

Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furodek
Our Founder

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

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

HOME OFFICE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 13 & SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on **Friday, March 13, 2009, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. & Saturday, March 14, 2009, 9:00 A.M. - till completed.**

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

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 4, 2009

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-940 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. presented a trophy to Florence Matta for being the Society's Top Producer in Total Points.

From the Office of the Vice President: *The 2008 Membership Meet*

The First Catholic Slovak Union held a very successful Membership Meet aboard Royal Caribbean's "Majesty of the Seas." Eighty-four members and their guests enjoyed a four night Bahamas Cruise from November 17-21, 2008.

There was a wide range of entertainment including nightly performances of contemporary stage productions, live music, comedy shows, a full casino with table games and slots in different denominations, a captain's dinner and the use of all shipboard facilities.

The itinerary from Miami included stops in the Bahamas, Nassau/Paradise Island and Key West, Florida. The weather kept the ship from stopping at Coco Cay.

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"I Surrender"

These are words that in themselves can have various meanings depending on the context in which they are used.

For example, when a person makes a commitment to the priesthood or religious life we often hear said "they surrendered themselves to the will of God".

The words can have sexual overtones, either good or bad. Elvis Presley fans will recall one of his top ten hits in 1961 titled "Surrender".

When used in a military setting, the word "surrender" means a victory for the enemy.

We can think of many other connotations in the use of the word "surrender".

However, I am referring to the act of "surrender".



Andrew M. Rajec

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FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 1, 2009

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

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.

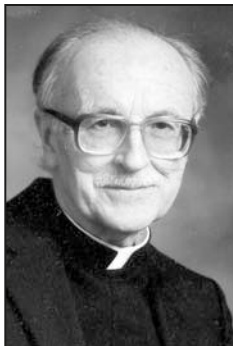
Jesus is tempted by his own disciples. "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as humans do," Jesus said to Peter (Mk 8:33). He is tested frequently by enemies from among his own people and by the Romans. His own relatives say that he is out of his mind (Mk 3:21). The most severe 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



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

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 8, 2009

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.

Jesus certainly must have wondered about a mission that would result in his becoming a political Messiah, bringing violence and war, as his disciples and the crowds expected. Now he sees clearly that his mission of salvation is through loving and ultimately dying for others. His illumination, therefore, would be an ecstatic moment of discovery. And that is why Moses and Elijah join him there, for they too have experienced God's revelation on a mountaintop!

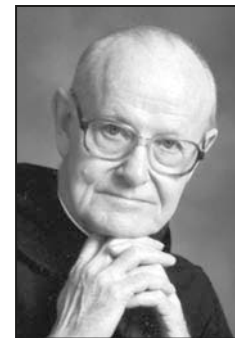
In this moment of mystical experience, Jesus also hears a voice from heaven, which repeats the words heard at baptism but then adds, "Listen to him" (v. 7). This suggests that he is now prepared to share the ultimate wisdom of God, namely, that loving and sacrificing are the only way to conquer sin and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

Life Implications

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.

When we realize that the words, "Listen to him," are directed to each one of us, we must take very seriously the implications of such a command from God. This surely must mean that we too are expected to "visit" this mountain of the Transfiguration, where we can be "illuminated" by the sure knowledge that, when all is said and done, the most important thing that we can do in this life is to "die," as Jesus did, because we love and care for 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.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Paul, the Man (Part II)



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

"He took up lodging with them and they worked together as tent-makers." (Acts 18:3)

Aquila, "Prisca" and Paul "worked together."

This would suggest that they worked as the manufacturers of the product.

The material for tents was black goat's hair (or camel's hair). A tent was referred to as "beit sha'ar," "house of hair." This tent "cloth" was porous when dry, but it became waterproof after the first rain shrunk it together. This was the same material as the sackcloth.

Roman tents were made of goat skins. (The writer Pliny referred to calf skins for tent making.) The Latin for being camped in tents is "sub pellibus," ("under pelts").

Jews and Romans did not get along well with each other so it's not probable that Aquila, "Prisca" and Paul made tents for them.

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From the Office of the Vice President:

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On Wednesday evening the ship gave us complimentary use of their Chorus Line Theatre to hold our awards night.

The top award for insurance and the most policies sold in 2007 went to Dorothy Petrus. Roger Soltis captured first place in Annuity/ IRA Procurement. First place in total points went to Florence Matta. Congratulations for a job well done. Congratulations and a big thank you from the Membership and Marketing Committee are also in order for all the recommenders who brought in new members, additional insurance and Annuity/IRA and Park Money. It is because of their efforts that we are going forward. Here are the "Top Guns", the Best of the Best for 2007:

Insurance sales

- First Place-Dorothy Petrus
- Second Place-Frances Tarquinio
- Third Place-George Sprock

Annuity/Ira Procurement

- First Place-Roger Soltis
- Second Place-Thomas Hricik
- Third Place-Mary Lou Krna

Total Points

- First Place-Florence Matta
- Second Place-Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
- Third Place-Dorothy Petrus

Most Policies Sold

- First Place-Dorothy Petrus
- Second Place-Frances Tarquinio
- Third Place-George Sprock

Everyone had a great time. On behalf of the Membership and Marketing Committee, I thank everyone who took part in this year's membership meet. We hope to see all of you at the next membership meet.

Until next time, Good Luck and God Bless!

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.,
National Vice President & Chairman, Membership and Marketing**



National Secretary Kenneth Arendt presented trophy to National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. for being the Society's Number 2 producer in Total Points.

Andrew R. Harcar Sr. served as master of Ceremonies for the awards night celebration.



National Treasurer George Matta reviewed our Annuity products for the members.



Jennifer and Matthew Manzella are dwarfed by Royal caribbean's "Majesty of the Seas" cruise ship.



Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.com.

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 Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; Fax: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

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, MARCH 4	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18	MONDAY, MARCH 9
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11	MONDAY, MARCH 23

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
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 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835
 FAX: (717) 944-3107



Scenes from the 2008 Membership Meet



More photos next issue

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

"We did not lead lives of disorder when we were among you, nor depend on anyone for food. Rather, we worked day and night, laboring to the point of exhaustion so as not to impose of any one of you. Not that we had no claim on you, but that we might present ourselves as an example for you to imitate. Indeed, when we were with you we used to lay down the rule that anyone who would not work should not eat." (2 Thessalonians 3:7-10)

"Work with your hands as we directed you to do, so you will give good example to outsiders and want for nothing." (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

"We work hard at manual labor." (1 Corinthians 4:12)

"Do you not realize that those who work in the temple are supported by the temple, and those who minister at the altar share the offerings of the altar? Likewise the Lord himself ordered that those who preach the gospel should live by the gospel. As for me, I have not used any of these rights, nor do I write this now to see to it that anything should be done for me." (1 Corinthians 9:13-15)

"But by God's favor I am what I am. This favor of his to me has not proved fruitless. Indeed, I have worked harder than all the others, not on my own but through the favor of God." (1 Corinthians 15:10)

"I do not want what you have. I only want you." (2 Corinthians 12:14)

Paul's life as a missionary for Jesus Christ was a dangerous one. Read the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 23, verses 12-35 and chapter 24, and continuing. "The son of Paul's sister heard about the plot, and when he did so he came to headquarters." (Acts 23:16)

"Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes less one; three times I was beaten with rods; I was stoned once, shipwrecked three times; I passed a day and night on the sea. I traveled continually, endangered by floods, robbers, my own people, the Gentiles; imperiled in the city, in the desert, at sea, by false brothers; enduring labor, hardship, may sleepless nights; in hunger and thirst, and frequent fastings, in cold and nakedness. Leaving other sufferings unmentioned, there is that daily tension pressing on me, my anxiety for all the churches.... In Damascus the ethnarch of King Aretas was keeping a close watch on the city in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands." (2 Corinthians 11:24-28 and 32-33)

Paul was driven to speak about the Lord Jesus Christ.

"On the first day of the week when we gathered for the breaking of bread, Paul preached to them. Because he intended to leave the next day, he kept on speaking until midnight. As it happened, there were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were assembled. Paul talked on and on, and a certain young lad named Eutychus who was sitting on the window-sill became drowsier and drowsier. He finally went sound asleep, and fell from the third story to the ground. When they picked him up he was dead. Paul hurried down immediately and threw himself on him, clutching the boy to himself. 'Don't be alarmed!' he said to them. 'There is life in him.' Afterward, Paul went upstairs again, broke bread and ate. Then he talked for a long while- until his departure at dawn. To the great comfort of the people, they were able to take the boy away alive (Acts 20: 7-12)

Paul did not like to be alone.

"Do your best to join me, for Demas (Demetrius), enamored of the present world, has left me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia and Titus to Dalmatia. I have no one with me but Luke. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he can be of great service to me. Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, and the books (papyrus), especially the parchments (rolls of vellum made from the skins of animals). (2 Timothy 4:9-13)

"Get here before winter if you can." (2 Timothy 4:21)

In Romans 15:24, Paul writes of his intention to go to Spain but he never got there.

Just before Paul asks Timothy to join him soon, he writes, "The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me- and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Paul died the death of a martyr; he was beheaded, "honestiores capite puniantur," in Rome in 67 A.D. We know this, not from the Bible but from reliable tradition witnessed by Clement, Bishop of Rome from 88 to 97 A.D., Caius, a priest in Rome under Pope Zephyrinus (199-217 A.D.), and Tertullian. Caius is the earliest witness that Paul was buried on the Ostian Way outside the walls of Rome where the Basilica of Saint Paul now stands.

The Apocryphal Acts states that Paul died at "Aquae Salviae," near the third mile stone on the Ostian Way. In the Greek Acts, Paul suffered martyrdom under a pine tree. Tradition states that Paul was buried on ground owned by Lucina, a Christian matron, situated between Ostian Road and the Via Valentiniana which no longer exists.

Taking as the date of the birth of Paul to be 5 A.D. and his death in 67 A.D., Paul was 62 years old.

Romanza... What a Beautiful Name! Romanza Krajsa... What a Beautiful Person!

By Msgr. George J. Adams

Despite being partially disabled for forty years due to a stroke when she was only forty-six years of age, she never complained but kept active in body and mind. Because of the stroke she could not easily and adequately express her mind in speech, but tried extremely hard and would not shy away from expressing herself as best she could. Thus, she struggled until her beloved Heavenly Father called her home: "Come good and faithful servant," which He did on September 26, 2008.

I was blessed with the privilege of meeting and getting to know the Joseph and Romanza family at Jednota meetings and conventions during the late fifties and early sixties when I accompanied the venerable Monsignor Andrew R. Beros, of happy memory. Monsignor Beros was pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Toronto, Ohio and Supreme Chaplain of the society.

The family was young and developing but Joseph and Romanza were active in the society and their four children accompanied them to the society's activities and after becoming adults worked hard for the advancement and betterment of the Union. It was a delight for me to be associated with the family during these busy and growing years of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Their physical presence as well as their respectful attitude added to the glamour and excitement of these fraternal events.

What a shock to me to learn that Romanza was affected by a severe and debilitating stroke. It was how Romanza responded to this cross that I learned, as her sons wrote in the obituary October 15, 2008 edition- "her generous spirit, incredible will power and determination" to this I add her trust in and love for God as well as her deep Catholic faith and the power of the sacraments, helped her to live so beautifully for another forty years.

Our friendship developed throughout these years by way of phone communication and letters. I am still amazed how she remained in public with Joseph and the children's activities.

It was a delight to the eyes to see her dressed to perfection including a wide brimmed hat for all social events. At her husband's induction into the Order of St. Gregory the Great, as Knight Commander in 1982, Romanza was a bright star. I had the privilege of sharing in this first class event by concelebrating the liturgy and enjoying the banquet and program

Four years ago I visited her and her son Joseph Jr. in Middletown- a pleasing and enjoyable visit. When she was invited to my 80th anniversary of my birth in August 2005, she accepted the invitation and had her son, Joseph Jr. bring her to Brockway, Pennsylvania, a four hour drive. She fit in with the many other guests not permitting being in a wheelchair to take away from her socializing and the guests marveled at her and appreciated her wide hat. Only phone visits were enjoyed after that visit. I feel badly that I was unable to attend her obsequies but permit my memory to conjure the Krajsa Family often.

May Joseph, Sr., Romanza, Mary Agnes, and Joseph Jr., be resting in peace and sons Michael and George be given the grace to bear their loss along with many others.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009 THRU MARCH 31, 2009

The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 5.00% (4.879% APR)

The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.50% (4.402% APR)

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.25% (4.162% APR)

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.75% (4.641% APR)

The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.50% (4.402% APR)

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's,

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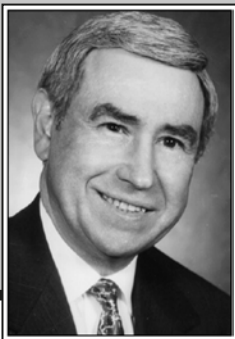
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Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Be Prepared for a Disaster

Disasters, natural or manmade, can strike at any time. Your family's health and security are the most important considerations, so safety concerns have to be addressed first. Afterward, regaining order in your finances is essential for returning to a normal life. Proper planning and preparation are necessary before unforeseen disaster strikes.

Keep Records in Order

Documentation, including personal identification, insurance papers, and banking and investment information, will be necessary in the wake of a disaster. All of these important materials should be kept in a bank safe deposit box or secure, fireproof home safe. Documents should include birth, death, and marriage certificates; divorce and custody agreements; passports and military records; copies of drivers' licenses; deeds and contracts to real property; stock and bond certificates. Also, include papers with information and contact details for insurance policies and retirement plan beneficiary information. You will want easy access to information on checking, savings and investment accounts; car titles; copies of wills, living wills or medical powers of attorney; and trust documents. Consider storing copies of some documents with a trusted relative or friend who lives in another location for added protection in case you are unable to gain access to a home safe or your local bank.

When storing a will, remember the original document is necessary in the event of your death. Since a bank safe deposit box may be sealed after a death, do not store an original there. Keep the original at your lawyer's office or another secure, yet accessible, location

Take Pictures

Remember to store photos of your home and what's inside it, including the contents of closets, garages, attics, and basements. Photograph your cars and any other belongings that could be damaged in a disaster. It's also a good idea to make an inventory of your possessions, along with your best estimates of what it would cost to replace them. The photos and inventory will come in handy when you make an insurance claim.

Have Cash on Hand

If power goes out in your area, banks or ATMs may be unavailable. It's a good idea to have enough cash on hand to cover your family's expenses for at least five days. Keep this money in a safe location where it can be easily accessed.

Use Free Resources

The above are just a few of the steps to make sure your family is prepared for a disaster. For more guidelines, check out "Financial Planning: A Guide for Financial Preparedness," a booklet available from the American Red Cross, the American Institute of CPAs, and other sponsors. You can search for it on www.aicpa.org.

District II Easter Coloring Contest



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 from ages 4 through 12 who are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for age groups 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 10, 2009. 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 May 3, 2009.

Mail your entries to: Mrs. Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311.
Good luck to all!

**Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest**

◆◆◆ "I Surrender"

continued from page 1

dering", "giving up", "cashing in" an insurance policy. In our current economic turmoil, the Jednota is seeing an upturn in the number of policies that are being "surrendered" or "cashed in". Many times these are by younger Members, sometimes who really need every penny, but often by Members who don't understand the cash value of a policy and the long-term value of having insurance. In today's immediate gratification world it should not be surprising.

Too many people think that a whole life policy with a \$10,000.00 face value has a \$10,000.00 cash value, or close too it, even though the policy has been in effect for only a few years and the premiums paid have been low.

The Home Office tries to educate these folks, however, by the time they make the call or send the letter to the Home Office they have already made up their mind, no matter what. This also holds true for term policies that have no cash value. This is especially true with younger Members who have had the policies paid for by parents, grandparents, etc.

In today's society, where many people live paycheck to paycheck, the value of an insurance policy is even more important. It is a forced savings that, unfortunately, many people would not set aside otherwise.

To you Members and parents and grandparents, remember the long-term value of life insurance. I urge you, for yourself and your family, do not "surrender", unless absolutely necessary. Remember the benefits of forced savings and the potential risk of uninsurability (not being able to buy insurance because of medical conditions) of individuals as they get older.

**Andrew M. Rajec
President**



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. presented a token of appreciation on behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union to William F. Liptak of Streator, Illinois for being its top Annuity Agent for the last three years. Mr. Liptak will be honored for 2008 later this year at the Society's Membership Meet.

News From Slovakia

Mass Layoffs in Levice District

Approximately 500 people have signed in at the Labor, Social Affairs and Family Center (UPSVAR) in Levice since January 1, increasing the unemployment rate in Levice district by 1 percentage point to 12.5 percent, TASR was told by Anna Brokesova of UPSVAR in Levice recently.

According to Brokesova, the situation will get worse, as several firms have already announced mass layoffs.

