



Jednota

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NUMBER 5897

President's Message

On January 22, 2014 the Annual March for Life was held in Washington, D.C.

Very cold weather, ice and/or snow covered a large portion of the United States, including Washington, D.C. In D.C. government offices were closed. While that did not stop the March it impacted on the number of marchers. Credit must be given to all those who attended and made this sacrifice. A welcome sight at the Annual March for Life is the large number of young people, teenagers and people in their 20's, who attend these March for Life events.

Our Jednota in cooperation with the Zenska Jednota have for a number of years sponsored buses to attend the March and we will continue to do so in the future.

Unfortunately, our buses did not go this year because of the weather.

However, on that afternoon the students from the Benedictine High School Pro-Life Club held a prayer vigil at the Zenska Jednota headquarter that the Executive Secretary and I attended.

While on the subject of young people, at a recent local FCSU Branch meeting I had the opportunity to have a lengthy discussion with an energetic, dedicated priest that I respect, regarding several topics ranging from priestly vocations to marriage annulments (some skeptics refer to it as "Catholic divorce"). We both agreed that many young people are idealistic and want to be challenged. One example is the U.S. Marine Corp. Their recruiting motto, first used over 200 years ago, has been "A Few Good Men" and more recently, "The Few, the Proud, the Marines".

The Marines have for most of their history been a volunteer force that appeals to youths seeking a challenge. That is their recruiting "pitch", not just selling good job training. Similarly, the religious orders that are seeing growth today are those who challenge young people to meet their more strict way of life.

We know that today's Catholics, especially our youth, are exposed to more worldly pressures than ever before, the internet, TV, work and family issues, unemployment, cost of medical care etc.

The priest and I had a lengthy discussion regarding the appeal of evangelicals and the newer "mega churches". We agreed that the Catholic Church has the advantage of the true Mass, however we disagreed as to the long-lasting appeal of evangelicals and "mega churches".

After our discussion I did some research and learned that most Protestants, including evangelicals, offer a "Eucharist" during their service. While some Protestants receive their

continued on page 3



Andrew M. Rajec

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

SHERATON DOWNTOWN PHILADELPHIA HOTEL
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
FRIDAY, MARCH 21 – SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014

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 21, 2014**
– **Saturday, March 22, 2014.**

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 Monday, March 10, 2014.

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 10, 2014.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

TAX DAY IS ALMOST HERE? HOW COULD I FORGET!

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- 6 Year Fixed Rate IRA **3.10%**

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FCSU Financial—First Catholic Slovak Union

Contact your branch officer or the home office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131,
800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com

Deadline for the
First Catholic Slovak Union's
2014 Scholarship
Program
Has Been Extended
to March 31.
See p 4 for details!

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 9, 2014

First Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

Matthew 4: 1-11

Gospel Summary

In this brief passage Matthew captures the essence of the trials Jesus would endure and over which he would triumph throughout his life.

The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. Jesus rejects the temptation to reduce his divine mission to satisfying immediate, temporal needs. The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove he is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the temple: God would send his angels to save him. Jesus rejects the temptation to put God to a test. Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if that worship would enrich and empower him with all kingdoms of the world.

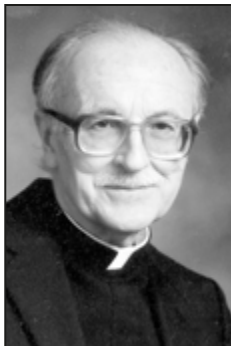
Matthew affirms that Jesus remains faithful to his deepest personal truth, revealed when he came up from the water of baptism and the Spirit of God came upon him: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17).

Life Implications

The Letter to the Hebrews can help us discover a crucial life implication of this gospel: Jesus is truly one of us. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (4:15).

Jesus, enduring his trial of faith in the Garden of Gethsemane, knew that the three disciples who were with him would soon be tempted to abandon their trust in God. Jesus, in "sorrow and distress," realized that it was through prayer that he would remain faithful in his trust. That is why, able to sympathize with their weakness and ours, he said to them and says to us now: "Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test" (Mt 26:41).

With gratitude we welcome the good news that we are not alone in our trial of faith, whatever it may be. Because the Holy Spirit also came upon us when we came out of the water of baptism, each of us is truly beloved son or beloved daughter. Through this divine grace we can live in hope of sharing the faithfulness and triumph of Jesus. "For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2).



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

Can Students Earn Their Desks?

I'm still not sure where I stand on the matter of teacher evaluations. I've read all the arguments for using standardized test results on students to judge how effective their teachers are, and, by the same token, not using them and looking for something more subjective. When you're trying to pick out the good teachers from those who don't quite measure up, I admit that I just don't know the answer.

Somehow I've always felt that the pupils themselves know when they've got a winner, and even if they don't like her (or him) from time to time, they recognize quality when they see it, when they experience it up close. I have a feeling that students at Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, felt that way about Martha Cothren if they were lucky enough to be in her history class—especially if they happened to be on hand for the first day of school a few years ago. I read about that opening day in an email that came my way, and I pass it along to you to show you what I mean.

The most amazing thing about the classroom that students entered for first period that day was that it had no desks. No desks! Acting with the approval of her superintendent, her principal, and the building supervisor, Ms. Cothren had had all the desks removed before the students arrived. To be sure, there was a method to this apparent madness, but it took a while before anyone caught on.

Naturally the students wanted to know what had happened to the desks—"their" desks—and the teacher had a ready answer. "You can't have a desk," she replied, "until you tell me how you earn the right to sit there."

The youngsters tried to rise to the challenge. Maybe we have to earn decent grades before we get a desk, some said; others thought the answer might lie in their behavior. Wrong and wrong, Ms. Cothren said, and suggested that perhaps the next class would have the correct response.

They didn't, of course; neither did third period, or fourth, or so on. Meanwhile, there were simply no desks.

Finally the last period of the day arrived, and at last the students would have their answer. Ms. Cothren opened the classroom door and in walked 27 U.S. veterans, all in uniform, each one carrying a school desk. They quietly put them in place, one by one, and when the last one completed his task and joined the others standing around the room, the teacher began to speak to the class.

"You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks," she said. "These heroes did it for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have.

"Now it's up to you to sit in them. It's your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

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

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

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR 5	MONDAY, FEB 24
WEDNESDAY, MAR 19	MONDAY, MAR 10
WEDNESDAY, APR 2	MONDAY, MAR 24

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

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

Attention: FCSU Mobile Members!



Use your smart phone to download a QR-code reader. Then take a photo of this icon for more information on our Society wherever you are - at home or on the go.

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President's Message

continued from page 1

"Eucharist" weekly, as do many Catholics, others do it monthly or quarterly. I'm sure many of you remember when a lot fewer people received Communion at Mass than now do, where almost everyone does so. The changes of Vatican II encouraged receiving Communion frequently. Previously, there was a much greater emphasis on being in "the state of grace".

What is the right approach? I am not a theologian. Some people say that the Catholic Faith has been "watered down" to appeal to more people. I don't believe that, but perhaps it can be interpreted that way by some.

Several studies have reported that the rate of abortions for women who say they are Catholic is about the same as for women who say they are Protestant. Also several studies have shown that a large percentage of young people (under the age of 25) who claim to be either Catholic or Protestant support certain abortions and same-sex marriage. The percentages drop substantially with people who attend religious services regularly.

Another example might be the Catholic Church's stance on birth control. When was the last time, if ever, you heard the Church's teaching on artificial contraception discussed or even mentioned at Sunday Mass? Is it because it is not an important issue? Is it because many Catholics don't agree with the Church's position and practice artificial contraception themselves? Is it because the priest doesn't want to or doesn't feel comfortable discussing it?

In the recent debate over the requirement that the "Obama Care" law provide contraceptive coverage for Catholic hospital groups and their employees, it was stated by a proponent that "98% of women who identify as Catholics at one time or another used artificial contraception".

Common sense tells us this number is undoubtedly way too high. However closer examination of the studies leads one to conclude that about 50% to 2/3rds of sexually active women age 15-44 who identify themselves as Catholic use or have at some time used artificial contraception.

In reading numerous comments about the issue I ran across this comment by an Internet Poster named "Scott" (posted on the website: www.what'swrongwiththeworld.net on February 13, 2012, edited by Lydia McGraw, who identifies herself as a conservative Catholic).

"Scott's "comment was:

"Obviously the amount of Catholics choosing to disregard sound theological teaching doesn't affect the truth in the teaching itself. So no amount of percentage could ever justify making the Church violate her conscience as a whole."

"The greater point being missed, I think, is that whether 98% or 87% or 50% of Catholic women use artificial contraception, it is too many. The shepherds of the Church have done a poor job of providing sound catechesis to her followers. What was sown is now being reaped".

"Entire generations of Catholics do not understand basic Catholic teachings, or have been formed (either consciously or sub-consciously) by secular ideologies. You see it on this website, you see it in your families, in your friends. So many Catholics have become experts at justifying their distorted personal theologies, but spend very little time actually reading and understanding the Church's theology. And heaven forbid you bring up the virtue of obedience to people."

"I propose we spend less time arguing over minor percentage differences from one study to the next and really start figuring out ways to effectively evangelize to the millions of lost Catholics".

You may or may not agree with "Scott's " comments but they are worth considering.

About 8-9 years ago I was looking at the Alumni magazine I had recently received from my old high catholic school (Marquette High School in Milwaukee – a Jesuit school). Many of you also receive such alumni news from your old Catholic high schools.

It had the names and pictures of all the recent graduates (about 250) along with the colleges they planned to attend. To my surprise I found that more than 75% were planning to attend non – Catholic colleges. I looked up my old high school year book and found that more than 80% went to Catholic colleges when I graduated. At that time if you went to the University of Wisconsin for undergrad you were almost considered a heretic (I'm only slightly exaggerating).

I mentioned this fact in my short comments to the Benedictine High School students Pro-Life Club on January 21st, encouraging them to choose a Catholic college with their many advantages, including spiritual advantages.

As parents we know the cost of Catholic education is high, from grade school thru college. However, I believe that, in spite of the many changes in Catholic education, i.e. few, if any, nuns and fewer priests, the benefits are still there.

It is up to all of us as Catholics, as Christians, to educate our young not only scholastically but also in the Catholic Faith. If not us, who else will?

Best wishes and good health to all.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

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



(L – R) Sisters
Jeanne
Ambre, Jana
Polakova, Edita
Navratilova,
and Barbara
Sable.

March for Life in Washington, DC

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from Danville, PA and hundreds of thousands of others rallied on January 22, 2014 in frigid temperatures and snow at the 41st annual March for Life in Washington, DC. The annual March for Life is held every January on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision that declared a constitutional right to abortion.



The group from Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, gathered in Washington, DC at the March for Life.

The Sisters traveled with a group from Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg, PA. Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M. is Pastoral Visitor at the Elysburg Parish.

Social media played a large part in advertising this year's March. Pope Francis was among those tweeting his support for the marchers: "I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable."

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R., Va.) was one of many political and religious leaders who addressed the crowd. Cantor said, "There is an unalienable right to life, and that right extends to the unborn."

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable

ALL – NEW TOURS! VISIT SLOVAKIA & THE WORLD



At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we are constantly updating our website to make it more useful, more informative – fresher. We have just added an entirely new list of tours to Slovakia guided by FCSU members under our informational tab called SLOVAKIA & THE WORLD. Here you can also find information on news and views related to our shared heritage – such as the latest video highlighting beautiful Slovakia.

Visit www.fcsu.com/slovakia-and-the-world today.

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

Deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2014 Scholarship Program Has Been Extended to March 31st



The First Catholic Slovak Union is still accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program for those qualified members who are graduating from high school this year and entering an accredited college or university. **The deadline to apply has been extended to the end of March. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2014.**

Scholarships Awarded

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

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

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

Scholarship Rules & Requirements

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2010 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2014 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com/scholarships.

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than March 31, 2014.

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

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

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2015).

Applications must be postmarked by **midnight, March 31, 2014**. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

Check List

PLEASE COMPLETE:
(Please follow this check list to prevent mailing us an incomplete application)

- Completed and signed application
- Photo
- Official Transcript
- S.A.T. or A.C.T. test scores
- Proof of college admission
- 3 Letters of recommendation



The 3rd Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament
April 25 – 27, 2014
Pittsburgh, PA

Would you like to sponsor a lane?

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

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

Please feel free to contact Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director with any questions at 412-421-7967 or sueo99@yahoo.com

The **deadline** for sponsoring a lane is **March 3, 2014**.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Wording for Sign:

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

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

Pre-Lenten Fašiangy Celebration on March 1 in Wisconsin

A pre-Lenten celebration, Fašiangy, will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2014, from 6:00PM – 11:00PM, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street (103rd & Oklahoma Ave), in Greenfield, WI.

Delicious Slovak food and bakery will be available from 6:00PM – 10:00PM. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will perform at 7:30PM. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$5.00 per person.

The Slovak League of America Assembly #20 of Milwaukee, sponsors of the event, invites all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, particularly Branch 89 of Milwaukee, to join in the annual celebration.

For more information, please call Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ellen at 262-893-7483.

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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

Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM	4/25		
DOUBLES & SINGLES	4/26		

2014 April 25 - 26, 2014
 Entries Close
 March 7, 2014

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 3rd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

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

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes
1601 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

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

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

Banquet Fees
 Member\$25.00
 Total Included\$_____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

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

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

All Events (X)	Attend Banq (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT./POLICY NO. <i>MUST BE FILLED IN</i>	BRANCH/ ASSM NO.
		1.					
		2.					
		3.					
		4.					
Singles (X)	Attend Banq (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)			
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Friday, April 25
Registration 5:00 PM
Bowlers: 6:00 PM
 8:30 PM
 1st Team Events
 2nd Team Events

Saturday, April 26
Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM
 1st Doubles/Singles
 2nd Doubles/Singles

*ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM*

*FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
 COMPLETE INFORMATION*

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

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

The Men's and Women's 3rd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

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

The 3rd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes, 1601 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 25 - 26, 2014. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, April 25, at 5:45 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 7, 2014. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ENTRY FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

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

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

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

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

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed

up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2012-2013 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2012-2013 season and with at least 21 games in the 2013-2014 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU, LPSCU, NSS, or FCSLA tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2014, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the entry form at time of entry.

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

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

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

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

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprising of 2 men and 2 women are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

DOUBLES: Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

HANDICAPS: The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 65 pins.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11th Consular Tour to Slovakia Planned for 2014



Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania, and his wife, Albina – both members of Branch 254 – are planning their 11th tour to Slovakia. It will take place from August 10 – 20, 2014.

The tour will include visits to the three largest cities in Slovakia: Bratislava, the capital city; Kosice, named the EU's 2013 Culture Capital; and Presov, the sister city of Pittsburgh. The tour also will include visits to Vienna, castles, churches, shrines, and two wine tastings. An overnight stay at the famous spa, Trenčianske Teplice, where you can relax with some health treatments, is included. We also will have meetings with several dignitaries. Our tour is the best dollar value of all the Slovak tours from the U.S. at \$3,599.

