



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 122

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

NUMBER 5878

Message From the President

Anniversary of Father Furdek

On January 18, 2013 we observed the 98th anniversary of the death of Fr. Stefan Furdek, the founder of our Society, The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada (FCSU). His likeness is on the masthead of our newspaper, the Jednota, along with his adopted slogan "For God and Nation – Za Boha a Národ".



Andrew M. Rajec

Fr. Furdek was born in a small village in Trstená, Slovakia, then part of Upper Hungary, in 1855. He was educated in schools in that region and eventually was a seminarian in Prague. Shortly before he was ordained he came to Cleveland, Ohio and finished his studies and was ordained in 1882 as a priest of the Cleveland Diocese. He was pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish from 1883 until his death in 1915.

Coincidentally, the year 2015 will mark the 100th anniversary of his death as well as the 125th anniversary of the founding of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

As we approach both of these significant events we will be providing more information about Fr. Furdek and the Society he was so instrumental in founding, the First Catholic Slovak Union.

continued on page 3



Double Blessing - Double Responsibilities

Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M., Maria Hall, Danville, PA

The Year of Faith, recently introduced by Pope Benedict XVI, coincides with the 1150th anniversary of the arrival of SS. Cyril and Methodius in present-day Nitra, Slovakia. It is an opportunity, a privilege, and a blessing to renew our commitment to our faith in Christ and His Church. It is also a time for renewing our devotion to the brothers of Thessalonica, Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius, who brought the faith to the Slavic nations.

Most of our readers claim Saints Cyril and Methodius as the patrons of their faith, the missionaries from Greece,

continued on page 3



Attention, college-bound seniors:

- Don't let a scholarship opportunity fly away! Deadline for FCSU Scholarship Application, **Feb 28**.



See page 3 for details

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....2

Branch/District Info.....14

Bowling Tournament Forms 20

Slovak21 - 24

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

WYNDHAM GRAND
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
FRIDAY, MARCH 15 – SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013

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 15, 2013 – Saturday, March 16, 2013.

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 8, 2013.

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 8, 2013.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

February 17, 2013
First Sunday of Lent
Luke 4:1-13

Gospel Summary

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Recall that this event comes immediately after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. After his baptism Jesus was praying when the Holy Spirit descended upon him,



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

and a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son." The devil now says to Jesus, "If you are Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Then the devil promises all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. Finally the devil challenges Jesus to throw himself from the parapet of the temple to prove that since he is God's Son, he would not be injured. Jesus triumphs over each temptation.

Life Implications

The writers of the gospels clearly affirm the humanity of Jesus. However, it is unlikely that they would have dared to say that Jesus was tempted by the devil—with the implication of the possibility of failure—unless Jesus himself had spoken of the trials he was undergoing. The Letter to the Hebrews expresses the tradition that Jesus initiated: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned" (4:15). In the dramatic confrontation between the devil and Jesus, Luke indicates that until the day Jesus died, the devil attempted to entice him from fidelity to his Father's will and to his mission.

Luke explains the meaning of the temptations Jesus underwent by using the Book of Deuteronomy description of the temptations that Israel underwent in the desert wilderness. The key to interpretation lies in the text known in Hebrew as the Shema: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Dt 6:4-5). The Dominican bible scholar Jerome Murphy-O'Connor explains how the Shema was understood in Jesus' time (Bible Review, August 1999).

"With all your heart" means with a heart undivided by a contrary desire. In the desert wilderness the people's craving for food divided their hearts from trust in God's care for them. Jesus, however, would not allow his craving for food to divide his heart from complete trust in his Father's care. "With all your soul" means trust in God even if you should lose your life. In the wilderness the people were afraid they were going to die of thirst, and demanded evidence of God's presence: "The Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying 'Is the Lord among us or not?'" (Ex 17:7). Jesus, however, would not ask God to prove his presence by saving him if he jumped off the temple parapet. (Luke places this temptation last in his sequence because his whole gospel is a narrative of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. There he will choose fidelity to his Father's will and mission over the desire to save his own life.) "With all your might" means with all your wealth. After the Israelites reached the Promised Land, they are warned that their wealth would cause them to forget the Lord, and to worship false gods and demons. The devil, understanding the allure of wealth, promises to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he

would forget God, and worship him. Jesus said to the devil in reply, "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve'" (Dt 6:13).

The temptations of Jesus point back to the temptations of Israel in the past, and point forward to the trials that the Church in all its members will undergo in the future. It is now we who are in the wilderness, with no lasting city, on a journey to the Promised Land. Each trial that life brings even to our dying day is a crisis, but is also an opportunity to trust more completely that the Lord is with us, and that we do love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might. We are confident that we will triumph in our trials of faith, not because of our own strength, but because Jesus has given us his holy Spirit. Thus sharing the fidelity of his undivided heart, we can pray with confidence: Our Father, do not let us be defeated by temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.



February 24, 2013
Second Sunday of Lent
Luke 9:28b-36

Gospel Summary

Luke's version of the transfiguration of Jesus is more personal than the accounts of Mark and Matthew. Thus, for example, Luke alone tells us that Jesus was at prayer when this occurred. And he alone informs us concerning the subject of Jesus' conversation with Moses and Elijah, that they "spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem" (v.31).

Moses and Elijah represent the Old Testament (the Law and the Prophets) which is centered in the exodus of God's people from the bondage of Egypt. Correspondingly, the exodus of Jesus in Jerusalem, which is his death and resurrection, will be a new exodus initiating a new covenant between God and all the people of the world. This new exodus must happen on the anniversary of the exodus from Egypt and will be the fulfillment of that pivotal event.

The liberation of the Hebrew slaves from the bondage of the Pharaoh was the effect of a divine initiative revealing God's true nature as one who loves and who wishes that all in bondage should be free. This same revelation is at the center of the definitive exodus, which is the death and resurrection of Jesus. Moreover, just as the Passover meal in Israel kept alive the power of the original exodus, so also does the Eucharist of Christians make present among us the love of God as one who offers true and lasting freedom.

Life Implications

The luminous aura that surrounded Jesus on that mountaintop was an external manifestation of his ecstatic recognition that God's plan of salvation—God's ultimate exodus—will be brought about by his own loving sacrifice. His loving vulnerability thus becomes the surprising vehicle for God's power to save the world. In effect, loving concern for others is revealed as the only power with beneficent and lasting results.

This kind of loving vulnerability does not mean that we are called to be passive or compliant. In fact, this kind of loving is persistent and relentless at the same time that it is gracious and sensitive. For it results from a passionate commitment to the ideal of love received and then offered to others. The only true source of freedom is unselfish love, and the only valid purpose of such freedom is to enable one to love others so that they also may be free.

This equation is clearly implied in the command of God to Israel in Deuteronomy 24:17, where the now liberated Israelites are told to care for the vulnerable ones, for example, the widow, the orphan and the wayfarer. They must do so simply because they were once themselves desperately weak and vulnerable and God loved them into freedom and self-confidence.

The transfigured Jesus represents the full awareness of this incredible wisdom of God. And when the voice from heaven commands us to "listen to him" (v.35), we are challenged to be transfigured by our own recognition of this wisdom as we become more and more ready to use our freedom so that others also may be free—free from fear and guilt and poverty and pain.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, FEB 27	MONDAY, FEB 18
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13	MONDAY, MARCH 4
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27	MONDAY, MARCH 18

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
 Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
 First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
 FAX: 216-642-4310

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 22 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries - \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

From the desk of the Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt



**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS:
DEADLINE IS
APPROACHING**



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2013 Scholarship Program.

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2009 to be eligible under the rules of this period.

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

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2013 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com.

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2013.

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

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

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year (fall semester of 2014).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2013. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

For an application form, please call the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800- JEDNOTA or go to www.fcsu.com/scholarships.

Year of Faith: the Laity of the Church

Dear Friends,

The fourth chapter of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium) concerns the Laity.

The laity comprises all members of the Church who have not received Holy Orders or have taken vows in a religious community. Through Baptism, the laity are made one body with Christ and, in their own way, share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly function of Christ. The Council then goes on the role the laity have in fulfilling these three functions.

The laity share in the priestly function of Christ by means of their prayer and spiritual worship for the greater glory of God and the salvation of humanity. Living and working in the secular world and by engaging in temporal affairs, the laity are led by the Gospel to help transform the world according to the divine plan.

They share in the prophetic role by being evangelists, powerful and courageous witnesses of the faith in the secular realm both in their spoken word and their everyday life. This evangelization even takes place in marriage and family life, where husbands and wives bear witness to the faith and love of Christ to one another and to their children.

The kingly function of Christ's priesthood is shared by the laity by learning the deepest meaning of and the value of all creation, by assisting each other to live holier lives, by using their labor, technical skill and civic culture for the benefit of all humanity according to the divine plan, and by working to have the goods of this world be more equitably distributed. Through this role, the laity makes known and helps to spread God's kingdom of holiness and grace, justice, love and peace.

On one hand, the laity should, as all Christians, promptly accept in Christian obedience decisions of their spiritual shepherds, since they are representatives of Christ as well as teachers and rulers in the Church. On the other hand, spiritual shepherds are to recognize and promote the dignity as well as the responsibility of the laity in the Church, to willingly listen to and put into practice their prudent advice, and to encourage them to undertake tasks on their own initiative.

The next chapter deals with the universal call to holiness in the Church. This call has its foundation in Baptism, through which we became children of God and sharers in the divine nature. Holiness of life entails following in the footsteps of Jesus, conforming oneself to His image, and seeking God's will in all things. Receiving the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, frequently participating in the sacred action of the Liturgy, applying oneself to prayer, self-denial, lively fraternal service, and constantly exercising all the virtues are indispensable for the person who strives to be holy.

The Council singles out the martyrs for their holiness of life. Martyrdom is an exceptional gift and the fullest proof of love, because the martyr Jesus who laid down his life for us. Although few are presented the opportunity, all must be prepared to make this profession of faith even in the midst of persecutions, which will never be lacking to the Church. The Council also singles out the holiness of life lived by those who observe the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. The summary of the Constitution on the Church will continue in the next issue of the Jednota with an outline of what the Council taught concerning the consecrated life.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain



Message From President

continued from page 1

We have some important information to share with you.

Our Actuary Bruce & Bruce has informed us that the Standard Valuation Law requires that we adjust our product pricing due to the extremely low interest rate environment that the Federal Reserve is mandating at this time, and has existed for the past several years.

This requires the FCSU and other insurers to re-price their Single Premium Whole Life products. We have done so effective January 1, 2013. This will ONLY affect new SPWL policies issued after January 1, 2013.

In simple terms, since the money the FCSU now earns from its investments are at lower interest rates, we must increase the premium of our Single Premium Whole Life product that we charge on new policies.

Other fraternal also have had or will take this action and in many cases our new premiums are still lower than the competition. We must take this action to maintain the financial strength you expect from the FCSU.

This re-pricing will not affect our other whole life and term rates which remain the same.

In addition, we can proudly say that preliminary results for the year 2012, show that FCSU has again reached record high in assets and surplus. Our Society continues to grow stronger. Look for final audited results in the near future.

Our new SPWL rates can be found on our website at www.fcsu.com or by contacting the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA (1-800-533-6622).

If you have any questions please contact the Home Office and ask for the President or the Executive Secretary.

Andrew M. Rajec

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH ACCOUNTS

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2013

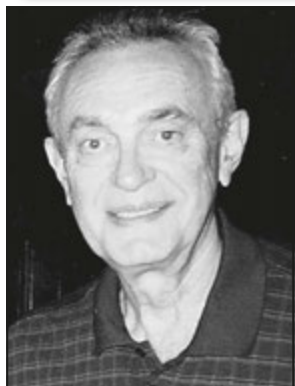
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.35% APY 3.10% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee (new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	1.90% APY
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% APY

If you have any questions
about our annuities or IRA's,
Please contact your local branch officer
or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

Email: fcsu@aol.com
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

The Best of the Best!

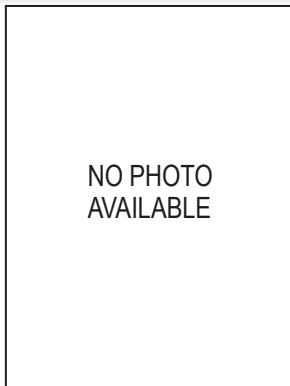
Top Guns Thru Dec. 2012



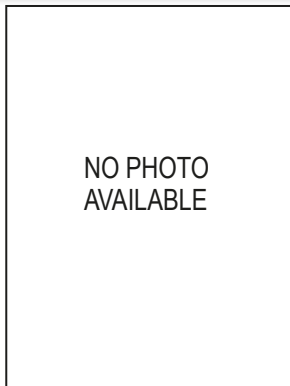
John A. Jurcenko
First Place



Dorothy J. Petrus
Second Place



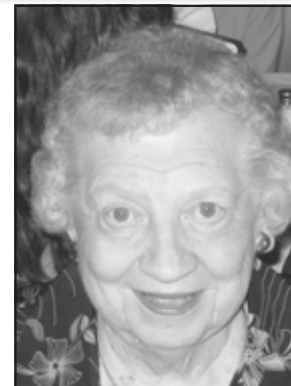
Theresa Behil Keiser
Third Place



Theresa Behil Keiser
First Place



Audrey J. Balazik
Second Place



Dorothy Petrus
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance Amount
Jurcenko, John A.	153	780,000
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	705,000
Keiser, Theresa Behil	769	650,000
Kowasic, Kyra Leigh	670	400,000
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	170,000
Meeker, Arlo H.	166	155,000
Bauer, John N.	38	150,000
Tarquino, Frances	320	130,000
Schuab, Vicki Lynn	200	120,000
Kozenko, Theodore F.	862	115,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

Name	Branch	Total Points
Keiser, Theresa Behil	769	498
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	486
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	470
Jurcenko, John A.	153	423
Valo, Albert R.	587	402
Kopco, Robert J.	24	374
Matta, Florence	38	364
Tarquino, Frances	320	350
Buchheit, Geraldine	410	246
Zavoic, Maria	45	232



Robert J. Kopco
Frist Place



Florence Matta
Second Place



Audrey J. Balazik
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Kopco, Robert J.	24	378,298.54
Matta, Florence	38	305,154.56
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	295,144.17
Jurcenko, John A.	153	233,687.71
Zavoic, Maria	45	233,117.99
Fedor, William Lawrence	900	160,000.00
Buchheit, Geraldine	410	144,284.60
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	143,100.00
Valo, Albert R.	587	138,520.48
Ungvarsky, Carl J.	173	136,000.00



From the Office of the Vice-President

The Importance of Sales Seminars to our Society



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

The First Catholic Slovak Union, the second oldest Slovak fraternal society in the United States, often goes by the fond name of Jednota, which in Slovak means "union." Itself a mainstay and promoter of Slovak culture and Catholic fraternal life, the mainstay of the First Catholic Slovak Union is our members. What started with 320 members in 1890 has grown into a true union of hundreds of branches throughout the United States and Canada with approximately \$380 million of insurance in force and over \$300 million in assets.

How does our Society stay strong and vibrant moving into the future? The answer again, is our members.

We need members to sign up their family, friends, neighbors, church members, and club members. Our members are our best method of sharing the HIGH quality, competitive and affordable insurance products as well as attractive rates on our IRA/Annuities that the FCSU offers. So, too, our active members can educate others in the many benefits of belonging to our fraternal society—whether that is access to a scholarship, or participation in a national or local event.

Seminars to Help Your Membership Grow

Perhaps your members are unsure about all the details of our products, or how to sell them. This is the reason the FCSU Membership and Marketing Committee is having seminars. We have to educate ourselves by attending them. The knowledge we gain will become a practical sales tool. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we'll become as recommenders.

If you are unsure about insurance premiums or our annuity plans and you would like the Membership & Marketing Committee to give an informal seminar at one of your annual or semi-annual branch or district meetings, call the home office at 1-800-533-6682 and give your name, branch number, phone number and the best time of the day to return your call. After that, we can decide on a date and place to hold the training session.

If you don't feel you have a sizable enough group for a seminar, no problem. We are holding six district seminars in 2013 and perhaps one of them maybe in your district area. The seminar times and places will be published in this newspaper. Keep an eye out for the listings. Form a carpool with the recommenders from your branch and attend the district seminar in your area.

Hope to see you at the next seminar.

Until then...

Good Luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President
Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee



Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

A great source for the latest information about our Society - and events in the greater Slovak community.

Double Blessing - Double Responsibilities

continued from page 1

who brought the faith to our ancestors in what was then known as Great Moravia. Historians tell us that they arrived in Nitra, Slovakia in 863. At the time, Methodius was close to fifty years of age and Cyril (Constantine) was in his late thirties. What would have happened if they had said: "We're too old for such a venture!" or: "We don't know the language of those people!" "How will we be able to communicate with them?"