Apart from people dismissed in Levice district itself, Levice's UPSVAR has also registered people being made let go by firms outside the district, most notably car component manufacturer SE Bordnetze-Slovakia, which is to close down its plant in Zlate Moravce by April 30. The move will lay off 450 out of its 750 employees, while the rest will be offered work at the company's plant in Nitra. Among other companies announcing layoffs directly in the Levice district features Novatextil in the village of Nova Dedina, which has all orders cancelled from its Spanish customer with a branch in Hungary. The drop in demand has forced the firm to lay off all of its 56 employees, while Levice-based textile factory Kufferath is to dismiss 63 people out of 250 in February. Meanwhile, Levice's cable harness producer Arteco also announced mass layoffs but it has not provided any specifics yet, apart from the fact that 120 jobs are in jeopardy.

TASR

Fico Unveils New Crisis Measures

Premier Robert Fico speaking after the first meeting of the newly-formed Economic Crisis Council on Thursday, January 29, unveiled a new set of measures worth €332 million intended to maintain economic growth and employment in the face of the global financial and economic crisis. Fico said that he has proposed to the Council seven anti-crisis measures, for which he wants to obtain finances by slashing government consumption. Among the measures he noted were tax relief for employers who cut their working week to four days or choose similar alternatives over staff redundancies; an allowance to be provided to businesses that create new jobs; and an allowance offered to those travelling at least 50 kilometers to work.

No European country possesses the tools to defeat the crisis. "But we will do our utmost to minimize the impact of the crisis and will dedicate ourselves solely to it. There is no reason to devote ourselves to other things that concern the state," he said.

TASR

Sramko: More Vigorous Action Needs to be Taken to Tackle Crisis

The current global economic crisis is such a serious problem that there isn't a country able to tackle all its impacts completely on its own, Slovak central bank (NBS) Governor Ivan Sramko said after the Government session recently, adding that the time has come to take more vigorous action.

"There are measures being taken to lessen the impact, but the problem is huge, global. Slovakia has a very open economy, and depends on foreign demand a lot. We can't expect to eliminate the effects of the crisis by ourselves," Sramko said.

According to Sramko, it is necessary to carry on with the anti-crisis measures; the newly established Economic Crisis is expected to contribute in this respect. The Council is composed of representatives from among employers, employees, local councils and banks. One seat in this body has been also given to the Opposition.

Prime Minister Robert Fico announced that the Government will hold an extraordinary session to discuss legislative proposals designed to deal with the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. The proposals to be adopted by the Government at its extraordinary session will subsequently be discussed by Parliament in a fast-tracked process.

The legislative norms will be discussed by economic ministers and the results of these talks will be submitted to the newly established Economic Crisis Council at its first discussion.

TASR

Government Will Help People Who Face Problems with Mortgages

The Government is prepared to help people to pay back mortgages if they lose a job and their housing is endangered, said Prime Minister Robert Fico recently after a meeting of the Slovak Bank Association (SBA).

"We definitely don't want people to get into problems if they have a mortgage and they lose a job," said Fico, adding that there is an expectation that banks are ready to make some concessions such as postponing of repayments or an overall restructuring of credits. Thus, the Government is due to sign a memorandum with SBA that will include the details of such measures.

TASR

Main Line for Europe Supports Paris-Bratislava/Budapest Connection

We'll do everything at the town and city level to integrate rail transportation within the Paris-Bratislava/Budapest arterial railway, said Main Line for Europe initiative chairman Heinz Fenrich at a press conference in Bratislava recently.

Bratislava has been part of the initiative since 2005.

Fenrich, who is mayor of Karlsruhe in Germany, said that the railway line also has political weight. Even though the line in the TEN-T17 corridor has been approved only as far as Bratislava, the Orient Express travelled the Paris-Budapest route, noted Fenrich, adding that this was the reason why the initiative came up with the idea of including Budapest in its plan as well.

Ivan Fedor, the deputy director of Slovak railway company Železnice SR, said that construction work on the project should begin in Bratislava in 2010. A tunnel under the Danube River will be used by international passenger trains, while the stretch continuing on to Budapest hasn't been approved yet.

A Main Line for Europe general assembly will take place in Bratislava and Vienna in the near future. The initiative's goal is to coordinate and support the cooperation of towns and cities included in TEN-T17 projects, and to engage in a continual upgrade of the Paris-Bratislava line in order to turn it into a highly effective railway route for passenger and cargo transport connected to regional and local transport links.

TASR



Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

On the Street

I am going to__

Idem do__

(idYem do)

It is about five minutes wal

Je to päť asi minút chôdze

(Ye to asi päť minoot XWOdze)

Go two blocks

Chodte dva bloky

(XodYtYe dva bloke)

Can you tell me where...is?

Môžete mi povedať kde je..?

(mWOZytYe mi povedatY KdYe Ye)

It is downtown

to je dolu v meste

(to Ye dolu v mestYe0)

On the right

Na pravo

(na pravo)

On the left

Na ľavo

(na lYavo)

Straight ahead

Prosto vpred

(prosto vpred)

Does Mr. N. live here?

Tu býva pán N.?

(too beeva pÁN N.)

He moved away

Odsťahoval sa

(odstYahoval sa)

He left this place

Odišiel odtiaľto

(odishYel odt YYalY-to)

Have you the address?

Máte adresu?

(MÁtYe adresu)

Come with me

Podte so mnou

(podYtYe so mnou)

I will show you where

Ukážem vám kde

(ukÁZYem vÁm kdYe)

Are you looking for somebody Hľadáte niekoho?

(hYadÁtYe neykoho)

He lives over there

On býva tamto

(on beeva tamto)

Ask the policeman

Spýtajte sa policajta

(speeta YtYe sa

policajta)

He will tell you

On vám povie

(on vÁm povYe)

Which way do you go?

Kade ist' do__

(kadYee eestY do__)

TASR

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 1653 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. There will be a \$5.00 charge for those attending and members will be able to order off the menu. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the updating of accounts.

For more information call President James Marmol at 724/437-0892 or Secretary Barbara Holly at 724/438-0697.

Barbara Holly

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District would like to announce its plans for 2009.

The Semiannual Meeting will be held Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 276 will be the host. The meeting will conclude with a light luncheon and an Easter Egg Hunt. Watch for more details in our next announcement. Donations for door prizes are encouraged.

Branch 60 will host the Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at St. Barnabas in Swissvale. Branch 2 will handle the ad booklet.

The Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday, November 29, 2009 at Holy Trinity in West Mifflin. Branch 628 will be the host

The officers of the Pittsburgh District would like to welcome Karianne Barnes as the new District vice president. We also wish all FCSU members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2009, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in Saint John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Donation for dinner is \$16.00. Please make checks payable to Branch 567. All checks and credentials must be returned by Friday, March 20, 2009. Please be prompt! For more information call Loretta Dashner at 610/432-8350. I am looking forward to seeing everyone as your new recording secretary. Best wishes to all!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

Accent on Activities

2009 Jednota International Bowling Tournament April 24-26, 2009

Plans for the 55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's Jednota International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held the weekend of April 24-26, 2009, at the Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, will be the host. Registration forms can be found in this issue of the JEDNOTA paper.

The Team Event will be held Friday evening and Saturday morning. Doubles and Singles events will be held Saturday and Sunday. 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

Bowlers who do not have a 2007-2008 sanctioned average, and who are bowling in a sanctioned league in 2008-2009, can receive a handicap provided that at least 21 games have been played in this season and a league year-to-date statistics sheet is provided to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. While the International Bowling Tournament is a USBC certified Tournament, you can still participate in the Tournament. To be eligible for USBC prizes, you can become a USBC member at the Tournament.

The Saturday night banquet will feature Karaoke and music for listening and dancing pleasure. Start practicing your favorite songs!

Even if your Branch, District, or Region does not send participants to the Tournament, you can still show your support of fraternal activities by placing an ad in the program book or by sponsoring a lane at the bowling alleys. (Information on sponsoring a lane can be found inside the JEDNOTA paper page 18.)

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2009 International Bowling Tournament in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Hope to see you there!

Susan Ondrejco
Director of Fraternal Activities

Coming Events



March 29

- The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Semiannual Meeting at St. John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by dinner and the meeting.

June 7

-The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall, Yonkers, New York

Publication Schedule for 2009

Issue Date	Deadline
January 7	December 23,
January 21	January 12
February 4	January 26
February 18	February 9
March 4	February 23
March 18	March 9
April 1	March 23
April 29	April 20
May 13	May 4
May 27	May 18
June 10	June 1
July 8	June 29
August 5	July 27
September 2	August 24
September 16	September 7
September 30	September 21
October 14	October 5
October 28	October 19
November 11	November 2
November 25	November 16
December 9	November 30

There will be no issues on: April 15, June 24, July 22, August 19, and December 23

5.00%

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

John A. Stipcak Branch 484 Graceton, Pennsylvania



John A. "Chip" Stipcak, 87, of Coral, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, December 23, 2008, at Indiana Regional Medical Center.

He was born December 12, 1922, in Palmerton, Pennsylvania, a son of Martin and Anna (Kubick) Stipcak.

He was a member of Our Lady of Assumption Roman Catholic Church in Coral and Knights of Columbus Council 3624 in Blairsville. He was also a member of the Graceton and Coral Sportsman Club, Red Barn Sportsman Club, Branch 484 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and UMWA Local 484, Lucernemines, PA, where he portrayed Santa Claus for many years.

He was a World War II Army veteran and a member of American Legion Post #493 in Homer City. He was a retired coal miner where he was employed for 38 years.

Mr. Stipcak is survived by his wife, the former Ann B. Smrek; three children John M. "Jack" Stipcak of Indiana, James A. Stipcak and his wife, the former Diane Zuchelli, of Indiana, and Joanne Breymeier of Penn Township, Pennsylvania; four grandchildren, Anthony and Alaina Stipcak and Richard and Matthew Breymeier; one brother, Michael Stipcak of Palmerton; and two sisters, Catherine Cribbs and Helen Tomko, both of Blairsville.

He was preceded in death by his parents; 8 brothers, Matthew, Andy, Martin, George, Joseph, Anthony, Paul and George Jr.; and three sisters, Mary Stipcak, Anna Parquar and Rose Lunchuck.

Friends were received on December 27 and 28 at the C. Frederick Bowser Funeral Home, Homer City. A Vigil Service was held Sunday, December 28 and a Blessing Service was held on Monday, December 29 at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, with the Rev. Terry Hercik as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Bernard Cemetery, Indiana. Graveside services were conducted by Branch 484 and American Legion Post #493.

Joseph E. Rura

Sister Mary Benedict Lepovsky, SCN

Sister Mary Benedict Lepovsky, 83, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, died on Saturday, January 17, 2009, in Lourdes Hall at St. Louise Convent in North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA. Sister was in the 64th year of her religious life.

Sister Benedict entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. John the Baptist Parish in Unity, Pennsylvania. She attended Robert Morris School of Nursing for one year and then entered Franklin School of Practical Nursing and became a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1953. She became certified in Alabama in 1971.

Sister served as an aide in several Vincentian Health facilities in Pittsburgh and Monett, Missouri for 13 years. She then taught religion at Holy Spirit Parish, Fayette County and one year at St. Helen Parish, East Pittsburgh before going back into the health care field. Sister Benedict then served as an LPN in St. Jude Hospital and St. Jude Exceptional Children's Center in Montgomery, Alabama; Holy Ghost Mission, Marbury, Alabama; and Villa de Marillac Nursing Home in Stanton Heights, Pittsburgh for 19

years. She returned to the Motherhouse in 1983 to serve as a Night Nurse for the sick Sisters. Sister then taught religion to children in St. Thomas Parish, Clarksville, PA for one year and completed her active ministry at the Vincentian Day Care where she served for 2 years until her retirement in 1991. During her retirement, Sister Benedict enjoyed being a Sister Visitor at the Vincentian Personal Care facility at the Vincentian Home in Pittsburgh up until the last few years of her life.

Sister Benedict is survived by two sister, Theresa Buratty of Breezewood, PA and Frances Blattner of California; two brothers, Robert Lepovsky of Pittsburgh and Albert Lepovsky of Lucinda, PA; and many nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the St. Louise Convent. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the convent chapel. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery on the St. Louise Convent grounds.

Donations may be made to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, 8200 McKnight Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Sister Raynita Kristofco, SCN

Andrew M. Popovics, Past FCSU Supreme Office Branch 41 Yonkers, New York



Andrew M. Popovics, 87, of Yonkers, New York, former Vice president of the First Catholic Slovak Union for New York and New England, died Monday, February 2, 2009.

Mr. Popovics was born August 6, 1921 in Yonkers, a son of Andrew and Veronica (Figura) Popovics. He attended Most Holy Trinity School in Yonkers and Saunders Technical and Trades High School, where he was active in sports. He Yonkers City High School Shot Put champ for three years and in his senior year broke the Shot Put Record of Frank Ryan. He also attended the POHS Institute for Real Estate and Insurance Brokers Commerce High School where he studied bookkeeping.

He worked for Otis Elevator for over 40 years. He also worked as real estate broker until 1988 and as an insurance broker. He was an agent for Home Insurance Company, Hartford Insurance Co. and Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. He attended Prudential Life Insurance Company seminars.

In 1943 he was inducted into the U.S. Armed Forces and served in the Military Police Battalion.

Mr. Popovics had a long and distinguished career with the First Catholic Slovak Union. In 1946 he became financial secretary of Branch 41 in Yonkers, a post he served for over 25 years. For over ten years he was president of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District. At the 35th convention in Montreal in 1964 he was elected as Vice President for New York and New England States. He was reelected at the 36th Convention in Philadelphia in 1967, the 37th Convention in Washington in 1970, D.C. and at the 38th Convention in Saint Louis in 1973. The FCSU was an important part of his life.

Mr. Popovics was a parishioner at Most Trinity Church, a member of Senior Group

#7 where he served three terms as president. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society, Slovak Catholic Federation, Yonkers Real Estate Board, and the Otis Safety and Fire Brigade. He was inducted into the Westchester Seniors Hall of Fame in 1992. He was also involved with Hudson Valley Blood Volunteer, AARP Tax Counselor and United Slavonian American League (USAL). He enjoyed all sports, especially golf, softball and bowling.

On June 26, 1942 he married Margaret Svihura in Holy Trinity Church, she died in 1986. He then married Winifred Barbieri in St. Bartholomew's Church, she died in 2005.

He is survived by five children, Andrew IV (Karen) of Syracuse, New York, Christian (Frances) of Dublin, Georgia, Peter (Sharon) of Ohio, Catherine Misiaszer (Joseph) of Pennsylvania and Veronica Popovics of Patterson, New York; 2 step-daughters, Donna Marino (Andy) and Judy Chers (Rick); five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren and two step- great grandchildren. He was predeceased by three brothers, Lawrence, Stephen and John Popovics.

Friends were received at the Whalen & Ball Funeral Home, Yonkers. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Most Holy Trinity Church. Interment was in Oakland Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Rosary Hill Home, 500 Linda Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532 or the American Heart Association or American Cancer Association.

May he rest in peace.

Henry Wnuk Branch 240P Taylor, Pennsylvania



Henry J. Wnuk of the Korn Krest section of Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, died Monday, January 19, 2009 at home.

He was born in Throop, Pennsylvania and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Prior to retirement, he was employed by Pan American Airlines, JFK Airport, New York, for more than 28 years. He was a member of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church, Buttonwood, Hanover Township, and the Holy Cross Church Men's Club.

Surviving are his wife, Josephine; sons, Henry and Mark; granddaughters Melissa (Wilt) Wnuk and Kristine Wnuk; a brother, Albert; and a sister, Helen Zionek.

Friends were received at the Charles V. Sherbin Funeral Home, Hanover Township. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church. Interment was in Hanover Green Cemetery.

Stephen J. Kavulich

Sister M. Alfred, SS.C.M., 93

Sister M. Alfred (Anna Massura) died on January 28, 2009, at Maria Hall, Danville, Pennsylvania. She was one of twelve children born to Joseph and Maria (Bacur) Massura, in Chicago, Illinois, on December 7, 1915.

She attended St. Clare of Montefalco School in Chicago and graduated from St. Cyril Academy, Danville. Sister received a B.A. in Education from Marywood University, Scranton, and an M.A. in Guidance from Villanova. Sister Alfred took courses at a number of universities, including Notre Dame and the Catholic University of America.

On October 2, 1936, Sister Alfred entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, from St. Simon parish, Chicago. On May 5, 1937, she was received as a novice and professed the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience on October 17, 1939.