For a detailed daily itinerary and more information, go to fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia & The World tab or contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or at jtsenko@aol.com.

Scenes From Toronto, Canada

Okres MSGR. Michael Shuba and Branch 785

The annual meetings of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba and Branch 785 were held Sunday Jan.12, 2014 in the parish hall of Sts. Cyril & Methodius church in Mississauga Ontario. 38 members gathered for a luncheon in the church hall preceding the meetings.

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

The annual report was presented by President Mike Kapitan. He thanked Emil Jursa for organizing three Casino Rama trips and the weekly 50 /50 draws during the bowling season and at the picnic. He also thanked Jerry Siman for his great pictures and articles submitted to the Jednota. Fraternal Director John Tokarsky reviewed the Jednota bowling and golf tournaments held in the US, and also the combined Jednota and Sokol golf and bowling tournaments held in Toronto. He attended the annual Sports Directors Meeting in the U.S. to discuss the upcoming events for 2014. The annual Slovak Catholic Family Day picnic was held on Sunday Aug.12, 2013. There were over 500 in attendance.

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

- President - Mike Kapitan
- Vice president – Jim Szabo
- Treasurer - John Tokarsky
- Recording Secretary – Anne Mitro
- Fraternal Activities - John Tokarsky
- Auditors - Ed Forma, Marilyn Jursa.

The second meeting was for Branch 785.

President Milan Zoldak presented his annual report. Vice President Jim Szabo presented his annual report. Treasurer Ed Forma presented his report. All reports were accepted.

Regional Director Milos Mitro reviewed the events that took place in 2013 at the Board of Directors meetings. Delegates were elected for the 50th convention to be held Aug 23-27, 2014 in Philadelphia PA.

Elected officers for Branch 785 are as follows:

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

- Submitted by Jerry Siman



(L-R) Helen von Friedl, Marilyn Jursa, Milan Zoldak, Jim Szabo, Sharon Tomas, Ed Forma, Jerry Siman



(L-R) John Tokarsky, Ed Forma, Anne Mitro, Mike Kapitan, Marilyn Jursa, Jim Szabo



(L-R) Marilyn Jursa, Emil Jursa, John Jursa, Mary Jursa



(L-R) John Tokarsly, Sharon Tomas, Milan Zoldak, Ruzena Kapitan



(L-R) Libusa Kutrucova, Jana Puskar



(L-R) Helen Hercka, Ruzena Kapitan, Irene Gorman



(L-R) Jerry Siman, Josie Siman, Denise Ricutti, Anne Forma



(L-R) Mary Kovalik, Jana Puskar, Jara Ragan, Anne Fedurco



(L-R) Mary Kovalcik, Mary Novak, Sue Sunega, Paulette Alzo



(L-R) Stan Pella, Al Fedor, Ted Golla, Arnold Hercka



(L-R) Harry Romolok, Joe Jursa, Maureen Jursa, Jenny Romolok



(L-R) Helen von Friedl, Anne Mitro



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

Ladislav Snopko on the 1989 Gentle Revolution

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

Ladislav Snopko is not a name most of us are familiar with, but he played an important role in the 1989 revolution which overthrew communism in Slovakia. He has traveled a multi-dimensional career path as an archaeologist, playwright, political activist, and publicist who formerly served as the Minister of Culture of Slovakia (1990-1992). He currently heads the Slovak Institute in Prague (Slovenský Inštitút v Prahe), which looks out for the cultural interests of the large Slovak minority living in the Czech Republic.

A recent interview with him shed some light on the complex processes involved in explaining how the revolution in Slovakia differed from that of the Czech parts of the country. The two movements arose somewhat independently of one another, though they influenced and complemented each other. One great difference was that Czechs rallied around the person of Václav Havel, while in Slovakia a more collective leadership emerged, with no one person to identify with as the mover of the movement. Ladislav Snopko was one of those early leaders.

Biographical Summary

Ladislav Snopko hails from the eastern Slovak city of Košice, where he was born on December 9, 1949. After completing his secondary schooling, he started studies in medicine at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University's Faculty of Medicine in Košice, but for a change of taste, he decided to try a one-year stint doing work in archaeological research at Devín Castle. Finding scientific studies more rewarding personally, he would change his major to Archaeology. In 1970, he was accepted as a student at the Department of General History and Archaeology at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava. He successfully completed his degree and graduated in 1976.

During his university studies, he became acquainted with a number of prominent personalities of Slovak culture, science and politics. He participated in organizing various cultural events popular with youth such as the *Koncert mladosti* (Concert of Youth) in Pezinok in 1976, and later helped arrange concerts like *Blues na Dunaji* (Blues on Danube River, 1980-86), *Folkfórum* (Folk Forum), and *Gitariáda* (Guitar Music Contest, starting in 1981). He also wrote the bulletin for Bratislava's Jazz Festivals, 1982-1989. These prolific activities led to some problems with the Secret Police (*ŠtB - Štátna bezpečnosť*), which oversaw all cultural activity in the interests of the ruling communist party.

In an interview, Snopko related that "I was a part of the so-called grey zone.... It was not a dissent movement. I would place it somewhere between forbidden and tolerated art and culture. I organized the alternative culture in Czechoslovakia -- concerts, exhibitions, gatherings, and festivals." But the Secret Police considered any non-party sponsored activities as suspicious, since they brought large numbers of people together.

Simultaneously, Snopko was pursuing his career in archaeological research and contributed numerous articles to various journals and magazines - *Večerník*, *Lud*, *Mladé rozlety*, *Populár*. His academic accomplishments included leading an archaeological dig and historical reconstruction at the ancient site of Gerulata, which is in Rusovce just south of Bratislava. From 1988 to 1989, he headed an organization known as the Circle of Friends of the Czech Culture in Slovakia (*Kruh priateľov českej kultúry na Slovensku*). Thus early on, he was very much involved with the cultural cooperation of Czechs and Slovaks.

The 1989 Gentle Revolution (Nežná revolúcia)

Snopko's defining political moments arrived during the November 1989 peaceful revolution which overthrew the communist dictatorship. Along with other Slovak intellectuals, he participated in the leadership which started Public Against Violence (PAV) political movement (*VPN - Verejnost proti násiliu*). Unknown to many people, the Slovak movement was founded just a few hours before its counterpart Civic Forum (*OF - Občanské fórum*) came into existence in Prague, but branches of both organizations sprouted across Slovakia after the November 17 attack on students in Prague.

Along with Martin Bútora (later Slovakia's ambassador to the USA), Snopko helped organize on December 10, 1989, a march of 100,000 citizens. They created a human chain that stretched from the center of Bratislava, through Petržalka where Snopko lived, to the Austrian border. Some 10,000 from the crowd proceeded to Devín and others continued on to nearby Hainburg, Austria, where people could see with their own eyes the colorful Austrian small town that contrasted with the dirty, gray communist structures which Slovaks knew. Using a loudspeaker which enabled people on the other side of the Danube River to hear, PAV spokesperson Ján Budaj delivered a moving speech which culminated in his use of the slogan "Ahoj, Európa" (Hello Europe). Then, singing from the boat, formerly exiled folk musician Karel Kryl, led the throng on both sides of the river joined in singing the Slovak and Czech national anthems. People tore down the barbed wire at the border and near the river in an act of defiance of the communist regime, which was on its last leg. The Iron Curtain officially disappeared about six days later, and the people rejected the attempt by reformist communist Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec to reconstruct a reformed communist government.

After the heady days of 1989, Snopko worked as a member of PAV movement's Coordination Center. From 1990 to 1992, he served as a Minister of Culture for the Slovak Republic in the governments of Vladimír Mečiar and Ján Čarnogurský. He became a member of the Slovak National Council, and was the chief coordinator of culture, education, sports and tourism of the Central European Initiative countries. In addition, he assisted in founding the cultural fund called Pro Slovakia, and its magazine *Profil súčasného výtvarného umenia* (Shape of Contemporary Visual Art). In 2005, he was elected as a member of the city council from the Petržalka area of Bratislava. He also became Chairman of the Commission of Culture and the Protection of Historical Monuments.

Leaders of the Slovak Socialist Republic meeting with representatives of Public Against Violence on November 30, 1989.



Ladislav Snopko, 1989 Leader



Politically, Snopko has belonged to several parties, and his party hopping in many ways reflects the changing nature of the Slovak political spectrum. He has generally favored a liberal-social democratic bent. First, after PAV dissolved, he spent time in the Christian Democratic Movement (*KDH - Kresťanskodemokratické hnutie*), and the Democratic Union (*DU - Demokratická únia*), which was in the government between 1998 and 2002. Part of the DU changed to become part of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union-Democratic Party (*SDKÚ-DS - Slovenská demokratická a kresťanská únia - Demokratická strana*), which was established in 2000. He also had a stint in the Slovak Green Party (*SZS - Strana zelených Slovenska*), founded in 2006.

But his real passion has always been promoting culture, and for this reason, former Prime Minister Ivetta Radičová appointed him to head the Slovak Institute in Prague, which has a three year term of office. There he has organized meetings which discuss all aspects of Slovak culture - Slovak prose, poetry, music, theater, film, discussions with major Slovak personalities from the arts, history or policy, and presentations about the natural beauty of Slovakia. One may find a list of events at the website: <http://www.mzv.sk/sipraha>.

The Interview with Snopko

In many ways, the Velvet Revolution of 1989 (*Zamatorá revolúcia*), which the Slovaks more commonly refer to as the *Nežná revolúcia* (The Gentle Revolution), resembled a giant stage production. The Czech dissident leader, Václav Havel, was himself a dramatist, and he and other movers and shakers of the time used to meet and plan their strategies in those historic days at the Magic Lantern theater. "The events of those ten days that shook the country unfolded like a massive, open-air performance, with dramatic speeches, a soundtrack provided by local bands, and a huge and enthusiastic audience."

Any great theater production needs a great director, and Ladislav Snopko filled that role in Slovakia. He was a moving and organizing force who was "preparing sets, prepping the actors, cueing up the music." His experience with helping to organize alternative cultural events in the 1970s and 1980s prepared him for this historic role.

In a Prague interview in February 2013, Snopko described his pre-revolutionary activities as "a part of the so-called grey zone." Rather than leading a dissent movement, he said that he "would place it somewhere between forbidden and tolerated art and culture. I organized the alternative culture in Czechoslovakia -- concerts, exhibitions, gatherings, and festivals." The communist government prohibited any type of abstract art and only fostered works of "socialist realism," which glorified workers and peasants who furthered the interests of the state.

Snopko outsmarted the communist censors by employing clever strategies to allow free artistic expression. As he explained, "I am originally an archeologist, so I would give them fragments of prehistoric and medieval vessels," which in turn, they had to interpret "according to their artistic imagination, bringing them into present time in a different form." He organized what amounted to "an exhibit of Czech and Slovak unofficial, banned artists." When the secret police interrogated him and tried to ban these exhibitions, they could not even pronounce the words, nor could they produce any valid reasons for prohibiting them. They were dealing with "artistic interpretations of prehistoric objects [that] did not contradict any of the Marxist-Leninist materialistic teaching or the ideology of socialist realism."

An example of this was a concert and art exhibition called "The Devil's Wheel," which he organized at a stadium in Pasianky in 1987 and 1988. The "The Devil's Wheel" symbolized "Communist sins and the payment extracted by the Devil for these sins." The artists included former members of the banned Czech rock group, the Plastic People of the Universe, whom the police had previously dissolved. But some of the members had regrouped and created a new band such as Pulnoc (Midnight), Garage, Bez ladu a skladu (higgledy-piggledy - disorder and confusion). Thus these Czech and Slovak artists were displaying art which bordered on illegality at the time, but managed to get away with it through imaginative orchestration.

Before the 1989 revolution, Snopko noted that only a few dissident intellectuals existed in Slovakia, such as Miroslav Kusý, Milan Šimečka, and the writer Dominik Tatarka. In fact, I would add, that just a few Slovaks had signed Charter 77, which had challenged the communist regime to adhere to the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Accord that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic had signed and agreed to.

Slovak-Czech differences

What Snopko neglects to mention is that most of those intellectuals had spent some time in the Czech part of the country. Also, he does not refer to the fact that all three dissidents he brought up were former communists disillusioned by the events of the 1968 Soviet invasion. Finally, he overlooks the important issue of religious influences in Slovakia. Thus the divisions we see in contemporary Slovak politics were present among dissidents before 1989.

Although Snopko does not mention religion, dissidence in Slovakia more often took the form of protesting for freedom of religion. Religion was and is nearer and dearer to many Slovaks of all faiths. A secret underground Catholic Church opposed communist dictatorship, the pressures to control religion, and the attempt to ram atheism down the throats of people. While a handful of intellectuals might be termed dissenters, literally hundreds of thousands of ordinary Slovaks flocked to pilgrim-

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2013 Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour – “Stupendous, Funtastic, Fantastic, Super”

James M. Bench

They waited 90 and 89 years respectively before visiting Slovakia, but Richard and Alfred Freistak, accompanied by nephew Dennis Freistak, made the most of their initial tour – fully participating in all of the activities including a visit to their ancestral village of Brezovica (Editor's note: more about the brothers was published in a related article in the Feb 5 Jednota).

The 2013 tour was fortunate to have returnees from our previous tours – including Robert and Janet Zumrick, Beverly Lawrence, Mona Lepis, and Geraldine Kovacina. After landing in Vienna, and during the walking tour of that city, the group was treated to a demonstration of the Viennese Waltz by 85-years young Alfred Freistak with Beverly Lawrence and guide Viera Marecova as dancing partners. Despite dancing on the cement square, they were quite good. It was an auspicious beginning to an eventful two weeks.

The two day stay in Bratislava included a tour of the Slovak Parliament previously arranged by the Honorable Lea Greckova, Deputy Mayor of Spišská Nová Ves, and prominent member of the Slovak National Parliament. Lubomir Adamisin, Director of Communication, proved to be highly interesting and informative with pride evident throughout the tour. He then presented everyone with a small commemorative gift.

Following a visit to Červený Kameň (Red Stone) Castle – famous for its medieval-style bastions, torture chambers, and refined neo-classical living quarters – the tour proceeded to Trnava, known as the “Rome of Slovakia” with its awe-inspiring cathedrals. During a tour of St. Nicholas Cathedral, a young boy under the tutelage of the church organist (his father) was busy practicing and our group was invited to join them in a song. It was at that time that Beverly Lawrence was recognized as having a beautiful voice. The organist, with an obvious musical background, asked if Beverly was a professional singer.

