



Jednota

THE UNION

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A typical Fašiangy village parade in Slovakia

Fašiangy

(Shrovetide Prelenten Carnival Time)

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

Fašiangy, literally meaning "carnival," is the Slovak word for Shrovetide or the French equivalent "mardi gras." In Slovak traditional village life, **Fašiangy** played out as a wild celebration of relentless feasting with sumptuous meals, costumed parades, singing, and dancing. It amounted to a very emotional release of pent up energy before Ash Wednesday (*Popolcová streda*), which marked the start of the holy season of Lent (*Pôst*).

Origins

The word "carnival" dates from Ancient Roman times; its origins derive from the Latin phrase *car-nem levare*, meaning "withdrawal" or "removal" of meat, a reference to the Medieval Lenten fast from all animal products. The Slovak word **fašiangy** was borrowed from the German word *der Faschung*. Some experts believe that the German word for the carnival comes from the ancient Germanic word *Vasen*, or "running around crazily," which was what literally happened in the days leading up to Lent.

Traditionally in Christian Europe, Lent represented a time of very intense fasting and prayer. The Church prohibited all types of merrymaking; no parties, weddings, or other such celebrations were permitted during Lent. **Fašiangy** offered one last chance for merriment and prankish amusement before the onset of the holy season of meditation on one's sins.

In general, the **fašiangy** celebrations in Slovakia started immediately after the January 6 Feast of the Epiphany, which Slovaks call Three Kings' Day (*Traja králi*). Many weddings took place between January 7 and the beginning of Lent — because of the seasonal nature of agricultural work, people had more spare time. Over the long, cold winters, Slovaks occupied themselves doing mainly indoor activities and crafts, and also having some fun. Just as Americans today party at Super Bowl time, many Slovaks literally became party animals during **fašiangy**.

While **fašiangy** technically started in January, the majority of the merrymaking occurred from the Sunday before Lent until Fat Tuesday (*Tučný utorok*), and sometimes well into Ash Wednesday morning. Frequently a wedding initiated the festivities. Musicians played and people danced

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About Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a day of repentance which derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered after the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned. According to the Canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert, during which he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday — which occurs 46 days before Easter — represents the beginning of this forty day liturgical period of prayer and fasting. An ancient example of using ashes to express penitence and sorrow is found in Job 42:3-6. Job says to God: "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. The other eye wandereth of its own accord. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."



Ash Wednesday, Julian Falat, 1881

Message From Our National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent which is drawing near are days that invite us to renew our discipleship in Christ, who "loved his own even to the end" (John 13:1). But what exactly is discipleship? We find out in Luke 14: 25-33. It is giving Jesus the highest priority in one's life. It is accepting and bearing hardships for the sake of Christ's name. It is giving Jesus unwavering allegiance and commitment.

That definition of discipleship is difficult for many people today to accept. We look for something a little bit more to our liking. We look for "cheap grace," a phrase Dietrich Bonhoefer, a twentieth century German theologian, used in his 1937 book "The Cost of Discipleship."

Cheap grace is the belief that Jesus does not make demands upon those who wish to be His follower. It is discipleship without the cross. Lent invites us to discover within ourselves if there is any vestige of cheap grace within us.

Cheap grace shows itself in a person who believes in only those teachings of Jesus he or she agrees with. A person may accept His teaching on caring for the least among us (Mathew 25: 31-46). However, at the same time, he or she may disagree with Christ's teaching on divorce and adultery (Mark 10: 2-10) and refuse to accept it because it does not conform to the ways of the world today.

continued on page 6



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fraternal Activities Information Inside This Edition:

Bowling Tournament – May 4 – 6, 2012 in Wickliffe, Ohio
Details about the First Annual United Slovak Fraternals Bowling Tournament, with the FCSU, the Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the Slovak Catholic Sokols, including:

- Schedule of events • Sponsorship opportunities
- Hotel information • Entry form
- Deadlines *See pages 4 – 5*
- Rules & Regulations *See page 20*
- PLUS:



2012 Bowling Tournament Entry & Hotel Registration deadline: March 16th

Golf Tournament - July 14 – 15, 2012 in Sharon, Pennsylvania
Advance notice of this event being planned with the National Slovak Society *See page 4*



Photo Contest – rules and deadlines for 2012 photo contest *See page 4*



Insights and Viewpoints



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

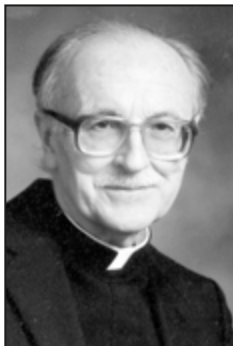
February 26, 2012

First Sunday of Lent

Mark 1:12-15

Gospel Summary

The Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness where he is tempted by Satan. We should recall that this event in Mark's gospel comes immediately after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. As the heavens are torn open, the Spirit descends upon him, and



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

a voice comes from heaven: "You are my beloved Son." After the stark, matter-of-fact statement that Jesus was tempted by Satan, Mark tells us that after John's arrest, Jesus begins his mission: "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Matthew and Luke in their narratives of the temptations include Jesus' triumph over Satan in a dramatic verbal exchange between them. Mark does not present the temptations in this way because his entire gospel is a narrative of the trials that Jesus undergoes. Satan tempts him to doubt that he is God's beloved Son, and likewise tempts him to betray his mission on behalf of God's kingdom. Satan will use every means to tempt Jesus in order to save his own kingdom that has dominance in the world.

Jesus is tempted by his own disciples. "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as humans do," Jesus said to Peter (Mk 8:33). He is tested frequently by enemies from among his own people and by the Romans. His own relatives say that he is out of his mind (Mk 3:21). The most severe temptation comes when he appears to have failed in his mission; he is misunderstood, betrayed and abandoned by his disciples; he is arrested, undergoes the humiliation and torture associated with a criminal's public execution; and finally he apparently has the experience of being forsaken by God while dying on a cross. Yet, his dying prayer in this dark night of the soul is also a cry of unconquered hope and trust (Mk 15:34, Psalm 22).

The Letter to the Hebrews reveals the good news that the triumph of Jesus over the most severe temptations imaginable can be a source of hope and trust in the trials that we undergo. "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). "Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested" (2:18).

Life Implications

No one with the consciousness of freedom escapes the testing that reveals where the heart's true treasure lies. Only the accidentals of the testing differ for each of us. The heroes of faith down to the present day triumph over their trials because they share the single-minded, childlike faith of Jesus. Jesus in his human consciousness and freedom loved God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his strength (Dt 6:5). A person with a divided heart, on the other hand, easily fails in a test of faith, and particularly in a trial of suffering constantly asks God, Why? Further, the double-minded person demands some evidence of God's presence and care.

The life-implication of Mark's gospel is that we must pray as Jesus prayed if we hope to love God as he did with an undivided heart when our time of trial is upon us. Like Jesus before his great trial in the garden of Gethsemane, we may pray that if possible the hour of trial might pass by us. Nevertheless, with the power of his Spirit we must also pray: "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will" (Mk 14:36). Jesus then said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep" (Mk 14:37)? Shortly after Jesus was arrested. Peter, standing among the crowd, was tested by the high priest's maid. Unprepared by prayer and fearful for his life, with a curse Peter denied that he even knew Jesus.

At the Eucharist for the first Sunday of Lent a good prayer would be to ask the Spirit to heal the illusions, desires, and the doubts that divide our hearts. Only with this grace can we say the Lord's prayer with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength. And with Christ's Spirit we can live without fear because we trust that God's will for us can only be love.



March 4, 2012

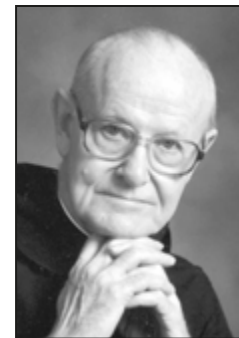
Second Sunday of Lent

Mark 9:2-10

Gospel Summary

Today's gospel brings us a story about the illumination of Jesus on a mountaintop in the presence of his closest disciples, Peter, James and John. Tradition tells us that this mountaintop was Mt. Tabor. However, the name of the mountain is not given in any account of the Transfiguration and so we are invited to ponder the symbolic significance of this major event in the ministry of Jesus.

The illumination of Jesus has traditionally been interpreted as a light from heaven to show divine approval of his mission after he has just announced to his disciples that "the Son of man must suffer many things" (8:31). This creates a problem, however, because only three of the disciples are present and future developments do not show that they were reassured. It is far more likely that the light is coming from within Jesus as his face glows in a full awareness of the surprising nature of the mission that his heavenly Father has assigned to him.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

Life Implications

In this moment of mystical experience, Jesus also hears a voice from heaven, which repeats the words heard at baptism but then adds, "Listen to him" (v. 7). This suggests that he is now prepared to share the ultimate wisdom of God, namely, that loving and sacrificing are the only way to conquer sin and death...and thus to enter into resurrection glory.

There is something very comforting about the fact that Jesus experienced a kind of mystical illumination that was followed by his direct movement to Jerusalem and the climax of his mission as our Savior. For this reminds us that we too need to reexamine the basic orientation of our lives and to ask whether we are willing to adopt the wisdom of Jesus which counsels us to put aside the dominant quest for satisfaction and security in this life and to accept a new way of living that is marked by a desire to be of service to others.

We may think that this means nothing but self-denial, but the fact is that those who seek the happiness of others more than their own satisfaction turn out to be the happiest people of all. This doesn't mean becoming a doormat or catering to obsessive dependants, but it does mean that we are sensitive to others and truly committed to their welfare. This daily "dying" leads to ultimate resurrection life. It is also an excellent way to keep the spirit of Lent.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

| Issue Date | Copy Date |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29 | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 |
| WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 | MONDAY, MARCH 5 |
| WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 | MONDAY, MARCH 19 |

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

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

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Fašiangy

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from afternoon until early morning.

Fašiangy Foods

The consumption of huge amounts of food and drink characterized **fašiangy**. Slovaks always drank alcoholic beverages at any social occasions and during carnival time, they filled their glasses over and over with whiskey, plum brandy (*slivovica*), wine, and beer. In previous centuries, a favorite Slovak beverage was *medovina*, an alcoholic beverage made from fermented honey. In their homes, women baked meat (if available), *bravčová huspenina* (a pork jelly), fried *šišky* (filled pastries) or *pampuchy* (a kind of fritter, often from potatoes, since potatoes [*zemiaky*] were a mainstay of the simple Slovak diet. My mother used to complain that as a girl she had potatoes for breakfast, potatoes for lunch, and potatoes for dinner!).

This tradition of **fašiangy** baking took place in both the cities and the villages of Slovakia. Similar customs were practiced in almost all European nations, and many peoples also placed baked goods on graves of their deceased relatives and beloved.

Fašiangy Parade and Visits

Typically a happy group of costumed and masked youths strutted from house to house playing music. They dressed up as outrageous characters, such as a *slameňik* (strawman), *bakus* (Bacchus the Roman god of feasting), *kurina baba* (an old lady), a *koza* (goat), a *medved'* (bear) and especially *turoň* (an ox or some other type of cattle). Revelers made a *turoň* by having a young man hoist a com-



Fašiangy procession_Janko Hrasko

panion on his shoulders; they would cover themselves with a large sheet or blanket, and then place a sewn head of an ox or bull with bells on the head of the guy on top. Then the group of masked marauders would saunter around the village and go from house to house. As they made their rounds, they would throw some manure on the way in order to leave

a sign of their passing by, and the team leader would strike up some hearty and jovial folk songs. When they visited inside someone's home, they carried with them a vessel of cow dung, which they claimed was cattle blood. This was not meant to be an insult as we might think if someone brought dung into our homes. Rather Slovaks interpreted this as fortuitous, for this was a sign the household would enjoy the fruits of dung – a bountiful and fruitful harvest.

During the visits, the spirited youths addressed songs to the unmarried young maidens of the household. The people would offer the vivacious visitors *slanina*, (smoked bacon), *udeniny* (smoked meats), and other treats that were prohibited during Lent. Some of the young men dressed in drag as women and parodied and mimicked members of other ranks in society. For example, they might wear an animal skin, or some of them would dress like a *žobrak* (beggar) in torn up pants and a raggy shirt, and stuff themselves with straw. The costumed youths would frolic about clumsily, stagger, slide, and fall on the ground in front of the onlookers. The goofiest and most humorous character of group was often named *Kubo* or *Starý* (old man), just as in the *jasličkáre* (Bethlehem plays) from the Christmas season.

The young merrymakers also might each be equipped with a stick hewed from a branch, a basket, jingling bells, and one in the group would play a *harmonika* (accordion). They would sing ludicrous songs and shout out outrageous and humorous sayings and speeches. At the many homes they visited, they would collect lots of eggs, bacon, and a few *groše* (coins). In some villages, a home or the local *krčme* (taverns) would roast a pig and feature a live band, which the youths would pay for with the money and goodies that they had collected in the village.

Ženy (The Ladies)

Not to be left out, women also participated in the festivities. They would visit several homes, usually where some *priadky* (spinning) was taking place. (Spinning thread and making clothing were some of the main jobs women performed during the winter time. Women did this in groups, so it was a chance for women to socialize.) There they would drink "*na vysoký lan*," i.e., literally, for tall flax, a main material for their work. In order to ensure that the flax grew long, the women would pull the hair of the lady whose hair was longest. Then they would jump up from their benches and perform a special dance.

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**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



Deadline for 2012 FCSU Scholarship Less Than Two Weeks Away

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

Scholarships Awarded

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

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

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

Scholarship Rules & Requirements

The rules and requirements are as follows:

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2012

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA | 3.75% APY |
| Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's | 3.50% APY |
| with the "Cash Interest" Option | 3.25% APY |
| New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA | 3.25% APY |
| New "Park 2 Annuity" | 2.50% APY |
| New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee (new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON) | 2.15% APY |
| New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of | 3.00% 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





Accent on Activities



2012 International Tournaments

February 2012



Bowling Tournament

Plans for the 2012 International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held in Wickliffe, Ohio, the

weekend of May 4 - 6. This tournament is the first combined tournament, the First Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament, with the Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union, National Slovak Society, and Slovak Catholic Sokol. Registration forms can be under Fraternal Events at www.fcsu.com.

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

NEW THIS YEAR

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

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

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

Golf Tournament

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



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

Photo Contest

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

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

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

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

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

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

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

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

Mail your entry to:

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

postmarked by October 1, 2012.



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

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

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

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

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

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



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

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

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

Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

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

Freeway Lanes

28801 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092

Captain Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Team Name: _____
 League: _____
 City: _____

Entry Fees

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

Optional Events

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

Banquet Fees

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Member | \$25.00 |
| Total submitted..... | \$ _____ |

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

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

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

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



United Slovak Fraternal's 1st Annual Bowling Tournament

May 4 – May 6, 2012

Schedule of Events

Friday:

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

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

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

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

Deadline for hotel reservations is March 16th.

Saturday:

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

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

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

Sunday:

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

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

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

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

Friday May 4th, 2012

- 5:00 PM Registration
- Freeway Lanes
- 28801 Euclid Avenue
- Wickliffe, OH 44092
- 5:45 PM Opening Ceremonies
- 6:00 PM & 9:00 PM Team Events
- 6:00 PM Hospitality Reception

Saturday, May 5th, 2012

- 8:30 AM & 12:30 PM Doubles and Singles Events
- Freeway Lanes
- 5:30 PM Mass
- 6:30 PM Tournament Banquet
- Embassy Suites Hotel
- 3775 Park East Drive
- Beachwood, OH 44122

Sunday May 6th, 2012

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

See Rules and Regulations on page 20

Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville

By Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M.