Sister Alfred taught Grades 1-8 in parish schools in Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. For four years at Andrean High School, Merrillville, Indiana, she was a part-time English teacher and guidance counselor, and then became a full-time guidance counselor, a post in which she served for sixteen years. For 12 years, 1991-2003, she was a part-time librarian at St. Simon's School, Chicago. Before retiring to Maria Hall, she resided at St. Methodius Convent and served as an assistant in the Jankola Library

Sister Alfred was a Midwest Board Member in the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Sister is survived by the following family members: three sisters, Mrs. Julia Tybor, Oak Brook, Illinois; Mrs. Theresa Tylus, Calumet City, Indiana; and Mrs. Lydia Berry, Brookfield, Illinois; a brother Alfred, Walkerton, Indiana; and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Eileen Massura, Chicago, and many nieces and nephews.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place at 3 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2009, at Maria Hall. Sisters, family and friends participated in the Wake Service at 7 p.m. that evening. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, January 31, at 10 a.m. at Maria Hall. Celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Raymond Orloski and the concelebrant, the Reverend Gerard Heintzelman. Deacon Adrien Picard assisted at the liturgy.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821.



Annual Florida Slovak Day and Convention

The annual Florida Slovak Day will be held Sunday, March 1, 2009, at Winter Park Elks Lodge #1830, 4755 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park, Florida.

The day will begin with a Slovak Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at 1:00 p.m. and entertainment at 2:30 p.m. The Sarisan Dance Group from Detroit will provide the entertainment and Stefan Matuska will play dance music.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, March 2 in the small social hall or the main hall depending on attendance. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. followed by the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

For more information call 407/620-5321.

Treasure Tours 2009

Four summer tours that include Slovakia will be led by Jednota members Helene Cincebeaux, Editor of Slovakia and Slovak Pride and Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International, and her mother Helen Zemek Baine. The trips feature cultural immersion in Slovak history, village life and folklore. A specialty is re-uniting travelers with long-lost family. The pair have a 98% success rate at this and can arrange car/driver/translator for village visits and genealogy services.

Helene and Helen have been visiting Slovakia since 1969 and have many friends there who open their hearts and homes to welcome Slovak-Americans. They love to share the beauty of the country and the rich traditions. People from 47 states and 10 countries have traveled with them over the past 20 years. A third of their tour-goers are repeaters, people who have traveled with them before.

Trips include hotels with private bath in room, two large meals a day; bus transport, castle & museum visits, historic towns, quaint villages, crafts people's homes, festive gatherings. It's a chance to step back in time and glimpse the life of your ancestors 100 years ago. All trips cost \$1,899 per person and are "land only" but round-trip airfare can be arranged.

New Trip - Slovak Village Customs, Culture, Life! June 26 - July 6, \$1,899 per person land cost) meet at Vienna airport, travel to the untouristed Horehronie Valley in central Slovakia (GEMER); visit Hel'pa Festival to view customs, sample foods, meet craftspeople; then stop in a village to open a wardrobe and view a life's worth of folk dress. Enjoy a remote village to meet embroiderers, doll makers, shepherds and cook with village women and dress in folk dress; meet a wood carver, leather worker and see a village home museum. See the icon-filled church in a remote Rusyn shepherding village and sample local foods, village music and dance, on to neighboring villages to hear stories and learn about the customs (SPIS and SARIS), visit a doll maker (LIPTOV) then open dower chests to see treasures. Join in making halusky and baked goodies along with memories of the old days; immerse in Vychodna folk festival and visit a preserved home, meet the locals and sample specialties, try your hand at crafts and view the folk dress parade and extensive crafts market. Slip into village life in a remote NITRA village and party with locals - a feast of songs and food grown there. Toast with hruskovice (pear brandy) and learn to make kolac!

21st Treasures of Slovakia trip July 9 - 18 (plus Zakopane, Poland and Vienna, Austria, (\$1,899 per person land cost) Meet at Vienna airport, travel to a medieval castle and enjoy and traditional foods; time to tour Banska Bystrica's historic square and museums; the inter-active Slovak History Museum is a favorite as is climbing the tower, one of Slovakia's famed leaning towers. Marvel at spectacular Banska Stiavnica famed for architecture, mining, mineral and history museums. Visit the lace museum in Spania Dolina toast at a champagne brunch. Enjoy the music and dance at Detva Folk Festival; on to Kezmarok's international crafts fair; float down the Dunajec in Pieniny Gorge and cross into Poland to Zakopane for a special Goral dinner. Meet a 4 generation family and one of Slovakia's last sheepskin coat makers. Explore grand Spis Castle; party in a remote Rusyn village - enjoy the foods, music and wedding customs. Learn about traditions at an outdoor museum under Stara Lubovna Castle; enjoy a UNESCO treasure, walled Bardejov with its grand square and then off the beaten path to a 200 year old icon-filled wooden church. We'll party on a hill top under Zobor Castle; enjoy historic Presov, the heart of Saris County; then a tiny castle and its museum of clocks, then Kosice's lovingly restored Old Town and Singing Fountain. Visit charming Vlkolinec, UNESCO Treasure Place. Admire Trencin Castle and brave souls can climb the 700 steps to the top to immerse in this 11 century castle ruin. Festive dinner with a wine-making family. A guided tour of Bratislava, the only capital where three countries meet; explore Devin Castle, an ancient Celtic site. On to nearby Vienna, Austria to tour the Old Town and the Rings and feast on schnitzel and wine at a flower be-decked vineyard inn

Immerse in the **4 Countries trip - July 21 - July 29** (\$1,899 per person land cost) Meet at Vienna Airport and travel to Mosonmagyaróvár, - lovely architecture and a taste of spa life; sightsee and sample Hungarian specialties. To Miskolc to experience the amazing cave spa pools and Diosgyori Var Castle; enjoy a night lights stroll and the waterfall in the heart of the old town. Explore amazing Aggtelek Cave, a UNESCO World Treasure, and cross into Slovakia to marvel at the view from Andrassy's Krasna Horka Castle; to Kosice and the charming old town and Singing Fountain. Enjoy Michalovce Castle & Museum and Humenne's Palace; walk Presov's medieval square to see the Rusyn cathedral, folk art shops and religious stores. Travel to quaint Zakopane, Poland and the chance to buy amber, smoked cheese, folk crafts from street vendors and the best potato pancakes. View Krkaow's historic delights from the comfort of a mini sight-seeing train and finish up at Chlopskie Jadlo tasting traditional Polish delights. Optional visit to Wieliczka's Royal Salt Mine and/or Auschwitz Camp. Back to old town square to shop for treasures and hear Krakow's famed trumpeter's call. Back to Slovakia and visit a village home for traditional hospitality. End with a cruise on the beautiful Wachau River in the castle-studded valley to famed Melk monastery and picturesque Durnstein with its charming castle (Richard the Lion hearted was imprisoned here) and its apricot specialties. Festive farewell dinner.

Sample the delights of the **Four Capitals trip - Aug 4 - 12** (\$1,899 per person land cost) Meet at Vienna Airport and travel to Budapest's twin cities for a night lights tour; guided tour of the old towns and sights from Heroes Square and the historic market to



Local foods, music and song are noted highlights of Treasures Tours - pictured here is Telgart's folk group that entertained a 2008 tour last summer

Castle Hill and Fisherman's Bastion and St Stephens Cathedral. Travel to Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, (capital of the Hungarian Empire for 200 years). It's fast becoming a popular tourist destination - enjoy the Old Town, Bratislava Castle and an ancient Celtic site at Devin Castle; dine in style! Continue to Golden Prague in the Czech Republic to visit Prague Castle and see the sights on an evening dinner cruise on the Vltava with traditional Czech tunes. Guided tour of spectacular Prague from the Old Town to the Charles Bridge and newly re-opened Wallenstein Castle and its Gardens; free time to shop; dinner in the old town in a historic wine cellar. Motor to Vienna, Austria's capital and the heart of classical music; visit a heuriger, a traditional wine inn, and enjoy a night lights tour. Optional mass at St. Stefan's cathedral guided tour of the Old Town with its palaces, statues and fountains.

For a colorful trip flyer with day-by-day trip itineraries call Helene toll free at 888/529-7150 or at 585 342-9383, or write 151 Colebrook Dr., Rochester NY 14617 or e-mail helenezx@aol.com. Find information on the web site www.Our-Slovakia.com. The trip itineraries can be found there as well as many comments by former tour goers. Also information on an Add on for historic Prague. We can help with flight arrangements and also have wonderful driver/guides to help you spend a day or more in your villages.

If you would like a sample copy of the "Slovakia" magazine published by the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International for the past 21 years - send \$2 to Helene at the address above and the Winter 08 issue will be sent to you.

To list your surnames in the Slovak Pride data base (now over 28,000 listings of surnames and villages) send info to Helene at the address above. You can access the Slovak Pride list at www.SlovakPride.homestead.com

You are welcome to submit your surnames too!

Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk

www.travelguide.sk

kosice.region.sk

www.slovakia.org

www.vtaty.sk

www.tatry.net

www.hotel-net.sk

www.skonline.sk

www.kultura.sk

www.snm.sk

www.savba.sk

www.government.gov.sk

www.snd.sk

www.stv.sk

www.nbs.sk

Slovakia Travel Guide

Hotel and Spa Guide

Kosice-City Travel Guide

Bratislava-Information about the City

Useful Information about the High Tatras

Complete Information on Tatra Region

Tourist Accommodation

Slovakia On-Line (general information)

Slovak cultural calendar

Slovak National Museum

Slovak Academy of Sciences

Government of the Slovak Republic

Slovak National Theater

Slovak Television

National Bank of Slovakia

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. A full business meeting will be held and activities for 2009 will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

Mary Dubber, Secretary

BRANCH 3- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will have a Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, April 5, 2009, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 9:00 a.m. Mass will be for the living and deceased members. A breakfast with fellowship will take place in Father Dargay Hall after the liturgy.

Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman

BRANCH 19- BRIDGEPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will celebrate the feast day of its patron St. Joseph on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 78 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Mass will be offered for the living and deceased members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar, pastor. Following the liturgy, refreshments will be available in the Church Hall.

Members of Branch 19 who have reached their 16th birthday in 2008 and have either a Term Policy of \$5,000 minimum held at least four years or a Reserve Policy of \$1,000 minimum held at least four years will receive the annual Margaret Evancho Award of a \$50.00 Savings Bond. During the business meeting the following members will receive this award: Lauren Bruchansky, Nora Einhaus, Daniel Kowalski, Nicholas Kuruc, Natalie Leska, Kelsey Linahan, Meredith Lorys, Jessica Paglia, Lisa Quagliaroli, Kaitlin Rotunda and Peter Solek. This award was established in 1986 in recognition of Margaret Evancho's 40 years of dedication and her concern for the junior members of Branch 19.

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2009.

We hope many members can attend the March 8 meeting.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 89- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Our Easter Duty Mass will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 9:00 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92nd Street, Milwaukee. Breakfast will be served immediately after the liturgy at 10:30 a.m. at The Grecian Inn. Breakfast is complimentary for members; guests will be charged \$12.00. Children under age 6 are free. Reservations must be made by March 22, 2009. Call Mike with the number attending at 414/445-5382, or send a check payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br. 89 to Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall. Plans for the coming year will be dis-

cussed. Members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 332P- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

There has been a merger between the St. Andrew Society, Branch 332P in Detroit, Michigan with the St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, Detroit. All members of Branch 332P will now hold membership in Branch 743. This merger has taken place as of December 3, 2008. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314. Phone: 586/254-0225.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 367- FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Bogey's Restaurant and Sports Bar, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place at that time. All members are welcome to attend.

Jane Kish, Secretary

BRANCH 382- SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2009, at 12:00 noon in Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of future activities and the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office. Auditing of the books will also take place. Light refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's, 105 W. Main Street, Uniontown. The agenda includes discussion of branch activities for 2009. All members are invited to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 510- KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

The St. Anthony Society, Branch 510, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at Casa Capri, Kenosha, Wisconsin. On the agenda will be officers reports, a discussion of future events, and updates on insurance and annuity products. The FCSU has good rates for investments that offer protection for your assets. The election of officers will take place after the business meeting.

Members may have noticed that more rules have been added for a branch to receive the \$4.00 stipend per member. Our branch will not be receiving stipends again this year since we have no new members. Each year restrictions are added and there are new rules to follow. As a result, funds that helped supply refreshments after meetings are slowly coming to an end. The older and ill members are not able to manage or work events for the fund raisers. The younger members live out of town or in other states. In addition, the young people are not insuring their family members.

We will still have a light dinner available for those who attend this meeting on February 22. For reservations, call President Joe Scuglik at 262/654-7364.

Joseph Scuglik, President

BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will sponsor their annual Ash Wednesday Dinner onw February 25, 2009, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. The meal will consist of halusky, pirohy, salad, and bread and butter. The meal will be served from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and cost \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Dinners to go will be available for an additional \$.50 per meal.

On Fridays the kitchen will be open for our varied fish dinners. Join us during Lent and support our lodge.

Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio. This will be our audit meeting. A discussion of events for 2009 will also take place.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 716 -NEW YORK CITY

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate the feast day of its patron on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Lunch will be served at the Father Snock Center following the liturgy. Door prizes will be given to many lucky individuals. The lunch is complimentary for members. There is a nominal cost for guests who wish to attend. Make your reservations by March 18, 2009 by calling Millie Leskovyansky at 330/782-3219 or Theresa Smrečanský at 330/629-9178.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 22, 2009 with a Slovak Mass, for all living and deceased members, at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in room 118 at 1:00 p.m.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members. 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 796- EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Egypt, Pennsylvania. All members are cordially invited to attend. On the agenda will be a discussion on how to obtain new members and the selection of delegates to attend the District meeting.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold a very important meeting on Monday, February 23, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the Slovak American Club, 147 West 7th Avenue, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The topic of the meeting will be the sale of the building and property. All regular members are urged to attend.

The officers of Branch 831 sworn in recently are: Matthew Kuniak, President; Mel Persun, Vice President; Kathleen Persun, Secretary; and Rose Kuniak, Treasurer.

Kathleen Persun, Secretary

BRANCH 836- CLEVELAND, OHIO

There has been a merger of the St. Benedict Society, Branch 836, in Cleveland, Ohio with the St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24 in Cleveland. All members of Branch 836 will now hold membership in Branch 24. This merger has taken place as of January 23, 2009.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact David A. Lang, 19333 Van Aken Blvd. Apt. 212, Shaker Heights, OH 44122. Phone: 216/751-7010.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 853- ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

Monica Rodacy-Boone, president of the Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, is searching for current addresses of branch members. Within the past year the addresses of a few members have been listed as "unknown". If you are one of the following please contact Monica Rodacy-Boone, 351 Twin Oaks Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243 or contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA so that the records can be updated. If you know any of the following members, please talk to them and have them contact either of the above so that updates can be recorded.

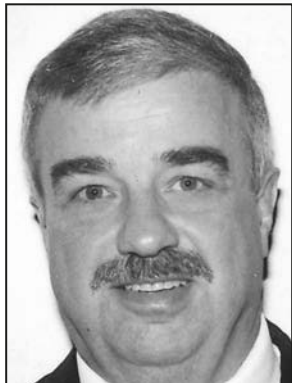
The lost members of Branch 853 are: Andrea Carrozza, Ann Carrozza, Joseph Carrozza, Jennifer Carrozza, Judith Goroncy, Michelle Gullatta, Christine Hudyka, George Kopsack, Bryan S. McManus, Antoinette Ranieri, James Turcheck, Jean Annette Turcheck, Eric B. Williams, Heather R. Williams, and Krystal L. Williams.

Officers of Branch 853 wish everyone a very prosperous 2009.

