného Slovenska a juhovýchodnej Moravy staroslovenská dŕžava, ktorú pomenovali podľa ústrednej rieky Moravy. Keď k nej boli neskôr pripojené aj ďalšie územia, dostala meno Veľká Morava alebo Veľkomoravská ríša. Na území tvoriacom jadro tejto ríše, teda v povodí riek Moravy a Nitry, sa začalo šíriť kresťanstvo už okolo roku 800. Prvými misionármi boli mnísi z Írska a Škótska a tiež nemeckí kňazi.

Činnosť zahraničných misionárov však u domáceho obyvateľstva nezaznamenala výrazný úspech, pretože ľudia nerozumeli cudziemu jazyku. Ešte väčšou prekážkou boli nepriaznivé vzťahy medzi Nemeckou ríšou a Moravským kniežatstvom, ktoré často vyústili do sporov a vojen. Politická predvídanosť priviedla vtedajšie veľkomoravské knieža Rastislava na myšlienku získať misionárov, ktorí by neboli z Nemeckej ríše a hovorili by ľudu zrozumiteľným jazykom. Svoju požiadavku adresoval okolo roku 861 najskôr pápežovi v Ríme. Keďže odtiaľ mu nemohli vyhovieť, obrátil sa v roku 862 s prosbou o pomoc na byzantského cisára Michala III. Ten určil pre veľkomoravskú misiu dvoch bratov: Konštantína, ktorý neskôr prijal meno Cyril, a Metoda. Bratia síce pochádzali z gréckeho mesta Solún a podľa dostupných dokumentov nemali slovanský pôvod, ovládali však starosloviensky jazyk (tzv. macedónske nárečie), ktorým hovorila početná slovanská menšina z okolia Solúna a ktorému rozumeli aj obyvatelia Veľkej Moravy.

Prv než sa misionári vydali na cestu, Konštantín zostavil slovienske písmo, hlaholiku (glagolica) a začal prekladať do staroslovienskej reči základnú biblickú literatúru, začínajúc evanjeliom sv. Jána: „Na počiatku bolo Slovo a Slovo bolo u Boha a Bohom bolo Slovo“. Toto sú prvá slová napísané v staroslovienskej reči. Solúnski bratia sa tak stali zakladateľmi slovanskej kultúry. Konštantín a Metod so svojou družinou prišli na Veľkú Moravu v roku 863. Knieža Rastislav ich privítal s veľkou radosťou.

Dvojica vierozvestov so svojimi pomocníkmi si prácu rozdelila na dve hlavné časti. Bolo to ohlasovanie evanjelia a nemenej dôležitá výučba mládeže, najmä kandidátov na kňazstvo. Po niekoľkých rokoch pôsobenia bratov na Veľkej Morave sa ukázalo, že je potrebné doriešiť niektoré vážne cirkevnoprávne otázky. Preto sa bratia rozhodli odísť priamo k pápežovi do Ríma a vybaviť v prvom rade tri základné záležitosti:

1. Potvrdenie staroslovienskej reči ako liturgického jazyka západného čiže rímskeho obradu.
2. Vysviacku učeníkov na diakonov a kňazov, keďže nechceli, aby ich vysvätili nemeckí biskupi.
3. Zriadenie samostatného cirkevného spoločenstva na Veľkej Morave, ktoré by bolo závislé priamo od pápeža.

Pápež Hadrián II. vybavil kladne všetky tri žiadosti. Bolo to pravdepodobne na Vianoce roku 867, keď pápež v rímskej bazilike Sv. Márie (dnes Santa Maria Maggiore) pri jasličkách položil staroslovienske evanjelium na oltár (a tým oficiálne schválil jeho preklad do staroslovienskej reči) a Konštantín hneď odsľúžil starosloviensku bohoslužbu. O krátky čas potom pápež prikázal niektorým biskupom žijúcim v Ríme, aby veľkomoravských učeníkov vysvätili za diakonov a kňazov. Otázka samostatného spoločenstva bola veľmi chůlostivá, lebo na územie Veľkej Moravy si z náboženského hľadiska robili nároky nemeckí biskupi. Pápež sa preto rozhodol obnoviť starobylé sriemske arcibiskupstvo (Sirmium, Sriemska Mitrovica v bývalej Juhoslávii) a rozšíriť ho aj na územie Panónie a Moravy.