So often when we are invited or inspired to share our faith, we are pelted with such arguments against responding to the invitation to evangelize. Actually, evangelization is not something NEW. In fact, it is as old as the hill of the Ascension when Jesus said to His disciples: "GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Note: This is a MANDATE, not a suggestion or a simple request.) Jesus did not preface His parting legacy with the words: "If you have the time...If you feel so inclined...When you have nothing better to do..."

Jesus gave them an order and it has been passed on to us at the time of our Baptism. Most baptized Christians are not aware of the responsibility that is theirs simply because they have been baptized. Unfortunately, those who have been baptized may not be aware of the fact that the GOOD NEWS—the Gospel has been entrusted to them.

When anyone sees or hears of something exciting, that individual is so eager to share the good news nothing can contain the joy he or she has experienced. Our families and neighborhoods, indeed, the whole world would be different if we, who are blessed with the gift of faith, were as enthusiastic about it as the Apostles or other zealous missionaries were. In addition to the responsibility for sharing and spreading the Good News, the gift of Baptism endowed us not only with the gifts of faith, hope, and love; it included the promise of eternal life... Let us pray for each other and all the baptized. Let us pray that our faith might be

strengthened by being shared with joy and conviction. The blessing of our own faith should prompt us to pray for all the unbaptized, for those "inactive" baptized who don't know what they are missing.

Faith is transmitted one-to-one. Every believer has the faith because some other believer had the courage and the zeal to introduce him or her to the person of Jesus. We can only introduce someone to another friend if we know him or her well enough.

Saints Cyril and Methodius, like other apostles and evangelizers before them, were able to evangelize our ancestors because they knew Jesus and had the courage and the zeal to introduce them to Him. Through their tireless efforts, many nations were brought to Christ and those nations, in time, had missionaries who were enthusiastic about sharing the Good News, that is, their relationship with Jesus, with countless others.

In this Year of Faith, let us become more knowledgeable and enthusiastic about our faith. Let us commit to daily prayer and Scripture reading. Let us also commit ourselves to sharing our faith. Let us also remember that "Fear is not of God" as St. John tells us in his first letter.

It becomes very simple if we try to live by the "Each One Reach One" slogan which has become very common among modern day evangelizers. We may be surprised to find out that there is someone in our family, neighborhood, or workplace who is just waiting to be invited to know more about Jesus and our faith. If we pray to have the courage and enthusiasm we need to share our faith, God will surely provide us with enough opportunities.

Faith shared is faith strengthened. The more we give, the more we will receive. That has been the case with the first twelve Apostles and it was so with Saints Cyril and Methodius. St. Paul tells us that "Their message endures..." If we step out in faith, the message we share will also endure into future generations.

It is very interesting to note that the above quote is from St. Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. Thessalonica is the birthplace of Saints Cyril and Methodius, who began their missionary journeys in the ninth century. It may be helpful to reflect on his words to the first century residents of Thessalonica and note how prophetic they were. His message to them DID endure...and we are very grateful.

Since imitation is the highest form of praise, let us imitate the Apostles to the Slavs, and be willing to share our faith. We may begin with a portion of the prayer written by Blessed John Paul II:

"O Saints Cyril and Methodius, who with admirable dedication brought the faith to the Slavic peoples, thirsty for truth and light,

Let the entire Church always proclaim the crucified and risen Christ, the Redeemer of (hu) mankind."



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Jesus, Divorce, and a Study on Gratitude

What do Jesus, a country song about divorce, and a research study on gratitude have in common? More than you might think.

The study came to my attention when I read Ashley Crouch's reflection on the benefits of gratitude over at the Verily magazine blog. Crouch stated that "a report from the Harvard Medical Association found that gratitude helps us refocus on what we have instead of what we lack. Those who count their blessings have less likelihood for depression, anxiety, or envy, while possessing stronger social connections, greater relationship satisfaction, and a real leg up in the workplace."

Then, since she is the Relationships Editor for Verily, Crouch highlighted some facts about how that applies to couples. She cited a study by psychologist Dr. John Gottman who, after researching thousands of couples, discovered that those who practiced a high ratio of positive compliments and behaviors to negative ones "reported the highest satisfaction...Conflict will happen in any relationship, but major research on emotional psychology discovered that it can be easier to offer criticism when both parties rest secure in their affection towards one another." Dr. Gottman noted that couples who rarely compliment each other often wind up with serious marital problems or even divorced.

Here's where the country song comes in: specifically, a tune from the 90s called Love Goes Without Saying by Suzy Bogguss. As with many country songs, the title is a clever turn of phrase in relation to the story it tells. Part of the lyrics are sung from the point of view of a husband who works hard to support his wife. But he never actually tells her he loves her. He assumes his love goes without saying. From the wife's perspective, that assumption is way off base. Since she's never heard her husband say the words "I love you," her love for him has disappeared. In other words, her love has gone because he never said anything.

Based on the study Crouch cited, this is a major problem for couples today. It's also one that's easy to fix once you acknowledge it. All it requires is sincere words that have more power than you think.

It's also an idea we can apply to our spiritual lives. As we prepare for Lent, we have the opportunity to show God how much we love Him by doing things which move us closer to Him: daily prayer and Scripture reading, extra visits to church for quiet reflection, Mass or Eucharistic adoration.

God's love for us will never go away, regardless of whether we engage in a relationship with Him or not. He's good that way, much more patient and understanding than we are. But to reiterate a point in the aforementioned gratitude study, couples who practiced a high ratio of positive compliments and behaviors to negative ones "reported the highest satisfaction."

If your relationship with God is feeling lackluster lately, take the opportunity to return His love on a more regular basis. Offer words of praise, not just petition. And take time out to just "be" with each other. You may come to experience God's love in a new, more satisfying way.

And since this is also the season for Valentine's Day, remember to offer words and gestures of appreciation to your husband, wife, boyfriend or girlfriend. Those positive behaviors can play a vital part in keeping your love alive.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, YOUR CAREER COUNTS, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org



FCSU with Other Slovak Fraternal Marched for Life in January

Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union – along with the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union – were among the more than half million people in Washington, D.C., on January 25, 2013, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision declaring abortion legal in the United States.

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 15, 2013**. 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 28, 2013.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



RaisingOurKids.com



We are pleased to invite you to the

FCSU National

Picnic

86 acres of beautiful grounds, with plenty to do for everyone: swimming, waterslides, tennis, softball, beach volleyball, basketball, bocce, soccer, hockey, miniature golf, golf driving range, and more. Food is served all day.

Frogbridge
7 Yellow Meeting House Rd.
Millstone Township, NJ 08510

Sunday, August 11, 2013

Watch the Jednota paper for more details!

Save the Date!

2013 United Slovak Societies Scholarship Available in Lorain, OH



The United Slovak Societies of the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH, (www.americanslovakclub.com) announces its scholarship program for 2013.

The United Slovak Societies will grant scholarship awards to qualified graduating high school seniors who are entering college and meet eligibility rules. Applicants must be a member in good standing for the past five years in any of the five local organizations in Lorain. These local organizations include: FCSU Branch 228, FCCLA Branch 114, SCS Wreath 111, NSS Assembly 160 and LPSCU Branch 77.

Please contact Helene Virant at 440/282-3325 for rules and applications. In addition, applicants are encouraged to contact their respective local lodges for additional scholarship opportunities.

Deadline for applications is May 30, 2013.

Michele Mager
Secretary, United Slovak Societies
Board of Director Member, American Slovak Club
FCSU Member, Branch 228

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

St. Matthew Society's Successful Indoor Soccer Tournament in January



(L – R) Team Superstar: Jan Folvarsky, Lubos Kuzar, Vlado Rendek, Jan Pjatak, and Jan Zeman



(L – R) Team Kostol: Valdo Sestak, Rado Lesay, Kristian Hric, and Slavo Hric.



(L – R) Jan Zeman, Sports Director; Joseph Jurasi, Branch President; and Jozef Korcak, Sports Director



(L – R) Team Fofo: Gabriel Pjatak, Jozef Krafcik, Jan Krafcik, and Drahus Hetes.



(L – R) Team Czechoslovakia: George Sikorjak, Nik Beno, Martin Janosek, Jozef Korcak, and Ondrej Sikorjak.

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, organized a successful indoor soccer tournament in the church hall of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City on January 19, 2013. The main tournament directors were Jozef Korcak and Jan Zeman. Four teams competed in the tournament as follows: Fofo, Kostol, Superstar, and Czechoslovakia. The atmosphere and the efforts of participants were both excellent. Czechoslovakia ended up being the winning team. After the tournament, everyone feasted on homemade soup provided by Sports Director Jan Zeman.

- Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Sports Director

1993 Brought the Birth of a Hockey Republic

Tichomir Miko

Twenty years ago the young Slovak and Czech skaters playing at the 1993 IIHF World Championships in Sweden experienced the birth of the modern independent Slovak Republic in a tangible way.

On December 26th, 1992, the group of players began the competition as Team Czechoslovakia. The team, led by a young Slovak Pavol Demitra and a talented Czech David Vyborny, lost to Finland 5-2 in its opening game but then defeated the United States 6-5. The team from Czechoslovakia then lost its third game to host Sweden 7-2. The 1-1 tie against Russia on 30 December 1992 was the last international hockey game for Czechoslovakia.



Less than 48 hours later, on January 1st, 1993, the Slovak and Czech nations officially separated (often referred to as "the Velvet Divorce") and as of that day, the team name was changed to "The Team from the Czech and Slovak Republics". But the name change did not hamper the squad's prowess on the ice as in its first game under its new name the team defeated Japan 14-2. It continued with wins over Germany (6-3) and Canada (7-4) to end the round-robin event in third place and claim the bronze medal behind a talented Canadian team led by Paul Kariya and an impressive Swedish team with a record-setting Peter Forsberg.

After victorious games following the team's name change, the Czechoslovak anthem was not played anymore. Instead the Slovak/Czech team was honored without a flag and the IIHF anthem was played. Although they continued the tournament as one team, the players were from two different countries from then on.

The separation on the ice that followed the 1992-1993 tournament was somewhat bitter for the Slovaks. The Czech Republic was recognized by the IIHF as the formal successor to Czechoslovakia and remained in the elite pool of hockey nations. Slovakia was considered a new country and so was sent to the cellar of the hockey world, having to work its way up by winning the championships in the lower divisions, year by year. The same fate awaited the senior team.

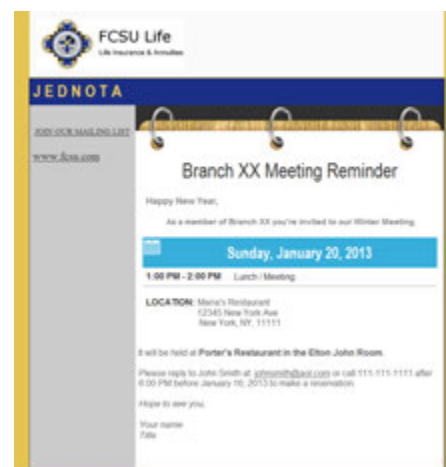
The Slovaks rampaged through the lower divisions with little difficulty and by 1996 were promoted to the A pool at the IIHF championships in Boston, USA. Six years later, a core of graduates of this first ever junior Slovak squad played on the senior team managed by Peter Stastny that won the Gold Medal at the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden. (The team had already won silver in 2000).

The comeback on ice reflected the indomitable spirit and determination of the entire new nation. At the separation of Czechoslovakia, several critics had prophesied a dismal future for the Slovaks, a few going so far as to predict an early economic collapse of the new country and re-integration with one of its neighbors. But Slovaks dug in and proved the pundits all wrong. Today Slovakia, despite its political and economic trials, is best off of all the former iron curtain countries.

It was through hockey that many North Americans and hockey fans from around the world learned of this new country called Slovakia. Winning a global championship and producing star hockey players for the NHL brought much attention and recognition to the new nation. In 2011, Slovakia hosted the IIHF Championships, referring to itself as the "Hockey Republic" in promotional media ads. Not an empty gesture - Slovakia continues to live up to its chosen nickname, producing determined hockey players and hardworking citizens.

Happy 20th Birthday Slovakia, Hockey Republic!!!! Slovensko!.... Do toho!!!!!!

Branch Officers: Help Us Help You Reach Out to Your Members



The Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union recently launched a support tool to help you reach out to your branch members. This electronically generated meeting reminder goes out for the Home Office to those of your members from whom we have email addresses every time you submit a branch announcement to Jednota for publication.

If we have your email address, you are automatically included in this mailing as well.

Please help us make this as effective a support tool as possible. Open your reminder email as soon as possible, and encourage your members to open the email. It contains all the information about your branch event – time, date, etc. You and your members will be notified of any upcoming national fraternal events via this email method as well.

Also, please help us reach more of your branch members. Gather as many email addresses from your branch as possible – including your own. Then send all of your branch email addresses to info@fcsu.com or go to www.fcsu.com/contact or by regular mail to the Home Office: FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131. Be sure to always identify your branch affiliation (branch number and location) when sending in your branch emails. Rest assured, the FCSU observes a strict privacy policy regarding our members' email addresses.

Thank you! By taking advantage of this latest tool, you are strengthening your own branches efforts in promoting fraternalism within our Society with regular meetings and events.

Slovakia's Unique Fujara

By Helene Baine Cincebeaux

Few countries can boast that their folk instrument is a world treasure; Slovakia can!

Slovakia's unique fujara was placed on the UNESCO list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005. And in 2008 "The Fujara and its Music" was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The fujara is an extremely long flute with three finger holes traditionally played by Slovak shepherds. Not only a musical instrument, it is highly valued for the elaborate ornamentation. Fujara music ranges from melancholic to rhapsodic and reflects a shepherd's life and work. Many of the sounds imitate nature, the bubbling of a brook for example.

The fujara is a highlight of the popular Pod Polana Festival (under Polana Mountain) held at Detva each year. The charming wooden stage is filled with many musical groups and hundreds of brilliantly dressed Detvans - men, women and children. When they dance, sing, leap, twirl and whistle, there is nothing quite like it. The red paisley shawls tucked in the men's belts swirl - creating a joyful scene filled with color, movement and song - pure bliss.

At these moments the entire audience of closely packed thousands is transported to "folk heaven." Then one figure steps forward with his fujara, the long wooden cylindrical decorated shepherd's flute, unique to Slovakia. A hush falls as the lush tones reach out to the green hills and farmsteads and shimmer over all like a benediction - an immersion into the heart of Slovak folk culture.

The distinctive bass, sonorous tones of the Slovak fujara are unforgettable. Traditional musical instruments in Slovakia range from the "mini," the tiniest shepherd's flutes carved of bone only an inch or two long to the "maxi," the 17 foot long fujara trombita, the largest Slovak musical instrument. Made of fir and maple and bound and wrapped with cherry bark, it required great skill to play and strong lungs; and was used to announce attacks by wolves or robbers.

Forty-five different types of shepherd's flutes or pipes have been documented in Slovakia from the 1300s. Wooden ones were crafted in the northwest, north central, central and eastern parts of Slovakia fashioned from lilac, maple, ash and hazel. Carved bone ones were fashioned in Trenčín county, the Kysuce region and all through Slovakia.

The fujara consists of two tubes, the longer one 5 to 7 feet in length and a shorter one 1 to 2 feet long. The dramatic instrument is beloved for its resonance, tones of the fujara trombita could be heard for six miles enabling the baca, head shepherd, to communicate from salas to salas (high mountain meadows where some 500 sheep were guarded and grazed and where sheep's cheese and milk was prepared).

On long summer evenings there was time for shepherds to carve decorated cups, create love tokens and play folk instruments. The fujara enabled shepherds to play individually in a meditative way or together for festive gatherings.

When a bača played on the fujara and then sang, it was often for their own entertainment, famed Slovak folk musician Ondrej Molota told me. Among the musical instruments of Slovak shepherds, the fujara was the king, Molota added.

It's a fascinating story - migrating shepherds with their flocks of sheep wound through the Carpathian Mountains over the ages bringing their folk culture, music, archaic songs and folk decoration. Slovakia was a pastoral paradise; as late as the end of the 19th century, over a million sheep were being raised on mountain meadows.

Fujary - Plain and Fancy

The fujara is having a renaissance now and performed by groups from many regions of Slovakia.

Making a fujara is an intricate task. A tree limb is carefully chosen and placed in an iron form to straighten it. It is hollowed out with hot rods being ultra careful so the wood doesn't crack. Then it is placed back into the iron mold and heated over a fire for flexibility and shaping. Three holes are drilled, spaced so they sound with the required tones, a secret that no master maker reveals.

In Slovakia's heartland fujary were decorated, incised or wood burned with ancient motifs, often flowers such as tulips and geometric designs; then areas were dyed for color. Over time the instrument became burnished with oils from the hands which added a soft patina.

Another type of decoration involved intarsia work with burnished metal inset into the wood in geometric motifs, these fujary were often dyed a dark rich color for greater contrast. Other materials were introduced from inlaid tin and bronze to mother of pearl. Mr. Molota told of one maker, Ondrej Krnac, who immigrated to Canada where he made fujary to order for millionaires using precious silver and gold inlay.