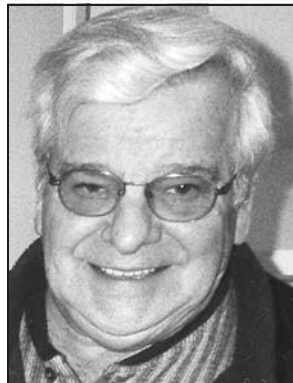
Monica Rodacy-Boone, President

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns for the Year 2008



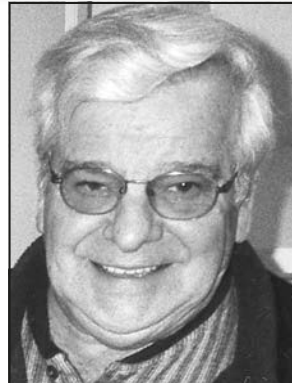
Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



George A. Sprock
Second Place



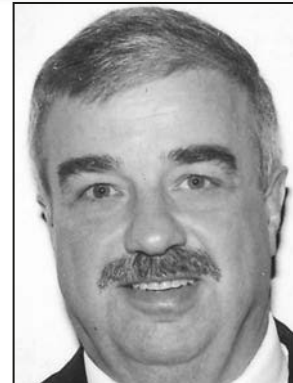
George F. Matta
Third Place



George A. Sprock
First Place



Dorothy J. Petrus
Second Place



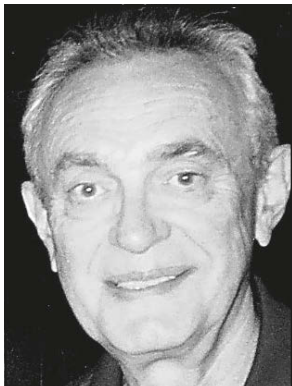
Kenneth A. Arendt
Third Place

Top proposers by Amount of Annuities Sold

Name	branch	Amount
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	\$354,363.35
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$206,388.16
George F. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$153,205.50
Robert J. Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	\$139,410.97
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$120,856.34
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$116,000.00
Leslie C. Stianche, Cypress, Texas	24	\$112,831.65
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	\$112,405.05
Russell Kevin Wonsock, Munhall, Pennsylvania	738	\$82,661.99
Roger T. Soltis, Massillon, Ohio	410	\$63,650.39

Top proposers by Total Points

Name	branch	Total points
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	436
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	411
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	351
Joseph F. Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	298
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	219
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	204
James Robert Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	194
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	165
George F. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	153
Robert J. Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	138



John A. Jurcenko
First Place



Sophie B. Pipak
Second Place



George A. Sprock
Third Place

Top proposers by Amount of Insurance Sold

Name	branch	Amount
John A. Jurcenko, Chicago, Illinois	153	\$700,000
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	\$520,922
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$504,614
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$335,489
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$167,000
Michael J. Slovenkai, Scranton, Pennsylvania	382	\$150,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$150,000
Joseph F. Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	\$130,000
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$111,000
John J. Loftus, N. Catasauqua, Pennsylvania	157	\$110,000



9th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul, and his wife Albina, are planning their 9th Consular Tour to Slovakia including trips to Vienna and Prague. The 13-day trip will begin July 3 and end on July 15, 2009. It will include visits to Bratislava, the High Tatras, Levoca, Kosice, Banska Bystrica and Zvolen. Activities include wine tasting, rafting, the Detva Folk Festival, sightseeing of numerous churches, castles, palaces, museums, picnic, and live entertainment.

The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, admission fees, air-conditioned bus, and English speaking guide. It does not include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from New York (JFK Airport) is \$3,399.00. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 or tsenko@aol.com, or write to: Joseph Senko, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220.



Vincentian Sisters Begin New Mission

With deep gratitude for our rich history, our commitment to our charism, our fidelity to our mission, and our profound trust in God's Providence, the Vincentian Sisters of Charity merged into the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth on November 15, 2008. This merger occurred at the Vincentian Motherhouse with Bishop David Zubik presiding at the afternoon liturgy.

Since 2001, the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of the Diocese of Pittsburgh have been praying, discerning, and exploring a preferred future for the Congregation. Currently, our 110 Sisters serve in the diocese of Cleveland and Steubenville, Ohio; Madison, Wisconsin; Venice, Florida; Montgomery, Alabama; St. Catherine, Ontario; and Greensburg and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The vitalization of our community life and the continued support and visibility of our apostolates have been the primary motivation for seeking a merger with another larger Vincentian religious congregation sharing a common charism.

For the past five years, the Vincentian Sisters have been in dialogue with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, an international congregation whose Motherhouse is located in Nazareth, Kentucky, within the Diocese of Louisville. Recently, the governing bodies of both Congregations have voted affirmatively for the merger of the two Congregations. The necessary documents were forwarded to Rome. Subsequently, a Decree of Merger has been received from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Thus, on November 15, 2008, the Vincentian Sisters of the Diocese of Pittsburgh took vows as members of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky.

We are most grateful to all those who have supported our Congregation since its humble beginnings in 1902 when five Pioneer Sisters arrived in Braddock, Pennsylvania, to minister to the Slovak immigrants. Your continued support throughout the years has been greatly appreciated. And we hope that we can depend on your support as we look to the future and carry on the mission of Jesus. You and your intentions will be remembered in the daily prayers of our Sisters.

Sister Charlene Reebel, VSC

Artists Needed for Eggstravaganza

Egg artists are needed for the 4th Eggstravaganza which will take place on Sunday, March 29, 2009, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Social Hall, 201 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Activities include egg art demonstrations, displays, and sales of decorated eggs, a marketplace of egg decorating supplies, ethnic Easter basket items, children's activities, and a workshop on how to learn to decorate eggs. A Lenten lunch menu will be available including St. John's famous pirohy, various soups and more. For more information egg artists should call 724/438-6027 (Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) or 724/438-8412 (evenings).

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ENJOY A TOUCH OF SLOVAKIA

March 7 – Lenten Cooking Demonstration



WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
WHERE: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church
4027 Beechwood Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
PRICE: Free – Donations are appreciated

We have a cook from Slovakia who will demonstrate making bryndzove halusky. Recipes will be available. Afterward, all will enjoy homemade soup, halusky and dessert. Attendance is limited to 25. Call for reservations at (412) 531-2990.

February 24-April 14 – Slovak Language Lessons

WHEN: Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
PRICE: Free – Reservations needed, please call (412) 531-2990



The new format will feature vocabulary building and basic conversation by Bozena Hilko.

Sponsors:

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National Slovak Society • Slovak Catholic Sokol • Slovak Savings Bank • Sokol USA • Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association

SPECIAL REMINDER

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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

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male age 50;
female age 55;
thereafter \$5000**

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

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



**Act now!
Don't delay!**

Contact your local branch officer or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.
Visit us on the web at www.fcsu.com or email us at fcsu@aol.com

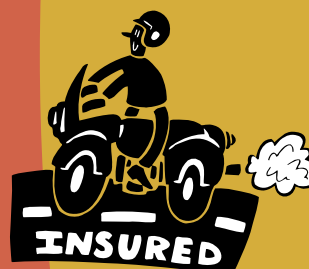
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Quarterly Premium Rates

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

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

Special Fraternal Benefit

If a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a *Single Premium Policy, issued after August 1, 2008, FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 **AD&D Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.

*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years
**Insurance is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member insurer of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. Exclusions may apply. Insurance may not be available in all jurisdictions.

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

Please Read Carefully

ENTRY BLANK

55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's International Jednota Handicap Tenpin BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union
Moral support certified by the United States Bowling Congress

Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes
State Rte. 51 Belle Vernon, PA

Entry Fees

Prize Fee	\$6.85
Bowling Fee (3games).....	\$8.00
<u>Tournament Fee.....</u>	<u>\$4.15</u>
Total Each Event.....	\$19.00

Optional Events

All Events	\$2.00
Senior Singles Event (60+).....	\$5.00

2009 April 24-25-26
Entries Close
March 6, 2009

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
FCSU Activities

Mail to: Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pgh. PA 15207

Team Name: _____	Captain Name: _____	City Assoc. USBC _____
League: _____	Address: _____	Secretary: _____
City: _____	Phone: _____	Address: _____

All Events (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. <i>MUST BE FILLED IN</i>	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					
Singles (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	<p align="center">- Schedule -</p> <p align="center">TEAM EVENT</p> <p>Friday, April 24.....6 PM & 9 PM</p> <p>Saturday, April 25.....9 AM (or as needed)</p> <p align="center">DOUBLES AND SINGLES</p> <p>Saturday and Sunday</p> <p>April 25 & 26.....9 AM & 1 PM</p> <p align="center"><i>PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES</i></p> <p align="right"><i>BOWLER CAN BOWL ONLY ONCE IN EACH EVENT</i></p> <p align="right"><i>BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK</i></p> <p align="right"><i>FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION</i></p> <p align="right"><i>INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED</i></p> <p align="right"><i>SEE RULES 8-10 ON BACK REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION</i></p> <p align="right"><i>SEE RULE 6 ON BACK REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP</i></p>			
	1.					
	2.					
	1.					
	2.					

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

BOWLING TOURNAMENT - PLEASE READ ALL RULES CAREFULLY

The Men's and Women's Annual International Jednota Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament is solely sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Jednota. The Supreme Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish to extend to all Jednota members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, in this rapidly growing tournament.

1. The 55th Annual Men's and the 46th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes, 4742 State Rte. 51 S., Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 24, 25 and 26, 2009.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 6, 2009.
OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 24, AT 5:30 PM.
PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

2. This Tournament is open to all Jednota male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is AWARDED.

3. All matters pertaining to this Tournament must have the sanction of the Director of Fraternal Activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Tournament Officers will handle all matters pertaining to this Tournament.

4. U.S.B.C. Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

5. Only members with U.S.B.C. Membership Cards will be eligible for the U.S.B.C. special awards in this U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament. Bowlers without U.S.B.C. Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Secretary at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

5-A. CAPTAINS OF EACH TEAM ENTRY MUST ENTER HIS TEAMMATES' U.S.B.C. CERTIFICATION CARD NUMBERS AND VERIFY SAME AS LISTED IN PROPER AREA ON ENTRY FORM.
MEN AND WOMEN

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2007-2008 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2007-2008 season and with at least 21 games in the 2008-2009 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 Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN- The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2007-2008 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2007-2008 season and with at least 21 games in the 2008-2009 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. will bowl 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2009, 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.

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

6-C. MEN AND WOMEN- 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 U.S.B.C. 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 Secretary 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. U.S.B.C. Rule NO. 13

7. 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 AVER-

AGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

8. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES, AND ALL EVENTS.

9. MEN - 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.

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

11. All prize winners will be checked with the Jednota Home Office for verification of membership in good standing.

12. All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Director of Fraternal Activities and the Tournament Committee.

13. 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 Secretary.

14. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

15. All participants must report one half-hour before starting time and certification cards must be presented to the Tournament Secretary by same.

16. No bowler will be permitted to compete more than once in each event.

17. Prize fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry.

18. In the event that there should be a tie for first place, a Co-Champion will be declared and duplicate trophies will be awarded.

19. Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Secretary 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.

20. MEN - A Bowler whose high league average is under 190 shall submit himself for re-rating and shall be re-rated before entering a classified or handicap tournament if one of the following applies:

(a) When his accumulated average is not less than 21 tournament games during the immediate preceding 12 month period exceeds his high league average by 10 or more pins, or

(b) When he has exceeded his high league average by 15 or more pins in each of five tournaments, i.e., 45 pins in a three game series, 60 pins in a four game series, etc. - based only on his high series in each of the five tournaments - during the immediately preceding 12 month period.

21. YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED TWO (2) RE-RACKS PER GAME.

22. 319-a-3 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. In case of teams of two or more bowlers, the average shall be combined to determine whether the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total. 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.

319-D - 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 re-rating.

22. Refer to U.S.B.C. Rule 322 - Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT OFFICERS

EX-OFFICIO TREASURER & FRATERNAL DIRECTOR SUSAN ONDREJCO
TOURNAMENT SECRETARY JOE BURKHART



**55th Men's & 46th Women's
International Bowling
Tournament**

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 24, 2009

4:30 PM Registration
Brunswick Lanes
4742 State Rte. 51S
Belle Vernon, PA

4:30 - 6 PM Hospitality Reception
Brunswick Lanes

5:45 PM Opening Ceremonies
6 PM - 11:30 PM Team Events

7:30 - 9 PM Hospitality Reception
Brunswick Lanes

Saturday, April 25, 2009

9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Brunswick Lanes

5:30 PM Mass

6:30 PM Tournament Banquet

Sunday, April 26, 2009

9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Brunswick Lanes

**55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's
Jednota International Bowling Tournament**

at the Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes, Belle Vernon Lanes, Belle Vernon, PA

April 24, 25, 26 2009

Hosted by The St. Anton Padua Society, Branch 670 FCSU

Contract for Advertising in the Souvenir Program Book

Rate Schedule (Please Check Appropriate Box)

_____ Full Page	5" x 8"	\$100.00	REMIT PAYMENT WITH AD MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MON VALLEY JEDNOTA
_____ Half Page	5" x 4"	\$50.00	
_____ Third Page	5"x2 2/3"	\$40.00	MAIL TO:
_____ Quarter Page	5" x 2"	\$25.00	LARRY A. HAEALEY 27 SMITH STREET CHARLEROI, PA 15022
_____ Patron		\$5.00	

As Per Copy Below In Consideration Thereof We are Enclosing
To Cover Cost Of The Ad

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Place ad below, or on reverse side, or attach
please supply camera ready art or logo you wish to have in ad

Deadline for Submitting Ad March 20, 2009

Tournament Chairman: Larry A. Healey
Phone: 724-483-4941

Bowling Tournament Banquet
Saturday, April 25, 2009

Ice Gardens - Belle Vernon
Buffet Dinner

Entertainment by
Accents Unlimited
DJ and Karaoke

RSVP Today

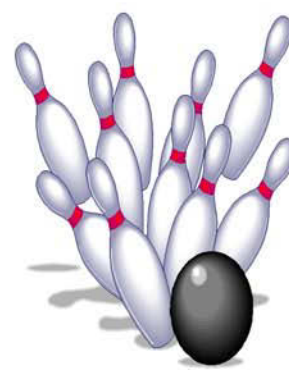
FCSU Members - \$20.00	Guests - \$35.00
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Make Checks Payable to: FCSU ACTIVITIES

Mail checks & Reservation Forms to :	Susan Ondrejco
Deadline for Reservations - April 3, 2009	234 Ilion St. Pgh. PA 15207

Tentative Itinerary
5:30 PM - Mass at the Ice Gardens, Belle Vernon
6:30 PM - Dinner

Dinner and Entertainment Included in Price
Tickets will be distributed at Brunswick Lanes Friday evening & Saturday morning.



*Hotel Information
for
Bowling Tournament
April 24, 25, 26, 2009*

Tournament Headquarters: 30 rooms blocked
Comfort Inn - Belle Vernon
4300 State Route 51 South
BELLE VERNON, PA 15012

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:

**You must indicate that you are with
THE FCSU**

Phone: 724-929-3177

Rate: 74.99 + tax - 1 Queen Bed
89.99 + tax - 2 Queen Beds

Reservation cutoff date is February 23, 2009

OTHER AREA ACCOMODATIONS:

HAMPTON INN 1525 BROAD AVE. EXT. BELLE VERNON (724) 929-8100

**20 Rooms blocked at \$105.00/night + tax **

MUST INDICATE THAT YOU ARE WITH THE **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION**

SBC John S. Golias Memorial Tournament

In 1939, two Slovak brothers, Steve "Doc" Hletko and Peter Hletko, formed the Slovak Bowling Congress (SBC) and organized the first Slovak National Bowling Tournament in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two teams and ten bowlers took part in this first tournament.

Since that time the tournament has grown to over 100 teams and more than 500 bowlers participating in tournaments still known as the Slovak Bowling Congress of American Slovak National Bowling Tournament.

The 2009 tournament will be held the weekends of April 18, April 26 and May 3 at the Crest Lanes in Warren, Ohio. Past tournaments were held in Milwaukee, Chicago, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lakewood, McKees Rocks, Cicero, Warren, Sharon, Hermitage, Struthers, Oak Forest, Natrona Heights, Farrell, Erie, and Akron. Past tournaments have enjoyed entries of 12, 834 teams, 31,382 doubles, 73,663 singles, and 50,434 all-events. Payouts have exceeded \$767,000.00.

My father, John S. Golias, became involved with the SBC in 1973. He bowled with the team "The Janosiks" at Twenty Lanes in Cleveland. At one time there were three "Janosik" teams participating in the tournament. He became a member of the National Tournament Committee of SBC helping to promote, organize and of course bowl in the tournaments. He served on the Executive Officer Board since 1996 as President of the Slovak Bowling Congress. He was active in the tournaments and with the SBC until 2008.

This year will be the first year he will miss a tournament since 1973. This year the tournament is being dedicated to his memory for all of his work, dedication, promotion, and bowling with the Slovak Bowling Congress. I have taken a board position on the National Tournament Committee for the SBC.

I would like to invite all bowlers to participate in this year's tournament at Crest Lanes. As a special incentive, the First Catholic Slovak Union, National Slovak Society, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the tournament.

For more information on the tournament or the SBC call John M. Golias at 440/526-3657, or 440/526-3445, or Joe Harkulich at 330/448-8630. Hoping to see all Slovak Bowlers at the Crest Lanes in Warren, Ohio.

John M. Golias



Members of the Stations of the Cross Planning Committee are L-R Jackson Hendershot, Bernadette Yench, Magdalen M. Benish, Anna Hudock, Elaine Palischak, and Joseph Kowatch.

Slovak Stations of the Cross

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will sponsor the traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross (Krizova Cesta) on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Slovak Catholic Church, 601 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Leading the Stations will be Rev. John Albosta, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Waymart. A Slovak Hymn Sing will precede the Stations and will include Slovak Lenten hymns sung by the congregation. Music sheets will be provided. The public is encouraged to attend.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!



From the Good of the Household Bishop Joseph Adamec

The Hope of a Better Future



Bishop Joseph Adamec

On January 20, our nation witnessed the historical inauguration of President Obama. In his striving to make changes that will benefit the citizens of our country, many see him as our hope for a better future. Commentators stated over and over again how significant was that day of his inauguration because he was our first African-American president. I regret that no one considered his being half-white noteworthy. He bridges the races. The very objective that he proposes to achieve has already been achieved in his very person. This gives him a unique quality for leadership in a multi-racial country like ours. All of us should pray that he succeeds.