All visitors to Slovakia should see Bojnice Castle with its fortification dating back to the 12th century. Fairytale-like in appearance, it has a museum with weaponry, furniture, and numerous paintings. Also included in the “must see” category is the Slovak Bethlehem with wood carvings by Master Josef Pechar, and the village of Čičmany with original painted folk buildings.

Past tours have always included a variety of people with various interests and in some instances a tour identity seems to develop. To say this group “went to the dogs” may not be a totally inaccurate statement when considering the “Jerry Gibel Story.” The happy and proud owner of a čuvač, the national dog of Slovakia, Jerry was intent upon visiting Galias Kennel in Pribylina, and owner Jana Galiasova from whom his dog has been purchased. The dog born in Slovakia was routed through Texas, and finally to Jerry in Louisiana. As we visited Pribylina, Jana as per prior arrangement was there to take Jerry to her kennel a few miles from the village. Jerry was delighted when Jana “introduced” him to his dog's mother and father. The čuvač as a breed is beautiful, friendly, and highly intelligent. Jerry likes to exclaim that his dog Tancuj is bilingual, barking in both Slovak and English. What a great experience for him! A story too long for this article involves Jerry and Tancuj visiting hospitals and various facilities. The uniqueness of his gorgeous dog always commands high interest to those exposed to him.

Staying at the majestic Grand Hotel Praha in the Tatra Mountains harkens back to the years when only the elite vacationed there. The two-day stay was highlighted by attending the folk festival in Kežmarok, enjoying a delicious dinner in a koliba, raft riding down the



The 2013 Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour group with the Mayor and folk group in Tichý Potok

Dunajec River, and totally enjoying the natural beauty of the Tatras via a cog railway ride up to Hrebienok. The raft ride down the Dunajec River, always a pleasure, was preceded by a surprise outdoor picnic.

Always a favorite, the holy city of Levoča offers many attractions, including the breathtaking Cathedral of St. Jacob with the intricately carved wooden Gothic altar. The centrally located Hotel U Leva is always a favorite as owners Dr. Vladimir Petroci and lovely wife Jana go beyond expectations to accommodate and “welcome home” American-Slovak guests.

Highly spiritual can best describe the visit to Litmanova where apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary occurred in the 1990s. A long steep walk is required to get to the site; therefore arrangements had previously been made with the local priest for a van. Geraldine Kovacina led the group in recitation of the rosary at the site where the Holy Mother had blessed the water. Kay Bench read a list of 53 people remembered in our prayers. Geri Kovacina was the obvious choice to lead the group in prayer. She is a devout Catholic, active in her home parish and heavily involved in charitable activities. Those people who are friends of Geri are indeed fortunate. The group departed Litmanova with bottles of water taken from the spring. The stay in Levoča offered options for a little rest or shopping prior to the program in Tichy Potok which included a walking tour of the historic village and folk entertainment.

Highlighting the tour was the reception with our Sister City, Spišská Nová Ves. The warmth of the reception is Slovak hospitality at its best. Prior to and along with the formal ceremony, four extremely gifted performers demonstrated superb musical talent. Accompanied by pianist Elena Tancošová, Frederika Bartošová, and Lukáš Frederika sang so beautifully that tears were highly evident within our group. Frederica, age seventeen, is a high school beauty whose quiet confidence and composure belies her youth. Lucas, age eighteen, also is a high school student. Handsome and charming, he was an absolute hit during both the formal and informal segments of the program. Displaying a youthful charisma, he had the female members of the tour wondering if they could hide him in a suitcase when returning to the States. Zuzana Kleinova, as lovely as her singing, is an administrative aide to Mayor Ján Volný. Her responsibilities included assisting in all aspects of the reception.

The warm sister cities' relationship between Youngstown, OH and Spišská Nová Ves dates back to 1992 when the late Steve Bacon established the program. Mayor Ján Volný, along with Deputy Mayor Lea Greckova, has been most generous with their time and has promoted the reception providing an atmosphere of genuine cordiality for which we are very appreciative.

Regrets with leaving areas visited were replaced with forward looking anticipation. Upon reaching Košice, an optional day to visit relatives was extended to those with such plans. The other option included a tour of the city with its many attractions, and an opportunity to lunch in the main thoroughfare. Some of the group chose a popular restaurant, The Twelve Apostles, known for good food and a unique setting. While in Košice, Kay Bench related the story of “The Beggar,” and the unusual setting for his statue. The Doubletree Hilton Hotel located strategically in the city square allows for independent venturing without the fear of becoming lost and tour members took advantage with some independent exploring as well as shopping.

Staying at the luxurious Hotel Kascady in Sliač which is a well known spa resort offered therapeutic amenities to those interested. A visit to the exact geographical center of Europe proved most interesting as did visits to Banská Bystrica, Detva, Banská Štiavnica, Nitra, and other cities.

The visit to Nitra will certainly be remembered for multiple reasons. We are indebted to Father Martin Stefanic for arranging automobile transportation to the Cathedral of St. Emeramus, the first church in Slovakia. As previously, we were permitted access to the Chapel of Saint Pribana, which contains monastic choir niches, or choir stalls. They look like indentions in the wall structure, and it is here that monks chant in prayer. Once again, Beverly Lawrence was urged (strongly) to sing and thusly demonstrated the variation of tones acquired from the choir niches. She did so, choosing W.A. Mozart's “Ave Verum Corpus.” It is difficult to reduce the written word to the magnificence of Bev's singing. The young priest who usually demonstrates with chanting declined to do so. He stated, “I can't

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Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour

GET READY, GET SET, LET'S GO TO SLOVAKIA!

July 7 - 21, 2014



The time is **NOW** to get ready to go to Slovakia with the Youngstown/ Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage tour set for July 7 - 21, 2014. Once again the tour will be hosted by Jim and Kay Bench of Derry, PA.

Start talking with your grandparents or older members of your family to get information on your ancestral home in Slovakia. You will have a wonderful feeling walking the streets of the village of your ancestors.

Enjoy rafting on the Dunajec, visit Litmanova where there were sightings of the Blessed Mother in the 1990's, visit Nitra and the oldest church in Slovakia, the fairy tale castle Bojnice, enjoy museums, kolibas, traditional Slovak food, folk groups and attend the Kezmarok fair and watch craftsmen make their wares. These are just a few of the highlights of the tour.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench at jmbench@yahoo.com or phone 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 for further information. Paul Hudak at Adventure International Travel will be making travel arrangements. He can be reached at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174.

Also unique to our tour is an informative luncheon meeting with the tour participants regarding tips on currency, dos and don'ts, luggage preparations, clothing and other related tour items.

We fly out of Washington Dulles Airport to Vienna. A Mercedes Benz air-conditioned bus with a rest room awaits us there. Watch for the highlights of our very successful 2013 tour. Hope you will join us.

**Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour
Itinerary is now available - including prices and how to
register. Go to fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia and
the World tab to download the information.**



Jim Bench (R) presenting Mayor Volny with a check for \$3,000 from Youngstown Sister Cities.

2013 Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour –

continued from page 8

possibly follow such glorious singing.” Husband Ray, always in good spirits, simply smiled at the overall reaction.

Bratislava and the Farewell Dinner followed, thus ending another eventful tour. The time seemed to end too quickly, but the friendships which developed will endure. We will remember the energetic, athletic, and personable Robert Zumrick and his delightful daughter Janet. They both returned from the 2011 tour. Bob, although slowed somewhat by a recent medical setback, was still able to energize the group. Janet provided her usual enthusiastic support and assistance. Mona Lepis, best friend of Kay Bench dating back to nursing school, was on her third successive tour. She purchased a gorgeous handmade embroidered stole for her parish priest while in Detva. The priest was overwhelmed by the beauty of the gift as well as Mona’s generosity and thoughtfulness. Not bad for someone who has no Slovak heritage other than the man-made honorary type! The folk store in Detva normally closed at the time of our visit, was graciously opened to accommodate our group.

Jean Gibel (do not call her Mary) was a first time visitor, and her enthusiasm was contagious. A niece of the aforementioned Jerry Gibel, Jean quickly became a favorite of the group with a positive reaction to virtually everything on the tour, even an afternoon of rain.

There can be considerable walking required on a daily basis even with efforts to offer van service to areas not reachable by our large bus. However, it was discovered early that we had people who preferred to walk such as the brothers Friestak, nephew Dennis Friestak, Mona Lepis, and Geradline Kovacina. If we had given an award for the most impressive walker it would have gone to Anne Lavelle. Like a true Slovak, Anne not only met the daily walking demands, but she also managed evening walks as well. Certain to be with us on the 2014 tour, Anne has an increased desire to research her ancestry especially since she had seen her family name on a tombstone in a historic cemetery. Speaking of rewards, Dennis Friestak would win one, hands down, for the most dapper dresser on the tour.

What an impressive group! Can we do without the singing of Beverly Lawrence in 2014? On this, her second tour, Beverly was accompanied by husband Ray who was an active participant in all activities associated with the tour. Ray authored perhaps the best quip when responding to a favorable and positive medical report following his return by simply stating, “It was the slivovica.”

About the author

James M. Bench is a retired professor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also is the president of the Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities, and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union Supreme Court. Both Jim and wife Kay are active members of Branch 181, United, PA. In 2014 they will be hosting their 17th heritage tour of Slovakia.

Branch 670 Accepting Application for its 2014 Scholarship Program



Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the award criteria. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had any policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship.

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

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

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 28, 2014

February Fun

Hi, Kids (And All Those Young At Heart):

It’s me. Chewy. Well, here we are deep in winter, most of us anyway. And most of us are sick of the snow and cold and longing for Spring. Don’t know about you, but I got tired of being sick and tired; hey, there’s only so much frolicking a guy can do in the snow, right? So I started surfing the Net as fast as a no-fingered paw could move a mouse to see what I could find out about February and fun. Lo and behold, I found these fun facts – all of which happened at some point in time in this very month. Turns out February is pretty cool – not just cold ;-) – after all!



So until the Thaw comes, keep your ears up and your tails waggin’



Your friend,
Tvoj Priatel
Chewy

13 Awesome Events that Happened in February

1. The first Reader’s Digest magazine is published (1922).
2. The first Monopoly board game is sold (1935).
3. Volleyball is invented (1895).
4. IBM Corporation is formed (1924).
5. Barbie Doll goes on sale (1959).
6. The first ship sails through the Suez Canal (1867).
7. Mark Twain publishes the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1864).
8. Pluto, the ninth planet, is discovered (1930).
9. William Kellogg founds his breakfast cereal company (1906).
10. Alka Seltzer is introduced (1931).
11. Cabs with taxi meters begin operating in London (1907).
12. Gutenberg prints the first bible (1455).
13. Westminster Abbey opens (1066).

FCSU LIFE

Single Premium Insurance Winter Special!

Newborn Male	Newborn Female
\$5000 for \$410	\$5000 for \$345
\$10000 for \$820	\$10000 for \$690
Male - age 5	Female - age 5
\$5000 for \$475	\$5000 for \$410
\$10000 for \$950	\$10000 for \$820
Male - age 10	Female - age 10
\$5000 for \$565	\$5000 for \$485
\$10000 for \$1,130	\$10000 for \$970
Male - age 15	Female - age 15
\$5000 for \$670	\$5000 for \$570
\$10000 for \$1,340	\$10000 for \$1,140

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a

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Features:

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



Editor’s Note: The rates in the Winter Single Premium Special that ran on page 22 of the January 15, 2014 issue were published in error. Jednota apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

George Onda District Stedry Vecer in Greensburg, PA

The George Onda District, District 3, held its annual Stedry Vecer at the Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg, PA. 135 members and guests attended including: National Treasurer, George and Mrs. Florence Matta; National Chairman of Auditors, Karen Sprock Hunka; Supreme Court Member, James and Mrs. Kay Bench; Region 4 Director, James and Mrs. Patricia Marmol; District President, Clarence Pfeifer; District Vice-President, Darlene Patty and Mr. William Patty; District Secretary, Linda Gonta and District Treasurer, Stephen Gonta.

Mass was concelebrated by our Chaplain, the Very Reverend Larry Kulick and Monsignor William Charnoki with Steven Makar as organist. After our traditional festive meal, door prizes were awarded, Stephen LaPay, son of Christopher and Darlene Gonta LaPay, a member of Branch 181, displayed his Aquinas Academy 3rd grade project, "The 'Nut'-tivity", a depiction of the Nativity at Bethlehem in which all the characters were cleverly represented by various nuts.

We are very grateful to all who attended, despite the inclement weather, to keep this beautiful custom alive.

- Submitted by: Linda L. Gonta, District Secretary



(L – R) Helen Homulka, Clarence Pfeifer, Father Kulick, Geraldine Kovacina



(L – R) Linda and Stephen Gonta



(L – R) Eileen Myers and Geraldine Hricik



(L – R) Edward and Barbara Mizikar



(L – R) Florence and National Treasurer George Matta



(L – R) Monsignor William Charnoki and Steven Makar



Supreme Court Member James and Kay Bench



(L – R) Patricia and Region 4 Director James Marmol



Stephen LaPay's "Nut"-tivity".



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Or, for questions, email Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec @ fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com or call her at the Home Office, 1-800-JEDNOTA, x 123.