On Sunday, January 22, 2012, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Danville-Riverside Ministerium sponsored an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God. Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M. orchestrated the prayer service based on this year's theme, "We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

The service began with the hymn, "Come,



Monica Amarante passes out the oplatky to those who attended the Prayer Service.

Christians, Join to Sing," by the assembly. The opening invocation was given by the Reverend Alfred Sceski, V.F., Pastor of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Elysburg. Sister Linda Marie, SSC.M., General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, gave the welcome.

After the opening prayer Reverend Bob Andrews, pastor of the Grove Presbyterian Church in Danville, led the Prayer of Repentance. Sister Jean Marie, SS.C.M. proclaimed the Word of God from Habakkuk and from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Rachel Amarante, cantor at St. Joseph Church, Danville sang the responsorial psalm.

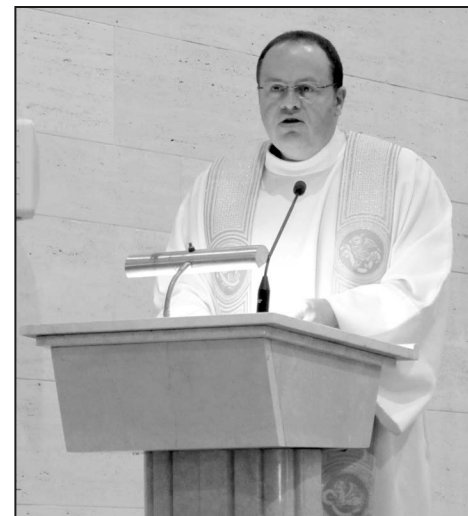
After Deacon Gregory Amarante, St. Joseph Church, Danville, proclaimed the Gospel, John 12:23-26, the Reverend Alfred Sceski delivered the sermon. Father Sceski exhorted the assembled to effect a change in their lives, keeping in mind the theme of the Week of Christian Unity, "We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ," that underscores the trust we must have in Jesus Christ. Because "a separated Christianity cannot be the Church of God that is humble," change is necessary "and can only be accomplished through encountering Christ." Father Sceski recommended the prayer of silence, "Be still and know that I am God." He continued, "When we come

to know we are all brothers and sisters, we will be changed slowly and surely and this silent transformation from within will lead to change in the Church."

After the sermon the assembled prayed the Nicene-Constantinople Creed. During the presentation of the oplatky, Sister M. Sara, SS.C.M., played the Polish Christmas Carol, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." Sister John Vianney explained the significance of the oplatky, wafers bearing the imprint of infancy scenes, which though not the Eucharist, symbolize Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, "House of Bread." The assembled shared their wafers with one another, a ritual action which is a sign of "unity, love and forgiveness."

Pastor Keith Pittsnogle, Pine Street Lutheran Church, Danville, led the Prayers for Unity and Transformation and the Lord's Prayer. Sister M. Philothea, SS.C.M. and Sister Justin, O.P. read the invocations to which the assembly responded, "Change us by your grace."

Soloist Rachel Amarante sang the hymn, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," and the Reverend Steven Fauser, pastor of St. Joseph's, Danville, gave the Prayer of Commitment. After all the clergy present gave the Blessing and the Sending Forth, the assembly sang the closing hymn, "One Lord," the refrain of which underscores the reason for joining to-



Father Alfred Sceski, pastor of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary parish, Elysburg, PA, gave the sermon.

gether in prayer: "There is one Lord, there is one faith, there is one Father of us all; and through his Son, who came to save us, there is one God living in us all."

Accompanists for the service were Sister M. Sara, SS.C.M., Sister Michaellette, SS.C.M., and Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M.

Following the service, all were invited to light refreshments in the Motherhouse dining room where conversation and laughter extended the unity created by praying together.



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

Building a Habit of Prayer

"Let us pray."

We've gotten so used to hearing that phrase, and losing ourselves in the prayer that typically follows, that it's almost second nature. Not literally thought-less, perhaps, but close to it. Maybe it's time to do something about it, and the thought occurs that right now, as we mark the beginning of Lent, is the perfect occasion.

Here at The Christophers, we tend to think of our founder, Maryknoll Father James Keller, as a man of action rather than a man of prayer. After all, he inspired countless Christophers to become men and women of action themselves, lighting a candle and changing the world by what they did. But yet when it came time to list the 20 "reminders" that Christophers should always keep before them, Father Keller put prayer first.

"Depend more on God, less on self," he wrote in *You Can Change the World*. "All of us should pray as if all depended on God and should work as if everything depended on ourselves."

Of course, praying isn't as easy as it used to be, particularly in public. We've become conditioned to toning down our prayers and even our religious expressions, fearing that someone who hears them might become "offended." None other than Andy Rooney, the long-time resident curmudgeon at CBS Television, wrote about that a couple of years before his death last November. Said Andy:

"Life, liberty or your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football game. So what's the big deal? It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire Book of Acts. They're just talking to a God they believe in and asking Him to grant safety to the players on the field and the fans going home from the game...Our parents and grandparents taught us to pray before eating, to pray before we go to sleep. Our Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Now a handful of people and their lawyers are telling us to cease praying."

The Bible indeed tells us to "pray without ceasing," but it has a lot more to offer on the subject. Matthew teaches us, for example, a style of praying ("...go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father"); tells us to pray without using "a lot of meaningless words", and reminds us that "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." And most famously, in chapter 6, verse 9, Matthew tells us how to pray and what to say. What follows are the beautiful and timeless words of the "Our Father."

Father Keller had a favorite prayer of his own, and designated it the prayer of The Christophers. You might know it as the Prayer of St. Francis. It's probably familiar to you, and it's been called the perfect prayer. Could it be improved on? Maybe, but I simply don't know how.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."

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



Sister Philothea SS.C.M. and Sister Justin, O.P. read the invocations to which the assembly responded, "Change us by your grace."

Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M., who spearheaded the Ecumenical Prayer Service, explains the significance of oplatky.



Message From Our National Chaplain

continued from page 1

Cheap grace manifests itself in people who believe in Jesus' teachings that certain actions are by their very nature evil, immoral and sinful, but declare they do not want to impose their values on others. Stealing, drug trafficking and murder are by their very nature evil, immoral and sinful. There are laws prohibiting these actions. Those responsible for these laws have, in effect, imposed their personal beliefs regarding stealing, drug trafficking and murder on society as a whole. Abortion, euthanasia and pornography are also by their very nature evil, immoral and sinful. However, a different standard is applied in these cases. Imposing values on others cannot be done because that would infringe upon a person's individual freedom to do what he or she wants to do.

Jesus in Luke 14: 25-33 addressed the large crowds "traveling" with Him about the demands of discipleship. Luke uses the word "traveling" to imply people left Jesus when the journey got closer to Jerusalem and His eventual death on Calvary. The journey got to be too hard for them.

Jesus is asking us during Lent not to travel with Him but to become His disciples and follow Him. It is easier to be a traveler and satisfied with cheap grace. It is harder to be His follower and commit one's mind, heart, soul, body, and strength to Him. It is harder to be His follower and bear the cross. But it is by following Him on the way to Jerusalem and Calvary that we become His disciples. Our Lenten journey with Him and to Him begins on Ash Wednesday.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



Hey Kids.....

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

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

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

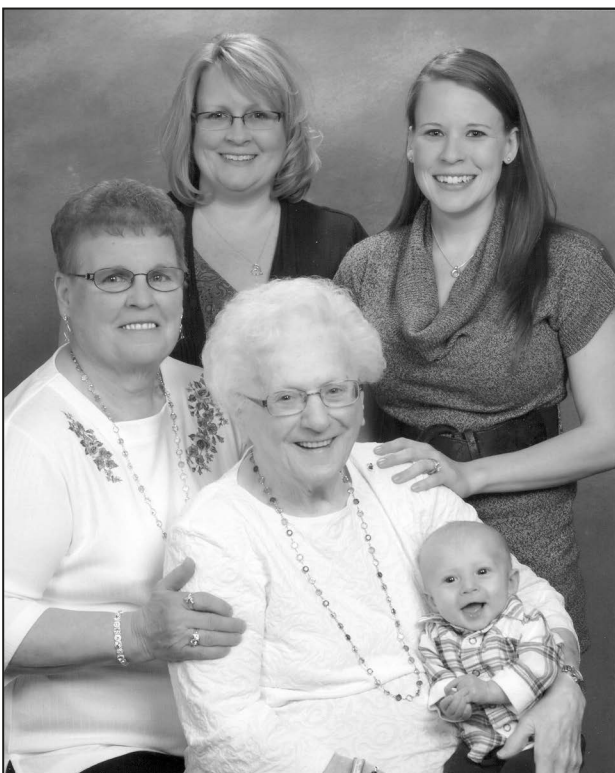
Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



Branch 567 Welcomes New Member to Make Five Generation Family



Branch 567 recently welcomed a new member; Daniel Held, Jr. His membership represents five generations of the same family in the branch: great-great grandmother, Helen Fiala; great grandmother, Loretta Dashner; grandmother, Lori Dashner; and mother, Kimberly Held.

Loretta Dashner is the recording secretary of Branch 567 and is so proud to be part of a five-generation family in the branch.



Grace Foley, a member of FCSU Branch 153, poses with her brother and her mom before her presentation on Slovakia at her school's Cultural Fair. Grace is a fourth grader at Queen of All Saints School in Chicago, IL, and the granddaughter of Region 7 Director Rudy Bernath. It was the only one on Slovakia and received much attention.

-Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Director Region 7

Scenes From Kostik District Christmas Party & Election of Officers

The Father Kostik District held their annual Christmas Party and Election of Officers on December 20, 2011, at Marino's Restaurant at 6:00PM. Again, as always, everyone had a good time, great food, nice gifts and wonderful camaraderie. The elected officers for the year 2012 are as follows: Carlie Peshek, President; Nancy Scavina, Vice President; Dots Polash, Treasurer; Joe Scavina, Secretary; Paul Ritz, Fraternal Activities Director; Bob Franko, Auditor.

The Kostik District wishes everyone a prosperous 2012.

Jose Scavina, Secretary



(L - R) Teresa Hurt, Suzanne and Kevin J. Carney



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Hirt



(L - R) Andrew M. Hirt, Henry Hassey



John and Grace Kavulic



Jim and Jackie Bobby



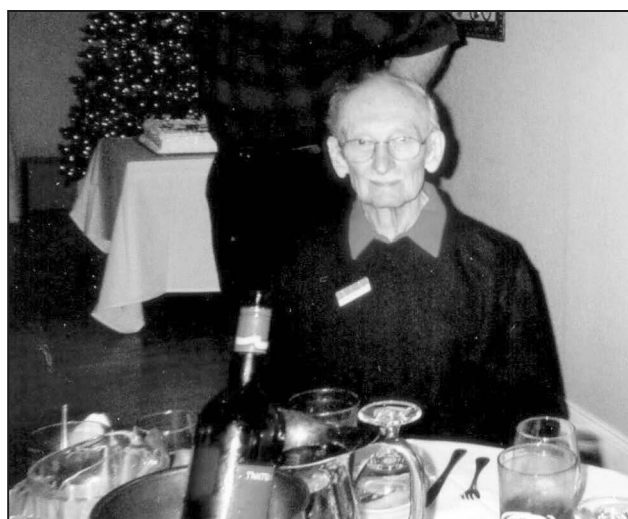
(L - R) Jeff and Carly Peshek, Millie Leskovyansky



(L- R) Marilyn Morella, Judy Nuth



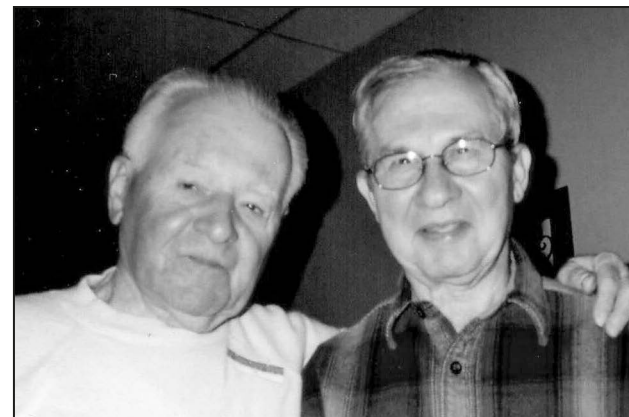
Henry and Betty Hassey



(L - R) Carl Terek, Charles M. Terek, Jeff Peshek



Msgr. Polando and (mother) Mary Polando



(L - R) Joe Scavina, Bob Franko



(L - R) Nancy Scavina and (granddaughter) Sarah Holmes



(L- R) Carlie Peshek, Nancy Scavina, Selma Bolash



(L - R) Msgr Polando administers oath of office to: Paul Ritz, Selma Bolash, Nancy Scavina, Carlie Peshek, Bob Franko, Joe Scavina

Fašiangy

continued from page 3

Women and men also used **fašiangy** to apply some social pressure to the unmarried maidens. They joked about those girls who had not yet found a husband, especially the older girls. For instance, the ladies might sing a song that this girl thought she was too good for any of the eligible bachelors. Thus **fašiangy** reinforced the strong belief in marriage as a necessary and desired institution which all should aspire to.

The Deceased

Another aspect of **fašiangy** was dedicated to honoring the deceased. Ancient pagans wore masks to remember their connections with their past. Pagan Slavs had burned their dead and smeared ashes on their heads to symbolize the continuity of spirit between them and their ancestors. The Church later adopted and Christianized the custom, which became known as *Popolec* (The Day of Ashes) or *Popolcová streda* (Ash Wednesday). When the ceremony was moved to the Halloween period, the masks remained, but the church modified the commemoration by replacing it with "All Saints Day," followed by "All Souls Day" in November.

On Ash Wednesday and during Lent, those rowdy ones who had gone a little too far in their merrymaking would have a chance to go to confession and seek remission for their sins. The time of fasting and prayer had begun.

Pochovanie basy (The Burying of the Bass)

The final ceremony which ends the merriment of **fašiangy** is referred to as **pochovanie basy** (the burying of the bass). Mim-

icking a funeral procession, the people of the village would mourn as they carried their treasured musical instrument, the bass, to its resting spot. Villages such as Stará Bystrica in Kysuce region of western Slovakia continue to carry on this old tradition, and some photos illustrate the festivities. The merriment of **fašiangy** ended with the burying of the bass, and it was time to begin the great Lenten fast and abstinence from song and dance.

Fašiangy Songs

Singing was and is an integral part of the **fašiangy** celebration. Here is a short excerpt from a song typically sung by groups of young revelers who parade the streets. This rendition comes from what was formerly called Hont County, in central Slovakia not far from Zvolen. The boys would enter the house, raise a branch to the ceiling, spin around and sing:

*Fašiangy, Turice, Veľka noc pride,
kto nemá kožucha, zima mu bude.
Ja nemám, ja nemám, len sa trasiem,
dajte mi slaniny, že sa vypasíem.*

*A tam hore na komore, sedí kocúr na slanine,
chod'ťe si ho odohnať,
a mne kúsok odrezatí,
a to taký kúsok, jak pečená hus.*

*Ak sa máte porezať,
idem si sám odrezat'
a tak pekne zarovnáť,
že vám kúska nenechám.*

Translation:

Fašiangy, Pentecost, and Easter will come,
whoever does not have a fur coat, will be cold.
I don't have one, no I don't, I'm just shivering,
Give me some bacon, so I can eat my fill.