President Obama's desire to bring us together as a nation engenders excitement and visions of a return to the basics and a former time of respectability. I, particularly, like his reference to the founding principles of our nation.

"At these moments," the President said in his inaugural address, "America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because We the People have remained faithful to the ideals of our forebearers, and true to our founding documents."

However, many are concerned that at least one ideal may be seriously at risk in the Obama agenda. That is the ideal of every individual having the right to fulfill his or her life. Just two days after the presidential inauguration, hundreds of thousands came to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. This is an annual occurrence, mourning the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision known as Roe vs. Wade, which made it constitutional to terminate the life of a baby as long as it had not yet been born.

It does not look like this administration is interested in overturning that court decision. In fact, there are indications that the opposite may be true. This is a contradiction in an agenda that speaks of rights for every human being. How can we be speaking of a better future when we consider it a right to kill those who might be able to lead us into such a future?

We have just concluded our celebration of Catholic School Week. I have interacted with a good number of our young people, both within and outside of our schools. Over the past 21 years of my episcopacy, I have seen boys and girls become men and women. Those who were children when I came are now in adult leadership roles. And, I like what I see. They are a part of that hope for a better future.

Our Catholic Schools, in particular, form future citizens for our nation and the Lord's Kingdom who are well grounded and integrated in their knowledge of life and living. I see it when I meet with students from our high school every year, on what has come to be known as Tri-Hi Day, as well as when I visit each individual school. It is also borne out by the testimonies of university achievements and employment successes.

One of the events during Catholic School Week in our Diocesan Church (Altoona-Johnstown) is the annual luncheon at the Bishop's Residence. Each year, three students from each one of our Catholic high schools with their principals come to have lunch with the Bishop at his residence. It is truly a pleasure to interact with these young men and women. They, and those others, are a sign of President Obama's vision for a better future. They are our hope. I praise the Lord that they have parents who did not consider it a right to terminate their life before it barely began.



Anne Sophie Hricik and Enes Aktus.

Anne Sophie Hricik, daughter of Stephen and Lori Hricik portrayed the Blessed Mother in a Christmas play in Waldenbuch, Germany.

The Christmas play took place at St. Martinus Church. Joseph was played by Enes Aktus.

Children of the Kindergarten Class sang songs in German, the most beautiful being "Silent Night."

Anne Sophie is a member of Branch 181 in United, Pennsylvania. Her father, Stephen Hricik, is with the African Command of the United States in Stuttgart, Germany. Anne Sophie is the granddaughter of FCSU National President Emeritus Thomas and Geraldine Hricik.

George Onda District Celebrates Annual Vilija

The George Onda District celebrated its annual traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Vilija on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening began with a Mass at 4:00 p.m. celebrated by Rev. Larry J. Kulick, Chaplain of the George Onda District, and Msgr. Donald J. Mondello. The dinner followed in the Bishop Connare Center. The Pittsburgh Slovaks provided the entertainment portraying the Bethlehem Strollers Shepherds and the Stary Pes (Old Dog).

George Sprock

Regional Director George Sprock with wife Florence, son George, and daughter Karen Hunka, Chairperson of Auditors



Father Larry J. Kulick said the grace before dinner



Ann Rich talks to the "Stary Pes"



Officers hand out door prizes to the guest



Visiting Sisters



Some of the attendees at this year's Vilija.



The Pittsburgh Slovaks perform.



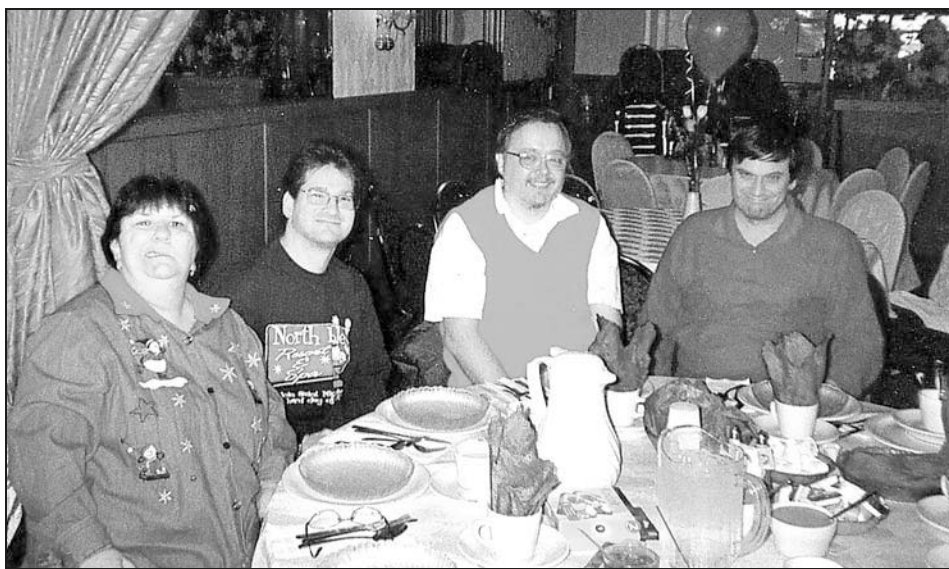
National President Emeritus Thomas Hricik, Msgr. Donald Mondello and Father Larry Kulick.

Chicago Branch Holds Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

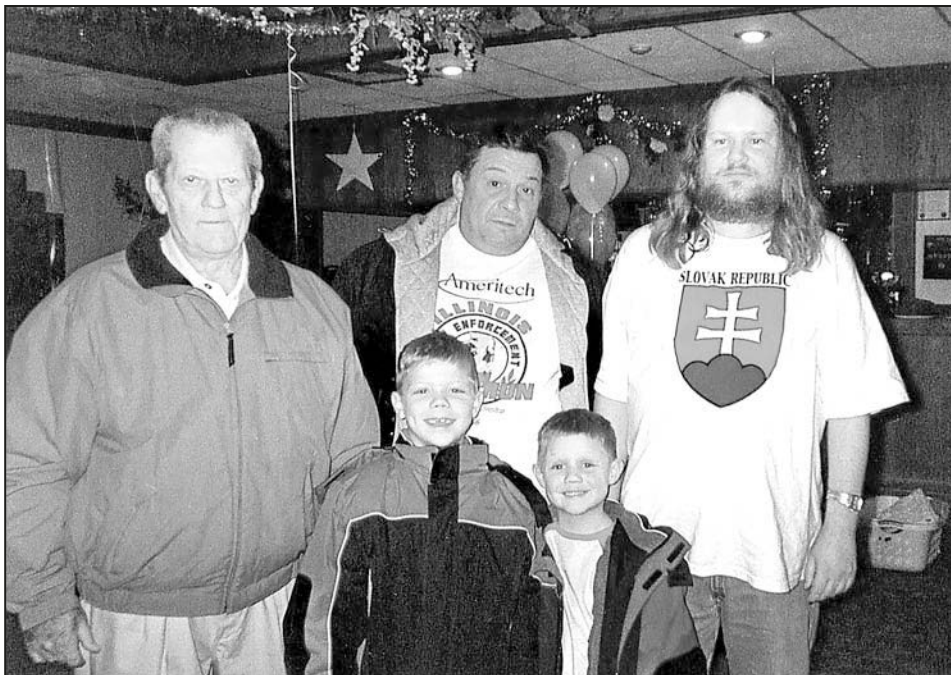
The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, held its Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon on November 29, 2008, at Mabenka's Restaurant in suburban Burbank, Illinois. Twenty-one members attended this annual event. Four new members were welcomed: Mary Turner, Grayson Derma, Julia Affrunti, and Anthony Affrunti. Attendees voted to present the junior members of the branch with \$5.00 McDonald's gift cards for Christmas. The following officers were elected to serve in 2009: Ed Kedzuch, President; Emil Rusinak, Vice President; Valerie Vesely, Recording Secretary; Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary; and Pete Turner, Sergeant at Arms.

After the meeting, a family style Christmas dinner was served. Attendees sang Happy Birthday to Joey Rusinak, who turned 5 years old the day after the meeting.

Robert Tapak Magruder



L-R: Val Vesely, Bob Babb, Don Cummings, and Pete Turner



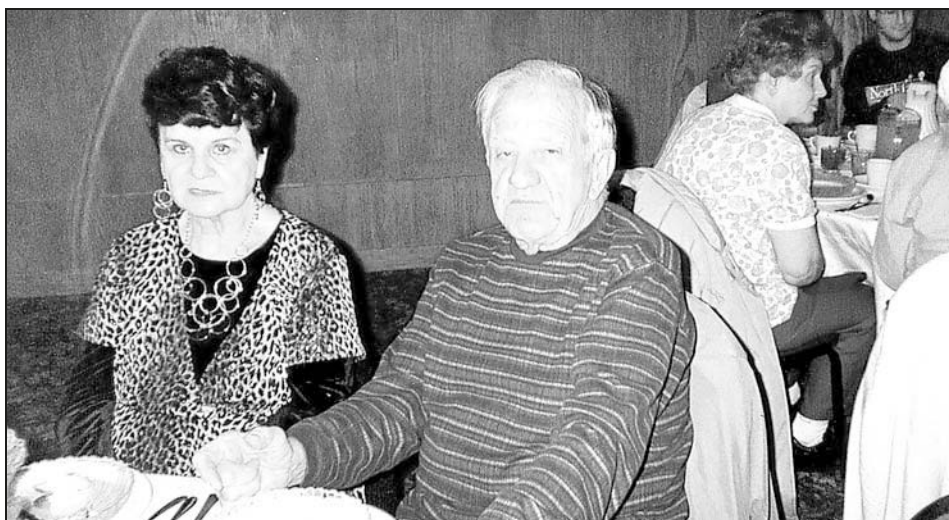
Emil Rusinak, Tom Rusinak, Robert Tapak Magruder, and Brandon and Joey Rusinak.



Rich and Helen Strezo



Diana Baran and Shirley Bruss



Emily and Joe Janusek



L-R Susan Hepner, Joan Hepner, and Melody Bobo.



Rogalin and Gerry James Pennie.

A Special Photo Exhibit: The Magic Number "8" in the History of Slovakia

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

On February 7, 2009, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) sponsored a wonderful exhibition of photographs on the number "8" in the context of Slovakia's history. The photos are on loan with the gracious cooperation of the Slovak Republic's Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Slovak National Museum.

The event took place at the Museum of the National Slovak Society in McMurray, Pennsylvania, just south of Pittsburgh. The exhibit opened at 2 pm, and featured photos of famous events, people, post cards, and other memorabilia which recalled the historic events of these years ending in "eight." Dr. Martin Votruba, chair of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, presented a stimulating short lecture which summarized the significant dates and circumstances associated with the displays. The themes of the photo exhibit and lecture included the following highlights.

- 1) 828 – This marks the time of the consecration of the first Christian church in Slovakia, during the reign of Prince Pribina, who himself converted in 833.
- 2) 1038 – The year marked the death of King Stephen I of Hungary, and was the beginning of the centuries of rule in the Kingdom of Hungary, which Slovakia belonged to until 1918. Dr. Votruba pointed out that until the 19th century nationality revivals, Slovaks lived as equals with the dominant Magyars in a multinational state.
- 3) 1848-49 -- Slovaks rebelled and sought autonomy within the framework of the Hungarian kingdom at a time when the Magyars had declared themselves independent of Austrian rule. Slovaks sided with Austria in the struggle, mainly because Kossuth and the Magyar rebels refused to recognize Slovaks as a unique people with their own culture and language.
- 4) 1888-90 – These dates recalled the formation of Slovak societies for new Slovak immigrants in the USA, and it was at this time that fraternal organizations such as the National Slovak Society and the First Catholic Slovak Union formed. It was in the USA that most immigrants from Slovakia first experienced their national self-awareness.
- 5) 1918 – This was the year that Czecho-Slovakia became an independent state for the first time in history. Slovaks agreed to join with the Czechs to protect their language and culture. The name of the state with the hyphen was used in most international documents until the constitution of 1920, which dropped the hyphen in the hope of creating a more united state, even though some Slovaks dissented.
- 6) 1938 – Dr. Votruba pointed out that the First Czechoslovak Republic never had much time to develop before it became engulfed in the intrigues of international politics. Following the infamous 1938 Munich Pact in which the Western Powers surrendered the Sudetenland to Nazi Germany, the state's name returned to the spelling of Czecho-Slovakia. Slovakia became an autonomous region in the state, with its own democratically elected parliament. Hitler dissolved the Czecho-Slovak state in the following year, and pushed the Slovaks to declare their independence under the protection of Germany.
- 7) 1948 – Czechoslovakia re-emerged in 1945 as a unified state after World War II, but communists won free elections in the Czech lands, although the Democratic Party won a sizeable majority in Slovakia. Through subterfuge and illegal activities, the communists forced their rule on the whole state after the resignation of the government in February 1948, leading to 41 years of authoritarian communist rule and alliance with Moscow.
- 8) 1968 – The Slovak leader Alexander Dubček pushed through reforms which allowed more freedoms and tried to remake the Communist Party itself, by creating "socialism with a human face." The Soviet-led Warsaw Pact brutally suppressed the experiment with its military invasion, and the Czechoslovak state went on to endure two more decades of totalitarian rule.
- 9) 1988-89 – Starting with the 1988 police attacks against the Good Friday religious procession in Bratislava, Slovaks and Czechs started standing up to communism. Emboldened by Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union, the people ousted the communists from power in the peaceful Velvet (*samatová*) Revolution of late 1989 and would form the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic in 1990.
- 10) 2008-9 – Nearly twenty years after the fall of communism, Slovakia has been an independent state since 1993. It is in the ongoing process of transforming its economy to become competitive internationally. Today, Slovakia's economy is one of the fastest growing in Europe. The Slovak Republic is a member of NATO and has fully integrated into the European Union, using the Euro as its currency, ahead of its Višegrad neighbors – the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland.

After the short presentation by Dr. Votruba, attendees enjoyed some interesting conversations with others and tasted some delicious imported red and white wines (*červené a biele vína*) from Slovakia, along with cheeses and crackers. All were invited to tour the permanent displays in the museum and to visit the Slovak library, which Dr. Robert Metil had cataloged, and he graciously showed the holdings to all interested. Dr. Metil performed some his doctoral research in Slovakia and specializes in ethnomusicology.

We owe a big "ďakujem" to the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association for sponsoring the event, and to the National Slovak Society for hosting the exhibit at its Museum. The Slovak Honorary Consul, Joseph Senko, formed the non-profit WPSCA in 1997, and since that time, Consul Senko and the organization's committee have accomplished much to promote Slovak culture and to make people in the Pittsburgh area more aware of Slovakia and Slovak Americans. Also noteworthy are the contributions of Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, both of whom helped host the event, and have done so much to promote Slovak culture in the Pittsburgh area.

The WPSCA photo exhibit on years ending in "8" is on tour around the USA, and will remain at the NSS Slovak Museum for the next month. It is well worth a visit. A future article will provide more information about the Slovak Museum itself, its origins and the permanent exhibits.



L-R Milenka Feighner, Erika Kopanic, Dr. Martin Votruba and Dr. Michael Kopanic

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Slovak National Museum

The Magic Number „8“ in the History of Slovakia

Basic information on the Slovak Republic
(Source: Statistics Office of the Slovak Republic)

Area: 49 034 km²

Population: 5,398,629 (as of 30. 9. 2007)

Population density: 110 inhabitants per km²

Distribution of ethnic groups: Slovaks 85.8%; Hungarians 9.7%; Roma 1.7%; Czechs 0.8%; Ruthenians 0.4%; Ukrainians 0.2%; Germans 0.1%; others and unknown 1.1%; (according to the May 2001 census)

Religious groups: Roman Catholic Church 68.9%; Augsburg Evangelical (Protestant) 6.9%; Greek Catholic Church 4.1%; Reformed Christian Church 2%; Orthodox Church 0.9%; Jehovah's Witnesses 0.4%; other churches 0.3%; no religion listed 13% (unknown 3% according to the May 2001 census)

Capital city: Bratislava (population as of 30. 6. 2007: 426,628)

Gross domestic product per capita in 2007: 10,150 € (13,900 USD)

Currency of the Slovak Republic: Until 31. 12. 2008 - Slovak crown (SKK)
As of 1. 1. 2009 - Euro

Exhibition was organized by: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Slovak National Museum

© Authors: Pavol Komora (1 - 5, 15), Martin Besedík (6 - 8), Peter Tomčík (9 - 14, 15), 2008

© Graphic design: Pavol Choma, Robert Sokol, 2008

© Production: Ateliér Choma, 2008

Map: Slovakia in Europe

828

1038

1848

1849

1918

1938

1948

1968

1989

Fireworks in honor of the declaration of the independent Slovak Republic on 1. 1. 1993

The High Tatras - a natural part of Slovakia

The Magic Number „8“ in the History of Slovakia

● Slovak history is interesting in that many important and pivotal events took place during years that end in the number eight. For this reason, they have come to be known as the "eight years". These crucial years include: 1848, 1918, 1938, 1948 and 1968. The year 1989 also belongs in this category because the historical turning point that was the November Velvet Revolution of 1989 actually began in 1988. There are important internal connections between the "8" years and their events. The Slovaks' national emancipation process began with the uprising in the revolutionary year 1848 and culminated in 1918 with the founding of Czechoslovakia. This common state of Czechs and Slovaks was then exposed in 1938 to a challenging historical test. The historical lies between 1948, 1968 and 1989 are also strong. They mark the founding, crisis and fall of the communist system in the former Czechoslovakia.