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

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

ANNUAL SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 29, 2014



St. Adalbert Church

160 So.15th Street, South Side

9:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary
(in Slovak)

10:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

11:00 a.m. -- SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS

sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)
kolbasy (sausage) paska (sweet bread) kolace (baked goods)

at

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side

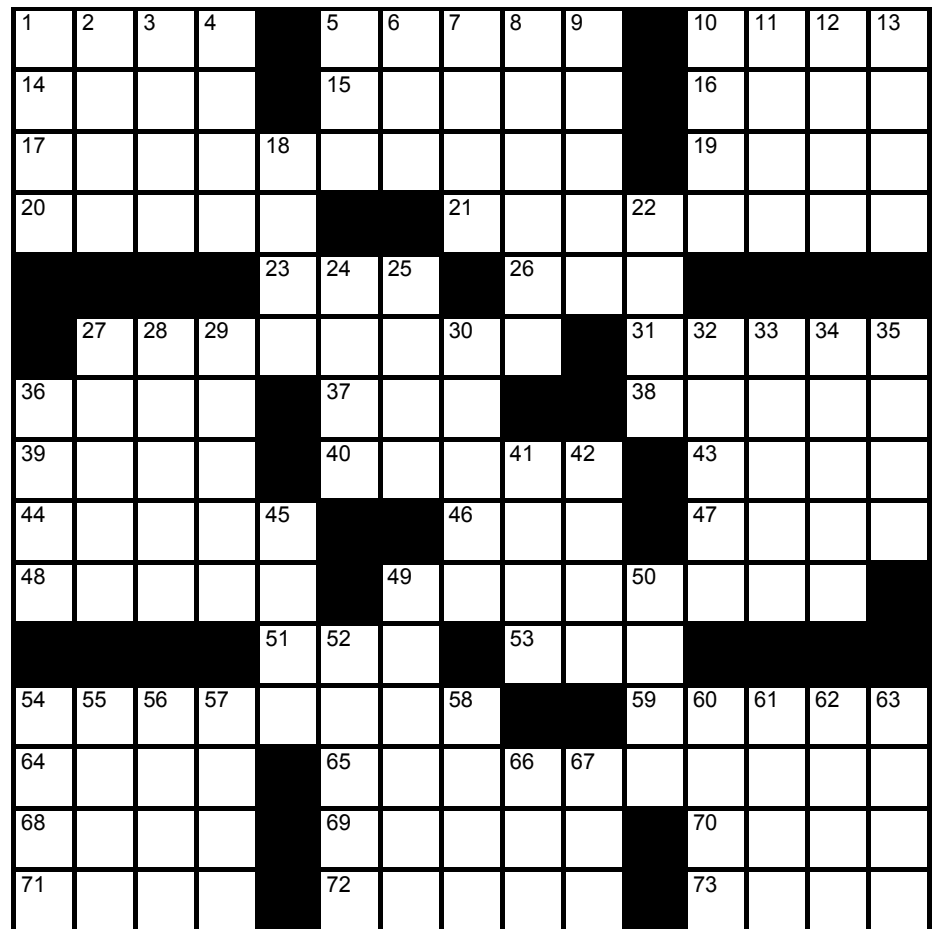


- * Homemade Baked Goods
- * Craft Demonstrations
- * Cultural Displays
- * Imported Slovak gifts
- * Slovak "Auction" /Raffles

Donations Gratefully Accepted

For more information call (412) 481-8380

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Monocle part
- 5 Family girl
- 10 Airy
- 14 Elliptical
- 15 Afr. antelope
- 16 Rex Stout's detective Wolfe
- 17 Let down
- 19 Streetcar
- 20 Cheer up
- 21 Hare race foe
- 23 Pasture
- 26 Corn serving
- 27 Chatters
- 31 Give a speech
- 36 Actor McClure
- 37 Ariz. neighbor
- 38 Beg off
- 39 Abbey area
- 40 Oak fruit
- 43 Shredded
- 44 Flip over
- 46 Colorful carp
- 47 Hightails it
- 48 Butter up?
- 49 Atomic devices
- 51 Glimpse
- 53 French sea
- 54 Mexican entree
- 59 Host
- 64 Food thickener
- 65 Tremors
- 68 Gr. letter
- 69 Wight and Capri, for two
- 70 Moxie
- 71 Ooze
- 72 Farm animals
- 73 Comte Donatien Alphonse François de ____

Down

- 1 A miner's dream, the mother ____
- 2 Demonic
- 3 Discovery group inits.
- 4 Bed board
- 5 Forty winks
- 6 Altar vow
- 7 Blue-pencil
- 8 Dugouts
- 9 Bonus
- 10 Savvy about
- 11 Persian spirit
- 12 Historic time periods
- 13 Alaska city
- 18 Hide
- 22 Stepped
- 24 Bunsen burner
- 25 Actor Guinness
- 27 Father
- 28 Tricks
- 29 Broker
- 30 Call forth
- 32 Rocket type
- 33 French romance
- 34 Reverses
- 35 Sea eagles
- 36 Slap on
- 41 Gad about
- 42 Riviera city
- 45 He loved Lucy

- 49 Hot dog condiment
- 50 Waste allowance
- 52 "The King"
- 54 Checks
- 55 Curved molding
- 56 Appraise
- 57 Golf hazard
- 58 Competent
- 60 Russian fliers
- 61 Mrs. Dithers in *Blondie*
- 62 Oklahoma city
- 63 Punta del ____, Uruguay
- 66 Sandpiper
- 67 Viper

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

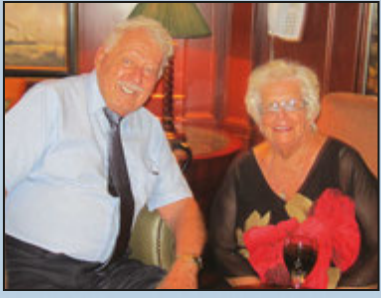
Issue Date	Deadline
March 5	February 24
March 19	March 10
April 2	March 24
April 16	April 7
April 30	April 21
May 7	April 28
May 21	May 12
June 11	June 2
July 2	June 23
July 23	July 14
August 6	July 28
Sept 17	Sept 8
October 15	October 6
November 5	October 27
November 19	November 10
December 3	November 24

See Solution on Page 19

Scenes from the 2013 FCSU Membership Meet at



Board the Crown Princess, November 9 – 16, 2013



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2014. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Men's Club in Father Darray Hall.

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

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2014, at 1:00 pm.

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

The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention to be held in Philadelphia in August 2014.

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

Marion Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society Branch 06K will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 23, 2014, at Chipper's Restaurant, 1733 N Bloomington St, Streator, IL. The meeting will begin promptly at 1PM and be followed with a lunch. Please call Bob at 815-672-1764 by March 22, 2014, if you plan to attend. The agenda will include: the election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in August. We urge all our members to attend and hope to see you.

Paul Chismar, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2014. A Mass in honor of our patron, St. Joseph, will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

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

The Margaret Evancho Award will be given to the following members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2013:

- Terra Grace Frye
- Hayley Elizabeth MacDonald
- Bridget Magdalen Monks
- Stacie Marie Nolan
- Christine E. Radwill
- Joseph John Wargo, Jr.

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

We cordially invite our members to attend our meeting. We also will meet on April 13, 2014, and June 8, 2014.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of St. Michael's Branch 35 will be held on Saturday February 22, 2014, at 1:00PM at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. Agenda items will include discussion of branch activities at election of delegates to the FCSU 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held in August 2014.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 7:00PM at DI's Komerstone Diner, 620 Long Run Road, McKeesport, PA. Refreshments will

be served.

Discussion on the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23 – 27, 2014. All delegates and alternates will be elected at this meeting. Additional discussion will be held concerning branch and society activities during the 2014 year.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold a meeting with a luncheon to follow on Saturday, February 22, 2014. On the agenda: election of branch officers, election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, donations, and 2014 branch activities.

Social time is from 12 noon – 12:30PM. The meeting will be held (approximately) from 12:30pm – 1:00PM, with lunch served directly after, at (approximately) 1:00PM.

The location: Allioti's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wausatosa, WI.

Reservations must be made by February 19, 2014 by calling Mike Novak at 414-445-5382. You must make a reservation, as the restaurant requires the number of people attending.

Lunch for members is complimentary. Guest cost is \$20.00. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Fraternally,

Michael P. Novak, President

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold a meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 5. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the August 2014 convention in Philadelphia, along with other business.

Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at 773 763-0810 for the meeting location and directions.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2014, at 9:00AM at Denny's Restaurant, 653 Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. The National Convention is to be held in Philadelphia, PA, in 2014 and the election of delegates and alternatives to the convention will be voted upon. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and vote. Call for directions if needed, and for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 173 - GREATER WILKES-BARRE WYOMING VALLEY AREA

The Saint John The Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in the greater Wilkes-Barre-Wyoming Valley Area, will hold its annual meeting on March 9, 2014 at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:00 pm.

General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

In addition delegates and alternate delegates from Branch 173 will be elected to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvasky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

Dorothy A. Ungvasky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold a meeting on March 1, 2014, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian's. The meeting will be held at the St. Florian Formation Building, 4261 Rt. 981, P.O. Box 187, United, PA 15689. On the agenda: planning branch activities for 2014 and nomina-

tion and election of delegates to attend the 50th Quadrennial Convention in August 2014. All delegates must be present.

For more information, contact Gerry Kovacina, PO Box 24, Mammoth, PA 15664, (412) 216-5527.

Fraternally,

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 23, 2014, at the Bedford Trail Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The meeting will start at 1:30PM, with a luncheon to follow.

Fraternally,

Paul J. Ritz, President

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch # 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. at 1:00 P.M. All members are urged to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union on Monday, February 17, 2014, at 6PM at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232. Anyone having questions or needing service or more insurance call the financial secretary at 570-645-4872, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 367 will hold its next meeting on March 7, 2014 at 5:00 PM at the home of Patty Speshock, 11 Ash Street, Fairchance, PA. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU along with other business.

Any questions please call President, Audrey Balazik at 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006.

Fraternally

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380 will meet at Kings Restaurant, Canonsburg, PA, at 2:00PM on Sunday, March 23, 2014. On the agenda: the election of delegates to the FCSU's 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held in August in Philadelphia. Mark your calendars for our next, semi-annual meeting to be held at the same time and place (2:00PM, Kings Restaurant) on Sunday, April 27, 2014.

Fraternally,

Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 2, 2014. Members will gather at noon in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Auditing of the books will take place. Copies of the 2013 Annual Report to the Home Office will be available.

On the agenda are the following topics: the 2014 Convention of the FCSU, up-dates from the Home Office, District 17 news, branch donations and spring and summer plans.

Light refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend to learn about your FCSU and to enjoy socializing with fellow members.

Branch 382 officers include Frank M. Sloven-

kai, Jr., president; Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael J. Czankner, secretary; John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary; and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Due to the inclement weather on Sunday, January 26, 2014 St. John the Baptist Branch 553 had to cancel our lodge meeting that was scheduled to elect delegates and alternates to the upcoming convention. The meeting is being rescheduled for Sunday, March 23, 2014 to be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 2 pm. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting that will include electing delegates and alternates to the convention. Attend the meeting and become active in our branch – learn all the exciting offers available to your through the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

Due to inclement weather, the December 8, 2013 meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, has been rescheduled to Sunday, March 2, 2014, at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Road, Hobart, IN, at 1:00PM. The agenda will include: Election of officers and the Election of Delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held August 23 – 27, 2014, in Philadelphia, PA. Anyone interested in being a delegate should call Ann at 219-947-2793 or George at 219-926-2410, or come to the meeting.

Fraternally,

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 587 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001, at 2:00PM. All members are invited to attend. Delegates to the FCSU 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held in August 2014 will be elected. Other business will be the discussion of insurance and annuities.

Edith Valo, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC.

Our branch event will begin with a Mass at 11:00AM for all branch members, living and deceased. On the agenda at the following meeting will be a financial report and discussions of plans for the next season. Refreshments will be served after the meeting

All members are urged to attend.

Fraternally,

Henrietta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 elected officers at the annual meeting in December. Officers for 2014 are Grace Kavulic, President; Irene Makovec, Vice-president; James Bobby, Recording Secretary; Jacquelyn Bobby, Financial Secretary; John Kavulic and Edward Walko, Auditors. The first activity of the year is a Mass celebrating our Patron Saint, to be celebrated on March 22, 2014 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH. Liturgy will be at 4 pm.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding its semiannual meeting ON Tuesday April 8, 2014, at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post on Whitaker Way

continued on page 15

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Election of FCSU Convention Delegates on Sunday, March 30th, at the Benedictine Convent in Oak Forest, IL. Location: 5900 W. 147th Street in suburban Chicago. Delegates will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. Delegates will enjoy a scrumptious dinner. During the meeting, we will elect our one Convention Delegate and one Alternate Delegate. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more involved in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko has resigned. We thank her for her years of service. District 2 President John Jurcenko has appointed Rev. Joseph Kelchak as the District 2 Chaplain. Father Joe is a member of Branch 581 in Gary, IN. His parents immigrated to Gary from Slovakia almost 100 years ago. He is a retired priest of the Diocese of Superior, WI.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT --WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26, 2014 following the 5:00PM. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. On the agenda will be the election of one delegate and one alternate for the FCSU 2014 Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA. All branches are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. Convention delegate will be elected at this meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at SS Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Bannister, MI.

Our day will begin with Mass at 10:30AM, followed by coffee and fellowship in the parish hall, located on the east side of the church. Dinner will begin at 12:30PM, followed by a business meeting at 1:00PM (election of the Michigan District delegate to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia will take place and plans for the convention also will be discussed). The church is located at 517 East Main Street, Bannister, MI 48807.

Branch 721 is hosting this meeting and Julius Remenar should be notified at (989) 862-5150 with the

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

in Munhall, Pa. All members are encouraged to attend. In addition to the regular business meeting nominations and election of delegates to the National Convention in August 2014 will be held. Come join us and become a more active member of your branch.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 16, 2014, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 12:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of delegates to the August Convention. Okres meeting will follow at 1:00 PM. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday February 23, 2014 @ 1pm at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Egypt, PA. Election of delegates for the spring

district meeting will take place. All are welcome to attend. God Bless and Happy New Year.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 announces the next meeting of members on Saturday, March 8 at 11:00am at McDonald's in Charleroi, PA. Convention information is on the agenda. An allotment for lunch will be given for all branch members attending. We are looking forward to seeing our fellow branch members. Any questions regarding the meeting and agenda could be directed to the branch president at 412-341-1577.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, D.C. AND AREA

Branch 856-K will hold their first meeting for 2014 on Monday March 24, 2014, at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be discussion of district meeting, financial report and plans for celebrating 49th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel. Also the election of a delegate to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the F.C.S.U. to be held in Philadelphia, PA. on August 23-27, 2014. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting and show support to the organization and your branch. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Mistrik 4513 Gladwyne Drive Bethesda, MD 20814 Phone for directions at 301-654-5638.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 888 – WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888 will hold its next three (3) meetings on Monday, March 10th, 2014, Friday, March 21st, 2014 & Friday, March 28th, 2014 at 5:30 pm at 4649 Perth Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33410. Contact David Rafaidus, President at (561) 776-0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and further information.

On the agenda will be election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU along with future Branch activities, nomination/ election of officers, treasurer report & items of mutual interest to the membership. All Branch members are invited to attend.

David Rafaidus, President

number of delegates attending from your branch by March 17, 2014.

Spring should be here by then, so let's make it a good turnout!!!! Our District President, Robert Kristofik, encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

Remember, branches must attend these meetings in order to get branch compensation from headquarters.

Anna Magusin, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 38 will host the spring meeting for the Pittsburgh District starting 1PM at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin, PA. The meeting date is April 6, 2014. The meeting will include officers' reports and discussion of district business. Branch 254 will have the details for the Fathers Day Brunch on June 15.

District activities for the 50th FCSU convention will also be discussed at this meeting. We will elect our District Delegate and Alternate. The district will be scheduling a delegates' meeting in early summer. (The Call for Convention can be found at www.fcsu.com.)

The district notice will be updated following the spring meeting.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: February 3: Mike Yanchak – Egg Decorating, March 3: Jerry Jumba – Slovak Music, April 7: John Righetti – Slovakia-Who, Why, Where, May 5: Rev Valerian Michlik – Greek Catholic Churches in Slovakia, June 2: Joe Bielicki – The Czechoslovak Room at Pitt.

** Slovak Language Classes will be held Tuesdays starting February 11. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** A Slovak Lenten food demonstration will be held Saturday, February 15, 2 PM, at the St Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St Clair. Admission \$20; limited to 25 participants. Call Joe 412-956-6000 for reservations.