And there up in the cupboard, a tomcat sits on the bacon,
go chase him away, and cut me a little piece,
oh, such a piece, like baked goose.

If you cut it yourself,
I'm going to cut it myself
And I will arrange it so nicely,
and I will leave you a little piece.

One will find different versions and verses of this frolicking **fašiangy** song, but they all contain common themes of food, feast, and utter nonsense.

For those who wish hear the above tune and see a sample contemporary **fašiangy** celebrations, the internet offers several homemade recordings at the following Youtube websites. The first is from the city of Rimavská Sobota in southern Slovakia and features the above song. The second is from the village of Tužina, in the Nitra district. The third is from the hamlet of Fačkov in central Slovakia. These and other sites can be found with a simple Google search using "**fašiangy youtube**" as search words.

FAŠIANGY, Rimavská Sobota, 12.2.2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKtrQ9WsUmY>

FAŠIANGY v Tužine 2010 prológ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJ4CcSuBpms>

Fašiangy Fačkov <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIRRKFLVrww&feature=related>

Conclusion -- The Tradition Continues

Fašiangy was and is a time of fun and nonsense, but it has served an important purpose. People could vent their merriment in a socially acceptable way before the strictly observed six-week Lenten fast. It helped them get through the hard winters of Slovakia.

The tradition of celebration continues to this day in some village ceremonies sponsored by local branches of the Matica Slovenska (the Slovak Cultural Society). In many cities though, little more than frying šišky and attending balls mark the **fašiangy** days. In the Slovak capital of Bratislava, the city annually stages a full-fledged

Dr. Michael Kopanic as a Slovak Goral Professor at Johnstown Slovak Heritage Society of the Laurel Highlands March 2011



parade of people in costume. Many villages also regularly feature full-fledged parades in a more traditional style.

Even in some parts of America, the tradition is not yet forgotten. Churches and Slovak radio clubs hold **fašiangy** balls. In Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the Slovak Heritage Society of the Laurel Highlands hosted a **fašiangy** feast on March 5, 2011. A few photos here from that event demonstrate how that tradition has carried on in the United States among Slovak-Americans. Many attendees came in costume, and yours truly dressed as a Slovak professor with a Goral hat, which is typically worn in the mountain regions near the Polish border. (See photo.)

This year in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the SEEP sro, a Slovak-American Partnership (The Sustainable Environmental and Economic Partnership), is sponsoring a Slovak **Fašiangy** celebration on Sunday, February 19, 2012, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The site is at 305 Chestnut Street, in the National Historic District of Cambria City. The event will feature a halušky cooking demonstration by Dennis Ragan, who will be using authentic bryndza cheese from Slovakia. Halušky tasting and light refreshments will be served.

Other events include several speakers: a Travelogue on the village of Kamienka, Slovakia by Kay Ann Lichvar-Cober (Berlin, PA), and a Pirohy Making Discussion by Randy Horbal (Johnstown, PA) - Author of Gourmet Pirohy & Savory Folklore Sauces. There will also be a Gallery Exhibit and vendors for enthusiasts to purchase products and learn more about their Slovak heritage.

- Slovak travels photo gallery exhibit by SEEP sro
- SEEP sro import info on Slovak bryndza (sheep's cheese) and Slivovica (plum brandy)
- SEEP sro tour info (Košice, Slovakia)
- Genealogy and heritage displays by Erica Murgas-Reighard
- Slovak Imports Co. (vendor) by Dan Kisha
- Pirohy Merchandise (vendor) by Randy Horbal

The price of admission is only \$5 for Adults and \$2 for Youth (age 6-11), and may be purchased at the door or online in advance. For more information, consult the website: <http://eventful.com/johnstown/events/slovak-fa%C5%A1iangy-mardi-gras-featuring-authen-/E0-001-045518808-6>

Our *Jednota* newspaper reminds of this treasured tradition. Yes, the **fašiangy** tradition is alive and well!

Selected Sources

This is a revised and updated version of an earlier publication in *Jednota*, "**Fašiangy** (Shrovetide PreLenten Carnival Time)," *Jednota* (Feb. 16, 2011).

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Scenes From Kostik District Christmas Party & Election of Officers

Below Branch 731 members



In Stará Bystrica, women mimick crying as the Bass is buried

Youngstown Sister Cities 2011 Tour of Slovakia

(WOW, WHAT A TRIP)

By James M. Bench

The 2011 Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour represented not only the fourteenth tour but also commemorated the twentieth year of existence since being founded by the late Steve Bacon. Thirty two excited people departed on the trip hosted by Kay and Jim Bench of Derry, PA. To celebrate the twentieth year, five thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars was donated to the Spišská Nová Ves Volunteer Fire Department toward the purchase of a badly needed pump-truck. Recent floods in Eastern Slovakia demonstrated the inadequacy of existing equipment needed to combat the high water which resulted in substantial damage to homes and other buildings. The monetary gift was greatly appreciated by the city officials as well as the fire department.

It is customary to have an official greeting and reception with city officials of our sister city, which is always eventful. However Mayor Jan Volný and his staff went well beyond the traditional welcome with a large dinner, fantastic entertainment, official recording of the thirty two guests, and gifts for all. Slovak television recorded the affair which was televised throughout Slovakia, and also placed on the internet for a six week period.

With many highlights too numerous to mention, tour participants will fondly remember the cultural performance, dinner, and river ride in Trenčín arranged by special friend and director of the folk group, Joseph Duraci. Not to be forgotten was the annual festival in Kežmarok, river rafting on the Dunajec River, the Tatry Mountains with the gondola ride to Skalnaté Pleso, dinner in koliba, wine tasting in Svätý Jur, and all the beautiful churches, castles, and museums. The group was warmly received in Nitra by Father Martin Štefanec, who prior to the Mass, opened the church museum, and provided a wide array of refreshments. His warm recognition of our group to his congregation was thoughtful and appreciated. Father Štefanec received his Masters Degree from Duquesne University and is well known to Slovak fraternal groups and many people in Pennsylvania, Ohio and other states. He is indeed a personal friend as well as a friend of the Sister Cities program. While visiting the Banská Bystrica, Kremnica, Nitra, and Banská Štiavnica areas, the group enjoyed spa amenities while staying at the luxurious Hotel Kaskády in Sliach. Not specifically scheduled for the tour but with a touch of serendipity, the group enjoyed several village fairs.

Most of the tour group of thirty two people was seeking possible connections with family or ancestral villages. Due to advance planning, the experiences provided lifelong heartwarming memories.

Some highlights began early with the reception of author Rita Malie at the American Embassy in Bratislava. She and her daughter Nichele later visited the village of Pohorela where Rita's mother was born, and her complicated emigration to the United States was the subject of Rita's book. Displayed at Ellis Island, it can be purchased there.

Pat Bugos of Oak Lawn Illinois related that she had longed for more than twenty years to visit her mother's village of Poľov. Her mother was six years old when her family emigrated and the family intention to return to Slovakia was blocked by World War II which her mother always referred to as "her greatest day." Pat was able to locate family and discovered the existence of family in Canada, which is another story.

Bill and Mary Hudak ventured to Smižany to discover that Mary's family had relocated. With some effort, relatives were located and they spent an interesting evening with them in Košice, enjoying dinner while reviewing an unofficial family tree. Mary also has some interesting memories of touring the village, church, and cemetery.

Ann Cicero of Newton Falls, Ohio, accompanied by her daughter Briana Johns was elated to find relatives in her grandparent's village of Uloža. The emotional, tearful, happy meetings replete with family pictures will last forever in her memory. One cousin bearing a striking resemblance to her father was the owner of a golden retriever of which Ann has three. Also during the trip, Briana, a Professor at the University of Charleston, was able to meet with representatives of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica relative to establishing an educational exchange.

Carol Burgan of Chicago who had been on our previous tour had the advantage of having her Slovak speaking mother Eleanor Lukasek with her. Eleanor's Slovak speaking ability was warmly received and delighted the family relatives found in the Orava and Šariš regions.

John Olenick and wife Marlene expressed what most Americans experience when visiting Slovakia and that is the beauty of the Tatras along with the overall charm of the villages. Visiting the villages where his father and grandfather were born was

John and Marlene Olenick from Winston, Salem, North Carolina



Tour members enjoy a Spišská Nová Ves luncheon reception with Major Volný



The 2011 Youngstown Spišská Nová Ves tour group in Kremnica, Slovakia

Debbie Garner of Latrobe, PA, poses with Minnie Mouse at the Hotel Kaskády



an overwhelming experience, and he will always treasure his encounter with his Slovak ancestry. John, in addition to his many talents is an accomplished amateur photographer, and has made available access to volumes of pictures.

An immensely interesting story surrounds Mike Ondrasek, a retired Air Force Colonel and presently Professor of Computer Science at Wright State University. According to Mike, his father Emil told him that his grandfather, also named Emil was born in Czechoslovakia. That was the end of the story, since Emil died a premature death, and shared virtually no family history. Determined to research his family history, Mike enlisted the aid of a professional genealogist. He found both sides of his family also discovering an elderly cousin that he was able to help in her time of need. His story well documented is too long for adequate attention in this article, but is available for those interested. His story is certainly recognizable to those who have had similar experiences. Michael feels his life had changed and in his word states, "I know where I came from—I now know who I truly am."

Shirley and Bob Troha, both retired teachers from New Jersey with the assistance of a genealogist were able to contact Shirley's relatives in Matiašovce. Prior to preparation for a tour, Shirley had only vague family information. When meeting with relatives, she was greatly surprised to learn that she had over twenty relatives living in the United States. Her immediate project is to continue her search in the United States.

Dr. William Kerpsak, a well known veterinarian in Youngstown, Ohio, accompanied by Mary Helen Hurton, was joined in mid tour daughter Dr. Brigitte Kersak-Olsen, and her nine year old daughter Jane. Dr. Brigitte Kersak-Olsen is a pediatrician in New York, who because of professional responsibilities could only spend five days with the tour. However, there was ample time to enjoy the family search as well as some of the tour activities. Interestingly, two prominent ancestors were a Bishop and a Physician both memorialized by bronze plaques in Podhradie. Bishop Jan Hutrya Ecclesiastical Head of the Špiš Region was imprisoned because of pro Slovak activism. Dr. Frantisek Hutrya was both a physician and veterinarian. Dr. Bill Kerpsak who thoroughly enjoyed his visit with relatives feels certain that genetics have played a distinct part of his family's interest and aptitude in medicine. In addition to daughter Brigitte, Bill's twin brother Robert, is also a veterinarian and partner in his veterinary practice.

Once again a highly distinguished group of Slovak/Americans left a lasting impression on our brothers and sisters in our ancestral land. Perhaps John Olenick spoke for the group when he said and wrote, "We have learned a lot about Slovak history and culture, and I am proud to be Slovak."

The Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities is recognized as a 501C non profit organization. To find out more about our program visit our website at www.youngtownsistercities.com

Join Kay and Jim Bench, July 10-24, 2012 on our 15th Slovak Heritage Tour of Slovakia. For additional information contact Jim and Kay at 724-694-5101 home phone, 724-858-5843 Jim's cell phone or 724-771-7900 Kay's cell phone.

Editors note: James M Bench is a retired Professor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Vice-President of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Program, and a member of The First Catholic Slovak Union Supreme Court. Both Kay and Jim Bench are members of Branch 181.



Tour members rafting on the Dunajec River, which separates Slovakia and Poland

Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/Spisšká Nová Ves Sister Cities

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



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

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

For more information contact:

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

Phone 724-694-5101---cell phone 724-858-5843

e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

or

Adventure International Travel

PO Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Phone 216-228-7171 (Toll free 800-542-2487)

e-mail paul@aits.webmail.com



Branches 24, 450, and 855:

\$5 Lake Erie Monsters Hockey Game, Plus Dollar Dog/Pop



Friday, April 13, 2012

7:30pm

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



Special Offer Includes:

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

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

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



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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please fill out completely)
NAME _____ DAY PHONE () _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

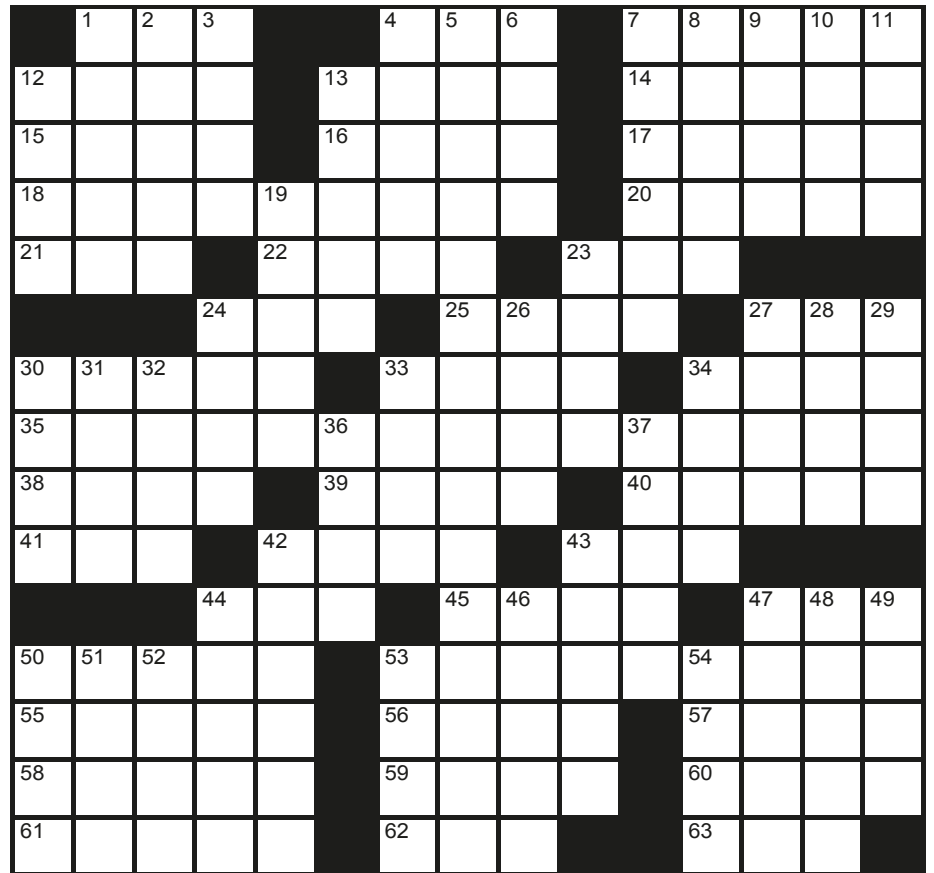
PAYMENT INFORMATION

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

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

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Flying mammal
- 4 Biz supervision (Abbr.)
- 7 Senegal capital
- 12 ___ mater
- 13 Center
- 14 Thrill
- 15 Impartial
- 16 Toward shelter
- 17 Quoted
- 18 Dutch capital
- 20 Levels
- 21 Thing, in law
- 22 Catch one's breath
- 23 Gaming cube
- 24 Owns
- 25 Legal document
- 27 Time zone
- 30 Anticipate
- 33 Buckeye State
- 34 Card game
- 35 Solid; unwavering
- 38 Large and scholar book
- 39 Morsels
- 40 Aeries
- 41 Fruit drink
- 42 Mirth
- 43 Mature
- 44 Noah's creation
- 45 Replete
- 47 Used to be
- 50 Netherlands Antill island
- 53 Coolest
- 55 Common grape vi
- 56 Byron poem
- 57 Contest
- 58 Oil source
- 59 Greek god of war

- 60 State openly
- 61 Discourage
- 62 Time periods (Abbr.)
- 63 Fish catcher

Down

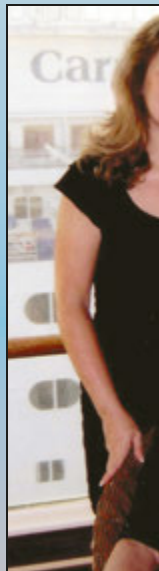
- 1 Find fault
- 2 Haywire
- 3 Like a lemon
- 4 Forms
- 5 Man-eater
- 6 Swarm
- 7 Duplicity
- 8 Existing
- 9 Actress Capshaw
- 10 Solar disk
- 11 Scarlet and cerise
- 12 Distant
- 13 Anxious feelings
- 19 Muse of poetry
- 23 Designer name
- 24 Boost
- 26 BBQ choice
- 27 After place and door
- 28 Mild oath
- 29 High rocky hills
- 30 Ionian gulf
- 31 Golf club
- 32 Pinnacle

- 33 Demon
- 34 Escape
- 36 People in gene
- 37 Wing bearer
- 42 Kitchen utensil
- 43 Gazetteer
- 44 Higher up
- 46 Eng. river
- 47 Interlace
- 48 Cravat
- 49 Goulash
- 50 Footless
- 51 Upset
- 52 Building block
- 53 Talon
- 54 Persia, now



See Solution on Page 19

Scenes from the Membership Meet of the First Aboard the Norw



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



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 1, 2012. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Men's Club in Father Darray 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 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, Vice President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA. Members are encouraged to attend.