In terms of their meaning for history, the "eight"-year anniversaries that fall in 2008 are a natural reflection of a broader context and of that history's connections to the present. This is also the goal of the exhibition. The Magic Number Eight in the History of Slovakia, whose organizers seek to improve mutual knowledge and understanding among nations.

828

1038

1848

1849

1918

1938

1948

1968

1989

In the year 828, during the rule of Pribina, the first-known Christian church of the Slovak professors was consecrated - Nitra, late 10th century, sketch by V. Hollar after a drawing by G. Hoeffner, Nitra River Valley Museum, Nitra

P. M. Boháč: Slovak National Uprising in spring 1848, oil, 1848 - 1849, Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava

Alexander Dubček (1921 - 1992) symbol of hope during the Prague Spring in 1968

Supporters of the Communist Party welcome the tanks that they have come to power in February 1968

In November 1989, residents of Bratislava staged a demonstration in support of fundamental changes in society

Tatry z darovaných peňazí obnovili po kalamite vyše 300 hektárov lesa

Vysoké Tatry (TASR) - Štátne lesy (ŠL) Tatranského národného parku (TANAP) obnovili dosiaľ z finančných prostriedkov darcov viac ako 300 hektárov (ha) kalamitou postihnutého lesa. Z peňazí určených na obnovu použili približne sedminu. Prostriedky boli pôvodne určené len na nákup semien a sadeníc lesných drevín. Požiadali preto o rozšírenie možnosti využiť darované financie tak, aby mohli pokryť aj náklady spojené s následnou starostlivosťou o mladé lesné porasty.

Komisia pre hospodárenie s darovanými peniazmi určenými na obnovu lesa TANAP návrh schválila. Na nákup semien a sadeníc a následnú starostlivosť o založené mladé lesné porasty, vrátane vyžínania buriny a ochrany pred škodami spôsobenými lesnou zverou, použili doteraz viac ako 217,025 eur (6.54 milióna Sk). Od roku 2005 tak ŠL TANAP zrevitalizovali z darovaných peňazí 302,86 ha lesa v nimi spravovanom kalamitnom území národného parku. V tomto roku plánujú použiť na práce v intenciách projektu revitalizácie z darcovského účtu vyše 242,300 eur (7.3 milióna Sk).

Po veternej kalamite z novembra 2004 zaslali právnické a fyzické osoby na účet "Na obnovu lesa Štátnych lesov TANAP" 1,176,292.9 eura (35,437,000 Sk), z toho z Českej republiky 245,070.7 eura (7,383,000 Sk). Všetky darované finančné prostriedky sú vedené na samostatnom účte v štátnej pokladnici. Správu o ich použití a zostatku na účte zasielajú ŠL TANAP Ministerstvu vnútra Slovenskej republiky. Finančné prostriedky z verejnej zbierky sú účelovo viazané a využívané v intenciách projektu revitalizácie poškodeného územia národného parku. Správnosť použitia monitoruje dozorná rada verejnej zbierky.



Mihók: Je tu síce hospodárska kríza, ale nesprávajme sa krízovo

Bratislava (TASR) - V roku 2009 bude slovenskú ekonomiku ovplyvňovať najmä globálna hospodárska kríza. Slovensko by však malo patriť medzi "šťastnejšie" krajiny a ekonomika by sa v tomto roku nemala ocitnúť v recesii. Konštatoval to 29. januára predseda Slovenskej obchodnej a priemyselnej komory (SOPK) Peter Mihók. "Keď chceme hovoriť o vyhlídkach slovenskej ekonomiky, treba vychádzať z globálnej ekonomiky, pretože tá nás veľmi ovplyvňuje," uviedol Mihók na seminári SOPK s názvom Základné makroekonomické proporcie vývoja ekonomiky Slovenska v roku 2009 z pohľadu podnikov a očakávania hospodárskej sféry. Medzi negatíva, ktoré vplývajú na slovenskú ekonomiku, zaradil Mihók úzke výrobné portfólio. "Výrazne dominuje automobilový a elektrotechnický priemysel," zhodnotil Mihók a dodal, že orientovať sa treba napríklad na oblasť biotechnológií.

Z hľadiska exportu sa SR výrazne orientuje na trhy Európskej únie. "Až 85 % exportu smeruje do krajín EÚ a najviac do Nemecka, Českej republiky, Maďarska a Poľska, a teda do krajín, ktoré sú dnes v recesii. Výpadok exportu tak bude značný a ťažko ho bude nahradiť domácim dopytom," upozornil Mihók.

Za pozitíva slovenskej ekonomiky považuje predseda komory stabilizovaný bankový sektor a úspešné zavedenie jednotnej európskej meny euro, ktoré podľa neho prinesie Slovensku vyššiu kurzovú stabilitu a zníženie transakčných nákladov. Slovensko sa podľa Mihóka síce bude pohybovať v neistom a nepredvídateľnom prostredí, ale zatiaľ bude patriť medzi tie "šťastnejšie" krajiny a v roku 2009 by sa nemala ekonomika SR ocitnúť v recesii. Najväčšou firemnou investíciou v roku 2009 a v nasledujúcich rokoch by mala byť výstavba 3. a 4. bloku Jadrovej elektrárne v Mochovciach, ktorú plánujú realizovať Slovenské elektrárne, a.s. Vláda SR rieši podľa slov Mihóka krízu štandardne, ako aj ostatné vlády európskych krajín. Oživenie ekonomiky však bude podľa neho prichádzať pomaly. "Je tu síce kríza, ale nesprávajme sa krízovo," vyzval Mihók a dodal, že práve krízu by sa mali podnikatelia snažiť využiť vo svoj prospech.

V Rožňave uviedli Vladimíra Fila do úradu nového diecézneho biskupa

Bratislava/Rožňava (TASR) - Slávnostná svätá omša pri príležitosti uvedenia do úradu nového rožňavského diecézneho biskupa Vladimíra Fila, doterajšieho biskupa koadjútora, sa uskutočnila v stredu 28. januára v Katedrále Nanebovzatia Panny Márie v Rožňave. Zároveň bola táto sv. omša modlitbou vďaka emeritného biskupa Eduarda Kojnoka.

Na slávnosti sa zúčastnil apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku Mario Giordana, arcibiskupi a biskupi zo Slovenska, Maďarska a Ukrajiny, medzi nimi aj predseda Rady európskych biskupských konferencií Péter Erdo, a takisto kňazi rožňavskej diecézy. Homíliu predniesol nový diecézny biskup Vladimír Filo. V závere slávnosti sa prítomným prihovorili nuncius Giordana a predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS), spišský diecézny biskup František Tondra. Informovala o tom Tlačová kancelária KBS v Bratislave.



Karol Kállay predstavil novú publikáciu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

ktorom je centrálnym miestom svätýňa oddelená ikonostasom, najkrajším a symbolicky najbohatším prvkom týchto chrámov. Práve ten je dominantou fotografií Karola Kállaya v tejto obrazovej publikácii. Jej súčasťou sú sprievodné texty Miloša Dudáša k architektúre jednotlivých stavieb z pohľadu pamiatkovej starostlivosti a meditačné slová duchovného Mariána Gavendu.

Poďakovanie autora počas prezentácie patrilo predovšetkým manželke, ktorá ho počas celej šesťtýždňovej cesty pri realizácii fotografickej dokumentácie po Slovensku sprevádzala, aj Mariánovi Gavendovi, s ktorým už spolupracoval na obrazovej publikácii Perla gotiky. Feldek venoval vo svojej knihe fejtónov jeden aj Karolovi Kállayovi, ktorý v rámci programu večera prečítal a v ktorom ho nazval "nestarnúcim". "Tieto drevené kostolíky na našom území predstavujú jednu z najhodnotnejších súčastí stredo-európskeho kultúrneho dedičstva," uviedol v príhovore autor sprievodných textov Miloš Dudáš.

Medzi hosťami bolo viacero známych osobností slovenského kultúrneho a spoločenského života, medzi nimi aj bývalý prezident Michal Kováč, ktorý bol jedným z iniciátorov záchran týchto vzácnych pamiatok a v decembri 2000 sa stal "ktitorom" (patronom, pozn. TASR) nad jedným z chrámov. "Bol som jedným z darcov pre chrám v Dobroslave, zbral som si na starosť pomoc pri jeho sprístupňovaní. Zrejme tí ľudia, ktorí okolo toho chodili v tom čase, si boli vedomí, aké je to veľké bohatstvo, presvedčili sa o záujme zahraničných turistov a myslím si, že aj táto kniha prispeje k tomu, aby čo najviac ľudí vedelo o tom, aké skvosty na Slovensku máme. Od tej doby som tam bol dvakrát, dnes slúži pre bohoslužby aj ako atrakcia pre turistov," povedal Michal Kováč.



Riešenie krízy prostredníctvom národného egoizmu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

vyostrovala. Nekladíme si nerealistické ciele, ale som presvedčený o tom, že zdôrazňovaním princípov, ktorými by sme sa mali v Európe riadiť, máme priestor ovplyvniť rozhodovanie a prijímanie krokov zo strany EÚ," nazdáva sa Lajčák. Pripomenul, že Slovensko vynaloží všetko úsilie na to, aby v rámci možností priviedlo na svoje územie ďalšie investície a zabránilo odlivu existujúcich. "V našich prezentáciách s partnermi na zahraničných fórach zdôrazňujeme, že táto situácia vyžaduje posilnenie solidarity predovšetkým v rámci EÚ," dodal.

Táto problematika dominovala aj počas rokovaní na jeho nedávnej zahraničnej návšteve v Českej republike, ktorá momentálne predsedá európskej dvadsaťsedmičke. SR vidí veľkú úlohu českého predsedníctva pri presadzovaní slovenských potrieb a záujmov v súvislosti s dopadom nedávnej plynovej krízy, ako aj s prerokovávaným balíčkom ekonomickej pomoci, ktorý pripravuje Európska komisia. "Myslíme si, že potreby stredo-európskeho regiónu nie sú dostatočne odrazené. Máme pocit, že by sa malo vyčleniť viac prostriedkov na to, aby nedošlo k situácii ako v januári, keď bola dobrá vôľa pomôcť s dodávkami plynu, ale chýbala potrebná infraštruktúra," konštatoval minister s tým, že v predmetnom balíčku by malo byť viac konkrétnych projektov, umožňujúcich prepojenie existujúcich sietí medzi SR, Maďarskom a Rakúskom. Rovnako ako zabezpečenie reverzného toku plynu medzi SR a ČR, ale aj medzi Maďarskom a Chorvátskom. "Vidíme, že české predsedníctvo môže zohrať veľkú úlohu a my sme pripravení im v tom pomôcť," avizoval Lajčák.

Šéf slovenskej diplomacie v súvislosti s rozmiestnením protiraketového štítu v Európe vyzdvihol nemennosť slovenskej pozície. Podľa jeho slov ide o právo Českej republiky a Poľska uzavrieť predmetnú dohodu s USA. "My to právo rešpektujeme," poznamenal. Zároveň upozornil na minuloročné závery summitu NATO v Bukurešti. "Podporujeme začlenenie týchto projektov do systému protiraketovej obrany v rámci Severoatlantickej aliancie," vyhlásil.

Rovnako je jasne definovaná pozícia Slovenska k Lisabonskej zmluve. "Podporujeme jej prijatie. Máme sympatie pre úsilie v Írsku aj v ČR, aby sa tento proces ukončil," dodal minister zahraničných vecí.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Polročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New York City

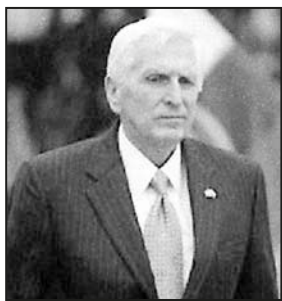
Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu 29. marca 2009 o 1:00 odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a diskusia o návrhoch činnosti na budúce obdobie. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto schôdzi zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Vzťahy medzi SR a USA sú veľmi dobré, veľmi pevné



Vincent Obsitnik

Bratislava (TASR) - Veľvyslanec USA v SR Vincent Obsitnik, rodák z východného Slovenska, usporiadal 19. januára poslednú tlačovú konferenciu v priestoroch americkej ambasády v Bratislave a rozlúčil sa slovami: „Veľmi sa teším, že kríza ohľadom plynu je už vyriešená. Slnko svieti nad Bratislavou.“

Vincent Obsitnik odchádza po 13 mesiacoch z úradu veľvyslanca USA v súvislosti s novou nastupujúcou americkou administratívou po zvolení demokrata Baracka Obamu za prezidenta. Podľa Obsitnikových slov systém v USA je taký, že všetci veľvyslanci podajú po zvolení nového šefa Bieleho domu rezignáciu, pričom väčšina kariérnych diplomatov v službe USA zostáva, ale politickí nominanti odchádzajú a prezident dosadí svojich, čo je aj jeho prípad. „Je mi veľkou cťou, že som mohol 13 mesiacov pôsobiť vo funkcii amerického veľvyslanca na Slovensku. Je mi veľkou cťou, že som mohol slúžiť prezidentovi USA Georgeovi W. Bushovi a americkému ľudu. Myslím si, že spoločne so slovenskou vládou sme za posledný rok dosiahli veľa úspechov,“ povedal odchádzajúci ambasádor a dodal: „Naším najväčším úspechom bolo zrušenie víz, pracovná cesta prezidenta Gašparoviča do USA a mnoho ďalších. Snažil som sa byť tu na Slovensku čo najaktívnejší.“

Obsitnik oznámil, že až do vymenovania nového veľvyslanca USA v SR bude poverený vedením veľvyslanectva jeho zástupca Keith Eddins a stane sa chargé d'affaires. „Má skvelé skúsenosti. Slúžil v Moskve, Prahe a v sídle NATO v Bruseli. Tu v Bratislave so mnou pracoval päť mesiacov a myslím si, že do príchodu nového veľvyslanca zabezpečí vynikajúcu kontinuitu na ambasáde aj v spolupráci so slovenskou vládou.“ Obsitnikovi ešte nie je známe, kto bude novým americkým veľvyslancom v SR. Podľa jeho názoru o tom vo Washingtone zatiaľ nerozhodli a potrvá približne päť až šesť mesiacov, kým príde nový ambasádor.

Na Obsitnika podľa jeho vlastných slov veľmi zapôsobil rozsah činnosti v oblasti slovenskej kultúry, umenia a vedy. Američania a Slováci sa podľa Obsitnika môžu od seba veľa naučiť. „Američania si môžu vziať ponaučenie od Slovákov, ktorí predstavujú pre svet veľký príklad. V 89. roku ste sa zmenili z komunistického kraja na slobodný, v roku 1993 ste sa stali nezávislou slobodnou krajinou a dnes je slovenská ekonomika najúspešnejšou v Európe. Toto je lekcia o usilovnej práci a pozitívnej zmene,“ povedal veľvyslanec. A naopak, Slováci by mali podľa jeho slov využiť zrušenie víz a pricestovať do USA.



Spoločenstvo Ladislava Hanusa v Bratislave otvára 14. semester

Spoločenstvo Ladislava Hanusa (SLH), vzdelávacie občianske združenie, organizuje v letnom semestri akademického roka 2008/2009 v Bratislave po štrnástykrát semestrálny program určený 12 študentom a absolventom VŠ. Program je svojim obsahom interdisciplinárny (filozofia, teológia, sociológia, právo) a svojou formou interaktívny (analýza textu v moderovanej diskusii, písanie esejí, diskusie s pozvanými hosťami). Vyžaduje si znalosť angličtiny, nakoľko väčšina textov je v anglickom jazyku.

Cieľom programu je poukázať na intelektuálne bohatstvo kresťanskej tradície, a jej vzťah k formovaniu západnej civilizácie a súčasnej kultúry a inšpirovať mladých ľudí k jej hlbšiemu štúdiu.