Slovakia's unique fujara - traditionally played by Slovak shepherds - has been placed on the UNESCO list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Preserving Fujara Music and Traditions

While many of the master fujara makers now rest peacefully under the carved, painted and decorated wooden crosses in the village cemeteries under Polana Mountain; it's heart-warming to know that the traditions and the music is being passed on. According to Mr. Molata, the fujara was originally a solo instrument; then duets became the style and then group performances developed. Eventually concert pieces were written for groups of fujara players and orchestras showcased this humble, evocative instrument.

Famed fujara maker Tibor Koblicek experimented with double, triple even a quadruple fujara. An eight-foot masterpiece named "Obor" that he created is on display at the National Ethnographic Museum in Martin, Slovakia where over 70,000 precious folk objects are preserved.

One of the highlights of Detva Festival for me is the fujara school in a big open courtyard across from Detva Church where fujara afficionados gather before the Saturday afternoon performance. Impromptu fujara concerts take place fueled with a good bit of slivovica. Fujaras and pistalky, the smaller flutes, are made and sold and people come from all over the country to take part - if you are at the festival, Don't miss it.



*Deadline for the 2012
tax year on IRA deposits is
April 15, 2013.
There's still time!*

FCSU Single Premium Whole Life Rates have changed effective January 1, 2013.



Go to www.fcsu.com/insurance for details - or contact your branch office or the Home Office: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

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



REFLECTIONS ON THE PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI February 2013

General Intention - Migrant Families.

That migrant families, especially the mothers, may be supported and accompanied in their difficulties.



Poverty, war, and natural disasters have forced hundreds of millions of people to leave their homelands. Many times families are torn apart. Forty-nine percent of all refugees are women. Women are especially vulnerable as they seek safety and well-being for themselves and their children in often hostile situations.

The Holy Family was a migrant family. In 1952 Pope Pius XII wrote: "The family of Nazareth in exile, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, emigrants and taking refuge in Egypt to escape the fury of an evil king, are the model, the example, and the support of all emigrants and pilgrims of every age and every country, of all refugees of any condition who, compelled by persecution and need, are forced to abandon their homeland, their beloved relatives, their neighbors, their dear friends, and move to a foreign land."

Calling the Holy Family "the icon of all families," Pope Benedict wrote: "In this misfortune experienced by the Family of Nazareth, obliged to take refuge in Egypt, we can catch a glimpse of the painful condition in which all migrants live, especially, refugees, exiles, evacuees, internally displaced persons, those who are persecuted."

Pope Benedict's heart goes out to migrants, especially to families that have been torn apart. He also realizes how difficult the integration of migrants can be for the country that receives them. He wrote in his 2007 Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees: "Refugees are asked to ...maintain an active willingness to accept offers to participate in building together an integrated community that would be a 'common household' for all."

Through our prayer and the service it leads us to do, may migrant families be supported in their difficulties.

Reflection

If you have ever been forced from your home or felt unwelcome among strangers, how has the experience given you a heart for migrants?

Scripture

Matthew 2: 13-23 Rise, take the child and his mother, flee....

Mission Intention - Peace.

That the peoples at war and in conflict may lead the way in building a peaceful future



Our Mission Intention this month is huge. How can we expect "peoples at war and in conflict" not only to put aside their conflicts but also to "lead the way in building a peace—ful future"?

Humanly speaking, it's impossible. We have trouble getting along with people we live and work with every day, much less making peace with enemies. But what is impossible for weak humans, is quite possible for God (see Matthew 19:26).

When conflicts arise, we tend to work harder to resolve them. What we most need to do is pray harder. Of course we should keep working for solutions, but we must humbly realize that at least part of the reason behind our conflicts is that we have forgotten God. Prayer puts us in touch with the One who created us to be a family of loving children, for we are beloved of God.

God is not going to force us to be one, loving family. He loves us too much to impose his will. Instead, God invites us to

open our hearts to him and to one another. This is the conversion that leads to peace. And only prayer can lead to that conversion.

Miracles of peace happen by prayer. Years of praying--particularly the Rosary--brought down the Berlin Wall and led to the decline of Communism. Mary appeared at Fatima on February 13, 1917, promising peace if the world embraced prayer and penance. We offer our prayers and sacrifices this month for the conversion of all those who are at war and in conflict--nations and families. May Mary, Queen of Peace, who embraced God's will when it seemed impossible, pray with us for peace.

Reflection:

How does prayer help you to resolve personal conflicts and achieve peace?

Scripture:

Luke 1:26-38 Nothing will be impossible for God.

Prayer of the Month

Jesus, I trust in You! With God nothing is impossible! What is especially possible is conversion, which can change hatred into love and war into peace. And so our prayer becomes all the more insistent and trusting: Jesus, I trust in You!

--A prayer of Blessed John Paul II



Links

Links for February, 2013 General Intention

Pope Benedict's Message for the 2013 World Day of Migrants and Refugees
Pope Benedict's Message for the 2007 World Day of Migrants and Refugees
Cardinal Antonio Veglio's Talk "Women Migrants" at a meeting sponsored by the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican, May 24, 2012

Links for February, 2013 Mission Intention

Pope Benedict's Message for the 2013 World Day of Peace
Pope Benedict's Message for the 2007 World Day of Peace
Pope John Paul II's Address to the Bishops of East Timor
Article: "How Does Immaculee Ilibagiza Forgive?"

Slovak League of America's scholarly annual is off the press

Daniel Tanzone, National President, Slovak League of America

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry founded in Cleveland, OH. in 1907, is pleased to announce that its 2013 edition of Slovakia is now off the press. Slovakia is a scholarly annual devoted to the history, literature and culture of the Slovaks the world over. Dr. M. Mark Stolarik serves as the editor of this year's 211-page edition. Dr. Stolarik is Chairperson of the Chair of Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

This year's edition is replete with an array of interesting and scholarly articles from a number of authors. These include Stefan Kucik, a professor in the Faculty of Education at the Catholic University of Ruzomberok, Slovakia "The Struggle for the Hearts and Minds of American Slovaks: Bishop Jan Vojtassak's Aborted Journey to the USA in 1923" and Roman Licko's "An Unwelcome Guest: Milan Hodza in American Documents Between 1941 and 1944." Professor Licko is on the faculty of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. Juraj Hocman, who is on the faculty of Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia shares an interesting topic in his contribution "Seeming and Being: Contextualizing the History of Post-Communist Slovakia." Other interesting works are those of Carol Skalnik Leff, on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Urbana, "Hungarian Minority Politics in Slovakia: Under Fico, After EU Accession," and "Vladimir Meciar and the Politics of Privatization, 1992-1998." Another work of interest is from the pen of Kevin Deegan-Krause of Wayne State University and is titled "Slovakia 2010 Election and Its Aftermath." Also, Evgeny F. Firsov, on the faculty of the Lomonosov Moscow State University includes documentation on the Military Missions of Milan R. Stefanik in Russia on Behalf of the Czech and Slovak Cause. This year's edition also includes an array of interesting book reviews and commentaries.

This year's interesting and informative edition of Slovakia, volume XLI, numbers 76-77 costs just \$10.00 per copy, postage included. It belongs in the home of every American who wants to learn more of the rich and unique history of the Slovak people. Make check payable to Slovak League of America and send same to 205 Madison Street, Passaic, NJ 07055. Publication of Slovakia has been a project of the Slovak League of America since 1951.

Ash Wednesday Traditions in Slovakia

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

In Catholic traditions, the holy season of Lent commences with Ash Wednesday, which is known as Popolcová streda in Slovak. Ash Wednesday symbolizes the solemn beginning of an extended period of fasting, prayer, and abstinence.

In Slovakia, villagers celebrated fašiangy (Carnival, or Slovak Mardi Gras) during the period soon after Christmas season, but especially in the last five days before Ash Wednesday. The lively libations and festive frolicking and merrymaking of fašiangy (Carnival, or Slovak Mardi Gras) were something like the Superbowl parties of today, but lasting much longer and done with much more gusto. Slovaks dressed in outlandish costumes and consumed huge amounts of greasy and fattening foods that many diet conscious people today would abhor. The fašiangy festivities all ended on Fat Tuesday night (Tučný utorok), or at least before dawn on Ash Wednesday.

The noted Slovak-American author, Edward Kováč, wrote that the appearance of a ghost (mátoha) in the streets would signify the definitive end of fašiangy and the start of the Lenten observance. Slovaks would use this short little phrase to mark the transition:

"Užívame, nuže, poskromne, pokrmov a nápojov, spánku i žartov ..."
 "We can use, and just once in while, foods and drinks, sleep and jokes ..."

Now began an extended period of spiritual reflection that remembers Christ's forty days of fasting and contemplation in the desert.

Originally, ancient Slavic pagans had celebrated their New Year around the time that Lent started. Romans reveled in their days of Bacchus, the god of earthly pleasures. Some of these pagan practices merged with Christian customs when Slavic peoples adopted Christianity. Ash Wednesday for Christians marked the beginning of a new life of faith, and another chance to get one's life in proper order. Like other Christians, Slovaks recognized that sin could be overcome with intense prayer and fasting.

Ash Wednesday, known in Latin as Dies Cinerum (Day of Ashes), became a regular custom in Christian Europe as early as the 8th century. Although attendance at Holy Mass was not obligatory, it soon became one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. Even today, the pews are often quite full on Ash Wednesday in many Catholic churches.

Following the Gospel readings and the sermon, the priest sprinkled the faithful with holy water and symbolically purified the congregations with incense. The reception of ashes on the forehead meant that one recognized himself/herself as a sinner in dire need of Christ's redemptive powers. While the body would turn to ashes upon death in this world, the soul would live on.

The faithful in Slovakia flocked in huge numbers to church to receive blessed ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday (Kvetná Nedeľa). A priest would recite the well-known words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" ("Prach si a na prach sa obratiš").

The Lenten season ranked among the most sacred and holy times in Slovakia. In Slovak and Christian culture, Lent (pôst – pronounced "pwost"), which also means "a fast," represented a time of self-denial, inward introspection, and a time of spiritual renewal. In imitation of Christ's example of fasting and abstinence, Slovaks denied themselves all animal products during Lent, including all meats and any dairy products such as milk, cheese, eggs, etc. Typically, they did not use any animal fats in cooking. Eating candy would be unthinkable, so a Valentine's Day after Ash Wednesday would have been a nightmare for candy manufacturers.

Once the fast started, Slovaks usually ate vegetables and food made from simple dough recipes. For instance, in southern Slovakia they would eat opatance - homemade halušky (potato dumplings). In northern Slovakia, people would dine on zemiakové púčky, a recipe of mainly flour and potatoes. In-



Slovak women dressed in black as a sign of grieving during Lent.



Slovaks typically made Lenten meals of vegetables and those made from simple dough recipes.



On Ash Wednesday, known as Popolcová streda in Slovakia, the faithful receive ashes on the forehead.



stead of having regular rye bread with a meal, they ate kalkíš, a plain Lenten bread made of flour and water. In place of bread rolls, they used pukance, small dough balls made of corn and flavored with greens. Other common table items included baked potatoes, spinach, cabbage, and dried fruit. To keep the fast, they cooked only with oil and not with animal fat or butter.

Slovaks also abstained from eating any very large meals for the entire period of Lent. Parties, weddings, and loud music were strictly forbidden. For this reason, many young Slovak couples married in the period between Christmas and Lent. During Lent, any music played had to be sacred and somber, stressing one's sinfulness and repentance.

In previous centuries, after attending Holy Mass, the people of a village marched in a procession of penance. For the most part, even in Slovakia that custom has today faded away in many places. In previous times, Lent was a time of constant prayer and self-examination. Denying the body physical pleasures was supposed to liberate the flesh so that people could contemplate the real meaning of life and their relationship with God. Slovak devotions became far more zealous than that of most European peoples. Some historians cite the Counter-Reformation spirit of the 16th and 17th centuries as fortifying and intensifying this emphatic religious temperament among many Slovaks.

Other typical Lenten obligations included daily praying of the Rosary and attending the Stations of the Cross (križová cesta) at church every Friday. Going to Confession (spoved') was also a must in Catholic as well as Lutheran traditions.

The Slovak interpretation of Lent was most solemn and very somber. It is no accident that Slovaks also referred to Ash Wednesday as škaredá streda (Ugly Wednesday), for all forms of partying would disappear. Until the arrival of Easter, a household remained in virtually a continual state of mourning for their own sins, but above all, for the terrible price Jesus Christ had to pay for redeeming man's sins. As a sign of this grieving, all women dressed only in black for the entire Lenten season. Ash Wednesday meant a prolonged period of mourning for Christ.

Although some of these customs have been modified over the years, Lent still remains an intensely spiritual time for many practicing Catholics as well as Lutherans throughout Slovakia, especially in rural areas. When one visits, one has a sense of the sacredness that has diminished in many American parishes since Vatican II.

One of the benefits of observing the strict fast and abstinence of the holy Lenten time was that it does end. The Resurrection promises new life. Then the joy of Easter is that much greater when one has sacrificed through Lent. And the Easter ham and sumptuous sweets taste that much better!

Sources

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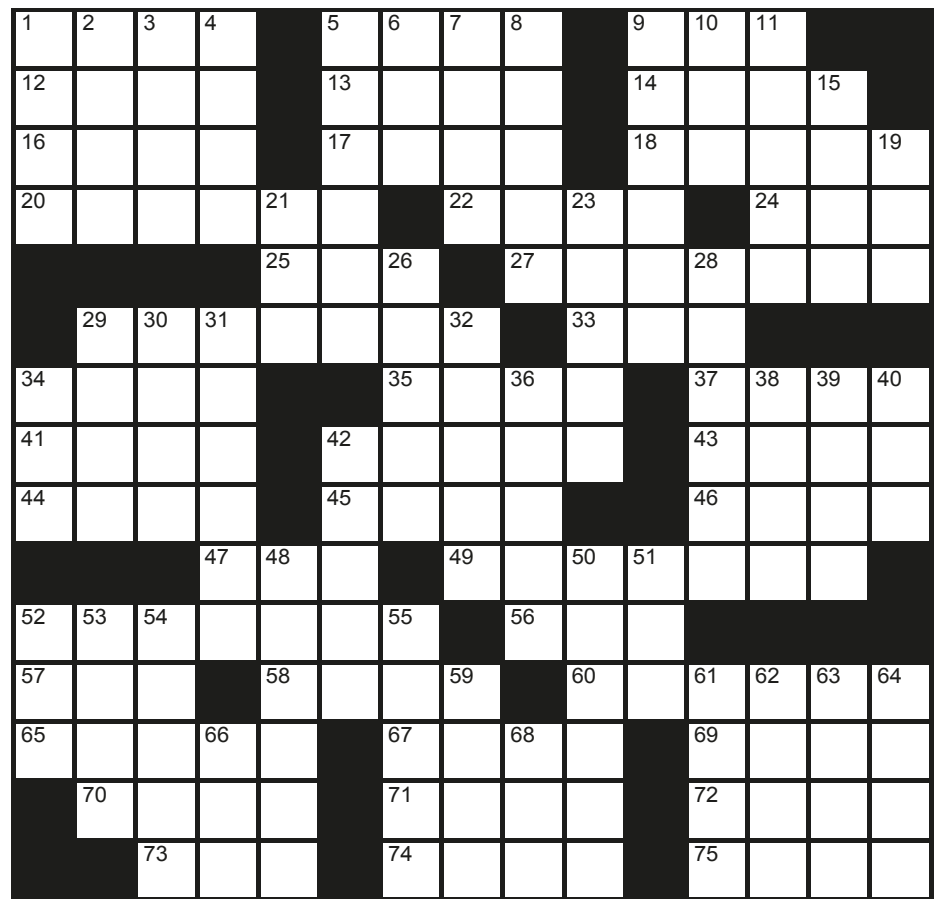
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Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Sluggish
- 5 Crease
- 9 Feathered stole
- 12 Dry riverbed
- 13 In addition
- 14 Corn units
- 16 Press
- 17 Family group
- 18 Pay for, like dinner
- 20 Grocery store
- 22 Cat sound
- 24 Comic Louis
- 25 Burgle
- 27 Marine food fish
- 29 Bullfighters
- 33 Caustic chemical
- 34 Ship route
- 35 Small amount
- 37 After heat or skin
- 41 Killer whale
- 42 Unlawful rate of interest
- 43 Great Lakes city
- 44 Afflictions
- 45 Arid
- 46 Solid
- 47 Lyric poem
- 49 Puget Sound city
- 52 Declaration of Independence endorsers
- 56 Box office sign
- 57 Devoured
- 58 Time zones
- 60 Showy
- 65 Jeans material
- 67 Kitchen, e.g.
- 69 Brain wave
- 70 Colliery
- 71 Edison's middle name

Down

- 72 Autos
 - 73 Finale
 - 74 Affirmative votes
 - 75 TV award
- Down**
- 1 Travel in water
 - 2 Zhivago's love
 - 3 Fragrance
 - 4 Blink of an eye
 - 5 Business area
 - 6 Annex
 - 7 Quickly, in memos
 - 8 Bills of fare
 - 9 Double cross
 - 10 Paddle
 - 11 Sports facility
 - 15 Utters
 - 19 French possessive
 - 21 Before (Poet.)
 - 23 Track event
 - 26 Gem State city
 - 28 Forlorn
 - 29 Hawaiian tuber
 - 30 Formerly
 - 31 Deduce
 - 32 Turns bad, like milk
 - 34 Depressed
 - 36 Forest members
 - 38 Seed cover
 - 39 King
 - 40 Skirt's edge

- 42 Consumers
- 48 Viewed as
- 50 More than one 3 Down
- 51 Rocky peak
- 52 Woeful
- 53 News bit
- 54 Magical wish granter
- 55 Digress
- 59 Seafood selection
- 61 Jim-dandy
- 62 He raised Cain
- 63 Duration
- 64 Effortless
- 66 Wayside stop
- 68 Egg cells



This Valentine's Day
Do Something For Someone You Love
Call the Home Office and Check your Beneficiaries Today!
1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Saint Valentine's Day, commonly known as **Valentine's Day** is observed on February 14 each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world; although it is a working day in most of them, Saint Valentine's Day is reportedly the second most celebrated holiday around the world second to New Year's Day.