Marion Rubino

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

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

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

• Emily Agolia

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

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

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

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

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

Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Fraternally,

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

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

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

See you at the Club!

**Thomas B. Zuffa,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthews, Branch 260, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2012, at 1:30PM at Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, OH.

Plans for the new year will be discussed and other business pertaining to the betterment of the Society will be acted upon. We urge all members to attend and take an active part in the proposals that will be discussed.

Fraternally submitted,

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Branch 290, St. John the Baptist, Raritan, NJ, will hold a meeting on March 21, 2012, at 7:30PM. Please call Joe as to the location of the meeting at 732-469-5256 after 6PM.

Fraternally,

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Fraternally,

Marie Gryzko, President

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will have their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 1:00pm at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109.

We will discuss plans for our fundraisers for this year.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

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

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

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON , MICHIGAN

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

Other February events at Tatra Hall:

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

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

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

**Jerry Lloyd
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

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

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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

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

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY M. SKLAR BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Dorothy M. Sklar, 84, of Houtzdale, died Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012, at Centre Crest Nursing Home, Bellefonte, PA.

Born February 8, 1927 in Whiteside, Houtzdale RD, she was a daughter of Charles J. and Josephine (McKonsky) Sklar.

She was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church, the Altar and Rosary Society, Christ Helping Hands, and the Catholic Daughters of the American Court No 646. She also was a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, having served as president of the branch since 1982.

She retired after 26 years of service with the (former) General Cigar Factory, Philipsburg, PA.

She is survived by a brother, Charles Sklar of Johnstown, and a number of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph T. Sklar, and a sister, Sophie B. Yebernetsky.

The rosary was recited by the Catholic Daughters of America and the Altar and Rosary Society on Friday, January 20, 2012, at the Birger A. Freeberg Funeral Home Inc., Houtzdale. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at Christ the King Catholic Church, Houtzdale, with Father Stanley J. Swacha as celebrant. Interment was at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Brisbin. May she rest in peace.

Submitted by Marie Sedlak,
Recording Secretary

MICHAEL KARCH BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Michael Karch, 86 years old, of Edison died Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. Born October 5, 1925, in Sejkov, Slovakia, he married Mary Pavlo in 1959 and moved to Edison. Michael was a Machinist with Airco in Kenilworth and retired from Edison Mold & Tool Co. in Cranford. He was a communicant of Holy Family R.C. Church, Linden, NJ, and member of First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak League of America, Slovak Culture Club, and American Slovak Senior Club.

He was predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Barbara Karch, and he is the last



survivor of his family. Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Mary Karch; daughters, Mary Kapitan and husband Gary of Edison, Ann Garris and husband Jerry of Old Bridge; son, Michael J. Karch of CA; grandchildren, Michael G. Karch, Tim and Kim Kapitan, and Melissa and Sarah Garris; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends.

Funeral Services began at 9:00AM on Friday, December 16, 2011, at Flynn and Son Funeral Home, Metuchen, NJ, followed by a Funeral Liturgy at 10:00AM at Holy Family Church, Parkway Avenue Trembly Point, Linden, NJ. Interment was in St. Gertrude Cemetery. Visiting hours were Thursday, December 15, 2011, from 4:00 to 8:00PM at the funeral home.

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR RURA DISTRICT

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

Mary J. Kapitan, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

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

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

Fraternally,

Barbara A. Holly, District Secretary

DISTRICT 13 – JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District 13 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2012, following a complimentary luncheon. The meeting starts at 2:00PM at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, Route 53 South from Philipsburg, PA.

Members from District 13 branches are asked to attend. Dues for 2012 are due from each branch.

Please call or fax Rosemary Deliman @ 814-342-5592, if you are planning to attend.

Rosemary Deliman, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting Tuesday March 20, beginning at 6:00pm, at St. Matthias Church Rectory, The agenda will include discussions of the year's activities, including a casino trip.

Carla Peshek, District President

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



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

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

Jersey, where he grew up.

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

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

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

It should be a wonderful event!

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

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

Attire: Business casual

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

OBITUARIES

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ELIZABETH G. LUCJAK BRANCH 600 – LEECHBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Elizabeth G. "Betty" (Czirjak) Lucjak, 91, of Leechburg, died Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, at Belair Health and Rehabilitation Center, Lower Burrell. She was born June 14, 1920, in Gilpin Township, daughter of the late Emery and Mary (Shaley) Czirjak. She was the wife of the late Steve R. "Bodey" Lucjak, who died Oct. 30, 1978.



Mrs. Lucjak was a custodian for five years with Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell, retiring in 1980. She was a member of Christ the King Parish, in Leechburg. She was a member of St. Anne's Guild, a choir member, and a member of the home visitation committee at the former St. Martha Roman Catholic Church, in Leechburg. She was a member of Branch 600, serving as an officer of that branch of the FCSU for many years.

She was a former member of the Leechburg Lioness Club and a member of the Catholic Daughters of America. Betty was an avid crocheter and enjoyed playing Bingo and bowling. She was also an avid Steelers fan. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, and especially with her great-grandson, Alex. She is survived by two sons, Robert C. (Jenny) Lucjak, of Beaver Creek, Ohio, and Michael A. (Gloria) Lucjak, of Allegheny Township, and John (Dolores) Lucjak, of Leechburg, whom she helped raise; three daughters, Anita Marie (Andy) Hapshie, of Morrilton, Fla., Diana Lynn Schrecongost, of Gilpin Township, and Linda L. Fraser, of Colton, Calif.; special granddaughter, Shila Schrecongost, of Leechburg; and brother, William (Sarah) Czirjak, of Elkhart, Ind. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by brothers, Steve Czirjak, James Emery Czirjak, and two brothers in infancy; and sisters, Margaret Procius, Rose Stuczynski and a sister in infancy.

Friends were welcomed by her family from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at CLAWSON'S, Leechburg, where parting prayers of transfer were held followed by a Christian Funeral Mass at Christ the King Parish, Leechburg, with her pastor, the Rev. Joseph V. Trupkovich, officiating. Interment followed in St. Catherine Cemetery, Gilpin Township.

Submitted by John Majo,
Branch President

SISTER OF BRANCH 200'S SACRED HEART OF JESUS SOCIETY, MARY A. CHARNEY, PASSES INTO ETERNITY

Mary Angela (Stolar) Charney, 89, a first-generation American, sister of FCSU Branch 200KJ/ Sacred Heart of Jesus Society in Ford City, PA, passed into eternity on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at the Armstrong County Health Center, Kittanning, PA. She regularly represented Branch 200 at meetings and activities of Msgr Josef Tiso District 11 and was a delegate to three FCSU Quadrennial Conventions (46th in Toronto, 47th and 48th in Florida).



Mary was the youngest child and only daughter of Joseph F. and Mary E. (Chvila) Stolar – who were from Soložnice (north of Bratislava), Slovakia, and later reunited in Ford City, PA where they married. Mary was born on September 28, 1922, in Ford City, where she lived until November 2008, when her declining health required almost constant medical attention and frequent hospitalization.

On August 4, 1941, Mary married Michael J. "Kaiser" Charney, a naturalized citizen who had emigrated with his mother Mary E. "Chabrak" (Marcinčák) and brother John P. "Sutty" Charney, from Veľké Zalužice (in eastern Slovakia). Kaiser died in 1984, three months shy of their 43rd anniversary.

Mary was a devout Roman Catholic throughout her life, an active parishioner of both the former Holy Trinity (Slovak) Parish in which she was raised and later Christ, Prince of Peace Parish into which it was consolidated in 2003. She attended Mass and prayed the Rosary every day; she was a Lay Eucharistic Minister at Mass, a Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound, and a choir member in both parishes, and she helped gather Catholic residents at Armstrong County Health Center for the Pauline Fathers' weekly Mass for almost ten years. Although she professed to detest baking and cooking, she helped to prepare traditional Slovak pastries for semi-annual bake sales and cabbage-and-noodles for its booth at Ford City Heritage Days each year.

Mary had grown up bilingual, and was especially pleased that her skill in Slovak enabled her to see where her husband had been born and to meet and communicate directly with more than 100 of her own and 50+ of his relatives. She frequently translated official Slovak documents or personal correspondence for the people of the Ford City area.

Elected Ford City's tax assessor in 1954, she visited all Slavic (Slovak, Polish, Ukrainian) families in town to ensure that their status was accurately reflected and that they were taxed accordingly and fairly. In 1966, she began working as a teller/clerk at the Credit Union from which she retired 25 years later.

In addition to her participation formally in FCSU, Mary served on the Board of Directors of the Slovak C.U. Club of Ford City and belonged to its C.U. Ladies Auxiliary. She also belonged to the National Slovak Society and the Greek Catholic Union and was a former member of the Sokol. A good athlete, Mary enjoyed almost all sports: she had played softball and basketball and participated in Sokol gymnastics slets in her youth. For more than 63 years, she bowled in four local leagues and competed, along with other family members, in 33 annual Jednota international tournaments, placing first or second in team and individual events six times.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; sons Joseph J. Charney of Upper Marlboro MD and Andrew M. Charney of Fairfax VA; a stillborn daughter; infant brothers Stephen and Paul Stolar of Ford City; John P. Stolar of Ford City; Joseph M. "Posey" and his wife Mary (Kondrc) Stolar, and Andrew M. "Ishky" Stolar, all of Ford Cliff; her parents-in-law; and her brothers-in-law and their wives Anna (Ondo) Charney of Ford City and Eleanor (Crytzer) Charney of Melvindale MI; nephew John A. Charney of Kittanning died 12 days after her death.

Mary is survived and sorely missed by sons Zigmund F. (Marcia Heurich) Charney of Fairfax VA; Raymond P. Charney of Parker AZ, who was with her in Ford City since 2008, and William J. Charney of Hackettstown NJ; daughters Elizabeth C. Cieri of Morris Plains NJ (known to FC friends as "Betty Lou") and Grace M. Charney of Ford City; daughters-in-law Elaine (Gates) Charney of Apex NC and Susan (Biel) Charney of Fairfax VA; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren: Carrie Beth (Lewis/Richard) Crawford and two daughters of Fairfax VA;

Joseph J. "Jay" (Hayley) Charney, Jr., two sons, and daughter of Bath MI; Michael W. (Jennifer) Charney, daughter, and son of Cary NC; Troy M. (Heather) Charney of Raleigh NC; Jill D. (Cieri/Anthony) Aquino of Newton NJ; Todd D. Cieri of Morris Plains NJ; Thomas M., Stephanie A. and Lisa E. Charney of Fairfax VA; nephews and their families: James Charney of Kittanning; George J. (Pam) Charney of Grosse Ile MI; Richard (Mary Ann) Charney of Allen Park MI; and John's (Patty) of Kittanning; niece Marlene (Stolar/Richard) Easley and children Patrick, Lorraine, and Lisa of Kittanning; nieces and their families: Esther (Charney) Irvine of Summerfield, FL; Joanne (Charney) Reed of Worthington; and Melissa (Charney/John) Austin

of Adrian MI; and cousins and extended family in New York, Ohio, Canada, France, and Slovakia.

Pre-arrangements were handled through Welch Funeral Home in Ford City, which welcomed visitors from 2-4 and 6-8 PM on Friday, October 28, 2011. The Christ, Prince of Peace Bereavement Committee conducted a memorial service and the Legion of Mary prayed the Rosary to close the afternoon visitation. Fr Ronald Cyktor of St Patrick Parish, Brady's Bend, presided over the 10 AM prayer service at the funeral home on Saturday, October 29, which included prayers in Slovak by representatives of Jednota Branch 200, and was the principal celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial that followed at Christ, Prince of Peace Church at 10:30 AM, including "Budiž Pozdravena" as the Communion hymn. Fr Raphael Glinkowski, OSP of St Paul Monastery, Kittanning, concelebrated the Mass and presided at the interment service at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Manor Township, which ended with "Sladke Srdce."

Submitted by Grace M. Charney

FRANK J. LYSY, GREAT SLOVAK PATRIOT, DIPLOMAT DEPARTED INTO ETERNITY

Frank J. Lysy, PhD, was born on February 5, 1916 in Spisske Vlachy, Slovakia; which then was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the son of a state railroad maintenance supervisor. He would have been 96 years old in 3 months. He was the first in his family to go beyond the secondary school, going first to the Teachers Academy, then on to the Slovak University in Bratislava, Slovakia; where he received his first PhD in Slavistics and Philosophy. In 1949, he received a PhD in Linguistics at the University of Padua in Italy. With the turmoil of WWII, as a student in Italy, he experienced Allied bombings and was strafed by airplane fighters while traveling with a convoy.

While employed in the newly re-constituted Czechoslovak government at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague, on August 4, 1947, he married Edith Ludmila Ondrejickova. Edith was born on February 12, 1919 in Banovce nad Bebravou, Slovakia and she was also employed at the same Ministry. Shortly after their wedding, Frank was posted in Oslo, Norway to serve at the Czechoslovak Legation.



During Frank's first years at the Embassy, as Charge d'affaires, he made a very important move. By making a personal secret contact with the highest Norwegian Police Department in Oslo, Norway and a personal friendship with its Chief, J. Myklebust, his efforts later paid off well. By 1949 when the Communists in Czechoslovakia gained control over the country, Frank had established a watchdog over activity in Oslo. Contrary to the already infiltrated Communist espionage network in Norway, directed from Prague, Czechoslovakia, this watchdog activity was very much supported by the Chief Director of police, J. Myklebust. During Frank's visit to the University in Padua, Italy, where he received his PhD in Linguistics, the Norwegian Police had encountered and discovered the plot of the Czech foreign exchange students that studied at the Agricultural University. They had reported to the police that some Slovaks living in Norway were Communist agents. Knowing about the Prague's Communist network, Director J. Myklebust ordered all foreign exchange students from Czechoslovakia to return back to their country.