Obsahom programu je:

raz týždenne **moderované diskusné stretnutia** na základe štúdia diel kresťanských mysliteľov rozvrhnutých do 3 blokov:

- **Kresťanstvo a politická kultúra**
- **Rodina a politický poriadok v kresťanskom myslení**
- **Prirodzené právo, etika a verejná politika**

* **víkendový seminár** za účasti zaujímavých hostí

* **víkendová duchovná obnova**

Program ponúka možnosť zlepšenia argumentačných a vyjadrovacích schopností, ako aj príležitosť spoznať známych kresťanských intelektuálov. Vytvára priestor pre spoluprácu na spoločných projektoch v kruhu mladých ľudí podobného zmysľania. Cez zážitok živého spoločenstva môže prispieť k osobnému a duchovnému rastu.

!!!**Uzávierka prihlášok je 6. februára 2009!!!** Prihlášku a ďalšie informácie nájdete na www.slh.sk V prípade otázok píšete na info@hanusfellowship.org

Chceš viac ako ti dáva škola?



Spoločenstvo Ladislava Hanusa otvára v letnom semestri akademicko-formálny program v Bratislave: 11 moderovaných stretnutí | Právo, etika a verejná politika | Kresťanstvo a politická kultúra | Rodina a politický poriadok | Odborný víkendový seminár | Uzávierka prihlášok 6. februára 2009. Viac informácií a prihlášku nájdete na: www.slh.sk

Za poznaním vlastnej histórie Pohľad na Prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov

„Tento prvý kalendár, vydaný Slovenskou vydavateľskou spoločnosťou, je prvá dejinná práca zväčňujúca život Slovákov v Kanade, čím prikráčujeme k vážnejším krokom našej priekopníckej práce v tejto novej vlasti.“

Týmto úvodným predhovorom, pred 75 rokmi, vypravili na misijnú cestu do radov slovenskej pospolitosti v Kanade Prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov na obyčajný rok 1934 s titulným heslom Nech je bratstvo a svornosť medzi nami!

Kalendár vyšiel necelých šesť mesiacov po politickom prerode vtedajších československej orientácii Kanadských Novín a zmeny ich mena na Slovák v Kanade s podtitulom štúrovského hesla Buďme verní svojmu rodu!

Vyšiel ako I. ročník. Zostavil ho Gabriel Kurdel, vydavateľ novín Slovák v Kanade za spolupráce Fera Zemana, Jozefa Pavloviča, redaktorov Slováka v Kanade a kalendárneho výboru Františka Kvetana a Rev. Urbana Kovaľa s počtom 168 strán s trojfarebnou symbolickou obálkou. Cena kalendára bola 60č.

Kalendár mal ťažký pôrod. Vyšiel uprostred hospodárskej depresie svetovej proporcie, sťaženou politickou, náboženskou a spolkárskou fragmentáciou slovenského etnika v Kanade, v záplave podvratných, nevyprokovaných útokov na slovenské zameranie kalendára zo strany opozičiarov kresťanského a národno-slovenského razenia slovenského kolektíva v Kanade.

I napriek týmto ťažkostiam a útokom, kalendár triumfoval. Podľa úvodných slov vyšiel „hlavne preto, aby budúci naši potomkovia vedeli, čo sme tu robili za našej doby, v tejto novej vlasti s tou nádejou, že sa zachovajú už v tomto a v budúcich ročníkoch všetky vážnejšie udalosti zo života ako predvojnových taktiež povojnových Slovákov.“

Tento prísľub čiastočne splnili v II. ročníku kalendára na rok 1935, ktorý, bohužiaľ, bol posledným dielom tzv. chlebovej emigrácie.

V retrospektívnom pohľade na prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov, načím ho označiť za kalendárny klenot pionierskej éry a bohatý informačný prameň všestrannej tvorivej začiatkovej podnikavosti slovenského spoločenstva v Kanade.

Pochybujem, aby v súčasnosti medzi nami sa našli svedkovia tejto pamätnej a historickej udalosti, tobôž samotný kalendár.

Z každej strany kalendára siaha duch slovenskosti, národného uvedomenia, spolkárskej a organizačnej činnosti, túžba po jednote a spolupatričnosti Slovákov roztratených po veľkom domíniu Kanady.

Kalendár dôsledne splnil svoju úlohu aj po inej stránke.

Oboznámil čitateľov s bohatou históriou Kanady „ako bola civilizovaná a koľko strádania museli podstúpiť prví priekopníci“. Obsiahly príspevok pod názvom Stručné dejiny Kanady, uverejnený pod značkou Z-n (Zeman), je doplnený fotografickými snímkami veľkých miest Kanady od Atlantiku k Pacifiku. Končí výzvou na Slovákov v Kanade, aby boli lojálni obyvatelia svojej adoptovanej vlasti s pripomienkou, že „ako jej občania mimo povinnosti máme právo brániť záujmy a aspirácie slovenského národa“.

Po kalendáriume a úvodného príhovoru nasleduje spomienková úvaha Generál Milan Rastislav Štefánik s jeho celostranovou fotografiou a snímkou pôvodnej mohyly na Bradle.

V obraze a slove predstavili Eduarda Oravca, predsedu a Gustáva Surovského, tajomníka, zakladateľov Národného Slovenského Podporného Spolku v Kanade s doprovdným príspevkom sprítomňujúcim ťažké začiatky Spolku a jeho poslanie medzi Slovákami v Kanade.

Obsah kalendára zväčša vyplňujú príspevky podpísaných i nepodpísaných autorov od jedného konca Kanady k druhému, napísané v ľudovej reči, rukou ťažkopracujúcich, prostých ľudí. Dokumentujú skromné začiatky existujúcich odbočiek jednotlivých podporných spolkov v Kanade, obohatené početnými spoločnými a osobnými snímkami spolkových funkcionárov, jednatel'ov Slovákov v Kanade a inými, zväčňujúce vývojové dianie Slovákov v Kanade. Ak je pravda, čo hovorí kliše, že jeden obrázok je hoden tisíc slov, kalendár to zväčnil pre posteritu.

Básnickou tvorbou a prózou do kalendára prispel František Kvetan.

V časovom odstupe 75 rokov, z historického hľadiska, bolo by nevdakou nespomenúť enormné zásluhy a obete zakladateľov, prednostných funkcionárov vtedajšieho Národného Slovenského Podporného Spolku v Kanade, spojené s predpracovaním a vydaním Prvého kalendára kanadských Slovákov, paralelne s politickým prerodom dobových Kanadských Novín a zmeny ich mena, čím definitívne prerušili kontinuitu ich neslovenskou minulosťou.

Na posledných stranách kalendára je uverejnený zoznam jestvujúcich samostatných podporných spolkov farnosti spoločenských krúžkov, nezamestnanecských združení a iných inštitúcií pôsobiacich v slovenských strediskách v Kanade. Končí menami štedrých darcov na Národnú zbierku Slováka v Kanade.

Na vnútornej strane zadnej obálky, JánHurný, predseda Slovenskej vydavateľskej spoločnosti v záverečnom príspevku Slováka v Kanade, zaoberá sa ideologickým poslaním novín, zdôraznia, že noviny sú ľudové, kresťanské, slovenské, kanadské. Nabáda k svornosti, lebo „svornosťou malé veci vzrastnú, nesvármí najväčšie sa rozpadnú“.

Štefan Hreha
Montréal, QC



Obálka kalendára



Gabriel Kurdel,
zostaviteľ Prvého kalendára kanadských Slovákov

Sociálne štipendia pomáhajú študentom vycestovať za vedomosťami

Bratislava (TASR) - Študenti stredných škôl Bratislavského samosprávneho kraja (BSK), ktorí majú záujem zdokonaľiť sa v cudzom jazyku a spoznať novú krajinu, môžu BSK požiadať o sociálne štipendium z prostriedkov vlády SR. Vláda SR sociálne štipendia poskytuje už druhý rok a študenti sa o tento finančný príspevok na štúdium môžu uchádzať prostredníctvom zriaďovateľov škôl. V minulom roku túto šancu využilo 20 stredoškôľakov zo škôl v zriaďovateľskej pôsobnosti kraja.

Študenti, ktorí sa zaujímajú o túto formu sociálneho štipendia, musia spĺňať stanovené kritériá. Študent musí byť v školskom roku 2009/2010 žiakom 3. ročníka stredných škôl, 3. alebo 4. ročníka päťročných bilingválnych stredných škôl, 7. ročníka osemročných gymnázií alebo 5. ročníka šesťročných gymnázií, čo znamená, že v tomto školskom roku je žiakom 2. ročníka, resp. 2. alebo 3. ročníka päťročného štúdia, 6. ročníka osemročného alebo 4. ročníka šesťročného gymnázia. Jazyková znalosť študenta podľa vybraného jazyka musí byť na úrovni B1 alebo B2 SERR, jeho doterajší študijný priemer nesmie presiahnuť 2.00. Žiak musí byť štátny občan SR, mať trvalé bydlisko na území SR a musí doložiť potvrdenie o poberaní sociálneho štipendia. Takíto žiaci zo škôl v zriaďovateľskej pôsobnosti BSK môžu podať prihlášky do 20. februára na Úrad BSK, odbor školstva, mládeže a športu.



Prezident SR je presvedčený, že Slovensko zvládne hospodársku krízu

Čaňa (TASR) - Presvedčenie, že Slovensko zvládne aj vďaka opatreniam vlády finančnú a hospodársku krízu, vyjadril 30. januára prezident republiky Ivan Gašparovič v obci Čaňa na stretnutí so zástupcami samosprávy a štátnej správy okresu Košice - okolie. Ako zdôraznil, pôjde však o to, aby sa do riešenia zapojili všetci občania napríklad aj kupovaním slovenských výrobkov a podnikateľská sféra maximálnym využívaním domácich zdrojov. Veľa bude podľa prezidenta záležať aj na tom, ako sa zachová Európska únia, či ostane len politickým spoločenstvom, alebo aj hospodársko-ekonomickým združením rovnoprávných členov. "Postavenie Slovenska vďaka tomu, že nás svet berie ako zodpovedných, je z pohľadu globálnej krízy dobre posudzované aj zo zahraničia. Nakoniec všetci tvrdia, že náš hrubý domáci produkt neklesne pod dve percentá a že bude patriť medzi najlepšie. Aj predseda vlády Robert Fico povedal, že urobíme všetko preto, aby sme neboli horší ako piati, čo signalizuje dôvod byť optimistickí," zdôraznil Gašparovič.

Starostovia v diskusii s hlavou štátu poukázali okrem iného na nevyužitú možnosť regiónu, napríklad v geotermálnej energii v Olšavskej doline. Tento projekt sa dlhé roky nedarí dostať do reálnej podoby, pričom, ako uviedli, pod zemou je schovaný tepelný zdroj s kapacitou 300 MW. Podľa prezidenta je riešenie problému komplikované pre vlastníctvo Slovenského plynárenského priemyslu a obmedzenej možnosti jeho manažovania štátom.

Zástupcovia miestnej samosprávy, ale aj predseda Košického samosprávneho kraja Zdenko Trebuľa, poukázali tiež na vysokú dopravnú zaťaženosť okresu a kraja a nedostatok zdrojov na rekonštrukciu ciest prvej, druhej i tretej triedy.

Starostovi okresu Košice - okolie, ktorý je najväčší v kraji a zároveň najmenej vybavený vodovodnou infraštruktúrou, vyjadrili aj nespokojnosť s podmienkami čerpania eurofondov, keďže veľa obcí je z procesu vylúčených svojím počtom obyvateľov pod 2000. Dlhavé je podľa ich vyjadrení preplácanie stavieb z fondov a chýba možnosť čerpať zálohové platby.

Prezident si vypočul aj kritiku, najmä z obcí, kde je veľký podiel rómskeho obyvateľstva, že podpísal zákon umožňujúci vyplácať sociálne slabým rodinám 16 eur (500 Sk) len za dochádzky žiaka do školy, či 829 eur (25.000 Sk) pri narodení tretieho dieťaťa. Prezident svoj krok zdôvodnil ústavnými právami občanov.



Voľby prezidenta SR

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Voľbu nemožno vykonať zo zahraničia, ani na veľvyslanectve alebo generálnom konzuláte, ale len na území Slovenska a zastúpenie občana nie je prípustné.

Kancelária Národnej rady (NR) SR do 30. januára 2008 zaevidovala sedem návrhov na voľbu kandidátov na funkciu prezidenta Slovenskej republiky. Jej komisia na preskúmanie petičných hárkov potvrdila, že dosiaľ bolo trom kandidátom doručené rozhodnutie, že ich návrhy spĺňajú ustanovené podmienky. Ide o bývalú členku KSS Dagmaru Bollovú, nominanta Konzervatívnych demokratov Slovenska Františka Mikloška a úradujúceho prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča. Komisia v súčasnom období skúma, či podmienky spĺňajú aj návrhy ostatných kandidátov na post hlavy štátu: Milana Melníka (nominant ĽS-HZDS), Zuzany Martináčkovej (kandidátka Slobodného fóra), Milana Sidora (nominant KSS) a Ivety Radičkovej (kandidátka opozície).

TASR o tom informovala Kancelária NR SR.



Na snímke Anna a Jozef Biroš odovzdávajú šek v hodnote \$500.00 za projekt Spolku sv. Petra č. 278 IKSJ., hlavnému farárovi kostola Sedembolestnej P. Márie v Middletowne, Pa., Louis Ogdenovi.

Tichá radosť

Vianoce sú už síce za nami, ale radosť v srdci zotráva. A my členovia Spolku sv. Petra č. 278 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, sa chceme o túto radosť podeliť s čitateľmi Jednoty.

Každoročne, počas Adventu, v kostole Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Middletowne, Pa pred a po svätej omši predávame oblátky. Robíme tak doslova propagáciu našej slovenskej tradície s cieľom, aby si rodiny zachovali tento krásny zvyk, ktorý na Štedrý večer začína práve prvým jedlom – oblátkom. Na pamiatku poslednej večere Pána Ježiša Krista. Pretože v našej farnosti máme iba zopár slovenských rodín, veru môžeme povedať, že pri predaji zažívame mnohé úsmevné chvíle. Počas nákupu oblátok, často sa stáva, že si ľudia želajú, aby sme im zopakovali slová, ktoré majú pred podávaním oblátky hovoriť. Najprv hlava rodiny pomaže do tvaru kríža každému za štedrým stolom čelo – aby bolo múdre, potom dľaň – aby bola štedrá. Potom pokvapká medom oblátku a podá každému za štedrovečerným stolom. Na strednom Slovensku je zaužívaná tradícia, že do medu sa dáva strúčik cesnaku, aj túto kombináciu môžete skúsiť.

A veru môžeme sa pochváliť, že rokmi sa táto akcia nášho spolku Jednoty tak zakorenila, že ľudia už pred Adventom sa nás pýtajú, či budeme predávať oblátky. Radosť z akcie, ako vidieť na uverejnej fotografii, má aj náš pán farár Louis Ogden.

Veľa sa hovorí o tom, ako sa Boh vyháňa zo školských lavíc a ako viera v Boha upadá. Žiaľ Bohu, je to pravda. Naši farníci však v Middletowne, Pa., sa pýšia skutočnosťou, že pri kostole Sedembolestnej Panny Márie sa stavajú nové priestory katolíckej školy. Lebo staré sú už žiakom nedostačujúce. A tak nás jednotárov Spolku sv. Petra číslo 278 IKSJ teší, že práve akciou predaja oblátok môžeme prispieť na takýto bohumilý úmysel. Boh žehnaj Ameriku a v Amerike – jednotárov.

Anna a Jozef Biroš



57. Slovenský deň v Orlande, Florida

Slovenská záhrada vo Winter Parku na Floride usporiada 1. marca 2009 Slovenský deň. Oslavy začnú katolíckou svätou omšou o 11.00 hodine v spoločenskej hale Elks Lodge 1830, ktorá sa nachádza 4755 Howell Branch Rd vo Winter Parku neďaleko Orlanda. V neďalekej Slávii budú tiež o 11.00 hodine evanjelické služby.

Obed sa bude podávať o 1:00 hodine. Návštevníci si budú môcť vybrať z bohatého výberu jedál: viedenský rezeň, pirohy, plnená kapusta, zemiaky s petržlenom, miešaná zelenina, šalát, pečivo, chladený čaj, čierna káva, orechovníky a makovníky. Cash bar + soda. Lístky na obed musia byť vopred objednané do 25. februára. Vopred objednané lístky stoja \$25.00, po 25. februári budú stáť \$30.00

O rezerváciu na obed zavolajte Mrs. Darina Juhás na tel. číslo: (407) 677-6894, alebo sa spojte s ňou cestou e-mailu slovakgarden@embargmail.com Šeky posielajte na adresu: Slovenská záhrada, 3110 Howell Branch Rd, Suite 100, Winter Park, Florida 32792.

V kultúrnom programe o 2:30 hodine poobede vystúpi známa folklórna skupina Šarišan z Detroitu. Za tým bude do tanca a na počúvanie vyhrávať Štefan Matuška.