St. Thomas A'Becket Fish Fry Begins Feb 15th

During the Lenten Season, St. Thomas A'Becket Church in Jefferson Hills, PA, will hold their Fish Fry beginning the first Friday of Lent, February 15, 2013. Following that, the Fish Fry will be scheduled every Friday in Lent, including Good Friday. They will be held in the School, 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hill, PA, 15025, from 3:30PM to 7:00PM.

The menu includes: fried fish dinners, baked fish dinners, shrimp dinners, fish sandwiches, tuna melt sandwiches, pizza, French fries, coleslaw, applesauce, haluski, soup, beverages, homemade desserts, a Kid's menu, a weekly "special" and more. The dinners include two (2) sides and a beverage. The Special for Good Friday will be pirohy (pierogy). Take outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

For more information, call Lynette Baldwin at 412-655-2885, ext 302, or 412-653-4322. Everyone is invited!

- Sister Mary JUDITH Seman, SCN

Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour 2013

If you have always wanted to take a tour of Slovakia and never got around to it, NOW IS THE TIME!! Slovakia is celebrating 10 years in the European Union in 2013 and is in the process of refurbishing all their buildings, churches, castles etc. See Slovakia at its finest.

Get started early, find out the names of the villages from your oldest living relatives and once your deposit is made we will help you in trying to locate family. Get out your walking shoes, practice your Slovak and get ready for the time of your life. We stay in the best hotels and you get a flavor of many different hotels, the food is great, our air conditioned bus is large and roomy with a bathroom. We have the finest guide in all of Slovakia and have access to translators for a fee if you want to visit your relatives. You pay these people directly; there is no middle man fee. We do a bus/ walking tour of Vienna, Bratislava, visit castles, white water raft on the Dunajec, have a picnic lunch, visit Nitra, Slovak Bethlehem, Trnava (little Rome of Slovakia) St Jacob's cathedral, Piestany (the spa town) attend a folk performance in Trencin, travel to the high Tatras and take a ride on the cog railway or gondola ride depending on the weather. We have several dinners in a koliba (a shepherd's cottage with Slovak cooking and music) and everyone lets their hair down and enjoys the evening.

Once again Jim and Kay Bench have agreed to host the tour, which is scheduled for July 9 - 23, 2013----If you have any questions please contact Jim or Kay at 724-684-5101 home—Jim's cell 724-858-5843-Kay's cell 724-771-7900 or e-mail them at jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure International Travel Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171----800-542-2487---Fax 216-228-7174 or www.adventure-intl.travel.com or e-mail Paul@aits.webmail.com.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Sign up for the trip of a lifetime.

For more on last year's successful tour, please see page 16 of this edition.



Shown here, the historical center of Trnava, one of the many places you will visit on the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour 2013.

Scenes from January Meetings in Toronto, Canada: Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba and Branch 785

The annual meetings of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba and Branch 785 were held Sunday Jan.13, 2013 in the parish hall of Sts. Cyril & Methodius church in Mississauga Ontario. 25 members gathered for a luncheon in the church hall preceding the meetings.

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

The annual report was presented by President Mike Kapitan. He thanked Emil Jursa for organizing the 2 Casino Rama trips and the weekly 50 /50 draws during the bowling season and at the picnic. He also thanked Jerry Siman for his great pictures and articles submitted to the Jednota. Fraternal Director John Tokarsky reviewed the Jednota bowling and golf tournaments held in the US. The annual Slovak Catholic Family Day picnic was held on Sunday Aug.12, 2012. There were over 500 in attendance.

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

President -Mike Kapitan: Vice president – Jim Szabo: Treasurer -John Tokarsky

Recording Secretary –Helen von Friedl: Fraternal Activities -John Tokarsky
Auditors - Ed Forma, Marilyn Jursa.

The second meeting was for Branch 785. President Milan Zoldak presented his annual report. Vice President Jim Szabo presented his annual report. Treasurer Ed Forma presented his report. All reports were accepted.

Jerry Siman reported on the great exposure we are getting in the Jednota paper. Kudo's to Editor - Teresa Ivanec for her endorsement of the articles submitted.

Regional Director Milos Mitro reviewed the events that took place in 2012 at the Board of Directors meetings.

Elected officers for Branch 785 are as follows:
President -Milan Zoldak: Vice President -Jim Szabo: Treasurer -Ed Forma:

Recording Secretary -Sharon Tomas: Public Relations -Jerry Siman:

Auditors – Irene Gorman, Helen von Friedl.



(L-R) Front row: Ed Forma, Marilyn Jursa, Helen von Friedl, and Milos Mitro. Back row: John Tokarsky, Jim Szabo, and Mike Kapitan

Submitted by Jerry Siman



(L-R) Olga Dobis, Anne Drblik, Margaret Dvorsky

(L-R) Emil Jursa, Marilyn Jursa, Jara Ragan



(L-R) Emil Jursa, giving oath of office to: Irene Gorman, Marilyn Jursa, and Jim Szabo

(L-R) Anne Mitro, Sharon Tomas, Mike Kapitan, Milan Zoldak, Milos Mitro



(L-R) Jana Puskar-Corny, Marta Zjavka, Anne Drblik



(L-R) Jerry Siman, Ed Forma, Jim Szabo, Helen von Friedl



(L-R) Mary Jursa, John Jursa, Al Fedor, Irene Gorman

Due to overwhelming response,
Special offer extended through
March 30, 2013

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



All applications must be
received in the Home Office
**postmarked on or
before March 30, 2013.**

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



FCSU LIFE
6611 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@aol.com
www.fcsu.com

**Higher amounts available - please contact
your Branch Officer or the Home Office*

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold its annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 24, 2013. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Ave., NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Mens Club in Father Dargay Hall.

The breakfast is free for all members of Branch 3, and the former St. Joseph Branch 226. Please - no parking in the school lot!

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2013. A Mass in honor of our patron St. Joseph will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Sts Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT.

Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award will be given to the following members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2012:

- Lauren Brainard
- Elizabeth Bruchansky
- Nicole Chichowski
- Wesley Kocurek
- Joseph Koller
- Lindsey Leska
- Robert Lorys, Jr.
- Edward Luchansky
- Salma Malik
- David O'Brien
- Stephen Panella
- Mark Philipp
- Brendan Prince
- Alyssa Pudill

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

We cordially invite our members to attend this meeting and our April 14, 2013, and June 9, 2013, meetings.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 invites all members to join us for our meeting and election of officers with a luncheon to follow on Saturday, February 16, 2013. Social time will be from 12:30 - 1:00pm. The meeting will be held from 1:00 - 2:00pm (approximately), with lunch to be served at 2:00pm.

Location: Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Cost: lunch for members is complimentary; guest's cost is \$20.00. Reservations: reservations must be made by February 12, 2013 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is necessary as the restaurant requires the number of people attending in advance. Payment: make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI, 53222. Meeting topics: some topics of discussion will be: Election of officers, donations, and 2013 activities.

Thank you.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 17, 2013, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting. For directions (if needed) or

for any address changes or questions, please call Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Branch 367, Fairchance, PA will hold its next regular meeting at the Olive Garden, 517 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 18, 2013. Any member that would like to attend please call Audrey Balazik, President 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary 724-569-1006.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 369 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 369K Donora, PA and Branch 670K Donora, PA.

All members of Branch 369K will now hold membership in Branch 670K.

This merger has taken place as of February 07, 2013.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: DOROTHY J PETRUS,

545 CASTNER AVE, DONORA, PA 15033-1814, (724) 379-5881.

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Sincerely,

**Kenneth A. Arendt,
National Secretary**

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, Scranton, PA, will hold its Annual March Meeting at noon on Sunday, March 3, 2013, in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Auditing of the books will take place before the meeting begins.

The agenda will include spring and summer plans, donations, District 17 news, and up-dates from the Home Office. Copies of the 2012 Annual Report to the Home Office will be available.

Light refreshments will be provided. All members are invited to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is president. Other officers are Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael Czankner, secretary; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. at Bob Evans of Uniontown, Route 40 W, Uniontown, PA.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Hello and Happy February to All! The following events are scheduled at TATRA HALL, on Sixth St. & Sherman Blvd:

We have Karaoke on Sat. the 16th; a fantastic Pork Steak Dinner will be served on the 23rd of February; and don't forget our "All you can eat" breakfast on the 24th. We also will have a Baked Good Sale along with the breakfast.

Come on in and support your club!

Laura Karafa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Officers for 2013 of Branch 731 elected at the annual branch meeting are Grace Kavulic, President; Irene Makovec, Vice-President; Jacquelyn Bobby, Financial Secretary, Edward Walko & John Kavulic, Auditors and Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary. On April 28, 2013 Mass will be celebrated to honor Saint Joseph our Branch Patron Saint. Liturgy at Noon will be at Saint Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Please try to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will cel-

brate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 10, 2013, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30 am at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 764 WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 held their monthly meeting on January 30, 2013 at Bella Women's Center.

We were happy to learn that we had 16 new members last year due in part to the JEP program. Future activity plans were discussed with several projects that haven't been done before.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at 12:00 noon at Bella Women's Center, 1192 North Park Road, NE, Warren, OH. All members are encouraged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday February 24 at 1pm in the basement of Holy Trinity R.C. Church. All members are invited to attend. We will be selecting delegates to attend the district meeting this spring. God Bless.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013. 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 the meeting starting at 2:00 pm. A delicious, catered dinner will be served. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. If you plan to attend, please notify District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810, so enough food and drinks can be ordered. Individual members of District 2 branches who wish to become active in district activities are also encouraged to attend.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 35 will host. Please RSVP by April 7 to Janet Sullivan at 412-824-4185 with the number of members attending.

The meeting agenda will include officers' reports and discussion of national and district business items. We will also discuss upcoming national and district events for 2013. Please email the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net if you have an item for the agenda or an upcoming Slovak cultural event that you would like to advertise. The Annual Meeting in the Fall is still in the planning phase. There is, as yet, no host branch. Please consider hosting and contact the district president in April.

Plan to attend the District Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 16. Branch 60 will host and district vice-president Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. Further details will be provided later.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meeting, 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 4: Slovakia Today vs the Slovakia or our Ancestors, Rev Johannes Oravec; April 1: Life of a Tammy, Katka Gallagher; May 6: Folk Customs of Eastern Slovakia, John Righetti; June 3: Overview of Slovak Folklore and Crafts, Larry Kosloski.

** Slovak Language Classes will be held Tuesdays in the spring. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-9000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** Saturday programs at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum in McMurray: March 23: Easter egg designs & Easter customs; April 27: Straw ornaments & nut cookies; September 21: Christmas in September. Guided tours are available by appointment. Call 1-800-488-1890.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is Thursday, July 18.

** The Pittsburgh Area Folk Ensemble will be performing at Slovak Day and at the McKeesport International Village on August 13, 14, & 15. Look for their booth at the craft pavilion.

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

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

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2013, at 1pm in the meeting room of Denny's Restaurant, 653 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

On the agenda will be election of officers for 2013 and district business.

Reservations are to be made by contacting President Marmol at (724) 937-0892 or Secretary Holly at (724) 438-0697 by Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Everyone is asked to contribute five dollars to the district to help cover the cost of their meal.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting Tuesday March 19, 2013, at St. Matthias Church Rectory, starting at 6:00pm. On the agenda will be summer activities, the casino bus trip, and open discussions of Jednota business.

Carla Peshek, President



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members



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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Louise Shimko	173K	Andrew A Husovsky	293K	Adam J Metz Jr	600K	Joseph D Cibik
019K	Karen Lastomirsky-hinckley	181K	Mary E Burik	308K	Robert Koneval	628K	Leonard E Cibulka
024K	Eleanor T Kushner	181K	John L Dlugos	313K	Elizabeth M Petro	682K	John K Bialik
024K	Helen T Petro	181K	Michael G Ludvik	320K	John F Simala	706K	Mary A Faculak
035K	Clement A Jurica	181K	Robert A Yesho	327K	Elmer C Pollock	738K	David Richard Kuzma
045K	Kvetoslava Gaba	199K	Marjorie R Forish	333K	John Kupka	754K	Philip Michael Yanok
055K	Robert H Dreyer Jr	199K	George R Lininger	335K	Chester A Owens	764K	John E Palenchar
055K	Elizabeth E Krason	240P	Francis A Shimo	388K	Cyril Yench Jr	796K	Irene I Strella
085K	Vivian Pitoniak	260K	Cecelia Ann Dolansky	425K	Stephen Beney Jr	831K	Josephine Dusko
089K	George Kotras	260K	Sr Dorothy Macey	456K	Stephen J Zahuranec	831K	Mildred West
090K	Lorraine M Malley	266K	Leo Koval	493K	Viola P Bartolai	831K	Joseph E Zilla Sr
153K	John R Ivancik	270K	Anna H Valo	512K	Virginia P Smetanka	855K	James B Lucak
153K	Edward J Kissel	278K	Elizabeth H Wahal	571K	Regina M Pramuk		
153K	Joseph P Pavlak	280K	Maryann Walkowiak	581K	Elizabeth M Drabik		
166K	Phillip B Cleary	293K	Hugh F Maloy Jr	581K	Frank J Vargo		
166K	Wanda Debnar	293K	Steve J Marek	584K	Mary M Bakos		

*Processed through the month of January 2013



Slovak Catholic Federation 35th Annual Slovak Catholic Federation SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic Fraternals, Religious Communities of men and women and nearly 300 Slovak Parishes. Today, in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the 35th Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal. The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic Fraternals, our Parishes and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2013 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in Churches of Slovak Decent across The United States and Canada and will continue to the end of the year.

The 2012 Appeal collected \$36,528.51

Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,309,266.25.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Pontifical College of Saints Cyril & Methodius, Rome, Italy. Due to the vision and efforts of Cardinal Joseph Tomko assisted by the late Bishop Andrew Grutka and many other Slovak Catholics from the United States and Canada this Seminary became a reality.

Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the Diocesan Churches in Slovakia both as Vicars and Bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those Religious Communities both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Conference of Religious.

The Slovak Catholic Federation, founded in 1911, under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The purpose of the Slovak Catholic Federation is to federate

individuals of Slovak origin under one banner; for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, Pastor of Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, PA. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. retired Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, PA. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA., is the Coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

In our Church today, we are finding more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak Parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak Parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation made out to the Slovak Catholic Federation, noting for the Annual Appeal, can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation:

Dolores Evanko
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201



Many Slovaks settled in the southside neighborhood of Youngstown, OH

February Talk in Youngstown, OH about Slovak Neighborhood

On Thursday, February 21st at 7pm, Mr. Gene DeCapua will give a presentation at a special meeting of the American Slovak Cultural Association to be held at the Rectory of St. Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows parish, 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH.

Mr. DeCapua will talk about the Lansingville area of the southside of Youngstown and the Slovaks who made their homes there. Mr. DeCapua is writing a book about Lansingville and gives a very enjoyable talk.

Please join us and invite your friends to come, too! This presentation is free and open to the public, and you do not need to be a member of ASCA. For more information please contact Loretta Ekoniak, Pres. ASCA at (330) 549-3760 or loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com.

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@aol.com

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

2012 Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour

By James M. Bench

The 2012 Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour was once again hugely successful gaining many superlatives from the seventeen tour members. Upon arrival in Bratislava, the group was warmly greeted during an audience with The Honorable Theodore Sedwick, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia. Ambassador Sedwick was most gracious and immediately established rapport as he spoke personally with each tour member. He was especially interested in the activities of the Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Program and lauded its accomplishments. The meeting was highlighted by an informative discussion of the current economic situation in Slovakia between Ambassador Sedwick and Dr. Jon Adan. Dr. John Adan (Zdan) was born and educated in Slovakia prior to his emigration to the United States via Ireland. He presently is a prominent Cardiovascular Surgeon in California. A brilliant man, Dr. Adan possesses a wealth of knowledge relative to the history and culture of Slovakia which certainly added to the tour. Dr. Adan looks forward to our July 2013 Tour, and will once again be a welcome participant.