On May 6, 1948, the Lysys were blessed with the first son, Dusan. On June 30, 1950, the family of Frank, Edith and Dusan sailed on a Norwegian ship for New York City, U.S.A. After living on savings for an extended period, Frank found employment with Radio Free Europe - Czechoslovak Desk. Frank worked very diligently to get into the Czechoslovak Desk, more Slovaks of Pro Slovakia interest. For many years, he wrote and edited the weekly religion program for Slovakia at the Voice of America. Through that programming and through his strong ties to his church and to Slovak religious figures, he developed personal relationships with Vatican officials. There, on one occasion, he met with Mother Theresa. Through discussions with her and subsequent contacts with U.S. State Department Officials, he eventually facilitated the arrangements that led to Mother Theresa meeting with President Ronald Reagan.

On November 12, 1993, the Catholic University of America sponsored the Slovak World Recognition Awards and the Conference on the Slovak National Identity at the Caldwell Auditorium Campus. Frank Lysy, the Award Reception Chairman, together with Stephen Matula and Reverend Richard Skriba from Chicago, Illinois devoted many tireless hours for these historic Slovak events. His Eminence Jan Chrizostom Cardinal Korec Episcopus in Nitra, Slovakia and Captain Eugene Cernan, had received the first Awards of Honor at this event.

Frank Lysy was an exceptional man. I hope that we may be worthy in some small measure of what he has given to his sons - Dusan (wife, Janet), Frank (wife, Sue), Daniel (wife, Helen), and Peter (wife, Mary); Grandchildren, David, Kara, Erin, Sherri, Chris, Emma, Edward, Eleanor, George and one Great-Grandchild, Trey. Also with the many friends and strangers he has touched during his life and made their lives better.

May God bless him. He is now with his beloved Edith, buried next to her at Wesley Chapel Cemetery in Free Union, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Submitted by John A. Vacval,
the Lysy's Friend

Address Changes?

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

FCSU Members Marched For Life in January

On January 22, 1974, the first March for Life was held on the West Steps of the Capitol. An estimated 20,000 committed prolife Americans rallied that day against Roe v Wade. The numbers of marchers have steadily grown throughout the years, with tens of thousands of pro-life Americans in the rain outside the National Mall in Washington, DC on January 23, 2012, protesting the 1973 Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the United States. The First Catholic Slovak Union, together with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, were among the right-to-life advocates marching up Constitution Avenue, and provided free transportation from the FCSLA home office for members as well as students from local area Catholic schools. Two buses were reserved for this very important event.

Tens of thousands of prolife supporters congregated in the rain outside the National Mall in Washington, DC to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal



Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association were among the right-to-life Americans attending the March For Life Rally on January 23, 2012



Photos by Gina Peirce

Slovak Summer Institute To Be Held At University of Pittsburgh and Bratislava, Slovakia

The intensive Slovak Summer Institute will again be held at the University of Pittsburgh from June 4 through July 13, 2012. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Slovak will be offered. This course is open to students of any age, including juniors and seniors in high school, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to persons of any age not currently enrolled in a college or university. Partial and full scholarship aid is available. Apply by March 16, 2012 for scholarship consideration.

Attracting students from all over the U.S. and Canada, the Summer Language Institute consists of intensive instruction (five hours daily), allowing students to make the greatest possible progress in Slovak during the time available. Cultural and social activities, including lectures, discussion groups, and film showings are planned. Guest students may choose to stay in a dormitory or in a subletted apartment.

SLI's Intensive Slovak courses, which carry six college credits, represent a thorough introduction to the basic categories of Slovak pronunciation, grammar, and syntax. Emphasis is placed on communicative competence, the active use of new structures in dialogues, unstructured conversation, reading, and listening comprehension.

The instructors are chosen for their experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to language teaching, which ensures the high academic quality of Pitt's SLI program. Location at the University of Pittsburgh campus ensures access to the latest technology, combined with a sophisticated urban setting, with social and cultural amenities. The Slovak course is part of the University of Pittsburgh's East European Summer Language Institute.

A four-week intensive Slovak language program at the intermediate level, led by Dr. Vlasta Stofova, will be offered through SLI in 2012 in Bratislava, Slovakia following the six-week program in Pittsburgh. This course includes travel and cultural programming in Slovakia. Applicants with some prior knowledge of Slovak may also be considered for participation in this program.

For further information and applications for the 2012 Slovak Summer Institute, contact Christine Metil, Slavic Department Summer Programs, University of Pittsburgh, 1417 CL. Pittsburgh, PA 15260, call (412) 624-5906, or download an application at <http://sli.slavic.pitt.edu/>

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

News From Slovakia

Slovak Parliament Gives Consent to Croatia's EU Accession Treaty

Bratislava, February 1 (TASR) - The Slovak Parliament approved Croatia's accession to the European Union on this date.

Croatia's EU membership was approved by 145 MPs, with only 76 votes needed to pass the treaty between the 27 EU-member states and Croatia.

The agreement was ceremonially signed at the European Council session in December 2011 by Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova. Slovakia's ratification of the document will be completed when President Ivan Gasparovic signs it. The whole process in all EU-member states should be concluded on June 30, 2013. Croatia is set to become the 28th member state of the European Union on July 1, 2013.

Government Approves Treaty on ESM

Bratislava, February 1 (TASR) - Slovakia will have to contribute €659.2 million in five installments over five years to the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), according to the second version of the ESM treaty approved by the Government on this date.

The ESM will be introduced in mid-2012, which is one year earlier than originally planned. In contrast to the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), which was based only on collateral provided by individual eurozone member-countries, the ESM will have a total subscribed capital of €700 billion, of which €80 billion will be in the form of paid-in capital, while €620 billion will be represented by committed accessible capital. The total amount of subscribed capital provided by Slovakia will reach €5.768 billion.

The ESM treaty is a presidential treaty, so it must be ratified both by Parliament and the president before it comes into force. The Finance Ministry has pointed out that the treaty will require the setting-up of a broad framework in a wider scope than was required when joining the EFSF.

Poll: Almost Half of Slovaks Put Sovereignty above EU Membership

Bratislava, January 26 (TASR) - Almost half of Slovaks put Slovakia's sovereignty above EU membership, Pavel Haulik of MVK agency told TASR on this date, referring to a recent poll.

A total of 47.6 percent of those questioned responded in this manner, with 14.9 percent insisting that Slovakia should hang on to its sovereignty even at the cost of leaving the EU. Conversely, more than one-third (37.6 percent) think that Slovakia should attempt to keep its EU membership as a priority, with 11.2 percent stating that Slovakia should do so even at the cost of sacrificing its sovereignty.

Most-Hid voters were found to have the strongest pro-European leanings, with 56.3 percent preferring membership of the Union. The same opinion prevailed among SDKU-DS sympathizers (50.7 percent), whereas voters of other large political parties favored sovereignty over the risks of losing EU membership.

The poll, conducted by MVK agency between January 5-11, was carried out on a sample of 1,145 respondents.

Passionate Demonstrators Reach Door of Parliament

Bratislava, January 27 (TASR) - The passionate crowd attending the so-called 'Gorilla Protest' in Bratislava on Friday broke the security cordon in front of Parliament and reached the door of the Parliament building, a TASR journalist on the scene reported on this date.

Around 30 members of regular police guards and special police forces were called in to keep the crowd under control.

The demonstrators were throwing eggs, bananas and firecrackers at the police officers and Parliament. Hundreds of people marched with burning candles and whistles calling on politicians to resign over the massive corruption that the Gorilla wiretapping documents point to.

The crowd was shouting slogans, such as 'Treason!', 'We're fed up!' and 'Come out!'

The local authority officially allowed the rally to take place until 6 p.m.

Voters Prefer Better Business Environment to Huge State Projects

Bratislava, January 25 (TASR) - More than 44 percent of Slovaks think that the most effective way of dealing with high unemployment rates is to improve the conditions for employers, according to the results of a poll carried out by MVK agency that was published on this date.

According to the poll, people tend to prefer less interference in the rules of business, lower taxes and levies and a more flexible Labor Code.

Conversely, 27.6 percent of the respondents expressed the opinion that employment should be supported via state investments in huge public construction projects such as motorways and power plants.

Kia Slovakia Produces Millionth Car, Donates It to Clowndoctors

Teplicka nad Vahom, January 25 (TASR) - Kia Motors Slovakia in Teplicka nad Vahom near Zilina has produced its millionth car, which it donated to the civil association Red Nose Clowndoctors on Wednesday.

The white Kia cee'd will be used by 41 professional actors from the civil association, which entertains children in hospitals throughout Slovakia.

Gary A. Edwards, founder of the Red Nose Clowndoctors, said that the car will enable the clowns to make as much as 90 visits to hospitals every month.

Kia Motors Slovakia in 2011 recorded a 10-percent rise in production of cars, and a 12-percent increase in production of engines, said company spokesman Dusan Dvorak.

Kia Motors Slovakia has been Kia's first factory in Europe. The plant near Zilina was constructed between 2004-06, with car production launched in December 2006. The factory currently employs almost 4,000 people.

SAV: Number of Slovak Caregivers in Austria Has Tripled

Bratislava, January 31 (TASR) - There are 16,000 Slovak caregivers looking after the elderly in Austria, Miroslav Bahna from the Social Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) said at a press conference dedicated to the issue on Tuesday.

An intensive growth in the figure was seen especially in 2009, when the number of Slovak caregivers in Austria went up from 6,000 to the current statistics.

SAV, in co-operation with TNS Slovakia, carried out a survey finding out that the average age of Slovak female caregivers in Austria is higher than is the case with other immigrants.

"Two thirds of these women belong to the age group of 40-49 years," said Bahna, pointing out that the survey didn't cover male caregivers, however.

According to the results, most of these caregivers come from the Kosice, Presov, Banska Bystrica and Zilina regions.

More than 70 percent of the caregivers have a high-school education, 10 percent are university graduates and only 1 percent of them have basic education.

"When it comes to marital status, more than half of these women are married," said Bahna, specifying that around 78 percent of them have children, 70 percent of whom are already grown.

Most of the caregivers stated they work legally in the country, with 7 percent confessing they are in Austria "informally".

Around 78 percent of the female caregivers expressed satisfaction with the job. "It seems that most of the replies indicate that the women's situations improved when they started to work in Austria," Bahna said, adding that 88 percent of them are not thinking about settling down in the country permanently.

Reconstructed Reduta Building Welcomes Home Slovak Symphony

Bratislava, January 27 (TASR) - The reconstructed Reduta building that serves as the seat of the Slovak Symphony Orchestra was ceremoniously re-opened late on this date, with President Ivan Gasparovic, Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Hrusovsky and Prime Minister Iveta Radicova among the invited guests.

Under the baton of Emmanuel Villaum, the Slovak Symphony Orchestra performed Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 that elicited a standing ovation from the audience.

"I was quite curious to see how the reconstruction was carried out. It's a nice feeling to come and see that something good was accomplished again and the splendid concert served as icing on the already delicious cake," said Gasparovic.

The Slovak Symphony Orchestra had to abandon Reduta in April 2009 due to the deterioration of the building. Thirty-three months later, the orchestra returned home. "Both dates are historic for us, with the first one reeking of sadness and the second of joy. We're glad to return to professional conditions ... they're almost too good," said orchestra general director Marian Lapsansky. "In the case of the concert hall, we have to get re-adjusted to a beautiful and reverberating acoustics - quite different from the acoustics in a theater, but we'll be very glad to do it."

Reconstruction works began in December 2009 on the near-century-old building and cost €30 million (€2 million was contributed from Norwegian Funds).

Chinese Celebrate New Year and Present Their Culture in Bratislava

Bratislava, January 29 (TASR) - Around 500 invited guests at the Pavol Orszagh Hviezdoslav Theatre in Bratislava on Saturday night attended a ceremony marking the Chinese New Year, with the event also designed to introduce Slovakia to Chinese culture.

"On the occasion of Chinese New Year, the Year of the Water Dragon, we want to bring our nations closer in this way," said Ailei Ji, head of the Association of Chinese Businessmen in Slovakia, which organizes the annual event. Chinese New Year began on January 23.

An assembly of Chinese singers and dancers, who performed in Vienna a few days ago, presented traditional Chinese songs, dances and costumes. Also featured were a magician from a Beijing show, opera singers, and performances of martial arts and calligraphy. One of the pieces of calligraphy, created on stage, was given to mayor of Bratislava Milan Ftacnik.

"Today [Saturday] is the sixth day of the Chinese year of the Water Dragon. There's a saying in China that on every holiday a man misses his family the most. This assembly is our family," China's Ambassador to Slovakia Gu Ziping said in his speech.

Ailei Ji told the audience that the Year of the Water Dragon represents self-confidence and happiness, among other things. "The Chinese people are the descendants of a dragon," he said, adding that there are around 5,000 Chinese living in Slovakia, around 20 percent of whom have acquired Slovak citizenship.

"I believe that our nations will be happier this year," he added.



PAS Performs at Disney & Slovak Gardens in Florida this March

The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PAS) has been selected to perform at Disney World on the Waterside Stage in Downtown Disney in Orlando, FL, on Friday, March 2, 2012 at 12:30PM. The group will debut a program from the Horehron region of Slovakia that features the beauty of their stamping, precision and rhythmic movement. The new program comes alive with the Horehronsky Dupak in which the young men and women impress each other with unique stamping and dancing skills. A romance often evolves, as the stamps are a "call" to one another.

The Disney Performing Arts Onstage Program provides an opportunity for ensembles from around the world to entertain an international audience at their world famous attraction. After successfully auditioning, PAS received the honor to provide a special performance on the Downtown Disney Waterside Stage, which is the premier venue at the Orlando park. Because of Disney's high standard of expectations, it is a tremendous honor for any group to be chosen to participate.

PAS also represented the United States in Det'va Slovakia at the 44th Annual Folklórne Slávnosti Pod Poľanou v Detve (Folklore Celebration below Poľana Mountain) in July 2009. The most recent local invitation came in October of 2011, when the Pittsburgh Philharmonic Symphony requested PAS to join them in a series of concerts.

On Sunday March 4, "PAS" will continue its Florida performing tour at the Slovak Winter Garden Complex on 3110 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park, Florida at the 60th Anniversary Annual Slovak Day. The new program from the Horehron Region of Slovakia will be featured. Festivities will begin with a Mass celebrated in Slovak. Following the liturgy, a luncheon including a variety of homemade Slovak culinary specialties will be served in the social hall. Music for dancing and listening will be provided through out the day in addition to their Slovak Museum being open for everyone to enjoy.

Reservations for the event can be made by contacting the Slovak Gardens at (407) 677-6894. Doors open at 10:00 am.