V pondelok 2. marca 2009 o 10.00 hodine ráno v spoločenskej miestnosti Slovenskej záhrady sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza. Registrácia začne o 9:00 hodine ráno. Na schôdzi je naplánovaná voľba úradníkov ako aj prejednanie dôležitých záležitostí týkajúcich sa Záhrady. Ešte raz zopakujem tel. číslo Slovenskej záhrady: (407) 677-6894.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Za účasti slovenských vystavovateľov sa v dánskej Kodani uskutočnil medzinárodný veľtrh cestovného ruchu FERIE'2009 (23. - 25. januára). V rámci spoločnej expozície tri slovenské subjekty spolu s dánskym touroperátorom prezentovali možnosti cestovného ruchu na Slovensku. Expozíciu, ktorú pomohlo zabezpečiť aj pracovisko Ministerstva hospodárstva (MH) SR v Kodani, navštívili stovky dánskych záujemcov. Najväčší záujem Dánov bol tradične o liečebné a wellness pobyty v slovenských kúpeľných zariadeniach, ale aj o aktívne dovolenky - lyžovanie a cykloturistiku. Za tri štvrtroky 2008 navštívilo Slovensko takmer 10,000 dánskych turistov, a to aj napriek zrušeniu priameho leteckého spojenia medzi Dánskom a SR. V súvislosti s ekonomickou krízou čoraz viac Dánov uprednostňuje cenovo výhodné turistické pobyty v krajinách strednej a južnej Európy, vrátane Slovenska.

Vstup Slovenska do eurozóny zvýšil jeho atraktivitu v Nemecku, čoho dôkazom bol medzinárodný veľtrh cestovného ruchu CMT v Stuttgarte (17.-25. januára). Stánok Slovenskej agentúry pre cestovný ruch (SACR) zaznamenal pozitívne ohlasy na zavedenie eura v 16. krajine eurozóny, na Slovensku. Najväčší záujem návštevníkov stánku bol o letné a zimné dovolenkové pobyty na horách, kúpele, termálne kúpaliská, cykloturistiku, kultúrne a UNESCO pamiatky. Okrem novín v regiónoch SR sa aj záujem médií na veľtrhu sústredil na vstup Slovenska do eurozóny a jeho vplyv na ďalší rozvoj turizmu. Na veľtrhu sa prezentovalo 1900 vystavovateľov z 95 krajín sveta. Expozície si prezrelo takmer 200,000 návštevníkov.

Európska únia (EÚ) ponúka na rozvoj konkurencieschopnosti organizácií v rámci komunitárnych programov 55 miliárd eur (1.66 bilióna Sk). Finančné prostriedky by mali počas rokov 2007 až 2015 smerovať na podporu aplikovaného výskumu, vývoja technológií a ich implementáciu v inovačnom procese. Podnikateľské a inovačné centrum (Business and Innovation Centre) Bratislava a Ministerstvo hospodárstva (MH) SR preto organizujú 3. marca 2009 seminár určený nielen pre priemyselný sektor, ale aj pre predstaviteľov univerzít a akademických či výskumných pracovísk.

Výstavu fotografií bývalého slovenského prezidenta Rudolfa Schustera pod názvom V zajatí severu otvorili 28. januára v Slovenskom národnom múzeu v Bratislave. Otvorenie výstavy bolo zároveň spojené s prezentáciou knihy Rudolfa Schustera Farby Islandu. Výstava, ktorá potrvá do 29. marca, pozostáva z 50 veľkoformátových fotografií a autorského videodokumentu z osobného archívu. Schuster sa na svojich expedíciách, ktoré sa uskutočnili v rokoch 2004–2008 zamerával na islandské západné fjordy v rôznych ročných obdobiach, Hudsonov záliv a severný pól. Významným cieľom spoznávania ľadovej prírody bol kanadský Hudsonov záliv a mestečko Churchill, neoficiálne "hlavné mesto ľadových medveďov", ktoré tu našli útočisko. Exprezident Schuster už počas letných mesiacov plánuje ďalšiu dobrodružnú cestu, tentoraz do Grónska. Chystá sa aj na približne 40 dní do Kanady.

Svetová finančná kríza, neistota a opatrnosť investorov, ako aj ďalšie príčiny spôsobili, že po troch vlaňajších úspešných štvrtrokoch, nastal v poslednom kvartáli odlev financií z fondov. Podľa predsedu predstavenstva Slovenskej asociácie správocovských spoločností (SASS) Romana Vlčeka v prípade Slovenska však značný podiel na celkovom odleve prostriedkov mal psychologický efekt, obavy ľudí o finančné prostriedky sústredené v rôznych fondoch. Svoju úlohu však zohrali aj banky, ktoré v súvislosti s prípravami na zavedenie eura ponúkali rôzne, úrokovovo zvýhodnené produkty, na ktoré klienti pozitívne reagovali a vybrali prostriedky uložené vo fondoch. Navyše, aj stopercentná garancia štátu na vklady občanov v bankách motivovala investorov o uprednostnenie vkladov v bankách pred fondmi. Podľa Vlčeka však postupne nastáva vhodná situácia na investície v dlhodobjšom časovom horizonte. Prudký pokles cien akcií mnohých lukratívnych podnikov dáva možnosti vhodnej postupnej investície, avšak namiesto je rozumné rozloženie rizika.

Presne 102 pracovníkov prepustí jeden z najväčších mäsokombinátov na Slovensku spoločnosť Tauris Rimavská Sobota. Firma dnes zamestnáva 626 ľudí. Opatrenie je súčasťou pripravovanej reštrukturalizácie výroby v tamojšom závode. Slovenský trh s mäsom a mäsovými výrobkami prežíva ťažké obdobie. Dlhodobou klesá cena hotových výrobkov pri neustále sa zvyšujúcich nákladoch. Tauris je preto nútený reagovať na tento nepriaznivý vývoj a prijíma množstvo opatrení na zlepšenie situácie. Vedenie podniku už situáciu prerokovalo so zástupcami zamestnancov a je pripravené tým, ktorí Tauris opustia, pomôcť s hľadaním novej práce. V okrese R. Sobota ide o druhé hromadné prepúšťanie. Nedávno ohlásil ukončenie výroby v Gemerskej mliekarni jej vlastník, francúzska spoločnosť Senoble. Do apríla odíde z firmy 43 ľudí.

Svetoznámu tokajskú vinohradnícku oblasť približuje slovom a obrazom reprezentatívna publikácia Poklady slovenského Tokaja, ktorú uviedli do života v Trebišove. Knihu od autorskej dvojice Magda Haburová a Tomáš Čizmárik v slovenskom a anglickom jazyku vydalo Združenie pestovateľov a malovýrobcov tokajských vín Slovenska. Finančnú dotáciu poskytol Košický samosprávny kraj, ktorý rozvoj tohto regiónu zaradil medzi svoje priority. Autori dva roky foto-

grafovali najkrajšie podzemné a prírodné zákutia slovenského Tokaja na juhu Trebišovského okresu. Medzi svetové unikáty patria historické gazdovské pivnice obrastené ušľachtilou plesňou, kde tokajské víno, známe aj ako kráľ vín a víno kráľov, niekoľko rokov dozrieva v dubových sudoch. Okrem unikátnych pivníc obsahuje vyše 100-stranová plnofarebná publikácia aj výpovede o zvykoch a folklóre v tomto regióne a samotné zákutia viníc. Portály pivníc a okolie obce Veľká Trňa, ktoré približuje kniha, sú zapísané v Registri nehnuteľných kultúrnych pamiatok SR a sú horúcimi adeptmi za Slovensko na zápis do Zoznamu svetového prírodného a kultúrneho dedičstva UNESCO.

Zatiaľ čo vo väčšine odvetví na Slovensku sa kríza prejavila v prepúšťaní, v odvetví informačných technológií firmy prepúšťaniu odolávajú. Napríklad firma IBM, ktorá na Slovensku zamestnáva okolo 2,800 ľudí, hľadá stále nových pracovníkov na otvorené pracovné pozície. Ďalšou spoločnosťou je americká firma Dell, ktorá sa na Slovensku pretransformovala z call centra pre nemecky hovoriacich zákazníkov na Európske obchodné centrum, hľadá tiež nových pracovníkov na nižšie administratívne funkcie, ako aj expertov s praxou.

Slovenskí dôchodcovia sú so svojou penziou 311 eur až na chvoste eurozóny. Najvyššiu penziu majú v Luxemburgu - až 3,426 euro. Ír dostane o vyše štyristo eur viac ako Slovák a o 50 eur má vyššiu penziu aj Slovinec. Odborníčka na dôchodkový systém Ľubica Navrátilová valorizáciu dôchodkov na najbližšie dva roky odhaduje len na tri percentá. V Európskej únii tvorí priemerný dôchodok viac ako 70 percent z priemerného zárobku. Na Slovensku je to 42 percent z nezdaneného príjmu.

V Nízkych Tatrách plánujú výstavbu novej kabínkovej lanovky, ktorá má nahradiť nefunkčnú sedačkovú lanovku Luková-Chopok. Investícia by sa mala vyšplhať na asi 13.28 milióna eur (400 miliónov korún). S výstavbou sa má začať na budúci rok, lyžiar a turisti by sa potom lanovkou mohli zviezť v roku 2011. Vyplýva to z údajov zverejnených na internetovom portáli enviroportal.sk, ktorý okrem iného zhromažďuje zámery posudzované z hľadiska vplyvu na životné prostredie. Lanovka by mala premávať po približne dvojkilometrovej trase, jazda je naplánovaná na viac než sedem minút. Pre lanovku by nemal byť problém prepraviť za hodinu 2,200 ľudí. Obdobné lanovky vraj premávajú vo Francúzsku, Andorre, Grécku, Japonsku, Rakúsku, Švajčiarsku či USA.

Osem hodín by mala už v roku 2015 trvať cesta rýchlouvlakom typu TGV z Bratislavy do Paríža. S mestami ako Viedeň, Mníchov, Stuttgart či Štrasburg na trase. A s tunelom popod Dunaj na bratislavskom úseku trate. Ten by navyše mohol pomôcť aj MHD v slovenskej metropole. Plánovaná koľajová trať Bratislava - Paríž je súčasťou budovanej celoeurópskej siete železníc mimoriadnej kvality. V Bratislave má vzniknúť jedna z významných križovatiek. Projektovo ju už dva roky chystá Dopravoprojekt. Už na budúci rok sa má tunel začať raziť, o päť rokov ho majú dokončiť. Zámer prepojiť Európu superrýchlymi vlakmi vychádza z Maastrichtskej dohody z roku 1992.

Napriek skvelému počasiu zaznamenávajú podnikatelia vo Vysokých Tatrách straty. Podľa viacerých subjektov cestovného ruchu nastal za ostatné desaťročie najväčší pokles turistov. Jednodňových hostí je päťkrát menej ako za posledné roky. Tatranci sa hlásia aj so stratami 50%. Peter Chudý zo Združenia cestovného ruchu Vysoké Tatry dúfa, že čísla vylepšia jarné prázdniny. Prilákať by ich mohli zľavy. Viacerí prevádzkovatelia sú závislí od zahraničnej klientely. Rusi a Ukrajinci odišli do Rakúska, Maďari chodia čoraz zriedkavejšie a pre Poliakov je Slovensko drahé.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR - Pavol Bendík

Vysoké Tatry zachytené na snímke ráno 7. januára 2009 zo Starolesnianských lúk. Teplota v Poprade a okolí klesla na mínus 20 stupňov Celzia.



Jednota



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

Ročník 118

STREDA, 18. FEBRUÁRA, 2009

Číslo 5794

Recepcia v americkom Kongrese pri príležitosti rozšírenia bezvízového programu USA

Z iniciatívy veľvyslanectiev krajín, ktoré sa v minulom roku stali súčasťou bezvízového programu USA (Česká republika, Estónsko, Južná Kórea, Litva, Lotyšsko, Maďarsko, Malta a Slovenská republika) sa 3. februára 2009 v priestoroch Senátu USA uskutočnila slávnostná recepcia, ktorej cieľom bolo oceniť úlohu a prínos členov Kongresu a vlády USA pri rozširovaní programu. Na tomto prestížnom spoločenskom podujatí sa okrem zástupcov diplomatického zboru, predstaviteľov washingtonských think-tankov a krajských organizácií zúčastnilo aj viacero členov minulej a súčasnej administratívy a Kongresu USA, vrátane senátora Georga Voinovicha, ktorý v legislatívnom procese reformy bezvízového programu zohrával kľúčovú úlohu. Senátor Voinovich, ako aj ďalší významní hostia vo svojich vystúpeniach zdôraznili výhodnosť rozšírenia bezvízového programu pre USA i krajiny, ktoré sa na jeseň 2008 stali jeho súčasťou a poukázali na jeho dôležitosť pre upevňovanie a prehĺbovanie vzťahov USA s krajinami, ktoré sú ich blízkymi spojencami a partnermi.

Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR



Predsedníčka ÚSZZ rokovala s generálnym riaditeľom SNM

Dňa 21. januára 2009 navštívil Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí generálny riaditeľ Slovenského národného múzea Peter Maráky. Predmetom rokovania s predsedníčkou ÚSZZ Vilmou Prívarovou boli otázky súvisiace s úlohami zahrnutými v koncepcii štátnej politiky starostlivosti Slovenskej republiky o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí do roku 2015, s prípravou zriadenia expozície slovenského vystažovalectva a otázky spolupráce ÚSZZ a SNM pri budovaní centrálnej databázy informácií o zbierkach a dokumentoch, ktoré sa nachádzajú v dokumentačných strediskách, spolkoch a múzeách Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Témou pracovného stretnutia bolo aj využitie systému CEMUZ a spolupráca obidvoch inštitúcií pri zaškolení pracovníkov slovenských dokumentačných stredísk a múzeí v zahraničí zameraná na spracovávanie dokumentov a zbierok týmto systémom v ich domovských krajinách. Predstavitelia obidvoch inštitúcií podpíšu v najbližšom období dohodu o spolupráci.



Voľby prezidenta SR

Predseda NR SR svojim rozhodnutím č. 1/2009 Z. z. zo dňa 8. januára 2009 vyhlásil voľbu prezidenta Slovenskej republiky a za deň voľby určil sobotu 21. marca 2009. Ak ani jeden z kandidátov na prezidenta SR nezíska nadpolovičnú väčšinu platných hlasov oprávnených voličov, druhé kolo voľby prezidenta sa uskutoční v sobotu 4. apríla 2009.

Právo voliť prezidenta má občan SR, ktorý v deň voľby dovŕšil 18 rokov veku a zdržiava sa v deň voľby na území SR. Podrobnosti o spôsobe voľby a jej priebehu sú stanovené zákonom č. 46/1999 Z. z. o spôsobe voľby prezidenta Slovenskej republiky, o ľudovom hlasovaní o jeho odvolaní a o doplnení niektorých ďalších zákonov.

Podľa § 4 ods. 6 citovaného zákona občana, ktorý nemá trvalý pobyt na území SR a dostaví sa v deň voľby do volebnej miestnosti, okrsková volebná komisia dopíše do zoznamu oprávnených voličov, tento zápis vyznačí v jeho platnom slovenskom cestovnom doklade a umožní mu voliť pri splnení všetkých zákonom stanovených podmienok.

Pokračovanie na str. 22



FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke vpravo Karol Kállay autor fotografií knižky Chrámky, ktorú slávnostne uviedli 3. februára 2009 v priestoroch aukčnej spoločnosti SOGA v Bratislave.

Karol Kállay predstavil novú publikáciu o drevených kostolíkoch

Bratislava 4. februára (TASR) – Chrámky s podtitulom Drevené kostolíky na Slovensku je najnovšia obrazová publikácia známeho slovenského fotografa Karola Kállaya. Do života ju uviedli sídelný biskup bratislavskej eparchie Peter Rusnák a spisovateľ Ľubomír Feldek.

Autor sa v nej venuje vzácnym dreveným kostolíkum na území severovýchodného Slovenska. Tieto sakrálne stavby postavili pred niekoľkými storočiami, osem z nich bolo v júli 2008 zaradených do svetového kultúrneho dedičstva medzinárodnej organizácie UNESCO. Do dnešných dní sa zachovalo päťdesiat z tristo pôvodných stavieb. Tri štvrtiny z nich slúžia gréckokatolíckemu obradu, v

Pokračovanie na str. 20

Riešenie krízy prostredníctvom národného egoizmu je cesta do záhuby



Miroslav Lajčák

Bratislava (TASR) - Riešenie dopadov hospodárskej a finančnej krízy prostredníctvom národného egoizmu alebo individuálnych krokov je cestou do záhuby. Domnieva sa minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák, ktorý tak na tlačovej konferencii 10. februára reagoval na slová francúzskeho prezidenta Nicolasa Sarkozyho. Podľa neho by sa francúzske automobily nemali v rámci Európskej únie vyrábať mimo Francúzska. "To nie je cesta, ktorá by situáciu riešila, ale naopak by krízu

Pokračovanie na str. 20