Midway through the tour the group experienced the customary reception with our Sister City, Spišská Nová Ves. Slovaks individually, and in groups large as well as small have an extraordinary capacity to welcome people. And our sister city is a prime example. The reception began with delightful entertainment, and we were privileged to hear music and vocals performed by hugely talented people. The formal greeting was performed by the Deputy Mayor Lea Greckova in the absence of Mayor Jan Volny. Deputy Mayor Greckova is also a distinguished member of the Slovak National Parliament. During the formal ceremony all members of the group were requested to sign the official city register. Those interested were able to photograph the signatures as a memento of the visit. Following the formal ceremony, we were treated to a delicious dinner and an opportunity for informal conversations with the Deputy Mayor and members of her staff. Aisin previous years, a donation was presented to our sister city. The 2012 donation of \$3000.00 was to be applied to an emergency warning system which would benefit the citizens of the Spis district.

There were many highlights during the tour including the folk group performance in Trencin by the award winning youth group Kornicka, The group, under the direction of long time special friend, Jozef Duraci, was the gold medal winner in competition in Paris and Spain. Jozef and family go to great lengths to make the occasion memorable. His goulash, cooked personally, as well as bread, rolls, and pastries are unrivaled as are his blends of wine, borovicka, slivo and jablkovica which flowed amply. Jozef Duraci is a master of many talents, as are his wife and family. Our group will fondly remember the attempts of the Kornicka to teach us some basic steps of the Čerešnička Dance.

Father Martin Stefanic, also a special friend dating back to his graduate work at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, opened the Museum of the Mission Fathers in Nitra, and also provided refreshments. He graciously provided his car to transport some members of the tour to the Nitra Cathedral, which can be a challenging uphill walk. Sister Cities had recently donated \$2000.00 to the Mission Fathers to upgrade their communications system.

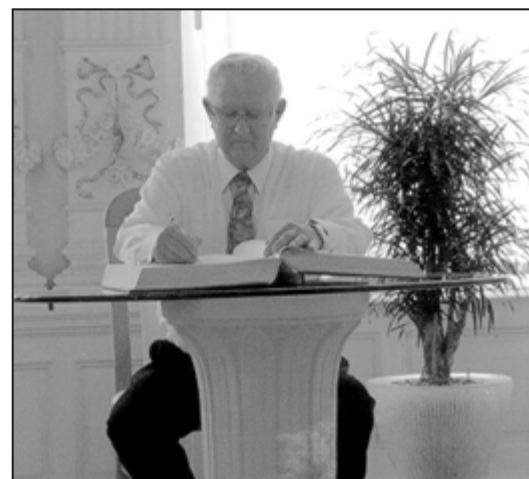
Our friends in Levoča, Jana Pietriova and family, went to great lengths at Hotel U Leva to ensure the comfort of the group. While there, we were entertained after dinner by local entertainers offering singing and dancing.

The Grand Hotel Praha in the Tatras remains majestic and a vision of past grandeur despite modern updating. Superb food is served in the beautiful dining room. It was while there that we enjoyed the first of several Koliba's while on the trip. It becomes difficult to choose a favorite hotel or city as each offer its own uniqueness and appeal. The aforementioned splendor of the Grand Hotel is contrasted by the quaint and friendly Hotel U Leva. The group was most comfortable in the Double Tree Hilton in Košice. The second largest city in Slovakia is extremely interesting, offering good shopping in addition to historical



(L - R) Dave and Phillip Sweda leaving Pittsburgh for Slovakia

Jim Bench signing the pre-official Spišská Nová Ves register



sites. Of course, the central location of the hotel with fine food and other accommodations provided a comfortable two days. To say that the Spa Hotel Kaskády in Sliac is gorgeous may be an understatement. In addition to visits to Banská Bystrica, Kremnica, and Banská Štiavnica, tour members were able to enjoy the amenities offered in the spa areas of the hotel.

Slovakia is a beautiful country and certainly not really discovered worldwide as a tourist attraction. That fact, however, is changing given the rapidly expanding recognition of its treatment spas. Sister Cities has been offering tours to help Americans of Slovak ancestry connect with their ancestral homeland since 1995. The 2012 tour was unique inasmuch as eight of the women were registered nurses including Kay Bench, Cathy Angelucci, Elaine Kovalcik, Frances Suprano, Janet Zumrick and Mona Lepis. The nurses were joined by Dr. John Adan mentioned previously. The fact that we had so many people with medical backgrounds was interesting in lieu of the close connection sister cities has had with the medical

continued from page 18

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Ready for the official toast at the Spišská Nová Ves Welcome Dinner



Robert Zumrick surprised by a relative from his ancestral village

Slovak Cultural Masterpiece in Grove City Pennsylvania

Gail A. Sisolak

Travelers researching trips to Slovakia are often enticed by tour companies promising visits to wood carvers and their art. What many don't realize is Pennsylvania is the home of a dramatically beautiful animated nativity scene hand carved in Slovakia.

Located in the Slovak Folk Crafts Shoppe in Gove City, PA, is a true cultural masterpiece. Carved from basswood, this unique work-of-art is 17 feet wide; eight feet tall; six feet deep and has 82 moving figures. Hand carved by three men in Slovakia and then shipped to Pennsylvania, it is the largest animated wood carving in the USA, said Slovak Folk Crafts Shoppe co-owner Dave Dayton.

The story of how the carving came to be located in Pennsylvania is almost as dramatic as the carving itself. After a 2000 business trip to Slovakia, an associate asked Dayton if he had time to see something "more beautiful than the Tatra Mountains." This query caught Dayton's interest, since the majestic range is beloved by those of Slovak heritage.

The two men drove to the little village of Rajecká Lesná. There they found a hidden treasure, the "Slovensky Bethlehem," a sculptural panorama with moving wooden figures representing the trades and culture of Slovakia.

This monumental work was designed and carved by one man, Master Jozef Pekara. After 15 years of work, he donated it to his local parish saying "This is for my Lord." The "Slovensky Bethlehem" is eight and one-half meters wide; two and one-half deep and three meters high.

Determined to learn more about this fascinating work-of-art, Dayton tracked Pekara down and the artist generously agreed to an interview. When asked if he would be interested in creating another diorama to be showcased in the USA, Pekara smiled with delight, but declined due to his advanced age. He did agree to design a similar feature. Dayton then set out to find younger artists with the advanced skills needed to complete Pekara's vision. Eventually, Dayton found Vladimir Tomko, and Miloš Karabin.

In September 2002, the three woodcarvers started work. The nativity scene is made from basswood, a species of tree also referred to as linden or lime in English. The linden is the national tree of Slovakia.

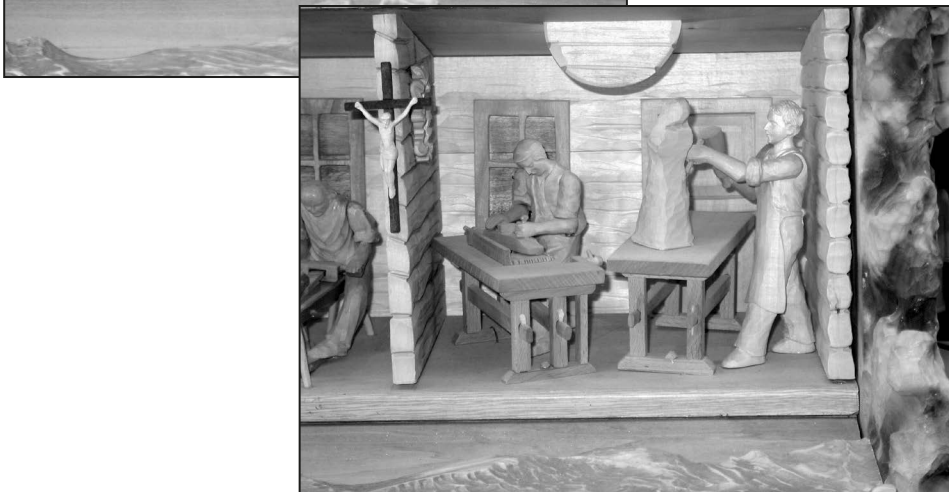
Basswood, a hardwood, is prized by woodcarvers, said Dayton. It is common, relatively soft, with very little grain. This makes it almost as easy to carve across as with the grain. The wood takes a water based stain easily, which gives carvers the opportunity to highlight their work. One of Dayton's favorite details is the way the artists used wood stain to highlight the west side of Tatra, just as they can be seen in real life. This attention to detail is evident throughout the piece.

The panorama is highly symbolic. The carving is twice as wide as it is tall, mimicking the dimensions of Slovakia. The artists took the care to place scenes from village life in their appropriate geographic locations. Crafts and trades found in Eastern Slovakia can be located on the Eastern part of the display. Three Cathedrals are located near to top of the carving, their crosses representing the Roman Catholic, Byzantine Catholic, and Greek Orthodox faiths.

A nativity scene forms the focal point, reminding viewers that Christ should be the center of our lives. The fanciful, animated figures surrounding the nativity depict everyday village life. They show wine making, ceramics production; blacksmithing, dancing, cutting and raking hay, farming, and butter churning. Dayton challenges visitors, particularly children, to locate the one fish, one cat and five dogs; although he admits he doesn't know if any of the dogs are the Slovak Cuvac.

The diorama was built in five pieces, each with its own drive system. The animation is done by an ingenious arrangement of pulleys, leather belts, gears and levers powered by six Volvo truck windshield wiper motors.

Admission to the wood carving at the Slovak Folk Crafts Shoppe is free and the owners have provided chairs in front of the display. The back of the display is open so visitors can see how the animation works.



Slovak Folk Crafts, a unique mission project, creates jobs for Slovak producers by importing beautiful, high-quality, handmade home decorating and gift items. All profit is donated to charitable religious, educational and cultural projects in Slovakia.

Slovak Folk Crafts is located in Grove City, PA at 1605 S. Center St. on Route 208, near the Grove City factory outlets. For more information, visit www.SlovakFolkCrafts.com.

About the author

World traveler and freelance writer/ photographer Gail A Sisolak has been publishing since 1999. You can find more images and a video of the Slovak Folk Crafts woodcarving on MAD2Go, <http://midatlantictavel.wordpress.com/>.

2012 Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour

continued from page 16

community in Slovakia. It is worth noting that numerous shipments of medical equipment were shipped to hospitals and medical facilities during their time of need in the early and mid 1990's, the value of which exceeded 15 million dollars. Other members of the group included Margaret Lawrence, a young teacher, Raymond Kovalcik proprietor of a machine company in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Eugene Matsko a retired Federal Service executive, Robert Zumrick with a long distinguished industrial career, and brothers David and Phillip Sweda. David's career was varied working in management with such firms as Kennametal and Hartford, while Phillip's career was mostly in cost analysis. Not to be outdone, our two Italian tour members were equally impressive. Robert Angelucci had a lengthy career working in a management capacity with General Electric, while Joe Suprano had a similar experience in industrial Latrobe.

It was indeed a pleasure traveling with such a distinguished, friendly, considerate and sharing group. We were fortunate to have had three people fluent in Slovak including Cathy Angelucci, Fran Suprano and of course Slovak born Dr. John Adan. This particular group enjoyed dancing with the smooth moves of Ray Kovalcik coming to the forefront. Ray Kovalcik was determined to waltz in Vienna and did so in the downtown square to the delight of the group. The search for ancestral villages and possible relatives was quite successful for those interested. Janet Zumrick, accompanied by her father Robert was astonished to actually find relatives who produced cherished family photographs from decades ago which included Roberts' father and grandparents. Frances and Joe Suprano were kept busy with Fran's relatives from near Bratislava as well as when the tour arrived in Kosice. Fran had been to Slovakia several times in the past and prior arrangements had been made. In similar fashion, Robert Matsko was able to meet family in various places around Presov. Ray and Elaine Kovalcik had a much easier time due to advance planning and the discovery that their grandparents were not only from Nova Lubovna, but also next door to each other. Upon checking into the Hotel U Leva in Levoča, the daughter-in-law of the hotel owner, Jana Pietriova recognized Dave and Phillip Sweda's name and village. It became distinctly apparent that they were possibly related. Following their visits to Lukov and Bardejov, Jana escorted Dave and Phillip and others interested to the nearby archives. To their delight, Dave and Phillip have been invited to the Pietri 2013 family reunion. Beverly Lawrence, accompanied by daughter Margaret, were able to make connections despite the distances between her paternal and maternal sides which included the villages of Hrabusice, and Stianvik in the Spis region plus villages in the Saris region such as Smilno and Zborov. Overall, the family searches and village visits were successful due in large measure to advance planning and the efforts of Anton Marek. The husband of our wonderful guide Viera, Anton, is a distinguished author of Slovak history, and always makes himself available in assisting our tour members.

The 2012 tour members may fondly remember the individual contributions of fellow travelers as well as the Slovak people. Ray Kovalcik, followed his waltz in Vienna with continued enthusiasm during the welcome dinner. David Sweda also proved to be more than just average as did the rest of the group when we got "warmed up". We recall the wit, humor and enthusiasm of Robert Zumrick who kept the group in good spirits. It is little wonder that daughter Janet is so personable. Our heritage tour was graced once again by Mona Lepis who was on the previous tour. She is the best friend of Kay Bench with the friendship dating back to their nurses training days, and her sparkling enthusiastic personality was highly evident throughout the tour. Neither of the two is of Slovak heritage, but has deep affection for Slovakia and the Slovak people. Because of her many charitable projects assumed over the years, Kay often is referred to as a "man made Slovak." Fresh fruit almost on a daily basis was enjoyed on the bus thanks to the persistence of Phillip Sweda who daily searched the local markets for blackberries, raspberries and other delights. Thank you Phillip, you are one of a kind. Not to be outdone, and virtually unknown to most, David Sweda usually rewarded the helping service people with small gifts. He certainly served as a good will ambassador. Despite a heavy schedule of visiting his wife's relatives coupled with the customary overabundance of food and drink, Joe Suprano held up in admirable fashion. Probably the most traveled couple in the group, Bob and Cathy Angelucci were highly supportive throughout relative to the quality of the food, entertainment, attractions and overall accommodations. The comparisons of their other trips were highly positive and appreciated.



Košice Named 2013 European Capital of Culture



Košice, along with Marseille, France, has been designated the European Capital of Culture by the European Union for 2013. There are hundreds of events planned in the city, starting in January. Košice, the second largest city in Slovakia, has a long and rich history and is situated on the river Hornád at the eastern reaches of the Slovak Ore Mountains.

For more go to www.slovak.org/kosice.htm or see the video at <http://www.fcsu.com/slovakia-and-the-world>



Deputy Mayor Lea Greckova with the office welcome from Sister City Spišská Nová Ves



Kay Bench with Father Martin Stefanic

In similar fashion, Bob Matsko, a relative frequent traveler to Slovakia was a knowledgeable welcome addition providing input at appropriate times. Dr. John Adan was, Dr. John Adan, with a seemingly inexhaustible knowledge of Slovakia and a myriad of other things. Thank you, Beverly Lawrence for bringing your daughter Margaret. Meg as we called her, by far the youngest in the group was a positive delight thoroughly enjoying all aspects of the daily agenda, and participated wholeheartedly throughout the tour.

Our favorite restaurant in Svätý Jur was the site of the farewell dinner and included wine tasting. The generous and gracious restaurant owner certainly exceeded the usual presentation of various wines. Following the twelfth sample, people inquired as to the number of wines we were to sample to which he replied, "How many do you wish?" We finally had a unanimous "dost"(enough).

Finally, there is no disputing that Viera Marecova is the best tour guide in Slovakia. Her collaboration with husband Anton in writing Slovak history, coupled with performing in folk groups during her younger years provides her with a unique blend of historical and cultural knowledge. Who could not love the energy, talent and friendliness that she consistently demonstrates. It was a great tour.

Join us on our Sister Cities 16th. Heritage Tour July 9-23, 2013 by contacting Jim and Kay Bench at 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure International Travel Service 216-228-7171--800-542-2487. The officers and board members of Sister Cities receive no form of remuneration or expense money. For more information, please check out our website at www.youngstownsistercities.com

Editor's note: James M. Bench, Vice President of the Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Program, is a retired Professor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Supreme Court, First Catholic Slovak Union and an active member of Branch 181.



St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5, of Exeter, PA, recently presented a \$50.00 check to Branch Member Adam Rubino in supplement to the national educational scholarship he was awarded through the First Catholic Slovak Union. Here, Branch 5 Financial Secretary/Treasurer Martha Zavada is shown with Adam, who is starting his second semester at Misericordia University in Dallas, PA.