The Board of Directors of The Slovak Garden
Would Like to Invite you to the

60th Annual Slovak Day
60. Slovenský Deň
at The Slovak Garden
Sunday, March 4th, 2012
Starting at 11:00 AM
with a Slovak Catholic Mass on the premises.
Slovak home made food will be served at 1:00 PM
PLEASE MAKE AN EARLY RESERVATION
Cultural program starts at 3:00PM
Folk dancing ensemble PAS will be performing
Entertainment—Live Music by EUROPA
Sweepstakes Tickets \$ 5.00 each, excellent prizes
The Annual Convention will be hold on Monday, March 5, 2012. All members who intend to vote will need to register between 9.00 and 10.00 AM
The Convention will start at 10.00 AM

Admission: \$25.00 includes Entry, Main Meal, Entertainment
For reservation (not later then February 29) contact
Slovak Garden:
Telephone: 407 677 6894
E mail: slovakgarden@centurylink.net

*IRA deposits for the 2011
tax year must be made by
April 15, 2012*

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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Rules and Regulations

continued from page 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Rate Effective February 1, 2012

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Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

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

Známí a neznámí Slováci

Slovák medzi Indiánmi v Equadore



Juraj Pavlišin

Už niekoľko rokov pôsobí v rovníkovom Equadore 30-ročný východniar Peter Polončák zo Stropkova na východnom Slovensku. Do Equadorskej provincie Morona Santiago prišiel vďaka pomoci slovenských misionárov-saleziánov Otca Antona Odrobiňáka, SDB a Otca Jána Šutku, SDB. Ako misionársky dobrovoľník v indiánskej farnosti Bomboiza tu vypomáha 83-ročnému misionárovi z Talianska Otcovi Natale Pulicimu, ktorý tu žije už viac ako 50 rokov.

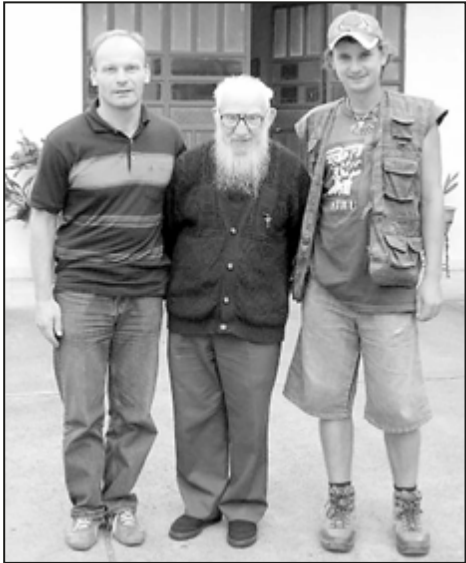
Obyvateľmi tejto farnosti sú prevažne indiáni z kmeňa shuarov, ktorí žijú v okolitých dažďových pralesoch. Sú to veľmi pohostinní ľudia, ktorí žijú veľmi skromne vo svojich drevených domčekoch so slamenou strechou. Shuarovia sú veľmi úprimní a veselí ľudia. Majú dobrý charakter a sú veľmi zdvorilí. Ak človek vojde do ich obydli, tak mu dajú najesť a nič za to nežiadajú. Sú veľmi otvorení a pohostinní.

Väčšina z nich sa živí lovom divých zvierat a rybolovom, ale pri svojich domčekoch obhospodarujú aj maličké záhradky, kde pestujú rôznu pre nás exotickú zeleninu ako napríklad yuku, camote, papachinu a pod. Človek tu k pokojnému životu veľa toho ani nepotrebuje, pretože veľké množstvo obživy poskytuje aj samotný dažďový prales. Rastie tu niekoľko druhov banánovníkov, ktorých plody – banány sa tu pripravujú na rôznych spôsoboch a to varené, pečené, ale aj na priamu konzumáciu.

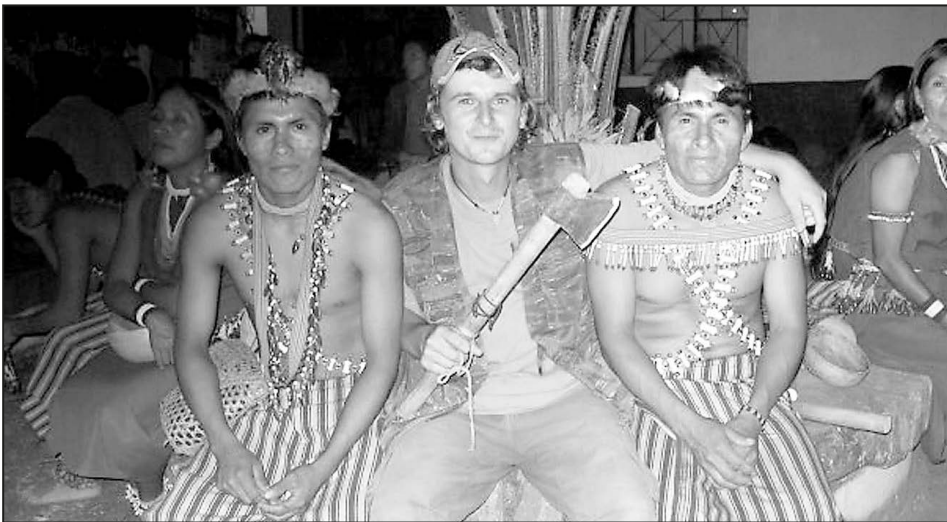
Shuarovia nepoznajú vianočné jedlá tak, ako ich poznáme my na Slovensku. Aj na Vianoce pripravujú jedlá, ktoré varia bežne počas celého roka. Jedným z takýchto jedál je ayampaco, ktoré sa pripravuje z rybacieho a kuracieho mäsa vareného v listoch z banánovníka. Ako príloha sa k tomu podáva varená yuka alebo platan. Najobľúbenejším nápojom je však špeciálne skvasený nápoj chicha zo šťavy yuky, ktorého shuarovia dokážu vypíť veľké množstvo.

Podľa Petra Polončáka je život medzi shuarmi veľmi pokojný a čas tu plynie pomalšie ako u nás na Slovensku. Po dlhšom pobyte v tejto odľahlej časti Equadoru človek príde na to, že nepotrebuje veľa vecí pre to, aby bol šťastný.

Juraj Pavlišin, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia



Na snímke zľava: otec Anton Odrobiňák, otec Natale Pulici a Peter Polončák.



Peter Polončák medzi indiánmi-shuarami.

Do trvalého eurovalu Slovenská republika zaplatí 659 mil. eur

Na rozdiel od jeho predchodcu, ktorý bol postavený len na zárukách účastníckych krajín, do trvalého eurovalu (ESM) budú členské štáty prispievať priamo upísaním akcií na základnom imaní 700 miliárd eur. Z tejto sumy bude 80 miliárd eur vo forme splatných akcií, zvyšných 620 miliárd eur bude splatných na vyzvanie.

“Slovenská republika bude musieť svoj podiel vo výške 659,2 milióna eur splatiť v piatich splátkach v priebehu piatich rokov, pričom prvá z nich bude splatná do pätnástich dní po vstupe zmluvy do platnosti,” konštatuje ministerstvo financií v druhej verzii zmluvy o založení ESM. Celková hodnota akcií upísaných Slovenskom, vrátane tých na požiadanie, bude podľa tohto dokumentu predstavovať 5,768 miliardy eur.

Trvalý euroval nadväzuje na svojho predchodcu, Európsky fond finančnej stability (EFSF), ktorý bol vytvorený v roku 2010 len na obmedzené obdobie do júna 2013. Práve v tomto termíne ho mal pôvodne ESM nahradiť, európski lídri však v pondelok 30. januára 2012 na summite v Bruseli definitívne potvrdili dlhšie presadzovanú myšlienku, aby nový mechanizmus začal fungovať už od polovice tohto roka.

Obidva záchranné mechanizmy tak budú jeden rok fungovať súbežne, pričom ich spoločná efektívna úverová kapacita by nemala presiahnuť 500 miliárd eur. Na druhej strane však takýto krok nie je vylúčený. “Po podpísaní zmluvy o ESM a pred jej vstupom do platnosti ešte Rada guvernérov prehodnotí to, či stanovená úverová kapacita postačuje a prípadne ju môže navýšiť,” avizuje rezort financií.

Zmluva o trvalom eurovale je prezidentskou zmluvou, na prijatie ktorej je potrebný zákon a pred ratifikáciou hlavou štátu sa vyžaduje aj súhlas Národnej rady (NR) SR. Ministerstvo financií zároveň upozorňuje, že na vykonateľnosť zmluvy bude potrebné vytvoriť nový legislatívny rámec v značne širšom rozsahu ako v platnom zákone o špecifických štátnych zárukách, prijatom pri vstupe SR do dočasného eurovalu.

TASR

Riešením Gorily nie sú masové protesty, ale masová účasť vo voľbách

Cesta k náprave škandálu spôsobeného spisom Gorila nevedie cez masovú účasť v protestoch, ale cez masovú účasť vo voľbách a zvolenie takých zástupcov nášho národa, ktorým skutočne leží na srdci jeho osud, a nie osud vlastných peňaženiek. V tlačovom vyhlásení Matice slovenskej (MS) to 4. februára uviedol jej predseda Marián Tkáč.

„Je zaiste prejavom slobody a demokracie vyjsť na námestia a vyjadriť svoj názor, ale emócie davu na uliciach či námestiach nikdy nevedli a nevedú k potrebným riešeniam,“ vyhlásil. „Tak aj niektoré požiadavky z námestia sú až neuveriteľne naivné: treba odložiť voľby, aby ešte ďalšie mesiace žila slovenská spoločnosť v bezvýchodiskovej kríze? To naozaj je za dnešný stav ‚zodpovedný‘ náš štátny znak, dvojkríž, tisícročný symbol, za ktorý vyliali krv Holuby, Šulek, Langsfeld? Je dôvod na jeho zosmiešňovanie?“ uviedol Tkáč. So štátnym znakom s prikreslenou gorilou a banánovým dvojkrížom protestoval proti Gorile aj líder hnutia OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti Igor Matovič.

„To naozaj je čas plakať nad rozdelením Československej socialistickej republiky, ako to odznelo v Bratislave, a spájať ho s politikmi s ‚gorilím inštinktom‘? To naozaj je naša polícia a anarchistické skupinky v uliciach na tej istej lodi? O čo teda ide? O očistenie našej politickej scény alebo o oslabenie slovenskej štátnosti a národa? Alebo o záhadné hry, ktorým radový občan a možno aj mnohí ‚politici‘ nerozumejú?“, pýta sa Tkáč vo vyhlásení MS.

Ako dodal, MS je za pravdivé odhalenie neprípustného prepojenia finančných skupín a moci, ako aj za spravodlivé vyšetrovanie trestuhodných zlyhaní konkrétnych osôb. “Tých, ktorí napríklad vyhlasovali, že náš štát je najhorším možným vlastníkom a štátny majetok predali zahraničným štátnym podnikom len preto, aby z toho mali provízie,” uviedol Tkáč s tým, že Slovensko potrebuje politikov, ktorí si budú vedomí svojej osobnej zodpovednosti pred národom a “budú dbať o ochranu a zachovanie jeho duše”.

TASR

Pôstne obdobie

Prípravným obdobím pred Veľkou nocou je štyridsaťdňový pôst. Je formou pokánia nielen v kresťanstve, ale aj v iných náboženstvách.

V Rímskokatolíckej cirkvi sa pôstna príprava na Veľkú noc začína tzv. Popolcovou stredou. Je to streda v siedmom týždni pred Veľkou nocou. V tento deň, ktorý je dňom prísneho pôstu a zdržiavania sa mäsitého pokrmu, kňaz alebo diakon robí popolom znak kríža na čelách veriacich so slovami: „Pamätaj, že prach si a na prach sa obrátiš“, alebo „Kajajte sa a verte v evanjelium!“.

Obrad sypania popola na hlavu v prvý pôstny deň sa praktizoval už od 8. storočia. Pôvodne to bol obrad vyhradený len pre veľkých a verejných hriešnikov, ktorí v tento deň začínali svoju cestu pokánia. Vstupovali do chrámu bosí, zaodetí vrecovinou a sykali si na hlavu popol. Neskôr podobným spôsobom začínali svoje pokánie nielen verejní kajúnci, ale aj ostatní veriaci a sypanie popola na hlavu sa stalo všeobecným symbolom rozhodnutia nastúpiť na cestu pokánia. V 10. a 11. storočí bol už tento obrad udomácnенý v mnohých oblastiach západnej Európy. Koncil v Benevente v roku 1091 ho zaviedol pre celú Cirkev, pričom sypanie popola na hlavu sa nahradilo značením na čelo.

Gréckokatolíci (byzantského obradu), ktorí sa pridriavajú gregoriánskeho kalendára, začínajú Veľký štyridsaťdňový pôst o dva dni skôr ako rímskokatolíci (latinského obradu). Svätá štyridsiatnica sa začína už v pondelok a trvá do piatku pred Lazárovou sobotou. Do štyridsiatich dní pôstu počítajú gréckokatolíci aj soboty a nedele (zatiaľ čo rímskokatolíci nedele nepočítajú). Pôst je obdobím, keď sa má veriaci usilovať o obrátenie, zmenu zmýšľania, má rozjímať nad svojím životom, plakať nad svojimi hriechmi. Na rozjímanie a sprítomnenie Kristovho spásnosného utrpenia je vyhradený až Veľký týždeň. Tieto skutočnosti sa odrážajú aj v bohoslužobnom živote byzantskej cirkvi - v stredu a piatky sa slúži liturgia vopred posvätených darov. Pri nej sa veriacim rozdeľujú vopred posvätené eucharistické dary; bohoslužba nemá anaforu (eucharistický kánon) ani premenenie svätých darov. Je to bohoslužba s najsilnejšie vyjadrenou eucharistickou úctou v byzantskom obrade. Zároveň, na rozdiel od liturgie sv. Jána Zlatoústeho či sv. Bazila Veľkého, obsahuje mnoho kajúcich prvkov - najmä hlbokých poklôn.

Archív TK KBS



Podtatranské obce chcú rozvíjať sieť cyklotrás

O cyklistické trasy pod Tatrami a ich budovanie začínajú mať záujem už i samotné obce. Aj z tohto dôvodu sa vo štvrtok 2. februára z iniciatívy primátora Spišskej Belej Štefana Bieláka a starostu obce Veľká Lomnica Petra Dudu uskutočnilo prvé kolo spoločného pracovného stretnutia k téme Cyklotrasy pod Tatrami. Koordinátor projektu Belianske Tatry – Martin Gallik informoval, že na rokovanie boli prizvaní i starostovia podtatranských obcí, ako napr. Huncovce, Malý a Veľký Slavkov, Mlynica, Stará Lesná, Rakúsy, Mlynčeky, Nová Lesná, ale i zástupcovia miest Kežmarok, Poprad a Vysoké Tatry. “Chýbať by nemali zástupcovia Regionálnej rozvojovej agentúry Tatry – Spiš, Centra rozvoja turizmu Prešovského samosprávneho kraja pre Vysoké Tatry, Euroregiónu Tatry, ako aj zástupcovia občianskeho združenia Pro Tatry,” doplnil Gallik.

Cieľom stretnutia malo byť podľa neho zmapovanie záujmov týchto samospráv pri riešení výstavby cyklotrás v podtatranskom regióne a hľadanie spoločného riešenia ich prejavania v koridore od Popradu až do Spišskej Belej.

Gallik vyzdvihol tiež potrebu cyklistického prepojenia vyššie spomínaných obcí, ktorá začala v poslednom čase narastať. Impulzom boli najmä uskutočnené investície do cyklotrás spájajúcich Poprad a Svit, ako aj Spišskú Belú a Tatranskú kotlinu. Posledná spomínaná bola spolufinancovaná Európskou úniou.

Myšlienka budovania cyklotrás sa v poslednom čase čoraz viac rozvíja. Zo Spišskej Belej by mal cyklistický chodník pokračovať až na poľskú hranicu a z Popradu by sa mohli obyvatelia i návštevníci regiónu časom previesť na bicykli až do Starého Smokovca.