** The Slovak Film Festival restarts on Saturday, March 22, 1 PM, at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. The feature film is "Night Riders."

** A Slovak Wine Tasting will be held Saturday, April 5, 1 PM, at Sonoma Grill in Pittsburgh. Admission \$35 payable in advance; limited to 60 participants. Call Joe at 412-531-2990 for reservations.

** WPSCA is again offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava. Completed applications must be received by April 15.

** Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center – Friday, May 9, 2014.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 17. Discount tickets will be available at our Fathers Day Brunch on June 15 or email Sue at smosr@verizon.net.

** 11th Consular Tour of Slovakia – August 10-20. The tour features visits to Bratislava, Presov and Kosice. There will be two wine tastings and an overnight stay at a spa. For a detailed itinerary contact Joe at jtsenko@aol.com.

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations at 412-421-1204 or by email to smosr@verizon.net.

** The 15th Genealogical & Cultural Conference of the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will be held on Oct 21-24, 2015 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See www.cgsi.org. Cedar Rapids is the home of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. See www.ncsml.org.

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

** If you're interested in study abroad, the University of Presov has a number of interesting programs, including the study of Rusyn Language and Customs. Check out www.unipo.sk/en/.

** Western PA Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 8 - REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT- EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 23, 2014 at St. Andrew's Church Hall, 1229 Third St., Catasauqua, Pa. 18032. There will be a Mass at 11:00AM at St. Andrew's Church. Dinner will be served at 12:00 noon.

The meeting as well as a Sales Seminar will be held after dinner. The Sales Seminar will be given by the Membership & Marketing Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU).

We will also hold our election for our district delegate to the FCSU 2014 Quadrennial Convention.

Donation for the lunch is \$15.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 157. All checks and credentials must be returned by Monday, March 17, 2014. PLEASE be prompt!!

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350. Thank You!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2014, at 1PM in the meeting room of Denny's Restaurant located at 653 W. Main St. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 5, 2014 by calling President Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724- 437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724-438-0697. Those attending are asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. There will be election of officers. Plans for the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU will be discussed.

Fraternally,

Barbara Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - THE STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Stephen Furdek District, District 10, will hold their next meeting on Sunday, March 2, 2014, at 2:00PM to elect an alternate to the upcoming FCSU 50th Quadrennial Convention. The meeting will be held in Lorain, OH, at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, OH, 44055. Please call Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or email Lhanko@neo.rr.com if you plan to attend this meeting so that we may have a head count for refreshments by Wednesday, February 26, 2014. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 13 - JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District 13 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2014, following a complimentary luncheon. The time is 2:00 pm at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA 16666 (Route 53 South from Philipsburg, PA 16866). Members from District 13 branches are requested to attend. 2014 dues are requested if not paid from each branch. Please call or fax Rosemary Deliman; 814 342 5592 if you are able to be present.

Rosemary Deliman, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Kostik District will hold its next meeting, Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 6:00PM at St Matthias Church, located on Shady Run Road Youngstown, Ohio. The agenda will be the up-coming convention. All member branches are urged to attend.

Carla Peshek, President



GGSI promotes family research as well as cultural and historical information about the nationalities of the former Czechoslovakia, including Slovaks. Photo courtesy of Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493.



Photo courtesy of Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493.

(L – R) Branch 553 Member and Contributing Writer to Jednota, Dr. Michael Kopanic and Branch 865 Member and the former Ambassador to Slovakia from the United States, Vincent Obsitnik.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference Held in Chicago

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) hosted its 14th Genealogical and Cultural Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, IL, just outside of Chicago. The conference ran from Wednesday October 23 through Saturday October 26, 2013.

The CGSI promotes family research and cultural/historical information about the lands and nationalities of the former Czechoslovakia, including Slovakia.

62nd Slovak Garden Day in Winter Park, FL

The Slovak Garden, Inc. Board of Directors cordially invites you to the 62nd Slovak Day, SATURDAY, March 1, 2014. The celebration will take place in the Great Hall of the Slovak Garden, Winter Park, FL. Doors open at 12:00 noon. A delicious Slovak dinner will be served at 1:00 P.M. At 3:00 PM, the cultural program will start. Popular Slovak singer Barbara Hacakova, fujarist Peter Salling and others will entertain us with Slovak and American songs. After the cultural program, the excellent music band EUROPA will play for your listening and dancing pleasure.

On SUNDAY, March 2, 2014 Slovak Garden Annual Convention will be held. We will start with Slovak Catholic Mass at 11:00 AM celebrated by our new priest, the Rev. Jozef Krajnak, PhD. At 12:00 noon registration of members will take place. At 1:00 PM, lunch will be served. The Slovak Garden Convention starts at 2:00 PM.

Admission is \$30.00 and includes entry, main meal, and entertainment. For more information or reservations contact the Slovak Garden at 407-677-6894 or by email at slovakgarden@centurylink.net.

Dear members and friends, we are looking forward to meeting you.

Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2014 Treasure Tours

Treasure Tours is offering two trips this coming summer that visit Slovakia, continuing our strategy of immersing in the culture, traversing the country from east to west and north to south, and finding long-lost family for our travelers; proud of our 98% success rate! 2014 Treasure Tours offerings include Bratislava old town, Modra ceramics, Detva Folk Festival, Kežmarok Crafts Fest; two walled towns - Levoča and Bardejov - Prešov, Spiš Castle, staying in a castle overlooking Košice, charming Cicmany and more. July 11 to 20 -\$2,199 per person for the land trip. So new beginning of sen-

tence reads: More information is available by visiting www.fcsu.com and clicking on Slovakia & The Word Tab or directly from Treasure Tours, Helene Cincebeaux, 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617, (toll-free) 585 472-5377, helenezx@aol.com



The traditional Slovak greeting of bread and salt was offered to Treasures of Slovakia tour-goer Perre DiCarlo at the beginning of a village wedding party.

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

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

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

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

REFLECTIONS ON THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS • February 2014

Universal Intention - Elders

That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people.



Pope Francis speaks often of the “throw-away culture” of our world. Before becoming pope he wrote: “In this consumerist, hedonist, and narcissistic society, we are accustomed to the idea that there are people that are disposable.” The Nazi belief that there is some life not worthy of life has now infected all of society and affects people at every stage of life, from the unborn to the elderly.

Pope Francis has said that he learned many lessons from his grandmother. Thinking about how older family members are often ignored and rejected when they are in need of care, he said, “it hurts me; it makes me weep inside.”

Respect for the senior members of society is not only a matter of human dignity. It concerns the future of the world. It's natural to think of the young as the future, but Pope Francis has pointed out that without the wisdom of older people, there won't be a future.

On the way to World Youth Day in Brazil, he said: “the elderly, they too are the future of a people. A people has a future if it goes forward with both elements: with the young, who have the strength, and things move forward because they do the carrying; and with the elderly because they are the ones who give life's wisdom. I have often thought that we do the elderly an injustice, we set them aside as if they had nothing to offer us; they have wisdom, life's wisdom, history's wisdom, the homeland's wisdom, the family's wisdom. And we need all this!”

May everyone respect this wisdom and experience!

Reflection

What are some of the things that I've learned from my elders?

Scripture

Job 12: 10-12 With old age is wisdom, and with length of days understanding.

Evangelization Intention - Collaboration in Evangelization

That priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity.

We are strongly tempted to compare ourselves with others. Doing so, we either come up short and are jealous of others or we become proud, feeling superior to others. Either way, our comparisons lead to division.

But God has called us to communion. A powerful sign of this communion is the way in which the various vocations in the Church—lay, consecrated, ordained—work together for the good of the Church and the world.

God has not given all his gifts to one person or to a few but has spread them among many so that we might learn to love and to work together. Such collaboration is part of the work of evangelization for it speaks to the world of the love of God which brings people together.

Human means alone will fail to achieve this collaboration. What brings people together and enables them to work together with their diverse personalities and gifts? Pope Francis said: “We might think we should work out programs of evangelization carefully, thinking of strategies and making plans, but these are only tools, small tools. What matters is Jesus and letting ourselves be led by him.”

Jesus is the center from which all the gifts radiate. He is the head which keeps the parts of his body working together. He is the heart which sends life into the various members of the body, keeping them one with himself. Keeping Jesus at the center, may all members of the Church work together for the spread of the Gospel.

Reflection

What are the gifts that God has given me for the building up of the Church?

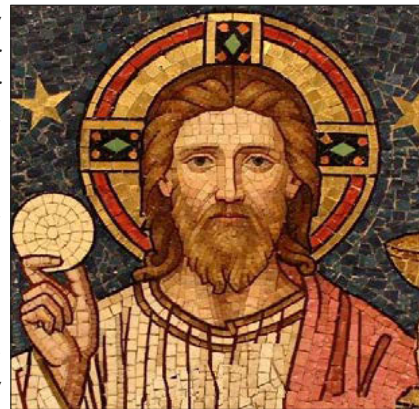
Scripture

1 Corinthians 12: 4-31 The Body of Christ is one body with many parts and a variety of gifts.

Prayer of the Month

Grant, O Lord of life, that we may savor every season of our lives as a gift filled with promise for the future. Grant that we may lovingly accept your will, and place ourselves each day in your merciful hands. And when the moment of our definitive “passage” comes, grant that we may face it with serenity, without regret for what we shall leave behind. For in meeting you, we shall find once more every authentic good which we have known here on earth. Amen.

*--from Bl. John Paul II's
1999 Letter to the Elderly*



Slovak Catholic Federation Seeks Contributors for 2014 The Good Shepherd Annual

Dobry Pastier (The Good Shepherd), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, is compiled of articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is once again accepting articles for inclusion in its 2014 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is **June 1, 2014**. **Due to the publication schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual.** The annual will be available for distribution in the latter part of 2014.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of *The Good Shepherd*, the following guidelines are established for authors who would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the annual:

GENERAL INFORMATION

All articles must be type-written, double-spaced, in Microsoft WORD format in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For the sake of the editor, please do not capitalize all words (or entire sentences), unnecessarily use exclamation points, etc. The article layout should be similar to articles printed in daily newspapers and magazines.

- It is strongly preferred that **English** articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M, Editor, at: bondusscm@gmail.com. In this age of modern technology, it is faster and more cost effective to work from a text that is provided digitally instead of having to retype the entire article.

- If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, an original “hard copy” may be mailed to Sister Bernadette at Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. “Hard copy” means that articles are either typed or hand-written by the author. **Please do not send photo copies of articles or photos.**

- To be accepted for publication, articles must be between three and ten typewritten pages. Articles fewer than three pages or beyond ten pages will not be accepted.

USE OF PHOTOS

- If using photos within the article, **photos must be included at the same time the article is sent to the Editor.** (If sending photos digitally, save as separate JPGs to accompany the article.) Please indicate where photos are to be placed within the body of the article. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s). **If no indication is given as to where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted, the photos will not be used.**

- In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs, along with a hard copy of the article, must be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie for inclusion in the article. (If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD which the printer can then link up with the article.) Once again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted. Photos must always accompany the article for which they are intended.

- Captions must be included with the photos. This allows readers to better understand the relationship of the photo to the content of the article.

ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

- Slovak articles **can** be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie, but a hard copy (including all accents) must **also** be mailed to her. (Please indicate that the article was both mailed and emailed.) Frequently, accent marks, diacritical characters, and other special characters do not come through properly when articles are e-mailed. Having a hard copy of the article, appropriately marked, will save valuable time and minimize errors.

As Editor, Sister Bernadette Marie retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange ideas to make them clearer, etc. Sister Bernadette Marie also retains the right to determine the appropriateness of articles for the publication. However, she will not substantially change the author's ideas without first consulting the author.

Our sincere thanks to all the faithful contributors to *The Good Shepherd!* Your contributions, year after year, ensure that the Slovak Catholic Federation is able to provide a quality annual which helps celebrate our Catholic faith, preserves our Slovak heritage, and allows our readers to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic Church, in Slovakia, and in the Slovak-American community.

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

Reverend Philip A. Altavilla
National President
Slovak Catholic Federation

Ladislav Snopko

continued from page 7

ages at Levoča, Štaštín, and elsewhere. The biggest demonstration of clear popular dissent with the regime was the Good Friday Candle Light Procession organized by František Mikloško on March 25, 1988. A peaceful crowd that numbered in the thousands was praying the rosary in Bratislava's Hviezdoslav Square when security forces charged at the people with vicious dogs and sprayed them with water cannons. This marked a sign of the increasing alienation of ordinary Slovaks from a bankrupt regime, and they were becoming less afraid to stand up for their freedom of conscience. This contrasts with the Czech lands, where calls for religious freedom would not stir up the masses of people as in Slovakia.

While Snopko ignored religion in his interview, he did highlight another difference between Czechs and Slovaks. He stated that Czechs divided themselves into two very distinct "camps: the Communists and the dissidents/opposition, who hated each other and did not communicate at all." Such was not the case in Slovakia, and he noted that Slovaks "generally have a different nature," although he did not elaborate on that in depth. But Slovak communists allowed more leeway for many dissidents. For instance, though the writer Dominik Tatarka had signed Charter 77, the minister of culture visited him personally and reminded him "not to be stupid." Tatarka was not put in prison. In Slovakia, Snopko believed that "people could be somewhat more daring," and communists were a bit more flexible with them.

Although he neglected to mention religion in Slovakia, Snopko did highlight that some Slovak youths expressed dissent through environmentalist movements, even though they were not political. Martin Bútorá termed these "islands of positive deviation," and they would do things such as meeting to preserve traditional folklore architecture. Snopko mentioned that on the Polish border in a region called Brizgalky, people would spend weekends in seven huts, working on them and conversing with others, including many Czech dissidents, among them Václav Havel.

While more familiar with secular intellectuals, Snopko also did not draw attention to the grassroots environmental movement that was evolving at many factories in Slovakia. In the mid-1980s, Slovak workers began to take a more activist role in protesting the terrible pollution from factories that was poisoning their air and water. They expressed their displeasure in an increase of petitions showing the discontent through their trade unions.

Snopko did point out another key difference among academics in Slovakia compared to the Czech lands -- the existence of the Institute of Marxism and Leninism (Ústav Marxizmu-Leninizmu - ÚV KSS) in Bratislava, a place where I spent much time researching in 1982 - 83. The historian Viliam Plevza had started the institute after the 1968 Soviet invasion and served as a main advisor for President Gustav Husák, whom the Soviets had installed to restore hard-line communism. On behalf of Husák, Plevza towed the party line and devoted a great deal of attention to the anti-Nazi Slovak National Uprising of 1944. The Communists tried to claim exclusive leadership of the revolt, but democratic civic elements powers, local guerillas, and the army spearheaded much of the struggle.