News From Slovakia

Eurozone Leaders to Discuss Way Out of Crisis in Bratislava

Bratislava, February 1 (TASR) - Solutions for the ongoing crisis in the eurozone will be the main topic of a prestigious conference of economic and political leaders of the European Union countries joined together in the eurozone in Bratislava on February 19-20.

The conference – entitled 'Creating Real Economic and Monetary Union' – is being organized by the Centre for European Affairs (CEA) in association with the Brussels-based think-tank Bruegel and the Financial Policy Institute of the Slovakia's Finance Ministry.

Among others, the event is expected to host member of the executive board of the European Central Bank Jorg Asmussen; President of the Euro Working Group and chairman of the Economic and Financial Committee Thomas Wieser; head of the Bruegel think-tank Jean Pisani-Ferry; and vice-president of the European Commission Maros Sefcovic. In addition, a number of EU-member states' foreign and finance ministers have already confirmed their interest.

The conference will be held under the auspices of Slovakia's Finance Minister Peter Kazimir. The objective of the event is to open a broader public and specialist discussion on the proposed solutions of the economic crisis within the European Union – specifically focusing on the 17 EU member countries joined in the eurozone.

"We're convinced that Slovakia - as the only Visegrad Four country [the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia] which is part of the eurozone - is capable of initiating such a debate," asserted founding member of the CEA and permanent representative of Slovakia to the European Union Ivan Korcok.

Slovak Athletes at 2013 Special Olympics Win 12 Medals

Bratislava, February 3 (TASR) – Mentally challenged athletes from the Slovak delegation at the 2013 Special Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, on this date repeated their successes from the previous week, obtaining another six medals for alpine and cross-country skiing and bringing the total medal count to 12, according to Michaela Guldanova of the Slovak Special Olympics Association on Sunday.

Two golds in various cross-country skiing categories were presented to Gabriela Petrovicova (100m classic style) and to Vladimira Vancova (500m freestyle). A silver medal in the same category went to Milan Pumpa and a bronze went to Roman Pollak.

As for alpine skiing categories, another gold was presented to Marianna Vojtkova and a silver medal was awarded to Darina Krihova.

The 2013 World Winter Games in South Korea opened on January 29, featuring athletes who are mentally challenged. The 21-member Slovak delegation set off for the Games on Friday (the 25th). As well as the athletes competing in alpine and cross-country skiing, there are also two figure skaters.

Slovak Job Centers Offer More than 500 Job Opportunities in Europe

Bratislava, February 2 (TASR) - Slovak job centers within the European Employment Services (EURES) project currently are offering more than 500 job vacancies to Slovak nationals in one of the 30 European Economic Area (EEA) member states.

Meanwhile, most of the vacancies are being offered in Germany (215) and in Spain (75), ahead of dozens of jobs in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Foreign employers are particularly interested in industrial workers, health-care and social-care sectors workers; for example, a large demand is for careers in German-speaking countries. In addition, Slovaks may also find themselves employed as staff in hotels and restaurants, as well as at construction sites.

The EURES project comes under the remit of the European Commission. In Slovakia, it is overseen by the Labor, Social Affairs and the Family Center (UPSVar). Individual job centers in Slovakia are obliged to inform, counsel and provide advice to all potential applicants who'd like to pursue their career outside Slovakia, to keep records of foreign job opportunities and to organize job interviews.

Audience for Slovak Concert in Brussels Almost 1,000 Strong

Brussels, February 1 (TASR) - The traditional New Year's concert of the Slovak Republic in Brussels ended with long applause in the late evening of this date. It was organized under the auspices of Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak, who said that the event was extraordinary also because Slovakia currently is commemorating the 20th anniversary of its independent existence and Kosice boasts the title '2013 European Capital of Culture'.

In his official speech, Lajcak stressed that Slovaks also are commemorating the 1150th anniversary of the arrival of Thessaloniki brothers St. Cyril and Methodius to their land.

The Foreign Minister thanked Slovak Ambassador to Belgium Jan Kuderjavy, head of Slovakia's permanent representation at the EU Ivan Korcok and EU Commissioner Maros

Sefcovic for the preparation of the concert.

The concert featured Slovak opera singers Adriana Kucerova, Eva Hornyakova, Miroslav Dvorsky and Otokar Klein, accompanied by Gustav Brom's Radio Big Band.

Among the invited guests were members of the Belgian royalty, top political representatives of the country, senior EU representatives and diplomats, members of the European Parliament as well as Slovak compatriots.

Fifth Special Task Force Regiment in Zilina Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Zilina, February 1 (TASR) - The Fifth Special Task Force Regiment in Zilina is a combat unit that makes Slovakia proud of its excellent performance in international crisis management, Defense Minister Martin Glvac said at a ceremonial gathering of the regiment to mark its 20th anniversary in Zilina on this date.

"The situation in Afghanistan is being discussed intensely, along with our possible deployment in the country until 2014. This is a topic of discussion with NATO and the U.S.A. This is our ambition, and this is where we'll rely heavily on the Fifth Special Task Force Regiment," said Glvac.

The special regiment is trained to intervene against well-armed forces in restricted crisis areas.

"The key events in which we've intervened include the deployment in the Iraqi Freedom operation and the Althea mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One hot issue is the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, where 20 of our troops are carrying out special operations for the first time in our history," said regiment commander Lubomir Sebo.

Slovakia Ranks among Top 25 Countries in Press Freedom Index Table

Bratislava, January 31 (TASR) - Slovakia placed 23rd in the 'Reporters Without Borders' Annual Press Freedom Index, leaving behind such key media players as the U.S.A. (32), France (37) and Great Britain (29).

Slovakia ended up with a ranking of 13.25 on a scale where zero indicates an absolute freedom of the press, improving its standing from the 25th to the 23rd position in the index.

In terms of Slovakia's neighbors, it was only Austria (12) and the Czech Republic (16), which were given a better ranking than Slovakia. Hungary saw the most negative trend, when it tumbled from 40th posted in 2011 to the 56th place in the current index. Ukraine finished 126th.

Finland retained its place at the top with a ranking of 6.38. The least ideal places in terms of freedom of the press are said to be Syria, North Korea and Eritrea.

'Reporters Without Borders' annually assesses freedom of the press in 179 countries.

Turkish Prime Minister to Visit Slovakia in February

Bratislava, January 30 (TASR) - Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is scheduled to pay an official visit to Slovakia on February 5-6 following an invitation to this effect from Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, TASR learnt on Wednesday.

Aside from bilateral talks with Fico, Erdogan is set to meet other Slovak top officials as well as participate in talks that will mainly address mutual ties along with current European and international issues.

Despite Turkey's stalled accession talks with the European Union, Slovakia favours Ankara's further approximation to the EU.

Whilst Turkey has had the status of an EU candidate country since 1999 and accession talks were launched in 2005, the process ground to a halt later over the intractable issue of Cyprus and opposition of some EU leaders to Turkey's EU membership bid.

Slovak Military Mission in Middle East to be Extended

Bratislava, January 28 (TASR) - The Defense Ministry proposes to extend the mandate of the Slovak Armed Forces members active in the UNTSO mission in the Middle East.

The proposal is designed to change their area of operations as well as tasks, but not increase the overall maximum number of soldiers deployed.

Out of five soldiers Slovakia can send to this UN mission, two are deployed for the moment, serving as military observers that supervise the truce between Israel and Syria from the Golan Heights.

One of the key proposed changes is to extend the mandate of the Slovak Armed Forces to the whole UNTSO mission, designed to prevent conflicts between Israel and neighboring Arab countries. Such a move would allow Slovak soldiers to operate also in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

According to the mandate, the UNTSO mission is scheduled to be funded by the Defense Ministry and the payments should amount to €178,000.

The Men's and Women's 2nd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, 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 Ladies Association, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, and the National Slovak Society, wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Buffalo, NY, in this rapidly growing tournament.

The 2nd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at AMF Airport Lanes-Buffalo, 3754 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The tournament will be held the weekend of May 3-5, 2013. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 3, at 5:45 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 15, 2013. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. PRIZE FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

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

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

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, 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 2011-2012 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2011-2012 season and with at least 21 games in the 2012-2013 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU, LPSCU, NSS, or FCSLA 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, 2013, 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 comprising of 2 men and 2 women 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 seven (7) 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 seven (7) entries.

HANDICAPS: MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. WOMEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the submitted average. Women participating in mixed teams or doubles will have a handicap of 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 45 pins. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent. All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee. Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

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

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

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

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

Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM	5/3		
DOUBLES & SINGLES	5/4		

2013 May 3 - 4, 2013
 Entries Close
 March 15, 2013

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 2nd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

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

AMF Airport Lanes-Buffalo
3754 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Entry Fees

Prize Fee.....	\$7.00
Bowling Fee (3games).....	\$6.75
Tournament Fee.....	\$3.25
Total Each Event	\$17.00

Optional Events

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

Banquet Fees

Member	\$25.00
Total Included	\$ _____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

Mail to:
 Susan 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, May 3rd
 Registration 5:00 PM
 Bowlers: 6:00 PM
 8:30 PM
 1st Team Events
 2nd Team Events

Saturday, May 4th
 Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM
 1st Doubles/Singles
 2nd Doubles/Singles

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.

V roku 1150. výročia príchodu vierozvestcov na Slovensku budú mnohé podujatia

Pri príležitosti slávania 1150. výročia príchodu vierozvestcov svätých Cyrila a Metoda na územie našich predkov sa počas roka 2013 uskutočnia v celej SR početné duchovné a kultúrne podujatia približujúce život a misiu týchto solúnskych bratov. Na programe sú bohoslužby, katechézy o odkaze sv. Cyrila Metoda, prednášky o význame ich misie, konferencie, výstavy, prezentácie kníh a ďalšie.

Na území dnešného Slovenska síce už bolo kresťanstvo pred príchodom solúnskych bratov, ako to potvrdzujú viaceré archeologické nálezy napríklad z Bratislavy-Rusoviec, alebo odkrytie ranokresťanskej kaplnky na Devíne pochádzajúcej zo 4. storočia. Svätí Cyril a Metod však priniesli našim predkom evanjelium v im zrozumiteľnom jazyku, písmo - hlaholiku, ktoré vytvoril Konštantín-Cyriľ ešte pred odchodom na Veľkú Moravu, kam prišli v roku 863, a preložil do slovenskej reči základné dokumenty kresťanskej viery, napríklad výber z evanjeliových čítaní - Evanjeliár. Umožnili tak šírenie kresťanstva, kultúry a vzdelania na tomto území. Významná je skutočnosť, že sa im podarilo v Ríme presadiť u pápeža Hadriána II. to, aby sa slovenská reč stala ďalším liturgickým jazykom, v ktorom sa mohli konať kresťanské bohoslužby.

Medzi aktivitami v Roku sv. Cyrila a Metoda sú takmer každý mesiac prednášky predstavujúce verejnosti, najmä mládeži, osobnosť svätých vierozvestcov, v rímsko a gréckokatolíckych kostoloch budú spomienkové podujatia napríklad pri príležitosti úmrtia sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda, v Trebišove pripravujú výstavu zreštaurovaných liturgických kníh a predmetov, v apríli sa v Košickej arcidiecéze uskutoční konferencia Viera a veda za spoluúčasti Slovenskej akadémie vied. Jedným z podujatí plánovaných v júni 2013 je požehnanie sochy sv. Konštantína Filozofa pred rovnomenou Univerzitou v Nitre. Slovaných vierozvestcov priblížia verejnosti aj výstavy kníh s tematikou svätých Cyrila a Metoda, uskutočnia sa viaceré púte, napríklad v Nitre, na Velehrade a iných miestach.

Už vo februári 2013 (v dňoch 11.-15. februára) sa bude konať Púť k hrobu svätého Cyrila v Ríme pod záštitou Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS), Matice slovenskej a Fóra kresťanských inštitúcií.

Viaceré aktivity sa uskutočnia pri príležitosti štátneho sviatku svätého Cyrila a svätého Metoda v SR - 5. júla. Je medzi nimi aj púť v Nitre, bohoslužby a iné akcie. Deň slovaných vierozvestcov si 5. júla pripomínajú aj v Českej republike. Pod názvom Deň slovenskej písomnosti a kultúry slávia sviatok svätých Cyrila a Metoda aj v Ruskej federácii či na Ukrajine 24. mája a štátnym sviatkom pod názvom Deň Cyrila a Metoda je 24. máj i v Bulharsku.

Pápež Ján Pavol II. v decembri 1980 vyhlásil svätých bratov Cyrila a Metoda za spolupatrónov Európy a tento cirkevný sviatok sa slávi 14. februára. V rámci Roku sv. Cyrila a Metoda sa koná v Bratislavskej arcidiecéze aj cyklus rozjímaní s názvom Obnovme našu vieru, ktoré vedie arcibiskup Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Slávenie Roka svätých Cyrila a Metoda na Slovensku vyvrcholí koncom decembra 2013.



Warholove múzeá v Medzilaborciach a USA sa pripravujú na intenzívnu spoluprácu

O tvorbu zakladateľa pop-artu Andyho Warhola sa zaujíma stále viac ľudí na Slovensku, ako aj v okolitých krajinách. Potvrdzujú to napríklad minuloročné údaje o návštevnosti Múzea moderného umenia A. Warhola (MMUAW) v Medzilaborciach či výstav jeho diel v zahraničí. Medzilaborecké múzeum si chce udržať svoju popularitu aj v nasledujúcom období. V tejto súvislosti plánuje propagáciu tvorby spomínaného umelca doplniť o úzku spoluprácu s Warholovým múzeom sídliacim v americkom Pittsburghu.



Ilustračná snímka: TASR

Prezident SR I. Gašparovič v Múzeu moderného umenia A. Warhola v Medzilaborciach.

Domáce expozície Warholovho múzea, výstavy jeho diel v Medzilaborciach i zahraničné výstavy na území Poľska a Nemecka si prišlo vlni pozrieť takmer 29,000 ľudí. Východoslovenskému múzeu sa tak svojou zbierkou, ako aj zapožičaním Warholových diel podarilo zoznámiť s jeho tvorbou oveľa väčší počet priaznivcov umenia ako v predchádzajúcich rokoch.

V porovnaní so sezónou 2011 ide o nárast návštevnosti až o 49,35 percenta. Podiel návštev zahraničných priaznivcov umenia vďaka expozíciám či výstavám v Medzilaborciach, ale i výstavám v iných krajinách, narástol v sezóne 2012 oproti predchádzajúcemu roku zo 44 na 63 percenta. Medzilaborecké múzeum chce v sezóne 2013 nadviazať na minuloročné úspechy novými výstavami, ako aj dlho očakávanou spolupracou s pittsburským The Andy Warhol Museum. O plánovanom prepojení oboch kultúrnych inštitúcií informoval v júni minulého roka v Medzilaborciach samotný synovec zosnulého zakladateľa popartu Donald G. Warhola.

„Som si vedomý geografickej vzdialenosti oboch inštitúcií, avšak vďaka moderným technológiám je dnes možné vzdialenosti skracovať,“ uviedol vtedy Warhola na margo plánovanej spolupráce. Návštevníci pittsburského, ako aj medzilaboreckého kultúrneho stánku by tak mohli v blízkej dobe komunikovať v rovnakom čase prostredníctvom telefónu či internetu a zúčastňovať sa virtuálnou formou na rôznych akciách a podujatiach. „Zmyslom je rozšírenie sféry zážitkov návštevníkov múzea tu aj v Pittsburghu,“ ozrejmil Warhola.

Suchá na margo spolupráce oboch múzeí povedala, že jej ucelená podoba zatiaľ s americkou stranou dohodnutá ešte nie je. „Máme za sebou niekoľko rokovaní, je to momentálne stále ešte vo vývine,“ podotkla s tým, že konkrétne podmienky „prepojenia“ oboch inštitúcií by mali byť známe ešte v prvej polovici tohto roka.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Kostol sv. Cyril a Metoda v Poprade

Na snímke drevené súsošie vierozvestcov svätého Cyrila a Metoda nad hlavným oltárom Kostola svätého Cyrila a Metoda na sídlisku Juh v Poprade 27. januára 2013.

Wooden statues of SS. Cyril and Methodius stand on the main altar of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Poprad. The photo was taken on January 27, 2013.

Slovenský krištál' skrášľuje priestory Európskej služby pre vonkajšiu činnosť

Šéfka európskej diplomacie Catherine Ashtonová 31. januára na zasadaní Rady EÚ pre zahraničné záležitosti v Bruseli pochválila šéfa slovenskej diplomacie Miroslava Lajčáka za to, že slovenský krištál' bude skrášľovať priestory Európskej služby pre vonkajšiu činnosť (EEAS), ktorú riadi. V priestoroch, kde bude Ashtonová vítať svojich hostí a budú sa organizovať recepcie, všetci hostia budú piť zo slovenského krištálu. Ashtonová ešte vlni v decembri vyzvala európskych diplomatov a členské štáty Únie, aby jej vyšli v ústrety a aby priestory EEAS boli do istej miery svedectvom, čo národy v EÚ dokážu.