Oznámenia Spolkov a okresov

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

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

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Kultúrne a spoločenské podujatia

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

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

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

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

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

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

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

Michal Karch na večnosti

Michal Karch 86-ročný z Edison, N.J. nás dňa 13. decembra 2011 navždy opustil. Pán života a smrti, jeho Stvoriteľ, si ho povolal do jeho kráľovstva, odkiaľ už nie je návratu. Nenechal ho trápiť sa na tomto svete. Jedno odpoľudnie ho na jeho sťažnosť, jeho manželka Mary odviezla do Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, in Brunswick, N.J. Vo večerných hodinách si povedali „Dobrá noc“, netušiac, že to bolo to „Posledné Sbohom“. Skoro ráno Mary dostala z nemocnice tú presmutnú správu, že jeho Stvoriteľ, si ho povolal tam, kde je večný pokoj a blaženosť.

Michal Karch sa narodil 5. októbra 1925 v malej dedine menom Sejkov, neďaleko Michaloviec na Východnom Slovensku. Na dohodenie kameňom je podobná dedinka „Orechová“, kde prišla na návštevu z USA k svojej babičke Mary Polková z Newark, N.J. Vojnová situácia jej prekazila návrat do USA, takže Mary strávila niekoľko rokov na Slovensku. Švárne dievča padlo Michalovi do oka. Osud však rozhodol ináč. Mary sa vrátila späť do Ameriky. Povojnový čas však nesľuboval nič mimoriadneho, najmä keď komunisti prebrali násilím vládu v roku 1948. Toto otvorilo oči aj mladému Michalovi, ktorý ako tisíce iných sa rozhodol opustiť Česko-Slovensko. Šťastie mu prišlo a náš Michal sa dostáva do Západného Nemecka, kde okúsi život v utečeneckom tábore. Šťastie sa však naňho troška usmialo a Michal Karch emigruje do Austrálie. Na Mary v USA nemohol zabudnúť. Po niekoľkých rokoch písomného styku sa sen stáva skutkom a Michal prichádza natrvalo do USA. A tu sa stretávajú dve lásky. Netrvalo dlho kedy naši zaľúbenci 4. júla 1959 klačiaci pri oltári v kostole sv. Rodiny v Linden, N.J. prijímajú z rúk slovenského kňaza sviatosť stavu manželského. Permanentne sa usadili v Edison, N.J. Tu ich Pán požehnal jedným synom Michalom, J. a dvoma dcérami, Mary Kapitan a Ann Garris. Ich rodiny sa rozrástli na dve vnučky a jedného vnuka. Dedko ich mal veľmi rád a ony jeho.

Rodinu Karchových nie je treba slovenskej spoločnosti predstavovať. Vyoral si hlbokú brázdou na poli národnom. Boli hybnou pákou za celé tie roky. Boli a sú členmi všetkých slovenských organizácií a spolkov ako sú Slovenská liga a Slovenský Katolícky Sokol, Svetový kongres Slovákov, Združenie slovenských katolíkov, Slovensko-americký klub, ale Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota im však mimoriadne prirástla k srdcu. Mimoriadnych schopností si vyžadoval „Festival slovenského dedičstva v Holmdel, N.J.“

Michal Karch odpočíva svoj večný sen na cintoríne sv. Gertrudy v Linden, N.J., kde ho odprevadil veľký kruh slovenských a amerických priateľov. Týmto ten veľký kruh Slovákov, ako aj ich americkí priatelia vyjadrujú Mary Karchovej a jej rodine ako aj Karchovým v Sejkove na Slovensku, úprimnú sústrasť. A Michalovi nech je jeho americká zem ľahká.

S pozdravom a modlitbami,

Jozef Smák



Michal Karch

Ján Holý sa dožíva 90. narodenín

Dňa 8. februára oslávil významné životné jubileum – 90. narodeniny – Ján Holý, dobre známy pracovník v kultúrnom, spolkovom a politickom živote v USA a v slovenskom exile. Narodil sa 8. februára 1922 v Novej Bani. Po ukončení štúdia na gymnáziu v Kremnici pokračoval na univerzite v Bratislave. V rokoch 1945-1947 bol zamestnaný ako redaktor v Spravodajskej agentúre Slovenska (ZAS). Od októbra 1947 do januára 1948 bol pre „protištatnú činnosť“ väznený a neskôr bol vylúčený zo Zväzu slovenských novinárov. V roku 1948 emigroval do Nemecka a od roku 1949 žije v Spojených štátoch.

Už v utečeneckom tábore v Ludwigsburgu začal svoju exilnú činnosť ako vydavateľ a redaktor Slobodného Slovenska (spolu s Františkom Vnukom). Bol spoluzakladateľom Slovenského sociálneho výboru, prostredníctvom ktorého získaval pomoc pre slovenských utečencov od slovenských organizácií v Amerike.

Do Spojených štátov prišiel v auguste 1949. Hneď po príchode sa stal členom viacerých slovenských organizácií. V roku 1970 bol zvolený do Výkonného výboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a v r. 1975 po smrti Dr. J. Pauču ho Výkonný výbor Slovenskej ligy vymenoval za generálneho tajomníka. Do tejto funkcie bol viackrát znovuzvolený. V roku 2002 ho Kongres SLvA zvolil za doživotného čestného tajomníka.

Pri zakladaní Svetového kongresu Slovákov bol predsedom prípravného výboru v New Yorku a v prvom predsedníctve SKS zastával funkciu predsedu Organizačnej komisie. Uznanie si zaslúži aj za záchranu novin Slovákov v Amerike, ktorému v roku 1989 hrozil zánik. Ján Holý sa ujal jeho vydávania a redigovania a v tejto činnosti pokračoval až do konca roku 2008.

Prácu Jána Holého ocenili aj na Slovensku. Za jeho činnosť mu v r. 1975 minister kultúry SR udelil Poctu J. M. Hurbana. V r. 1996 dostal zlatú medailu Matice slovenskej a o rok neskôr, v r. 1997 mu vtedajší prezident SR Michal Kováč udelil štátne vyznamenanie – Rad Ľudovíta Štúra II. triedy. Vysoké ocenenie získal aj v Amerike, keď mu v r. 1998 na návrh komisie, ktorá pozostáva z predsedov americko-slovenských fraternalistických organizácií, udelil Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Ján Holý za posledné polstoročie redigoval viaceré slovenské časopisy a niekoľko rokov bol aj redaktorom slovenskej časti týždenníka Slovenský katolícky Sokol. Je spoluautorom knihy Slovenská Amerika – Slovak America, a tiež spoluredaktorom s nebohrou s. Martinou Tyborovou obsiahlej knihy Slovaks in America (1977), ktorá je najväčším dosiaľ vydaným dielom o Slovákoch v Amerike. Jeho príspevky možno nájsť aj vo viacerých zborníkoch a v mnohých slovenských časopisoch vo svete i na Slovensku.

Jubilant je ženatý. Jeho manželka Nina Holá je tajomníčkou Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Vychovali dve dcéry – Luby Mason a Jane Konzelman. Obe sú aktívne v slovenskom živote. Majú tiež troch vnukov a jednu vnučku.

Ján Holý je dlhoročným členom a tajomníkom 282. zboru Slovenského katolíckeho sokola v Passaicu, N.J.

Do ďalších rokov jeho plodného života mu prajeme ešte veľa síl a zdravia, aby mohol aj naďalej pokračovať v národnej práci.

SKS

FBI požiadala slovenskú políciu o spoluprácu pri hľadanom Košičanovi

Americký Federálny úrad pre vyšetrowanie (FBI) požiadala slovenskú stranu o spoluprácu pri hľadaní 35-ročného grafického dizajnéra Júliusa B. Potvrdil to 26. januára hovorca Prezídia Policajného zboru Michal Slivka. Košičana Spojené štáty obvinili z prevádzkovania medzinárodnej zločineckej skupiny, ktorá sa mala podieľať na rozsiahlom poškodzovaní autorských práv prostredníctvom servera Megaupload.com.

„V prípade bola Policajnému zboru SR doručená oficiálna žiadosť úradov USA o spoluprácu. Slovenská polícia požadovanú spoluprácu poskytla,“ uviedol Slivka. Ako dodal, v prípade potreby bude slovenská polícia spolupracovať štandardne ako v iných prípadoch s americkou stranou pri jej ďalších požiadavkách v medziach platnej legislatívy.

Obvineným sú okrem spomínaného Košičana aj traja Nemci, Estónci a 29-ročný muž s dvojím holandsko-novozélandským občianstvom. Úrady už zatkli na Novom Zélande vodcu skupiny, nemecko-fínskeho počítačového programátora a zakladateľa Megaupload.com Kima Schmitza, známeho aj pod menami Kim Tim Jim Vestor alebo Kim Dotcom. Tomu odmietol sudca v novozélandskom Aucklande udeliť kauciu, ktorá by umožňovala jeho prepustenie z väzby.

Podľa Spojených štátov obvinení umožnili prostredníctvom webovej stránky Megaupload.com milióny ilegálnych stiahnutí filmov, hudby a ďalšieho obsahu. Škody, ktoré mala skupina internetovým pirátstvom spôsobiť majiteľom autorských práv, odhadli americké úrady na pol miliardy dolárov (388 miliónov eur), pričom svojou aktivitou mali zinkasovať protiprávne vyše 175 miliónov dolárov (136 miliónov eur).

TASR

S ministrom kultúry debatovali predstavitelia cirkví

Pokračovanie zo str. 23

že minister kultúry SR na stretnutí priniesol návrh, ktorý prináša isté konkrétne riešenie otázky. „Nakoľko ide o otázku veľmi zložitú, musíme ju podrobiť z našej strany hodnoteniu zo strany odborníkov, aby sme mohli vyjadriť sa o tomto návrhu meritórnejším spôsobom,“ povedal arcibiskup Zvolenský. „Je vlastne nezodpovedné akýmkoľvek spôsobom ten návrh komentovať. My ho berieme na vedomie a môžeme ho podrobiť štúdiu,“ dodal arcibiskup Zvolenský. „Tak, ako Rímskokatolícka cirkev, aj naša cirkev a cirkvi, združené v Ekumenickej rade cirkví, musia sa po dôkladnej analýze a preštudovaní týchto materiálov k tomu vyjadriť,“ poznamenal generálny biskup Evanjelickej cirkvi a. v. (ECAV) na Slovensku Miloš Klátik. „Budeme postupovať v súzvu s ostatnými predstaviteľmi cirkví,“ dodal čestný predseda Ústredného zväzu židovských náboženských obcí v SR Pavel Traubner.

Spoločný dialóg týkajúci sa financovania cirkví na Slovensku odštartovalo ministerstvo vlani vo februári na hrade Červený Kameň, kde vznikla expertná skupina, ktorá naposledy rokovala vlani v decembri.

TK KBS

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Bývalý** slovenský hokejový reprezentant Zdeno Čiger nedávno na Štrbskom Plese slávnostne otvoril novú ľadovú plochu určenú pre verejné korčuľovanie. Klzisko vyrástlo na mieste bývalých tenisových kurtov pri Štrbskom plese. Plocha má síce rozmery len približne 10 krát 12 metrov, iniciátori jeho vytvorenia, zastrešení Tatranským okrásľovačím spolkom, však do budúcnosti plánujú rozšíriť ho už v budúcej sezóne na veľkosť tenisového kurtu a ambíciou je vytvoriť štandardné klzisko pre hokejové zápasy.

• **Rok 2011** sa v SR niesol v znamení oživovania, čo sa prejavilo v medziročnom raste pracovných ponúk o 22 % oproti roku 2010. Firmy medziročne najviac hľadali ľudí v telekomunikáciách, automobilovom priemysle, strojárstve a v oblasti ľudských zdrojov. Naopak, ponuka práce sa oproti predminulému roku najviac prepadla v štátnej správe, zdravotníctve, farmácii a poľnohospodárstve. Tieto zistenia vyplývajú z údajov pracovného portálu Profesia.sk na Slovensku.

• **Trnavská** automobilka PSA Peugeot Citroën Slovakia potrebuje pre výrobu nového modelu a zavedenie tretej pracovnej zmeny 900 pracovníkov. Nábor na vytvárané pracovné pozície začal v poslednom štvrtroku vlaňajška a ako prvých prijímal závod v Trnave budúcich koordinátorov výroby z dôvodu potreby ich dlhodobiejšieho školenia. Hromadný nábor pracovných síl začal januárom 2012, doteraz je obsadených 200 pracovných pozícií z interných i externých zdrojov. Mesačne by malo pribúdať do stavu okolo 100 až 150 zamestnancov.

• **V minulom roku** na Slovensku vzniklo celkovo 19,292 nových firiem, čo je oproti roku 2010 nárast o 8.4 %. Zároveň ide o najväčší ročný prírastok za posledných päť rokov. 23. januára o tom informovala Česká kapitálová informačná agentúra (ČEKIA). Kým za posledných päť rokov vzniklo na Slovensku najviac firiem v roku 2011, najmenej ich pribudlo v období hospodárskej recesie v roku 2009. Do Obchodného registra bolo vtedy zapísaných celkovo 16,130 spoločností. Podľa analýz agentúry ČEKIA však kríza ovplyvnila záujem o podnikanie na Slovensku len minimálne.

• **Z košickej** plavárne bude Kunsthalle. Kultúrna obec v Bratislave žije už niekoľko mesiacov požiadavkou na vytvorenie Kunsthalle. Moderné výstavné priestory má už isté metropola východu. Umeľci tu nemusia bojovať s ministrom kultúry, zaplatí ju najmä Brusel v rámci EHMK (Európske hlavné mesto kultúry) 2013. Bude stáť viac ako 8.5 milióna eur. Kunsthalle nevytvára vlastné zbierky, prezentuje najmä súčasné umenie.

• **Po rekonštrukcii** slávnostne otvorili 26. januára budovu bratislavskej Reduty, v ktorej má sídlo Slovenská filharmónia. Medzi hosťami boli aj najvyšší ústavní činitelia – prezident Ivan Gašparovič, predseda NR SR Pavol Hrušovský a premiérka Iveta Radičová. V otváracom koncerte uviedla Slovenská filharmónia, Slovenský filharmonický zbor a sólisti Simona Houda-Šaturová (soprán), Terézia Kružliaková (alt), Ľudovít Ludha (tenor), Peter Mikuláš (bas) pod taktovkou šéfdirigenta SF Emmanuela Villauma Symfóniu č. 9 d mol op. 125 Ludwiga van Beethovena.

• **Protestný** pochod Gorila dňa 27. januára 2012 prilákal na bratislavské Námestie SNP okolo 800 ľudí všetkých vekových kategórií. Tí chceli svojou účasťou vytvoriť verejný tlak na vyvodzovanie zodpovednosti pre podozrenia, ktoré vyplývajú z údajného spisu tajnej služby. Dosť bolo goríl a gorily za mreže, pokrikovali zhromaždení z pódia na námestí. Medzi pribúdajúcimi aktivistami bolo čoraz viac aj protestných transparentov. Aktivisti svoje požiadavky zhrnuli do desiatich bodov. Okrem iného očakávali okamžité zbavenie mlčanlivosti všetkých zodpovedných, ktorí by mohli pomôcť pri objasňovaní kauzy Gorila, ale aj odstúpenie osôb figurujúcich v spisoch. Vyzývali na presun predčasných parlamentných volieb z marca na september 2012.

• **V Španielsku** pri meste La Coruña sa utopil študent zo Slovenska. Pri jeho záchrane zomreli zrejme aj traja španielski záchranári. Slovák sa dostal do Španielska cez študentský program Erasmus. O život prišiel zrejme preto, že sa chcel okúpať a neodhadol silu mora. Vraj bol v tom čase pod vplyvom alkoholu. Okrem Slováka sa v mori ocitol aj 26-ročný Španiel, ktorý skončil v nemocnici s podchladením.