Snopko treated Plevza with kid's gloves, stating that he was an "enlightened Communist" and "an educated person and knew that socialist realism was not compatible with worldwide reality." He heaped praises on Plevza for trying to protect valuable artworks by organizing exhibitions. Plevza would also have banned books translated by his associates and then hand them out for some to read. Snopko shared the observation that Plevza used the Institute to construct "a new Czech and Slovak constitution between 1988 and 1989." Discussions of a new constitution included known dissidents such as Šimečka and Kusý, and environmentalists. Snopko credits Plevza for laying the groundwork for "a more free and liberal constitution" and preparing the conditions for a "social democratic party to arise in Slovakia." For this reason, when the Communist Party in Slovakia dissolved after 1989 (unlike in the Czech Republic, where one still exists), Plevza's cohorts were leading figures in the Party of the Democratic Left, which fell apart by 2004.

The Founding of Public Against Violence

In his interview, Snopko stressed that Public Against Violence started as a reaction to the police attack on students in Prague on November 17, around the same time that Civic Forum was formed. But a student demonstration of about 300 people had occurred the day before in Bratislava. Although Communist Party officials were there, they made no attempt to break up the protest, so it did not cause the international sensation that resulted from the Prague incident.

Public Against Violence closely cooperated with Civic Forum in preparing to organize elections and running for a new parliament. This was natural since many of Civic Forum's leaders were also their mutual friends (Havel, Dienstbier, Vavroušek). Civic Forum groups even sprouted up independently outside of Bratislava in different parts of Slovakia during those early days because Košice activists and many others across the country did not always know what was going on in Bratislava. The Slovak Civic Forum groups later integrated into PAV, even though some local organizations dragged their feet in giving up their original identities. In the end, the Czech and Slovak movements did cooperate with one another around the common goal of ousting communism and rebuilding a democratic and humanitarian state.

However, Snopko stated that later, the Prague group did not communicate enough with their Slovak counterpart. For instance, PAV called for the abrogation of Article 4 of the Constitution, which affirmed the leading position of the Communist Party, and Civic Forum would later accept this demand after Havel visited Slovakia, but not until March 1990.

Other interesting facts concerned the human and personal side of many major decisions taken in the early days of the Revolution. For instance, Public Against Violence took the initiative in convincing Alexander Dubček not to run for the Czechoslovak presidency. Snopko wrote that Slovak leaders "did not want any Communists with human faces to form the transition between the old regime and democracy." Rather than having "an intermediate period with Dubček as president," they preferred a new chapter with Václav Havel at the helm. While displeasing Dubček who retained popularity among all citizens, he cooperated for the sake of the country, Instead Dubček accepted a position as the president of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia, which "assured the smooth transition of power."

Likewise, Havel appointed the Slovak Marián Čalfa as chair of the federal government, even though he had been a career Communist. Snopko believed that Havel could not have been elected president without Marián Čalfa, although this was not fully explained except a note about his not having exaggerated ambitions. Čalfa left the political scene completely after serving a two-year term.

Snopko was no Slovak nationalist and identified the nationalists with the extreme right. He clearly manifested a more Czechoslovak orientation. As an example, he noted how he helped thwart an attempt by nationalists (really, extreme nationalists) to disrupt a celebration of 50,000 in Bratislava to celebrate the first anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. The extreme nationalists sent a noisy group in an attempt to "shout down the representatives of the Public Against Violence." On television, it appeared as if the whole crowd backed this rowdy group. Snopko recalled how he counted this disruption.



Examples of Communist art, Social Realism, in Bratislava, Slovakia

"We printed our motto 'Humanity, kindness, understanding' (Ludskosť, slušnosť, znášanlivosť) on small pieces of paper. Our activists then handed those out to everybody on the square. The nationalists wrapped rocks in the paper and threw them at us. But then at one point, since everything was broadcast live on Slovak TV, I told the cameras to make a shot of the entire square, and then I asked the crowd to wave the white papers above their heads if they believed in what was written on them. All of a sudden, the entire square was white while all the cameras were pointing at it. This was three days before the first communal elections took place. Even though we were not expecting any success, we won -- probably thanks to that event at the square."

Conclusion

In conclusion, one can see that Snopko clearly mourns the demise of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, and he thought that most Slovaks at the time agreed with him. He believes that Slovakia lost a chance to build a successful social democracy in an integrated Czecho-Slovakia. Regardless, the state split in 1993, and Slovakia attained the independence that a great many Slovaks had long sought. The peaceful divorce would eliminate a thorny issue that would have divided Slovak politics over nationalism, much more so than what has evolved since then with two separate Slovak and Czech republics.

Snopko continues to cultivate closer Slovak-Czech ties in his position as a Slovak cultural attaché in Prague. He has tried his best to make Slovaks in Slovakia aware that many Slovaks live in the Czech Republic and they remain part of the Slovak nation, just as nationally conscious Slovak Americans remain part of the Slovak nation. Snopko hopes that living in Prague will become "a model of the Czechoslovak nation," for "every tenth person living in Prague is of Slovak origin, and Prague should not mind that."

Regardless of one's political views, Snopko has shared some very important observations of how the Revolution of 1989 unfolded in Slovakia during those historic days, and the revolution that proceeded evolved in both parts of the former republic.

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St. Thomas A'Becket 2014 Fish Fry Begins March 7

During the Lenten Season, St. Thomas A'Becket Church at 138 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA, will hold their Fish Fry beginning the First Friday of Lent, March 7, 2014. Following that, the Fish Fry will be scheduled every Friday in Lent. This will be held in the School Building at 139 Gill Hall Road. The hours are 3:30PM – 7:00PM each Friday, including Good Friday. Take outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

The menu includes: hand-breaded cod, baked cod dinners, fried fish sandwich, shrimp dinner, combo platter (fried) fish and shrimp, tuna melts. Dinners include: 2 sides and a beverage. Children's menu available. Also homemade mac-n-cheese, haluski, soup, fries, pizza. The Special for Good Friday will be pierogies (pirohy).

All are welcome! For more information, call 412-655-2885 or 412-653-4322.

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN

Attention Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II Members

On Sunday, May 18th, 2014 a Brunch and Play is scheduled at the Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Brunch starts at 12:45 pm, with the play to follow at 2:30pm. The play is called "Miracle on South Division Street". Best Comedy of the year. It will keep you laughing from start to Finish. The total price is \$56.50, but District II members will receive a \$25.00 discount if you have attended a brunch and play previously. The cost is then \$31.50. If you have not attended a brunch and play before District II Members will receive a \$20.00 discount. The cost is then \$36.50. Non members pay full price.

For more information please call Art Fayta at 1-215-864-8525. Please make check payable to Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II and mail to Art Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer Indiana, 46311. The deadline is April 1st, 2014, Checks will not be honored after this date.

PLEASE MAIL THIS PART OF FORM ONLY

Members attended last year	\$31.50 each X	=	Total
Members not attended last year	\$36.50 each X	=	Total
Non Members	\$56.50 each X	=	Total

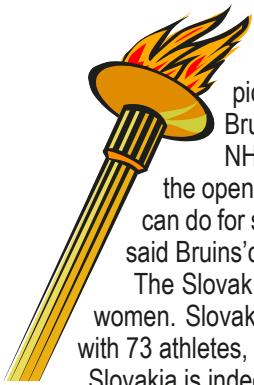
Members Name _____ Branch # _____
 Address _____
 Phone # _____

Please list all names on a separate sheet and mail together to Art with checks.

Arthur Fayta
 1544 Rokosz Lane
 Dyer, IN 46311
 219-864-8251

On the Road to Sochi Olympics

Tichomir Miko



Zdeno Chára will be carrying the flag, leading the Slovak Olympic Team at the opening ceremonies of the Sochi Olympics. Boston Bruins management have granted their captain permission to miss two NHL games, (against St. Louis and Ottawa) in order to be present at the opening ceremonies. "It was an easy decision to make – it is the least we can do for someone who has done so much for this club since his arrival here," said Bruins' coach Claude Julien.

The Slovak Olympic Team will consist of at least 57 athletes – 40 men and 17 women. Slovakia's largest contingent to the Olympics was in Vancouver in 2010 with 73 athletes, 41 men and 32 women.

Slovakia is indeed the Hockey Republic, if one is to judge by the disciplines of past Olympic flag-bearers.

Slovak Olympic flag-bearers since Slovakia's independence:

- Lillehammer 1994: Peter Šťastný - HOCKEY
- Nagano 1998: Ivan Bátory – X-COUNTRY
- Salt Lake City 2002: Róbert Petrovický- HOCKEY
- Turin 2006: Walter Marx ml. - LUGE
- Vancouver 2010: Žigmund Pálffy - HOCKEY
- Sochi 2014: Zdeno Chára– HOCKEY

Editor's Note: As of this printing, defending champion Anastasiya Kuzmina has taken the gold for Slovakia in the women's biathlon 7.5K sprint. This is the third Olympic medal for the Russian-born athlete.

2014 September Slovakia Heritage Tour to End in Krakow

This September's Slovakia Heritage Tour (September 4-14, 2014) will finish with a day in Krakow, Poland. This small group, 10-day tour will travel the heartland of Slovakia from Bratislava and the Tatry Mountains to Kosice and Bardejov with time to get out into the countryside and cities to meet the people and learn about the history and culture. People will have time to visit their family villages, if they choose. Other positives to ending the tour in Krakow: the city has very good air connections for those returning to the states, and

it will be a good launching point for trip extensions to Prague, Warsaw, or other eastern locations. Another plus for devout Catholics, is that it is the spiritual home of Pope John Paul II and there are museums and churches dedicated to his memory.

For more information on the September Slovakia Heritage Tour (Sept 4-14), visit the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia & The World tab or go directly to the Slovak Heritage Tour website at www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Tour Director Judith Northup-Bennett at 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com.



The 2013 Slovakia Heritage Group started with a short walk in the Tatry Mountains.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

L	E	N	S		N	I	E	C	E		O	P	E	N				
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If each member would sign up just one new member, we could double our Society immediately
THINK ABOUT IT!

News From Slovakia

Burian Meets Sedgwick, Debate Iran and Anniversary of Joining NATO

Bratislava, February 6 (TASR) - Slovak Foreign and European Ministry State Secretary Peter Burian on this date met with U.S. Ambassador Theodore Sedgwick to discuss current bilateral and multilateral issues, including support for involvement of the International Atomic Energy Agency to deal with the Iranian nuclear issue.

Burian confirmed Slovakia's support for carrying out the Joint Plan of Action on Iran adopted in Geneva in November.

Burian and Sedgwick further discussed preparations of events to mark the upcoming 10th anniversary of Slovakia joining NATO, co-operation between Slovakia and the National Guard of the state of Indiana, and the annual GLOBSEC 2014 security conference set to take place in Bratislava in mid-May.

AmCham Calls on Gasparovic to Veto Law on Use of Agricultural Land

Bratislava, February 6 (TASR) - The American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia announced that it has delivered a letter to Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic urging him to veto the Act on Protection and Use of Agricultural Land, and the Act on Integrated Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution – both of which indirectly amend the Act on Public Procurement.

According to AmCham, the two bills were adopted by Parliament in January without proper public discussion, even though they significantly change the rules for the use of public resources.

"We view such a way of adopting laws without the access of the public as non-transparent ... and leading to a reduction in trust throughout the entrepreneurial environment, as well as the overall [attractiveness] of Slovakia as a destination for foreign investors," said AmCham in the letter.

AmCham also cautioned that if the legal changes are introduced, they may, inter alia, threaten the drawing of Eurofunds by Slovakia.

According to Chudoba, the Education Ministry is preparing a new law on vocational education, which should be introduced as of 2015. One of the most significant features is the combination of theoretical studies (carried out by schools) and practical training (carried out by companies). The ministry has already launched co-operation with some of the largest companies in Slovakia, with such a system already functioning at Volkswagen in Bratislava.

IVRA: More than 55 percent of Older Seniors Live under Poverty Level

Bratislava, January 27 (TASR) - More than 55 percent of pensioners who retired before January 1, 2004 were receiving pensions below the poverty level in late 2013, which stood at €346 per month, the Institute for Research into Social-economic Risks and Alternatives (IVRA) announced on this date.

IVRA carried out the research based on official results released by social-insurer Socialna poisťovna.

According to IVRA researcher Martin Halas, more than 70 percent of women who retired before 2004 were receiving pensions below the level of poverty. Among men, the figure was less than 20 percent.

IVRA pointed out that it compared pensions from late 2013 with the level of poverty from 2012, as the level for late 2013 isn't known yet.

"If the increase in the poverty level was the same as between 2011 and 2012, i.e. 9.8 percent, then the number of older pensioners with incomes under the poverty level at the end of 2013 would represent 68 percent," said Halas.

Halas also noted that seniors who retired before 2004 have €70 lower pensions per month on average than those who retired later. This was caused by the introduction of certain legislative changes that provide the basis for calculating pensions.

Work-free Sunday Activists: Slovaks Work Hardest But Are Poorest

Bratislava, January 27 (TASR) - Close to 56,000 people have signed a petition for banning work on Sundays organized by civil association the Sunday Alliance (AZN) since July 2013, TASR learnt from AZN's press conference on this date.

"It [the petition] has, for now, been signed by members of trade unions, employees of retail chains and other citizens. According to Eurostat, of all European Union countries Slovaks work the most on Sundays and at night - this is regularly the case for 21 percent of people," said AZN vice-chairman Peter Novovesky.

"They [Slovaks] work the longest hours on average - 40.9 hours per week - while being among the poorest. Over 90 percent of families are struggling to pay their bills on time. The average hourly pay in the eurozone is €28, and it's €23.4 in the EU ... while it's €8.3 in Slovakia. The world is open to us, but our people can't afford to travel anyway. Poverty is the worst form of violence. Who's going to stop the modern slavery here?" added Novovesky.

AZN chief Anton Culen briefed those present at the press briefing of the third conference of The European Sunday Alliance that was held in Brussels on January 21 and at which he delivered a speech bemoaning the lack of legislation in Slovakia and other post-Communist countries governing limits on work on Sundays.

Culen went on to denounce what he perceives as a gross abuse of work on Sundays and in some cases even round-the-clock opening hours. This state of affairs is in place despite the fact that "work in the companies in their mother countries in Western Europe is limited not only on Sundays but also on holidays ... The absence of legislation is partly the reason why they fail to adhere to that here," he added.

Currently, the law prescribes that shops must be closed on New Year's Day, Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, and after 12 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

MVK Poll: Fico and Prochazka Would Compete in Presidential Run-off (UPDATE)

Bratislava, January 27 (TASR) - If presidential elections had taken place between January 15-21, Prime Minister Robert Fico would have advanced to the second round on 40.1 percent, along with Independent candidate Radoslav Prochazka (former KDH) on 13.6 percent, according to the results of an MVK poll that were released on this date.