Lajčák pripomenul, že Slovensko nie je jediným darcom vybavenia budovy EEAS, nakoľko Maďarsko dodalo taniere a Švédsko oznámilo, že zabezpečí príbory. „To, že ma Ashtonová požiadala o krištál', je dôkazom toho, že Slovensko je dobre známe výrobou svojho krištálu. Myslím si, že je to dobrá reklama pre Slovensko,“ konštatoval Lajčák.

Na otázku, či ide o sponzorský dar alebo o vlastné zdroje slovenského rezortu diplomacie, Lajčák uviedol, že išlo o vlastné zdroje ministerstva. Náklady na zabezpečenie tohto daru boli menšie, než sa pôvodne čakalo, avšak efekt bude oveľa väčší, než si ľudia na Slovensku vedia predstaviť, dodal.

TASR



Hrdých Slovákov vlni pribudlo

Slovákov, ktorí sú hrdí na svoju vlasť, vlni pribudlo. Kým v roku 2011 dôvody na hrdosť videlo 49 percent opýtaných, vlni to bolo už 60. Výsledky vyplynuli z prieskumu, ktorý realizoval Inštitút pre verejné otázky (IVO) v spolupráci s agentúrou Focus v dňoch 7. až 13. novembra 2012 na vzorke 1013 respondentov. Podľa analytikov IVO sa pod tento výsledok podpísal výkon slovenských športovcov, predovšetkým hokejistov na svetovom šampionáte. „Dôležitou okolnosťou sa stalo aj 20. výročie od vzniku samostatnej SR, ktoré zrejme vytvorilo príležitosť na povznesenie sa nad aktuálne problémy a hodnotenie celkového vývoja v dlhodobejšej perspektíve,“ uvádza inštitút v správe k prieskumu.

Respondenti sa vyjadrovali, či súhlasia s názorom, že občania SR môžu byť hrdí na svoju vlasť, keby mali zhodnotiť, čo krajina dosiahla za obdobie samostatnosti. Oproti 60 percentám kladných odpovedí stála necelá tretina záporných. V roku 2011 pritom záporne odpovedalo 46 percent. Najviac hrdých Slovákov bolo spomedzi voličov Smeru-SD (71 percent), nasledovalo KDĽ (69 percent), SaS a SDKÚ-DS (zhodne 68 percent) a OĽaNO (64 percent). Najviac ľudí - 29 percent označilo za dôvod hrdosti úspechy športovcov, najmä hokejistov, 17 percent uviedlo členstvo v EÚ, desať percent existenciu samostatného štátu a jeho životaschopnosť, deväť percent vstup do eurozóny a päť percent ekonomický rozvoj a reformy. Naopak, ako zdroje hanby menovali opýtaní najčastejšie neschopnosť politických strán a politikov konať vo verejnom záujme (23 percent), taktiež aj korupciu, klientelizmus a rozkrádanie štátu (19 percent), chudobu, nezamestnanosť, odchod za prácou do zahraničia (14 percent), postavenie Rómov v spoločnosti (8 percent) a stav súdnictva (6 percent).

Ľudia považujú za najväčšie problémy nezamestnanosť (64 %), polovica respondentov označila za problém životnú úroveň a sociálne istoty, do trojice najpálčivejších problémov opýtaní zaradili aj korupciu, klientelizmus a netransparentnosť.

TASR

Oznamy a spoločenské podujatia

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti

Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 10. marca 2013 o 1.00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street, New York City. Podujatie sa koná v spolupráci Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana a Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského katolíckeho sokola a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov.

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

Presný program bude k dispozícii pred oslavou. Počas programu bude možnosť zakúpenia slovenského jedla a rôznych nápojov v otvorenom bare. O bližšie informácie volajte: Milan a Henrieta Dait (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084. Vstup je voľný.

Nová publikácia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike – Slovakia 2013

V januári t.r. vyšlo nové číslo publikácie Slovenskej ligy v Amerike – SLOVAKIA 2013.

Je to tematicky bohaté číslo na 211 stranách, najväčšie z doterajších vydaní Slovakia. Táto publikácia obsahuje bohatý výber článkov z oblasti kultúry a novodobej histórie Slovenska, ako aj recenzie publikácií, ktoré majú vzťah k Slovensku.

Slovenská liga v Amerike dodáva Slovákovi do popredných knižníc a vedeckých inštitúcií ako i viacerým zainteresovaným jednotlivcom. Touto publikáciou, vydávanou na akademickej úrovni, Slovenská liga pomáha šíriť informovanosť o slovenskej kultúre a histórii. Redaktorom je už mnoho rokov univerzitný profesor M. Mark Stolarik, PhD.

Slovákovi 2013 si možno objednať v kancelárii Slovenskej ligy za \$10.00, vrátane poštovného. Predchádzajúce ročníky sú na predaj za \$5.00, vrátane poštovného.

Objednávky majú byť poslané na adresu: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St, Passaic, NJ 07055.

Otvoria Centrum biskupa Grutku vo Whiting, IN

Calumet College of St. Joseph vo Whiting, Indiana si uctí pamiatku slovenského národovca biskupa Andreja G. Grutku, ktorý v tomto meste pôsobil od roku 1957 do r. 1984. Dňa 22. februára otvoria v tomto meste v priestoroch Calumet College of St. Joseph Centrum biskupa Grutku (Bishop Andrew G. Grutka Center). Na slávnostnom otvorení prehovorí viacerí verejní činitelia, vrátane bývalého primátora mesta Gary, Richarda Hatcher, s ktorým biskup Grutka mnoho rokov spolupracoval. Medzi rečníkmi bude aj mons. Jozef P. Semancik, PhD, ktorý spravoval katolícku charitu počas pôsobenia biskupa Grutku.

Biskup Grutka sa narodil v Joliet, Ill. 11. novembra 1908. Jeho rodičia pochádzali zo Spiša. Základné vzdelanie získal v osadnej škole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Joliet, Illinois. Po vysokoškolskom štúdiu v St. Procopius Academy v Lisle, Ill. a na Illinois Benedictine University dokončil teologické štúdiá v Ríme na North American College.

Za kňaza bol vysvätený v Ríme 5. decembra 1933. Po pôsobení v dvoch farnostiach sa stal v roku 1944 farárom slovenskej farnosti Najsv. Trojice v Gary, kde vybudoval aj nový kostol. Začiatkom roka 1956 ho pápež Pius XII. povýšil na monsignora a v decembri 1956 ho menoval za biskupa novoutvorenej diecézy Gary, Indiana. Vysvätený a inštalovaný bol 25. februára 1957.

Biskup Andrej Grutka bol významným americkoslovenským činiteľom. Pôsobil ako protektor Združenia slovenských katolíkov, bol doživotným členom Slovenskej ligy, bol spoluzakladateľom Svetového kongresu Slovákov a jeho doživotným čestným predsedom a tiež zakladateľom nadácie na podporu Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme.

ZSK organizuje zbierku pre Cirkev na Slovensku

Združenie slovenských katolíkov (ZSK) organizuje v mesiaci februári 2013 už 35. rás zbierku pre pomoc katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku. Jedným cieľom tejto zbierky je aj financovanie Slovenského Ústavu v Ríme, ktorý Slováci v Amerike pomohli vybudovať a dosiaľ ho pomáhajú financovať prostredníctvom Združenia slovenských katolíkov. Z tohto fondu dostávajú podporu aj mužské a ženské rehole na Slovensku.

V priebehu februára sa v mnohých slovenských (i bývalých slovenských) kostoloch konajú zbierky v rámci tejto akcie. Vláňajšia zbierka vyniesla obnos \$36,528.00. Dary na túto zbierku sú odpočítateľné na daňovom priznaní. Jednotlivci, ktorí chcú prispieť na túto zbierku môžu poslať svoje dary na adresu pokladničky ZSK: Ms Dolores Evanko, 173 Berner Ave, Hazleton, PA 18201 Šeky majú byť vystavené na Slovak Catholic Federation.

ÚSZZ žiada pomoc pri pátraní príbuzných

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí požiadal Slovenskú ligu o pomoc pri pátraní po príbuzných Juliusa Kamenského. Ide o brata jeho starého otca Michala Kamenského, narodeného 25. septembra 1890 v Hriňovej a jeho manželky Márie, rod. Semeniakovej. Podľa dostupných údajov Michal Kamenský zomrel v r. 1967 vo veku 77 rokov a má byť pochovaný na cintoríne sv. Jozefa v Johnstown, Pa. Ich posledná adresa bola 215 Woodvale Ave, Johnstown.

M. Kamenský potrebuje zistiť, či brat jeho starého otca Michal Kamenský mal nejaké deti a prípadne vnukov. Kto by mal o nich nejaké informácie, môže ich poslať písomne, cez e-mail alebo telefonicky Slovenskej lige v Amerike (205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055, tel. 973-472-8993, e-mail: holylnina@aol.com

Halový futbalový turnaj

Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City zorganizoval 19. januára 2013 Halový futbalový turnaj. Hlavnými organizátormi boli Jozef Korčák a Ján Zeman.

Súťaže sa zúčastnili štyri mužstvá: Fofo, Kostol, Superstar a Czechoslovakia. Atmosféra a snaha súťažiacich bola vynikajúca. Víťazom sa stalo mužstvo Czechoslovakia. Po súťaži sa všetci pohostili gulášom, ktorý pripravil športový referent Ján Zeman.

Jozef Juráši, športový referent



Spoločná fotografia všetkých zúčastnených členov a hostí Halového futbalového turnaja 2013.

Slávnostný ceremoniál odovzdávania ocenení vo Washingtone, DC

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

neziskovej organizácie, ktorej misiou je podpora všestranných vzťahov medzi Slovenskou republikou a USA. J. Senko sa taktiež aktívne venuje práci výkonného riaditeľa Slovenskej kultúrnej asociácie západnej Pennsylvánie. Vo všetkých uvedených funkciách a ďalšej činnosti zasvätil život predovšetkým kultúre a vzdelávaniu ako aj zachovaniu slovenského dedičstva v USA, najmä v Pennsylvánii, ktorá je domovom jednej z najsilnejších slovenských komunít v Spojených štátoch amerických.

Gail Naughtonová, držiteľka Ocenenia podpredsedu vlády a ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR za vynikajúce zásluhy v rozvoji vzťahov so Slovenskou republikou a šírenie dobrého mena Slovenska v zahraničí, je prezidentkou a CEO Národného českého a slovenského múzea a knižnice (NCSMK) v Cedar Rapids v štáte Iowa. Po mnoho rokov svojej činnosti sa Gail Naughtonová stala skutočnou dušou a motorom tejto inštitúcie, oddanej českej a slovenskej komunite v USA, dokumentovaniu ich histórie a zachovávaniu ich kultúrneho dedičstva. Národné české a slovenské múzeum a knižnica sa stali skutočnou životnou misiou pani Naughtonovej – od rozširovania knižnice a jej depozitov, cez organizovanie konferencií a výstav až po nadľudské úsilie v budovaní nových priestorov NCSMK po záplavách roku 2008, ktoré zničili jej pôvodnú budovu.

Generálmajor R. Martin Unbarger, ktorému bolo udelené Ocenenie podpredsedu vlády a ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR za vynikajúce zásluhy v rozvoji vzťahov so Slovenskou republikou a šírenie dobrého mena Slovenska v zahraničí, je veliteľom Národnej gardy štátu Indiana (ING). Už takmer 20 rokov ING rozvíja bohaté partnerské vzťahy s Ozbromenými silami SR. Spolupráca ING bola kľúčová predovšetkým v procese transformácie a prípravy OS SR na členstvo v NATO. Po vstupe SR do Severoatlantickej aliancie príslušníci ING a OS SR spoločne slúžili v rámci operácie ISAF v Afganistane. Udelené ocenenie je výrazom poďakovania za osobný vklad genmjr. Umbarger do rozvoja úzkej spolupráce SR a USA v oblasti obrany a bezpečnosti.

Profesor Ján T. Vilček, výskumný pracovník Langone Medical Center pri Newyorskej univerzite, je vynikajúcim vedcom v oblasti mikrobiológie a imunológie, a zároveň aj veľkým filantropom. Za jeho výnimočné profesionálne výsledky, medzi ktoré patrí liek na liečbu zápalových autoimunitných chorôb, udelil profesorovi Vilčekovi prezident USA Barak Obama Národnú medailu v oblasti technológií a inovácií. Slávnostný ceremoniál odovzdávania tohto najvyššieho ocenenia vlády USA pre vedcov a inovátorov sa v Bielom dome uskutočnil 1. februára 2013.

Po odovzdaní ocenení pokračovalo slávnostné podujatie k 20. výročiu koncertom. V podaní slovenských umelcov pôsobiacich v USA tenoristu Radoslava Lesaya a klaviristky Evy Virsikovej, odzneli diela slovenských a ďalších európskych klasikov – Eugena Suchoňa, Mikuláša Schneidera-Trnavského, Jána Levoslava Bellu, Antonína Dvořáka, Ludwiga van Beethovena.

Súčasťou podujatia bola aj prezentácia amerického vydania knihy Moje Slovensko, moja rodina (My Slovakia, My Family: One Family's Role in the Birth of a Nation), ktorej autorom je John Palka, vnuk Milana Hodžu, posledného predsedu vlády medzivojnového Československa. Cez dramatické osudy rodín Palkovcov a Hodžovcov kniha približuje dejiny moderného Slovenska, strednej Európy a Európy vôbec. Knihu, ktorú v slovenskom jazyku, vydalo vydavateľstvo Kaligram, možno v anglickej verzii nájsť a objednať na www.kirkhouse.com

Slávnostné podujatie, na ktorom sa zúčastnilo množstvo hostí – predstaviteľov diplomatického zboru, administratívy USA, zástupcov amerických firiem ako aj krajanov, bolo dôstojnou oslavou 20. výročia vzniku Slovenskej republiky a zároveň výrazom poďakovania štyrom oceneným osobnostiam za ich dlhoročné úsilie a výnimočný prínos do rozvoja vzťahov medzi SR a USA.

MZV SR

KONZULÁRNE DNI V CHICAGU

Generálny konzulát Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku
www.mzv.sk/nyc

KDE: Reštaurácia KLAS/ KLAS Restaurant
5734 W. Cermak Road, Cicero, IL 60804

KEDY: 28. február 2013 (štvrtok) – 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM
1. marec 2013 (piatok) – 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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Podrobnosti týkajúce sa jednotlivých úkonov ako i príslušné formuláre žiadostí sú dostupné na internetovej stránke: www.mzv.sk/nyc v sekcii Konzulárne a vízové informácie

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UPOZORNENIE: Prosíme žiadateľov, aby si spolu s originálmi dokumentov vopred vyhotovili a priniesli aj ich kópie.

Kontakt:

Generálny konzulát Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku
801 Second Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212)-286 8434
Fax: (212)-286 8439
E-mail: cg.newyork@mzv.sk
Web: <http://www.mzv.sk/cgnewyork>

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Slovensko** má v rámci štátov Európskej únie piatu najvyššiu nezamestnanosť mladých ľudí. Podľa novembrových údajov európskeho štatistického úradu Eurostat je bez práce každý tretí mladý Slovák vo veku do 25 rokov. „Kríza urobila svoje a na horší ekonomický vývoj doplatili aj uchádzači vo veku do 25 rokov. Kým pred piatimi rokmi, v novembri 2007, bol nezamestnaným každý piaty mladý človek, tak dnes sa jedná o každého tretieho,” konštatuje analytička Poštovej banky Eva Sadovská. Problém vidí v pretrvávajúcom slabom prepojení medzi vzdelávacím systémom a trhom práce. Dodáva, že firmy pri pohovoroch s mladými narážajú v nemalej miere aj na ich nereálne požiadavky či slabé jazykové znalosti. Slovensko nie je v únii výnimkou. Kritická situácia je v Grécku či Španielsku, kde vyše polovica mladých nepracuje a je evidovaná na úradoch práce.

• **Zle** vybudovaná dopravná infraštruktúra na strednom a východnom Slovensku ešte stále predstavuje prekážku pre ďalšie investície. Pracovná skupina pri Slovensko-nemeckej obchodnej a priemyselnej komore (SNOPK) preto presadzuje dlhodobú stratégiu, ktorá je prispôbená potrebám vnútroštátnej a medzinárodnej nákladnej dopravy. Podľa najnovších správ Ministerstva financií (MF) SR by sa výstavba infraštruktúry mala znovu oneskoriť. Najdôležitejšie projekty dopravnej infraštruktúry však podľa komory musia náležite plynúť napredovať. Zlá nálada v slovenskom hospodárstve dáva zabráť aj sektoru dopravy a logistiky, ktorý je s viac ako 100,000 zamestnancami dôležitým pilierom hospodárstva. Ak však tento rok poklesne odbyt v priemysle a obchode, stiahne podľa SNOBK so sebou aj dopravné podniky. Slovensko-nemecká obchodná a priemyselná komora založená v roku 2005 v Bratislave je fórom nemeckých a slovenských podnikov. Zastupuje záujmy 350 členských firiem, ktoré na Slovensku zamestnávajú 90,000 pracovníkov a dosahujú obrat v hodnote 17 miliárd eur.