Misijná činnosť svätého Cyrila a Metoda priamo alebo nepriamo zasiahla celú východnú Európu. To bol aj dôvod, prečo ich pápež Ján Pavol II. dňa 31. decembra 1980 apoštolským listom Egregiae virtutis vyhlásil za spolupatrónov Európy. Ďalšími patrónmi Európy sú sv. Benedikt, sv. Brigita Švédska, sv. Katarína Sienská a sv. Terézia Benedikta z Kríža (Edita Steinová).

TASR

“Milosrdenstvo chcem, a nie obeť“

KBS prináša slovenský preklad posolstva pápeža na Pôstne obdobie

„Milosrdenstvo chcem, a nie obeť“ (Mt 9, 13) - je názov témy posolstva Svätého Otca Františka k tohtoročnému Pôstnemu obdobiu, ktoré začne na Popolcovú stredú (10. februára 2016). Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS) pri tejto príležitosti prináša na internetovej stránke www.kbs.sk (v časti Dokumenty - Dokumenty pápežov) jeho oficiálny slovenský preklad. K dispozícii je aj verzia pre elektronické čítačky v epub a v pdf verzii.

Pápež František v prvom bode posolstva predstavuje Pannu Máriu ako ikonu Cirkvi, ktorá evanjelizuje, lebo je sama neustále evanjelizovaná. V druhom posolstve hovorí o Božej zmluve s ľuďmi, ktorá v dejinách vytvára príbeh milosrdenstva. V poslednej - tretej časti - sa posolstvo venuje výzve využiť pôstne obdobie na konanie skutkov telesného a duchovného milosrdenstva. „Božie milosrdenstvo premieňa ľudské srdce, a umožňuje mu zakúsiť vernú lásku, čím ho robí schopným milosrdenstva. Ide o zakaždým novým zázrak v živote každého z nás, keď Božie milosrdenstvo zažiarí a podnieti nás milovať svojho blížneho, oživením toho, čo cirkevná tradícia nazýva skutkami duchovného a telesného milosrdenstva. Tie nám pripomínajú, že viera sa prejavuje v konkrétnych každodenných skutkoch, ktorých cieľom je pomôcť nášmu blížnemu na tele i na duchu: dať sa mu najesť, navštíviť ho, utešiť a poučiť,“ prihovára sa Svätý Otec František v posolstve.

TKKBS

Zahraniční Slováci chcú viac podpory aj voľby cez internet

Zahraniční Slováci chcú, aby sa o nich politici zaujímali nielen pred voľbami, ale aj po nich. V novom volebnom období by privítali vyššiu finančnú podporu, zriadenie Centra slovenského zahraničia v Bratislave, obnovu Komisie pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri Zahraničnom výbore Národnej rady SR so zastúpením krajanov, a tiež aby sa dalo voliť buď cez internet, alebo na zastupiteľských úradoch. Vyplýva to z vyhlásenia 20. januára 2016 predsedu Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ) Vladimíra Skalského.

“V novom období chce združenie predovšetkým navýšenie objemu grantových prostriedkov prinajmenšom na úroveň, ku ktorej sa vláda už v minulosti svojím uznesením

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The European figure skating championship officially opened in Bratislava on January 27, 2016. In the photo Slovak President Andrej Kiska poses with legendary trainer in figure skating Hilda Mudra and legendary figure skater Jozef Sabovcik at the opening ceremonies.



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Majstrovstvá Európy v krasokorčuľovaní v Bratislave sa oficiálne otvorili 27. januára na popoludňajšom ceremoniáli za účasti prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku. Organizátori ponúkli divákovi na ZŠ Ondreja Nepelu aj pri televíznych obrazovkách program na ľade aj mimo neho, niesol sa v umeleckom duchu a nechýbali ani tradičné slovenské folklórne motívy. Na ľade sa objavili aj vlajky všetkých 33 zúčastnených krajín na šampionáte. Na snímke sprava prezident SR Andrej Kiska, legendárna trénerka v krasokorčuľovaní Hilda Múdra a krasokorčuľovacia legenda Jozef Sabovčík počas stretnutia na ME v krasokorčuľovaní 27. januára 2016 v Bratislave.