Another Independent candidate, philanthropist Andrej Kiska, was close behind Prochazka on 13.2 percent. Further places were taken by Pavol Hrusovsky (KDH) - 9.0 percent; former actor and minister Milan Knazko (Independent) - 8.9 percent; Gyula Bardos (SMK) - 6.6 percent; Jan Carnogursky (ex-KDH, now Independent) - 3.1 percent; Helena Mezenska (Ordinary People, running as Independent) - 1.5 percent; Peter Osusky (SaS) - 1.3 percent; heart surgeon Viliam Fischer (Independent) - 1.0 percent; Jozef Behyl (Independent) - 0.5 percent; mayor of Rimavska Sobota (Banska Bystrica region) Jozef Simko (Party of Modern Slovakia/SMS), retired scientist Milan Melnik (Independent) and Jan Jurasta (Communists) - all three on 0.3 percent; and Stanislav Martincko (Independent) - 0.2 percent.

MVK agency also looked at the segments from which individual candidates would have received the most support. Fico, who is also Smer-SD chair, would have been supported by 92.3 percent of Smer-SD sympathisers approached, 58.4 percent of sympathisers of the Slovak National Party (SNS) and 31.1 percent of people who didn't vote in the 2012 general election.

Meanwhile, Prochazka would have received the support of 39 percent of SaS voters, 33.8 percent of NOVA sympathisers, and 26.5 percent of supporters of Marian Kotleba's far-right People's Party-Our Slovakia (LS-NS).

Kiska would have received votes mainly from "voters of other parties" - 45 percent, non-voters - 23.4 percent and NOVA - 22.8 percent. Hrusovsky, who is running as the candidate of KDH, Most-Hid, and SDKU-DS, would have received the votes of 57 percent of KDH voters, 18.4 percent of SDKU voters, and 10 percent of Ordinary People voters. Meanwhile, despite the decision of the party leadership, SDKU voters obviously sympathise more with former actor and minister Milan Knazko - 21.7 percent. He also received 21.5 percent of the votes of NOVA sympathisers, and 21.4 percent from Ordinary People voters.

Ethnic-Hungarian candidate Gyula Bardos would have garnered the support of SMK voters - 84 percent, and, at variance with the Most-Hid leadership decision to back Hrusovsky, a significant share of votes from sympathisers of that party - 35.9 percent.

Carnogursky would have had the highest level of support among KDH voters - 18.6 percent, SDKU - 7.9 percent, SNS - 5.6 percent, NOVA - 5.4 percent and LS-NS - 4.2 percent.

The poll also showed that if Fico had clashed with Prochazka in the run-off, Fico would have won on 52.5 percent. If he had faced Kiska, he also would have won on 52.6 percent, if he had competed with Hrusovsky, he would have won on 58.4 percent, and if he had faced Knazko, he would have won on 59.1 percent.

Reminder...

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

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

Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)

Liptov

Región sa nachádza v Liptovskej kotline, ktorú obklopujú atraktívne pohoria: Nízke a Západné Tatry, Chočské vrchy a Malá Fatra. Svojou svojráznou ľudovou architektúrou s nádhernou prírodou sa radí k najnavštevovanejšiemu regiónu Slovenska.

Keďže Liptov zasahuje svojou polohou do Vysokých Tatier nemôžeme vynechať aspoň stručnú zmienku o týchto našich veľhorách, ktoré každoročne navštevuje množstvo našich, ale aj zahraničných turistov. Áno, Tatry (Východné aj Západné) sú nielen krásne, vábivé, ale aj nebezpečné. Rok čo rok dochádza tam k úrazom, žiaľ aj smrteľným, svedkom ktorých je tamajší symbolický cintorín s označením: "Mŕtvym na pamiatku - živým pre výstrahu".

K Tatrám sa viaže aj báseň Sama Tomášika „Kolo Tatier čierňava...“ pripomínajúca revolučné roky 1848-49, ktorú zhudobnil Ľudovít Vansa. Uvádzam z nej niekoľko veršov.

*Kolo Tatier čierňava, blýska, bije hrom,
stená Váh i Orava, mútny tečie Hron.
Už zvonil vrah v tú dobu Slovákov do hrobu,
už mu zvonil, zvonil, zvonil do hrobu.*

Centrom Liptova je Liptovský Mikuláš (pôvodne Liptovský Svätý Mikuláš) nachádzajúci sa v údolí Váhu medzi Nízkymi a Vysokými Tatrami.

Po zániku demokracie a nastolení totalitného režimu (1948), sa na Slovensku stalo slovo "svätý" nevhodné, preto sa z názvov obcí a miest vytratilo alebo dostali nové názvy ako: Sv. Kríž nad Hronom - Žiar nad Hronom, Sv. Anton - Antol, Sv. Jur - Jur pri Bratislave, Turčiansky Sv. Martin - Martin... Súčasne sa začal útlak rímsko a gréckokatolíckej cirkvi, rušili sa kláštory, rehoľníci a rehoľničky boli internovaní (Barbarská noc 1950)... Niektoré obce a mestá sa po zániku socialistického zriadenia a obnovení demokracie vrátili k pôvodnému názvu.

Liptovský Mikuláš je zaujímavý pre viaceré historické udalosti. V župnom dome na námestí odsúdili na smrť a popravili v r. 1713 terčovského zbojníka, Jura Jánošíka, ktorý sa stal legendou a symbolom slovenského národa, bojovníka za práva poddaných proti bezpráviu. Podľa povestí bohatým bral a chudobným dával. Ubiedený národ si ho obľúbil. Jeho osobnosť nám pripomína *Jánošíkov toliar* a viaceré piesne, ktoré si o ňom ľud zložil. Medzi najzaujímavejšie patrí: *Čo sa stalo nové...*, ktorú pre jej výstižný dej uvádzam v plnom znení.

*Čo sa stalo nové v tom liptovskom dvore,
ulapili Jánošíka s dievčatom v komore.
Keď ho ulapili, tak ho poviazali
a do mesta Mikuláša odšikovať dali.
Prosím vás, pánovia, prosím po prvýkrát,
dovoľte mi valaštičku ešte raz do rúk vziať.
Oni mu nedali, lebo sa ho báli,
oni mu tú valaštičku do rúk vziať nedali.
Prosím vás, pánovia, prosím po druhýkrát,
dovoľte mi môj opaštek ešte raz opásť.*

*Oni mu nedali, lebo sa ho báli,
oni mu ten opasček opásť nedali.
Prosím vás, pánovia, prosím po tretíkrát,
dovoľte mi moju milú ešte raz pobožkať.
Oni mu nedali, lebo sa ho báli,
oni mu tú jeho milú pobožkať nedali.
Hučia hory hučia, že Janička mučia,
ešte viacej hučať budú, keď ho vešať budú.
Hučia hory hučia, hučí aj osika,
že už nikdy nezahynie meno Jánošíka.*

Jánošík bol vďačným námetom pre tvorbu ľudových i profesionálnych umelcov. Známý je jeho obraz od maliara Ľ. Fullu. Spisovatelia P. Beblavý a Milan Ferko napísali o ňom romány pod názvom *Jánošík*, básnik Ján Botto zložil obsahlu báseň *Smrť Jánošíkova*, hudobný skladateľ Ján Cikker skomponoval operu *Jánošík*, americkí Slováci, bratia Siakelovci a neskôr aj slovenský režisér Paľo Bielik nakrútili o ňom filmy pod názvom *Jánošík*. Ľudoví umelci ho stvárnil v sochách, drevorezbách... s vybijaným opaskom a typickou valaškou v ruke.

Z múzeí v meste si zaslúži pozornosť predovšetkým Múzeum slovenského krasu a v neďalekom Liptovskom Hrádku Národopisné múzeum Liptova.

V pamätnom revolučnom roku 1848 tu slovenskí národovci sformulovali a predložili uhorskému snemu petíciu pod názvom "*Žiadosť slovenského národa*" požadujúcu väčšie práva pre Slovákov.

V r. 1918 na májovej manifestácii v tomto meste prijal viac než 3000 manifestantov rezolúciu, v ktorej sa vyjadrili za vytvorenie spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov.

V tejto súvislosti nemôžeme obísť Ružomberok. V jeho miestnej časti Černová sa narodil a pôsobil až do smrti katolícky kňaz Andrej Hlinka, vedúca osobnosť slovenského národného hnutia. Usiloval o dôsledné dodržiavanie Pittsburskej dohody a zasadzoval sa o autonómiu Slovenska. Zomrel v r. 1938 pred rozpadom Československa a vznikom samostatného Slo-



Skanzen Vlkolínek.



Rodný dom Andreja Hlinku v Černovej.



Symbolický cintorín v Tatrách.



Demänovská jaskyňa slobody.

venského štátu. S jeho sochou sa môžeme stretnúť v Prešove a v Žiline.

Vlkolínek, živý skanzen na predmestí Ružomberka, s drevenicami a hospodárskymi budovami na pôvodnom mieste niekdajšej podhorskej obce je lákadlom nielen našich, ale najmä cudzích návštevníkov. Dodnes tam žije ešte 20 obyvateľov.

Zaujímavá a príťažlivá najmä pre zahraničných turistov je svojim najväčším dreveným kostolom na Slovensku aj neďaleká Paludza.

Magnetom pre záujemcom ľudového folklóru a ľudových remesiel je však predovšetkým rázovitá podtatranská obec Východná, kde sa už tradične každoročne koná najväčší festival piesni a tancov s účasťou mnohých našich, ale aj zahraničných súborov.

Za zmienku stojí aj návšteva Važca s bývalými drevenicami. S bývalými preto, lebo obec zasiahol v r. 1931 veľký požiar, pri ktorom sa zo 416 domov zachránilo iba 30.

V Liptovskej kotline možno obdivovať až 3 jaskyne. Najväčšou, najkrajšou a najvýznamnejšou je Demänovská jaskyňa slobody, ktorá sa vyznačuje mimoriadnym bohatstvom kvapľovej výzdoby najrozličnejších tvarov a farieb.

Pre milovníkov vodných športov, kempovania a rekreácie je k dispozícii vodná nádrž Liptovská Mara (21,6 km²), pomenovaná podľa jednej zo zatopených obcí, nachádzajúcej sa iba 3 km od Liptovského Mikuláša.

Región majú v názve aj viaceré obce a mesta ako: Liptovská Lúžna, Liptovské Revúce, Liptovský Hrádok, Liptovský Ján, Liptovská Kokava, Liptovská Sielnica.

Turisti sa často pristavujú aj vo Valaskej Dubovej, aby si pozreli Jánošíkovu krčmu, občerstvili sa a urobili na pamiatku pár fotiek.

Nuž taký je Liptov s nádhernou prírodnou scenériou, zaujímavý a príťažlivý v každom ročnom období.



Jánošíkov dukát.



Jánošík od Ľ. Fullu.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliac

Počas Jubilejného roka možno získať úplné odpustky

Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS) zverejnila zoznam posvätných miest v jednotlivých diecézach, na ktorých je možné vo sviatočné dni Panny Márie získať počas Roka Sedembolestnej Panny Márie úplné odpustky. Celý zoznam je možné nájsť na informačnej stránke jubilejného roka ave.kbs.sk.

K dispozícii sú zatiaľ posvätné miesta prvých šiestich diecéz a taktiež zoznam sviatočných dní Panny Márie. Počas Roka Sedembolestnej Panny Márie sa dajú získať úplné odpustky. Vyplýva to z rozhodnutia Apoštolskej penitenciárie vo Vatikáne. Získanie odpustkov sa viaže na podmienky ako sviatostná spoveď, sväté prijímanie a modlitba na úmysel Svätého Otca. Veriaci ich môžu získať raz denne a môžu ich tiež na spôsob príhovoru privlastniť duším, ktoré sa ešte zdržiavajú v očistci.

Dôvodom vyhlásenia tematického roka je 450. výročie od prvého zázraku na príhovor Panny Márie v Šaštíne a 50. výročie potvrdenia Sedembolestnej Panny Márie za patrónku Slovenska pápežom Pavlom VI. Ten istý Svätý Otec zároveň vyhlásil chrám v Šaštíne za Baziliku minor. Rok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie trvá od 1. januára do 31. decembra 2014.

TASR

Stretnutie snúbencov so Svätým Otcom Františkom

Pápežská rada pre rodinu zorganizovala 14. februára 2014 na sviatok sv. Valentína, patróna zaľúbených stretnutie snúbencov s pápežom Františkom. Podujatie sa uskutočnilo v Ríme pod názvom „Radosť povedať Áno navždy“ a boli naň pozvaní snúbenci, ktorí sa pripravujú na manželstvo (teda navštevovali, alebo navštevujú predmanželské nauky).

Ako oznámila Pápežská rada pre rodinu, na audienciu so Svätým Otcom na deň sv. Valentína (14. februára 2014) sa už zaregistrovalo viac ako 17,000 snúbencov. Vzhľadom na tento enormný záujem, ktorý organizátori nepredpokladali, sa stretnutie uskutočnilo na Námestí sv. Petra, a nie v aule Pavla VI., ako bolo pôvodne plánované.

„Svätý Otec viac krát povzbudil snúbencov a mladomanželov, aby prežívali radosť vernej a plodnej lásky, ktorá rastie vo svätosti nasledujúc vzor Svätej rodiny a prijímajúc Krista do života rodiny, v ktorom sa deň čo deň, ba neustále obnovuje úplné a slobodné sebadarovanie v sviatostnej láske, ktorá prijíma milosť veľkonočného tajomstva,“ povedal Mons. Vincenzo Paglia, predseda Pápežskej rady pre rodinu, keď predstavoval toto prvé oficiálne stretnutie pápeža Františka so snúbencami.

Počas stretnutia s mladými Umbrie v Assisi, 4. októbra minulého roku, pápež František uviedol: „Čo je to manželstvo? Je to skutočné a osobitné povolanie, ako je aj kňazstvo a rehoľný život. Dvaja kresťania, ktorí sa zoberú, rozoznajú v svojom príbehu lásky pozvanie od Pána, poslanie vytvoriť z dvoch, muža a ženy, jedno telo, jeden život. Sviatosť manželstva zahľadá túto lásku Božou milosťou, upevní ju v samotnom Bohu. S týmto darom, s touto istotou povolania, možno bezpečne vykročiť, nebať sa ničoho, za jej pomoci možno spoločne čeliť všetkému!“

TK KBS

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Pripravované podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City Vám oznamuje, že pripravuje pre Vás tieto zaujímavé podujatia:

Dvojdňovú katolícku púť do chrámu Božieho milosrdenstva – National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Stockbridge, Massachusetts v máji 2014.

Tradičnú slovenskú katolícku púť do Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, New York spojená so slovenskou svätou omšou, ružencovou pobožnosťou a obedom v nedeľu dňa 10. augusta 2014.