• **Jednotné** združenie politických strán - Strany Moderného Slovenska (SMS) a Strany občanov Slovenska (SOS) podporujúcej športovcov - vyzýva premiéra, aby pokračoval v úsilí získať pre Slovensko spolu s Poľskom Zimné olympijské hry (ZOH) v roku 2022. Uviedol to predseda SMS Milan Urbáni. Slovensko má prírodné predpoklady vybudovať vhodné športoviská pre Zimné olympijské hry, skúsenosti s organizovaním medzinárodných športových podujatí a primerane stabilizované hospodárstvo. Ak sú olympijské hry dobre pripravené a dobre manažované, môžu byť pre štát aj ekonomickým prínosom. Jednotné združenie politických strán - Strany Moderného Slovenska a Strany občanov Slovenska - plne podporuje premiéra Roberta Fica v presadzovaní myšlienky spoluorganizovať ZOH v roku 2022 spolu s Poľskom. Dodal, že aj ako malá krajina by sme sa nemali báť veľkých projektov, ktoré zviditeľnia a pomôžu Slovensku.

• **Na** scéne sa objavuje ďalší súboj o zahraničného investora medzi Slovenskom a Poľskom. Americká skupina Crown Holdings sa rozhodne, u ktorého zo susedov postaví nový závod na výrobu sprejov. Američania už na Slovensku pôsobia. V Kechneci v divízií Crown Bevcen vyrábajú nápojové plechovky. „Vyvinuli sme novú generáciu sprejov, ktoré si vyžadujú menšiu spotrebu materiálu a ponúkajú dlhšiu životnosť”, hovorí o pozadí zámeru obchodný riaditeľ divízie aerosol Crown Packaging Europe Luc Bosschaerts. Stredná Európa sa pre nový produkt javí ako perspektívny trh, preto chce skupina vyrábať tu. Na realizáciu zámeru plánuje firma žiadať o investičnú pomoc. Bosschaerts netají, že investíciu Crown umiestni v krajine, ktorá ponúkne lepšie podmienky. Výrobu v novom závode chcú spustiť v rokoch 2014 alebo 2015.

• **Podľa** informácií denníka Új Szó v prípade ničivého požiaru na Krásnej Hôrke 10. marca 2012 nebudú pravdepodobne trestnoprávne stíhať nikoho. Úrady vyšetrenie ukončili, vinníci sú známi, ale ďalšiemu konaniu nedošlo. Podľa výsledkov vyšetrenia požiar hradu zapríčinili dve deti vo veku 11 a 12 rokov. Keďže sa jedná o maloletých, trestne stíhaní nebudú. Trestnoprávnej zodpovednosti sa vyhnú aj rodičia, podľa polície nespáchali trestný čin. Špekulácie o tom, že za požiar je zodpovedná v plnom rozsahu Slovenské národné múzeum sa ukázalo, že sa zakladajú na nezmysloch.

• **Ceny** nehnuteľností budú v tomto roku klesať. Nahrávať tomu má nepriaznivá ekonomická situácia, informujú Hospodárske noviny. Nižšie príjmy budú podľa riaditeľa realitnej kancelárie Century 21 Slovakia Daniela Bilého tlačiť na nižšie ceny nehnuteľností. Osobitná situácia je len v Bratislave, kde budú ceny bytov stagnovať. Podľa cenovej mapy NARKS - Datalan klesli ceny v niektorých regiónoch priemerne aj o päť percent. Pod nižšie ceny by sa mohli podpísať aj nové trendy. Trh s developerskými projektmi čaká na nové, menej nákladné bývanie - to znamená štartovacie byty. Pod celkovú situáciu sa podpísala aj nezamestnanosť. Osobitne to platí pre regióny Žiar nad Hronom, Banská Štiavnica a Žarnovica.

• **Slovenský** Google 24. januára spustil pod názvom “Google na slovenskú nôtu” celoročnú kampaň, ktorej cieľom je prispieť k oživeniu krás, kultúry a tradícií Slovenska pomocou online technológií. Program zahŕňa niekoľko iniciatív a je zameraný na podporu uchovania a šírenia slovenskej kultúry, histórie, folklóru i tradícií a tiež na zviditeľnenie krás, či historických pamiatok Slovenska v celosvetovom meradle. Program má zároveň pomôcť aj malým a stredným firmám z oblasti cestovného ruchu v regiónoch prilákať nových turistov, ako aj mladšej generácii ľahšie objavovať históriu a kultúru Slovenska. Projekt slovenského Googlu sa v rámci kultúry, histórie a tradícií zameria na tri hlavné oblasti. Na objavovanie a zhromažďovanie informácií v spolupráci s partnermi z celého Slovenska, na digitalizáciu informácií prostredníctvom najnovších technológií a na sprístupňovanie a šírenie informácií pomocou internetu.

• **Poľnohospodársku** pôdu na Slovensku vo veľkom vykupujú investori z Dánska, Holandska, najnovšie aj z Číny. Časť farmárov hovorí o dôsledku voľného trhu v Európskej únii a o konkurencii, s ktorou treba žiť. Iní varujú, že Slovensko pomaly prichádza o to najcennejšie. Cudzinci skupujú pôdu v Podunajskej nížine cez slovenské firmy. Až do roku 2015 totiž na Slovensku platí zákaz predaja poľnohospodárskej pôdy cudzincom - fyzickým osobám. Vlni slovenské banky odhadli, že dánski a holandskí farmári nakúpili doteraz asi 15,000 hektárov.

• **Americký** dodávateľ pre automobilky firma Johnson Controls chce na Slovensku opäť investovať. Tentoraz v lučeneckej fabrike, ktorá by zamestnala 200 ľudí. Spoločnosť predložila zámer na ministerstvo hospodárstva. Od štátu žiada iba daňové úľavy, uviedol zdroj oboznámený so situáciou. Podarilo sa zistiť, že okrem Johnson Controls by nové pracovné miesta mali ponúknuť aj dánsky výrobca zdravotníckych zariadení Unomedical, drevárska nemecká skupina Grandwood a výrobca medicínskych prístrojov z USA Medline. Bez práce je 400-tisíc ľudí a štát chce na podporu príchodu nových 26 investorov vyčleniť 575 miliónov eur.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Fašiangy na dedine

Túto nám nedali, túto nám dajú, komára zabili, slaninu majú...
(Takto si mládenci spievajú na Fašiangy, keď navštívia rodinu, kde majú slobodné dievčatá.)

Fašiangy, to sú veľké sviatky, chlapci a dievčatá, by ich chceli spiatky.
Mládenci, beťári vykrúčia gazdinú, ba aj starú babku,
by ich neohovárala a nemali s ňou žiadne hádky.
Veď, čardáš, jej pripomína jej mladé roky, keď po tanci, boleli ju boky.

V utorok ráno, mládenci sa schádzajú pred hostincom, na hornom konci,
kde cigánska kapela ich už čaká, pridajú sa aj dajakí, mladí vdovci
Navštívia všetky domy, kde majú mladú dievku a či staršie dievky.
Hej, vyzvrtajú ich raz vľavo, raz vpravo, nezabudnú ani na gazdinú.
Ak nie, tá by ich ohovárala a vykričala aj nepravdu, cez celú dedinu.
Gazda má však oko orla a pálenku v ruke, na zdravie si pripijajú všetci
A kus údenej slaniny a rebierka, uschované v bielom vreci.

Kým mládenci pochodia celú dedinu, je už neskoré odpoľudnie,
Je čas na veselú hostinu a očakávané, večerné, fašiangové pobavenie.
Tu sa mládež do sýtosti vyskáče, vyzvrta v polke, valčíku, čardáši.
Pre niektorých to bude, už posledný raz, bo čoskoro budú mať po sobáši.
Hej, o jedenástej večer, začne zvláštny ceremoniál „Pochovanie Basy“
Kedy všetci pokľaknú na zem a lúčenie s basou, je zaujímavý kus krásy.
Pospomínajú sa veci, klebety, ktoré aj mŕtveho človeka rozosmejú.
Nakoniec však všetko dobre skončí, každý na posledy „Pobozká basu“
Prv, než ju s plačom von vynesú
A za pár minút, je tu „Popolečná Streda“, čas modlitieb a smútku.

Jozef Smák

Fašiangy na Slovensku sú tradične veselé, s maskami, šiškami a plesmi

Fašiangy každoročne trvajú od Troch kráľov do Popolcovej stredy, ktorá v tomto roku pripadá na 13. februára. Na Slovensku sa od dávnej minulosti spájali s veselosťou, ľudovými zábavami, hrami, karnevalmi a prekážkami. V ostatných desaťročiach sú však ľudové zvyky na ústupe a väčšiu tradíciu získavajú plesy a bály.

Termín fašiangov je pohyblivý, riadi sa Veľkou nocou, ktorej predchádza 40-dňový pôst. Ten v 4. storočí zaviedla cirkev, aby zabránila pohanským zvykom. Tradícia fašiangových zvykov siaha do dávnej minulosti slovanských pohanských predkov. Zlučuje v sebe mnoho obyčajov, ktoré súviseli pravdepodobne s vyhánaním zimy, smrti a príchodom jari.

Fašiangové radovánky majú v rôznych oblastiach Slovenska iný zvykový charakter. Podstatou sú však veselice, maškarády, tance za dobrú úrodu, nahováračky. Neodmysliteľným doplnkom fašiangov je hojnosť dobrého jedla a nápojov. Tradične sa v domácnostiach ponúka vyprázané pečivo, ako sú šišky či fánky - niekde nazývané i krapne alebo pampúchy. Súčasťou fašiangových zábav a hier sú sprievody masiek, kôň, koza, medveď a tiež znetvorené postavy mužov a žien.

V Sliachoch dominuje medzi fašiangovými maskami tradičná sliachanská fašiangová postava - chriapa. Máva podlhovastú hlavu vystrúhanú z dreva a oblečenie z ovčej kožušiny. Muž-chriapa straší po dedine detí. Fašiangový spievod na dolnom Liptove nazývaný bursa chodí tancujúc a spievajúc po dedine od domu k domu.

TASR

Aj na Slovensku “Najlepšia univerzita” v Európe

Vysoká škola bezpečnostného manažérstva (VŠBM) v Košiciach získala ocenenie “Najlepšia univerzita” v Európe za rok 2012. Udelila jej ho Európska obchodná spoločnosť (EBA) so sídlom v britskom Oxforde, ocenenie prevzal 24. januára 2013 rektor školy Marián Mesároš.

EBA je mimovládna organizácia pre rozvoj a manažment ekonomickej, sociálnej a humanitarnej spolupráce, a VŠBM si vybrala podľa kritérií v šiestich oblastiach, podľa ktorých každoročne vyberá na ocenenie vysoké školy, marketingové a iné firmy. Najdôležitejšou podmienkou je, aby išlo o vysoké školy, ktoré vznikli po roku 1990. O udelení ocenenia pre VŠBM a jej rektora rozhodol Sokratesov medzinárodný výbor EBA 17. decembra 2012 vo Viedni.

Slávnostné odovzdanie ceny zástupcami EBA na košickej škole bolo spojené s otvorením Auly akademika Milana Čiča, ktorý bol spoluzakladateľom VŠBM a jej učiteľom. Vlni zosnulý Milan Čič pôsobil okrem iného ako predseda vlády SR, podpredseda česko-slovenskej vlády, predseda Ústavného súdu SR a až do svojej smrti ako vedúci Kancelárie prezidenta SR. Multifunkčnú aulu vysvätil košický pomocný biskup Stanislav Stolárik, prítomní boli primátor Košíc Richard Raší, rodina Milana Čiča a mnohí čestní hostia.

VŠBM v Košiciach vznikla v roku 2006 a stihla už vychovať približne 6,000 absolventov v Bc. a Ing. štúdiu. V akademickom roku 2012/2013 na nej študuje zhruba 3,000 študentov v študijnom odbore Riadenie bezpečnostných systémov zameraných na oblasť prevencie kriminality, riešeni problémov ekonomickej bezpečnosti, informačnej bezpečnosti, bezpečnosti v doprave. Popri svojej základnej úlohe – poskytovať kvalitné vzdelávanie v oblasti bezpečnostného manažérstva – považuje VŠBM za svoju trvalú úlohu rozvíjať vedeckú a výskumnú prácu. Vo vedecko-výskumných projektoch sa orientuje predovšetkým na ochranu osôb a majetku s dôrazom na oblasť bezpečnosti v životnom prostredí, ekonomike, doprave, logistike, informačných systémoch a technológiách, ako aj v priemysle. Vedecko-výskumné projekty základného a aplikovaného výskumu na národnej i medzinárodnej úrovni škola zamerala na ich praktické aplikácie v praxi podnikateľských subjektov, verejnej správy a štátnych orgánov, najmä orgánov Policajného zboru SR.

TASR



Fašiangy na vidieku.

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Cyrila i Metoda si vo viacerých krajinách uctievať sviatočným dňom

Pápež Ján Pavol II. v decembri 1980 vyhlásil svätých bratov Cyrila a Metoda za spolupatrónov Európy a tento cirkevný sviatok sa slávi 14. februára.

Deň slovanských vierozvestov Cyrila a Metoda si Slovensko pripomína 5. júla štátnym sviatkom. Rovnako je tento deň štátnym sviatkom aj v Českej republike. Pod názvom Deň slovanskej písomnosti a kultúry slávia sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda 24. mája v Ruskej federácii a na Ukrajine. Štátnym sviatkom pod názvom Deň Cyrila a Metoda je 24. máj i v Bulharsku.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ilustračné foto: TASR/Milan Kapusta

Slávnostný ceremoniál odovzdávania ocenení vo Washingtone, DC

K 20. výročiu vzniku Slovenskej republiky

Na Zastupiteľskom úrade Slovenskej republiky v USA sa 31. januára 2013 uskutočnilo slávnostné podujatie k 20. výročiu vzniku Slovenskej republiky, ktorého ťažiskom bol slávnostný ceremoniál odovzdávania ocenení prezidenta Slovenskej republiky a podpredsedu vlády a ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky štyrom osobnostiam za ich výnimočné pracovné výsledky, prínos k rozvoju slovensko-amerických vzťahov a šíreniu dobrého mena Slovenskej republiky v zahraničí.

Štátne vyznamenanie Medailu prezidenta Slovenskej republiky za významné zásluhy o šírenie dobrého mena Slovenskej republiky v zahraničí si prevzal honorárny konzul Slovenskej republiky v Pittsburghu Joseph T. Senko. Ocenenie podpredsedu vlády a ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky za vynikajúce zásluhy v rozvoji vzťahov so Slovenskou republikou a šírenie dobrého mena Slovenska v zahraničí bolo udelené riaditeľke Národného českého a slovenského múzea a knižnice v Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gail Naughtonovej a veliteľovi Národnej gardy štátu Indiana genmjr. R. Martinovi Umbargerovi. Štvrtému ocenenému, mikrobiológovi prof. Jánovi T. Vilčekovi z Langone Medical Center Newyorskej univerzity, ktorý sa na slávnostnom podujatí na zastupiteľskom úrade Slovenskej republiky nemohol zúčastniť, bolo tlmočené poďakovanie podpredsedu vlády a ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky M. Lajčáka za výnimočné profesionálne výsledky ako aj blahoželanie k udeľeniu Národnej medaile za technológie a inovácie prezidentom USA Barakom Obamom. Gratulačný list podpredsedu vlády a ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí M. Lajčáka si prof. Vilček prevzal z rúk veľvyslanca Slovenskej republiky v USA počas separátneho slávnostného podujatia, ktoré nasledovalo po odovzdaní Národnej medaile v Bielom dome 1. februára 2013.

Josef T. Senko, ktorému bola udelená Medaila prezidenta Slovenskej republiky za významné zásluhy o šírenie dobrého mena Slovenskej republiky v zahraničí je honorárnym konzulom SR v Pittsburghu, štát Pennsylvania, od roku 1997. Zároveň pôsobí tiež vo funkcii predsedu a pokladníka združenia Priatelia Slovenska (Friends of Slovakia),

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Kostol v Selciach ako prvý na Slovensku zasvätili solúnskym bratom

Na snímke farský kostol sv. Cyrila a Metoda v obci Selce pri Banskej Bystrici bol prvým v Hornom Uhorsku, teda aj na území dnešného Slovenska, ktorý zasvätili solúnskym bratom. Obraz sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktorý visí v tomto chráme, veriaci uvideli po renovácii v roku 1996 po 100 rokoch, kedy bol znovu nainštalovaný.

The parish church in Selce near Banska Bystrica was the first church in Slovakia to be dedicated to SS. Cyril and Methodius. The church underwent renovations in 1996.



FOTO TASR - Veronika Klusková, 30. január 2013