• **Prirodovedecká** fakulta Univerzity Komenského (PF UK) v Bratislave má najvýkonnejší laserový systém na Slovensku. Jeho výkon je 130 GW. Laser na krátky okamih mnohonásobne prevyšuje výkon všetkých elektrární na Slovensku. Okrem toho ponúka impulzy s časovou dĺžkou 25 femtosekúnd, kedy svetlo za krátky okamih prekoná vzdialenosť približne rovnú jednej desatine hrúbky ľudského vlasu. Laboratórium je spoločné pracovisko Fyzikálneho ústavu Slovenskej akadémie vied a Medzinárodného laserového centra v Mlynskej doline v Bratislave.

• **Americká** spoločnosť Honeywell zamestná v Prešove o stovky Slovákov viac, ako plánovala. Honeywell tu chystá ďalší závod. Plány Honeywellu nemôže ohroziť ani kríza, odhaduje analytik Tatra banky Juraj Valachy. Odvoláva sa na slovenské automobilky, ktoré vyrábajú nové modely. Ich produkcie sa menšia recesia nedotkne. Ďalšia investícia jednej z najvýznamnejších amerických firiem, ktorá bude na Slovensku vyrábať turbodúchadlá pre automobilky, vyzerá preto reálne. Druhá fabrika by sa mohla začať stavať už začiatkom budúceho roka.

• **Materská** spoločnosť košických železiarní, americký U. S. Steel zo sídlom v Pittsbure 31. januára 2012 oficiálne predala svoju dlhodobú stratovú pobočku v Srbsku za 1 americký dolár tamojšej vláde, ktorá sa preň pokúsi nájsť strategického investora. Dohodu o predaji závodu s 5, 500 zamestnancami podpísal srbský premiér Mirko Cvetković a viceprezident U. S. Steel pre európske operácie a zároveň šéf košických železiarní David J. Rintoul. U. S. Steel Europe, ktorý pozostáva zo závodov v Košiciach a srbskom meste Smederevo, vygeneroval za uplynulý rok celkovú stratu 162 miliónov USD (asi 123.7 milióna €). Podľa amerického denníka Pittsburgh Post Gazette sa na tejto strate podieľali najmä Balkánci. Tieto červené čísla pochádzajú zo Srbska, kde doplácajú na situáciu v európskej ekonomike a silnej konkurencie zo strany iných výrobcov v tejto oblasti. U. S. Steel kúpil závod v Srbsku v roku 2003 za vtedajších 33 miliónov dolárov a odvtedy doňho investoval celkovo 150 miliónov USD.

• **Za leteckú cestu** do Londýna si slovenskí cestujúci budú musieť priplatiť. Najväčší európsky nízkonákladový prepravca Ryanair zdvihol začiatkom roka ceny leteniek z Bratislavy do Londýna o desať až dvadsať eur na jednej ceste. Predpokladá sa, že ceny pôjdu hore ešte viac, keďže v letných mesiacoch sa Londýn stane sídlom olympijských hier.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Fašiangy – symbol veselosti, zábavy a hodovania

Fašiangy - symbol veselosti, zábavy, hodovania a pitia. Také boli fašiangy v minulosti a také sú v redukovanej podobe takmer vo všetkých regiónoch Slovenska i dnes. Fašiangové obdobie sa vlastne začína už v čase od Troch Kráľov a trvá do popolcovej stredy. Je v podstate obdobím prechodu od zimy k jari. Po ňom nasleduje čas štyridsaťdňového pôstu. Na Slovenskom vidieku v minulosti k fašiangom patrili neodmysliteľné zakáľacky, maškary a muzika. Mnohé dediny a osady si tieto obyčaje zachovávajú dodnes.



Fašiangy na vidieku.

Na projekte NATO sa zúčastnia aj Slováci

Severoatlantická aliancia 3. februára na záver dvojdného ministerského stretnutia v Bruseli oznámila, že sa rozhodla zaviesť do praxe Projekt aliancie na letecké monitorovanie pozemných cieľov (projekt AGS). Podarilo sa to po dvoch desaťročiach sporov okolo spôsobov financovania tohto programu. Projekt AGS by mal vstúpiť do prevádzky v roku 2015 a jeho hlavnou základňou bude mestečko Sigonella v Taliansku, pričom program bude mať viacero veliáckich a kontrolných stanovišť.

Generálny tajomník NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen tiež uviedol, že viacerým členským štátom aliancie sa na konferencii v Bruseli podarilo dosiahnuť zhodu na tom, že NATO na tento účel kúpi päť prieskumných lietadiel typu Global Hawk RQ-4B, ktoré vyrába americká firma Northrop Grumman a ktoré sú vybavené výkonnými motormi od firmy Rolls-Royce. Hlavným dodávateľom pre projekt bude americká spoločnosť Northrop Grumman ISS International, k najväčším subdodávateľom budú patriť nemecké oddelenie Európskej obrannej a leteckej spoločnosti (EADS), talianska firma Galileo Avionica a kanadská vojenská divízia firmy General Dynamics.

Na projekte AGS sa zúčastnia aj Slováci, pričom celkove ho podporí 13 z 28 členských krajín aliancie: Bulharsko, Česká republika, Estónsko, Litva, Lotyšsko, Luxembursko, Nemecko, Nórsko, Rumunsko, Slovensko, Slovinsko, Spojené štáty a Taliansko.

„Tento projekt umožní našim veliteľom vidieť, čo sa deje dolu na zemi. Na širokom priestore, cez všetky časové pásma a v akomkoľvek počasi,“ upozornil Rasmussen. Bezpilotné prieskumné lietadlá sa budú pohybovať vo výške 18.3 kilometra nad zemou (60,000 stôp) a môžu ostať vo vzduchu neprerušene vyše 24 hodín.

TASR

S ministrom kultúry debatovali predstavitelia cirkví

O financovaní cirkví, obnove kultúrneho dedičstva a ďalších témach 30. januára 2012 diskutovali na pracovnom stretnutí predstavitelia cirkví a náboženských spoločností s ministrom kultúry SR Danielom Krajcerom. Ministerstvo kultúry SR na ňom navrhlo, aby sa cirkvi a náboženské spoločnosti v budúcnosti financovali prostredníctvom tzv. asignačného modelu. Vyplýva z neho, že každá fyzická osoba by sama mohla rozhodnúť, komu by poukázala jedno percento zo základu dane. Minulý rok to predstavovalo 77 miliónov eur. V prípade, že by sa mal takýto návrh realizovať, ministerstvo navrhuje zaviesť prechodné obdobie 10 rokov, počas ktorého bude štát vyrovnávať úroveň dotácie pre cirkvi z roka 2011. Na tlačovej konferencii o tom informovali zástupcovia cirkví s ministrom Krajcerom.

Fyzické osoby budú môcť podľa návrhu asigovať v prospech jednej z 18 registrovaných cirkví a náboženských spoločností alebo pre organizáciu organizácie tretieho sektora. „Ak neasiguje, finančné prostriedky prechádzajú do fondu, z ktorého sa bude financovať obnova kultúrneho dedičstva,“ povedal novinárom Krajcer, podľa ktorého táto povinná asignácia nebude znamenať pokles čistej mzdy a ani sa nijako nezvýši daňová povinnosť daňovníka. „Ďalšie aktivity cirkví, ktoré sú takpovediac v istej kuratele štátu, to sú oblasti školstva, sociálnych vecí a podobne, samozrejme, toto štát sa bude starať aj naďalej a bude mať finančnú spoluzodpovednosť aj naďalej,“ uviedol Krajcer, podľa ktorého zatiaľ nie je stanovený termín, do kedy by sa malo ministerstvo s cirkvami dohodnúť na definívnom modeli.

Bratislavský arcibiskup a metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský pripomenul,

Pokračovanie na str. 22



FOTO TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Na snímke uprostred minister kultúry SR Daniel Krajcer, vľavo katolícky arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský a vpravo generálny biskup evanjelickej cirkvi Miloš Klátik počas tlačovej konferencie.

Slovak Minister of Culture Daniel Krajcer met with representatives of church societies on January 30, 2012 to discuss financial matters and cultural heritage.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 121

STREDA, 15. FEBRUÁRA 2012

Číslo 5858



FOTO TASR - Michal Svitok

Na snímke účastníci protestu Gorila dva na Námestí SNP 3. februára 2012 v Bratislave.

At least 15,000 people filled the square in Bratislava on February 3, to protest the corruption in politics.

Na protest v Bratislave prišlo 15,000 ľudí

Protestný pochod Gorila vylákal 3. februára do ulíc hlavného mesta aspoň 15,000 ľudí všetkých vekových kategórií. Uviedla to hlavná organizátorka protestov Lucia Gallová. Spokojná bola podľa vlastných slov aj s účasťou v ďalších mestách, kde mali podľa nej prísť rovnako tisícky ľudí.

Tí chceli svojou účasťou vytvoriť verejný tlak na vyvodzovanie zodpovednosti pre podozrenia, ktoré vyplývajú z údajného spisu tajnej služby. Dost' bolo goríl a gorily za mreže, pokrikovali zhromaždení z pódia na námestí. Aktivisti svoje požiadavky zhrnuli do desiatich bodov. Okrem iného očakávali okamžité zbavenie mlčanlivosti všetkých zodpovedných, ktorí by mohli pomôcť pri objasňovaní kauzy Gorila, ale aj odstúpenie osôb figurujúcich v spisoch. Vyzývali na presun predčasných parlamentných volieb z marca na september 2012.



EK chce Slovensku pomôcť v boji proti nezamestnanosti mladých

Európska komisia (EK) chce pomôcť Slovensku a ďalším ôsmim krajinám v boji proti nezamestnanosti mladých ľudí. Do polovice apríla 2012 má byť pripravený plán opatrení, ktoré by viedli k zlepšeniu situácie. Predseda EK José Manuel Barroso 31. januára poslal premiérke Ivete Radičovej (SDKÚ-DS), list v ktorom navrhuje konkrétne kroky.

“Vymenujte kontaktnú osobu, v spolupráci s ktorou zostavíme tzv. akčný tím. Pokiaľ ide o SR, tento tím by v ideálnom prípade mal viesť niekto z vášho úradu,” napísal premiérke Barroso. V liste ju informuje o tom, že tím EK navštívi vo februári Slovensko s cieľom určiť prvky plánu na zníženie nezamestnanosti mladých. Návšteva by mala pomôcť rozhodnúť, do ktorých schém na podporu malých a stredných podnikov by mali ísť financie zo zdrojov EÚ.

“Akčné tímy by mohli preskúmať, či by tieto nástroje EÚ mohli vo vašej krajine využiť väčší počet mladých ľudí. Finančné prostriedky by mohli pochádzať z nepridelených prostriedkov z balíka Európskeho sociálneho fondu určeného pre vašu krajinu alebo z akýchkoľvek vnútroštátnych prostriedkov, ktoré máte k dispozícii, vrátane prostriedkov od sociálnych partnerov alebo zo súkromného sektora,” adresoval Radičovej šéf EK. Komisia sa má v najbližších dňoch obrátiť na slovenské orgány, aby zorganizovali návštevu akčných tímov.

Založenie akčných tímov navrhol predseda EK počas posledného neformálneho summitu. Mali by pozostávať zo zástupcov EK, orgánov členského štátu a sociálnych partnerov v ôsmich krajinách, ktoré čelia najväčším problémom s nezamestnanosťou mladých.

Informácie poskytol vedúci tlačového a politického oddelenia Zastúpenia Európskej komisie na Slovensku Andrej Králik.

TASR

Benedikt XVI. vymenoval prvého bratislavského pomocného biskupa

Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. vymenoval nového bratislavského pomocného biskupa. Stal sa ním 48-ročný Mons. Jozef Haľko, aktuálny hovorca arcidiecézy, ktorý zároveň zodpovedal za pasťoráciu veriacich hovoriacich po maďarsky pre Bratislavu. Podľa apoštolského nuncia na Slovensku Mons. Maria Giordana je biskupské menovanie dôležitý cirkevný akt, ktorý je vyjadrením starostlivosti Svätého Otca o to, aby v Cirkvi, v tomto prípade v Cirkvi na Slovensku, nechýbali dobrí pastieri Božieho ľudu smerujúceho k večnej spáse. „Vďačíme Bohu za toto menovanie a pozývame k modlitbe za novovymenovaného biskupa,“ uviedol nuncius, ktorý správu o menovaní nového biskupa Svätým Ocom sprostredkoval.

“Je to pre mňa veľkou radosťou. Táto radosť je vlastne radosť z daru Svätého Otca Benedikta XVI., že ustanovil pomocného biskupa pre našu arcidiecézu,“ poznamenal k menovaniu bratislavský arcibiskup a metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Bratislavská arcidiecéza je podľa jeho slov spoločenstvom veriacich, pre ktorých bude veľmi užitočné, aby tu pôsobil aj pomocný biskup. „Ale v tejto chvíli sa veľmi teším z menovania prvého pomocného biskupa pre Bratislavskú arcidiecézu, lebo služba Božiemu ľudu je v tejto arcidiecéze taká náročná, taká široká, čo je vlastne aj radosťou, že pre diecézneho biskupa je veľmi vhodné, aby mal popri sebe okrem ostatných dobrých spolupracovníkov aj pomocného biskupa,“ povedal bezprostredne po oznámení menovania arcibiskup Zvolenský.



Mons. Jozef Haľko

Zivotopis nového bratislavského pomocného biskupa Mons. Jozefa Haľka:

Mons. Jozef Haľko sa narodil 10. mája 1964 v Bratislave. Po skončení základnej školy študoval na gymnáziu v Bratislave, kde v roku 1982 zmaturoval. Následne študoval na Fakulte riadenia a Národohospodárskej fakulte Vysoké školy ekonomickej. Potom pracoval od roku 1986 do roku 1990 ako inštruktor pracovnej výchovy v Ústave sociálnej starostlivosti v Bratislave, ako robotník v Bratislavských vodárňach a kanalizáciách, absolvoval tiež dvojročnú základnú vojenskú prezenčnú službu.

Od roku 1990 do roku 1994 študoval na Rímskokatolíckej cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulte Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave a neskôr pokračoval na Pápežskej univerzite Santa Croce v Ríme. Dňa 6. januára 1994 bol vysvätený za diakona v Trnave, kde bol 4. júla 1994 vysvätený za kňaza. Po kňazskej vysviacke pokračoval v štúdiu na Teologickej fakulte Pápežskej univerzity Santa Croce v Ríme, kde dosiahol doktorát v roku 2000. Je autorom viacerých štúdií a vedeckých monografií.

TK KBS



V Poprade padol polstoročný teplotný rekord

FOTO TASR - František Iván

Na obrázku cesta z Popradu do Vysokých Tatier 30. januára 2012. V Poprade padol viac ako polstoročný teplotný rekord. Podľa informácií z meteorologickej stanice Slovenského hydrometeorologického ústavu na popradskom letisku klesla teplota pod Tatrami ráno 2. februára 2012 na mínus 26,7 stupňa Celzia. Doteraz najchladnejšie bolo v tento deň v roku 1956, keď v Poprade namerali rovných mínus 26 stupňov Celzia.

A winter scene from 2012 on the road from Poprad to the High Tatras. This year's winter is marked with record cold temperatures dipping to minus 26.7 celsius on February 2, the coldest since 1956.