Zájazd na divadelné predstavenie s náboženskou tematikou „Mozes“ do divadla Sight & Sound Lancaster, Pennsylvania (pravdepodobne 2-dňový s nocľahom) jeseň 2014 – presný termín bude oznámený – podľa záujemcov.

Ziadame záujemcov o uvedené podujatia, aby sa prihlásili do konca marca 2014.

Blížšie informácie Vám podajú: Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.

Polročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 30. marca 2014 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční členská schôdza vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Polročnú schôdzu zahájime sv. omšou o 11:00 hodine doobeda za živých a zosnulých členov nášho spolku. Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a za tým diskusia o návrhoch na ďalšiu činnosť. Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto dôležitej schôdzi zúčastnili. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, Wisconsin

20. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 1. marca 2014 v Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street v Greenfield, Wisconsin. Začiatok zábavy bude o 6:00 hodine do 11:00 hodine večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstavia folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 večer. Vstupné je \$ 5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. O bližšie informácie volajte: Betty Valent tel.: (414) 425-6137 Alebo Ellen Tavela, tel.: (262) 893-7483.

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti

Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana a Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických slovenských spolkov si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 9. marca 2014 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East 66th Street v NYC.

Oslavu zahájime slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine doobeda, ktorá bude odslúžená za Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu a obeť slovenského národa. V minulom storočí Slovensko dosiahlo samostatnosť dvakrát: 14. marca 1939 a po dlhom čase boja za slobodu opäť dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie slovenského národa na jeho ceste k sebaurčeniu a štátnej samostatnosti. Na oslave si pripomenieme aj významné dni v slovenskej histórii a v tejto súvislosti chceme vzdať úctu bojovníkom za samostatnosť slovenského národa. Presný program bude k dispozícii pred oslavou. Po programe bude možnosť zakúpenia slovenského jedla a rôznych nápojov v otvorenom bare. Blížšie informácie: Milan R. Dait (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084. Vstup je voľný.

Prednáška o 1. SR v Chicagu 9. marca

V nedeľu 9. marca t.r. bude mať v Chicagu prednášku Ivan Králik o histórii 1. Slovenskej republiky. Prednášku doplní historickými dokumentami a autentickými zábermi z obdobia 1. Slovenskej republiky. Jeho prednes sa bude konať v starej školskej hale nad kostolom sv. Šimona.

O 10.30 je v kostole sv. omša, po ktorej bude tradičné občerstvenie a o 12:45 sa začne prednáška, na ktorú je pozvaná slovenská verejnosť. Téma prednášky je Poznajme Pravdu o 1. Slovenskej republike.

Adresa kostola sv. Šimona Apoštola je: 5157 SO California Ave. Do videnia!

Rev. Kristián Libant, CM.

Oslavy slovenskej štátnosti 34. zboru SLvA v Sterling Heights, MI - sub head

34. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, kráľ Svätopluka v Detrote pod vedením jeho predsedu pána Jozefa Krajčoviča, sa na svojej ročnej schôdzi rozhodol, že tohtoročné oslavy 14. marca budú v nedeľu 16. marca 2014 vo farskej hale kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda, 4133 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314. Oslavy sa začnú hneď po slovenskej svätej omši. Tunajší Slováci si tento dôležitý medzník v našej histórii pripomínajú už po 66-krát a to od roku 1948 bez akejkoľvek prestávky. Ešte na jeseň roku 1947 vtedajší pán farár slovenskej osady v Detrote Rev. Jozef Zalibera slúžil zádušnú svätú omšu za nášho mučeníka, pána prezidenta, Dr. Jozefa Tisu, za účasti niekoľko stoviek tunajších Slovákov a Sloveniek. 34. zbor v Detrote pozýva všetkých členov aj nečlenov na toto už tradičné podujatie. Po pripomenutí si významu tejto historickej kapitole našich dejín, deti našich členov Vám pripraví kultúrny program spolu s Detroitkými gavaliermi, ktorí nám budú spievať, tak ako po iné roky. Naše gazdinky nám pripraví dobré pohostenie s občerstvením. Dovidenia v nedeľu 16. marca.

Celosvetové stretnutie rodákov z Banskej Bystrice

Celosvetové stretnutie rodákov – Banskobystričanov sa bude konať dňoch 12. - 14. septembra 2014. V tomto termíne sa konajú každoročné Dni mesta Banská Bystrica spolu s vyčleneným Radvanským jarmokom, ktorý sa môže popýšiť 357-ročnou tradíciou. Pre účastníkov celosvetového stretnutia Bystričanov mesto pod Urpínom pripravilo celý rad zaujímavých podujatí, vrátane prijatia u primátora mesta, pána P. Gogolu.

Túto prvú informáciu o plánovanom stretnutí krajanov v Banskej Bystrici posielame do krajan-ského sveta už teraz, v dostatočnom časovom predstihu, tak aby si každý mohol včas naplánovať svoju letnú dovolenku a krajanja zo zámoria si mohli zakúpiť letenky za výhodnú cenu.

Radi by sme Vás chceli poprosiť o rozširovanie tejto informácie aj cez sociálne siete (facebook, twitter a pod.) medzi Vám známymi rodákmi z Banskej Bystrice a blízkeho okolia, za čo Vám dopredu pekne ďakujeme. V prípade záujmu pošlite prosím kontaktný mail, prípadne mailovú adresu Vám známych Bystričanov na: info@permon.eu Priebežne Vám budeme posilať ďalšie aktuálne informácie.

Marián Slivka

IN MEMORIAM

Eubica Markovičová skonala po dlhšej chorobe

Na východe USA dobre známa kultúrna pracovníčka Eubica Markovičová skončila svoju životnú púť 25. januára t.r. vo veku 89 rokov. Posledný týždeň života strávila u svojej dcéry v štáte Vermont.

Eubica bola v New Yorku a na okolí známa ako kultúrna pracovníčka. So svojimi spolupracovníkmi organizovala mnohé kultúrne podujatia, ako hudobné koncerty, prednášky, výstavy umelcov, plesy a pod. Vyše 10 rokov bola predsedníčkou Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska (SAKS). Pod jej vedením si výročné plesy SAKS-u získali reputáciu elegantných a reprezentačných slovenských plesov.

Eubica sa narodila v Bratislave v roku 1924. V r. 1948 odišla s manželom Fedorom do Anglicka, kde žili 10 rokov ako exulanti. Po čase obaja pracovali v Zahraničnom oddelení BBC. Do Ameriky prišli v r. 1958 a usadili sa v New Yorku. Jej manžel Fedor ju predišiel do večnosti v 90. rokoch min. storočia. R.I.P.

Vyšlo jubilejné 30. číslo ročenky Slováci v zahraničí

Matica slovenská začiatkom januára 2014 vydala jubilejný, tridsiaty ročník vedeckej ročenky Krajanského múzea MS Slováci v zahraničí. Tridsať vydaní zborníka uzatvára takmer tretinu storočia, od čias, kedy bol prvýkrát zostavený v Matici slovenskej pre krajanov i pre širokú verejnosť. Jeho prvé číslo bolo vydané v roku 1971 a prispeli doň také osobnosti, akými boli Miloš Gosirovský, Ján Sirácky či Jozef Štolc.

Dnes sa ročenka Krajanského múzea snaží z roka na rok modernizovať i zlepšovať. Postupne sa zvyšuje počet i kvalita jej príspevkov, pribúda obrázkový materiál. V tridsiatom ročníku nájdeme i úplne novú kapitolku s biografickými údajmi o autoroch príspevkov a pokyny pre tých, ktorí by chceli prispieť i do jej ďalšieho čísla. Jubilejná ročenka je širokospektrálne zameraná. Ponúka vedecké štúdie a materiály zo života krajanov, spomienky na významné výročia slovenských osobností pôsobiach v zahraničí, uverejňuje recenzie a informácie z krajan-ského sveta a z činnosti Krajanského múzea. Na svojich stránkach prezentuje širokospektrálny záber tém, medzi ktoré patria najmä dejiny Slovákov v zahraničí, venuje sa ich literatúre a jazyku, osobnostiam, zvykom i tradíciám.

V ročenke nájdeme aj príspevky od autorov, ktorí patria k Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí, vďaka čomu ročenka Maticy slovenskej získava špecifické postavenie medzi vedeckými zborníkmi na Slovensku. Tá tohtoročná obsahuje príspevky od krajanov žijúcich v Rumunsku, Srbsku, Chorvátsku, Maďarsku, Poľsku, Taliansku a Cypre.

Máme ambíciu spraviť o rok ročenku opäť hodnotnejšou. Preto budeme veľmi radi ak svoj príspevok zašle každý krajan, ktorý chce o niečom informovať alebo niečo prebádať. Všetky potrebné informácie pre prispievateľov nájdete priamo v ročenke alebo na stránke www.matica.sk – Vedecké pracoviská – Krajanské múzeum – Oznamy KM MS.

Ak patríte skôr k tým, čo radšej čítajú, ako píšú, ročenku si môžete pohodlne objednať na <http://vydavatel.sk/kniha/slovaci-v-zahranici-30>.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Na snímke Chata pri Zelenom plese zahalená v tieni Kozieho štítu (vpravo) a Jahňacieho štítu v Doline Zeleného plesa vo Vysokých Tatrách.

A winter scene at the Zelene pleso tourist inn in the High Tatras.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

P. Burian a T. Sedgwick hovorili o aktuálnych otázkach spolupráce

Bratislava 6. februára (TASR) - Štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskej záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Peter Burian prijal 6. februára 2014 veľvyslancu Spojených štátov amerických v SR Theodore Sedgwicka. Stretnutie bolo súčasťou pokračujúceho pracovného dialógu o aktuálnych bilaterálnych a multilaterálnych otázkach, vrátane riešenia iránskej jadrovej problematiky na pôde Medzinárodnej agentúry pre atómovú energiu. Štátny tajomník Burian potvrdil podporu Slovenskej republiky pre naplnenie Spoločného akčného plánu dohodnutého v novembri 2013 v Ženeve.

V rámci ďalších otázok partneri diskutovali tiež o príprave podujatí pri príležitosti nadchádzajúceho výročia vstupu SR do NATO, spolupráce SR s Národnou gardou amerického štátu Indiana a bratislavskej bezpečnostnej konferencie GLOBSEC 2014.

AmCham žiada prezidenta SR vetovať novelu zákona o pôde

Bratislava 6. februára (TASR) - Americká obchodná komora v SR (AmCham) doručila list prezidentovi SR Ivanovi Gašparovičovi v súvislosti s vládnym návrhom zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon o ochrane a využívaní poľnohospodárskej pôdy a zákon o integrovanej prevencii a kontrole znečisťovania životného prostredia, čím sa nepriamo novelizuje aj zákon o verejnom obstarávaní (VO). Informovala o tom AmCham.

Komora v liste okrem iného upozorňuje na spôsob prijatia zákona, ako aj na závažnú vecnú zmenu, ktorú návrh zákona prináša v súvislosti s verejným obstarávaním. AmCham žiada prezidenta SR, aby novelu zákona vetoval a vrátil ju na opätovné prerokovanie do Národnej rady (NR) SR.

„Tento návrh zákona bol prijatý NR SR 28. januára 2014 bez akejkoľvek verejnej diskusie a to napriek tomu, že návrhom zákona sa zásadným spôsobom mení používanie verejných zdrojov. Takýto spôsob schvaľovania zákonov bez akéhokoľvek prístupu verejnosti považujeme nielen za netransparentný, ale upozorňujeme aj na to, že v konečnom dôsledku znižuje prehľadnosť a dôveru podnikateľského prostredia, ako aj celkovú efektívnosť Slovenska ako destinácie pre zahraničných investorov,“ konštatuje ďalej AmCham v liste adresovanom prezidentovi SR.

Americká komora vyjadruje obavu, že ak navrhovaná legislatívna výnimka prejde, hrozia Slovenskej republike závažné dôsledky, a to najmä pri čerpaní eurofondov na základe tejto výnimky.

Koncom r. 2013 malo vyše 55 % seniorov dôchodok pod hranicou chudoby

Bratislava 27. januára (TASR) - Ku koncu minulého roka viac ako 55 % seniorov na Slovensku, ktorým bol priznaný starobný dôchodok pred 1. januárom 2004, dostávalo nižšiu penziu, ako je hranica chudoby za rok 2012, a to 346 eur mesačne. Ukázala to najnovšia analýza Inštitútu pre výskum sociálno-ekonomických rizík a alternatív (IVRA), ktorú vypracoval na základe údajov Sociálnej poisťovne (SP).

Nižší dôchodok, ako je hranica chudoby, pritom ku koncu roka poberali najmä ženy. „V segmente starodôchodcov je na tom horšie až 436,268 žien, z ktorých 306,692, teda viac ako 70 %, malo starobný dôchodok pod hranicou 346 eur mesačne. U mužov, starodôchodcov, bol tento pomer 18.73 %,“ upozornil odborník inštitútu Martin Halás.

IVRA upozorňuje, že výšku dôchodkov starodôchodcov ku koncu vlaňajšieho roka porovnávala s hranicou chudoby, ktorá je uvádzaná pre rok 2012. „Ak bude nárast hranice chudoby medziročne rovnaký, ako bol v rokoch 2011/2012, a to 9.8 %, tak počet starodôchodcov s príjmami pod hranicou chudoby ku koncu roka 2013 bude 412,814, čo je viac ako 68 % zo všetkých 606,786 starodôchodcov ku koncu roka 2013,“ doplnila Halás.

IVRA zároveň uvádza, že mesačný priemerný rozdiel medzi výškou starobného dôchodku starodôchodcu a seniora, ktorému bol priznaný starobný dôchodok po 1. januári 2004, predstavuje 70 eur. Podľa inštitútu rozdiely v zásluhovosti môžu byť medzi jednotlivcami, ale nie medzi ročníkmi populácie.

Z krajín EÚ Slováci robia najviac v nedeľu a sú najchudobnejší

Bratislava 27. januára (TASR) - Takmer 56,000 našich občanov už podpísalo petíciu za zákaz práce v nedeľu. Od júla minulého roka ju organizuje občianske združenie Aliancia za nedeľu - Slovensko (AZN) a petícia potvrdá do júla tohto roka.

„Zatiaľ ju podpísali členovia odborových zväzov, zamestnanci obchodných reťazcov a ďalší občania. Podľa Eurostatu Slováci z 27 krajín Európskej únie (EÚ) najviac pracujú v nedeľu a v noci - pravidelne až takmer 21 percent občanov. V priemere odpracujú druhý najdlhší čas - 40.9 hodín týždenne a pritom patria medzi najchudobnejších. Vyše 90 percent rodín má problémy pravidelne platiť mesačné účty. V eurozóne sa za hodinu práce platí v priemere 28 eur, v rámci EÚ 23.4 eura, v Grécku 14.9 a u nás 8.3 eura. Práca v nedeľu ohrozuje zdravie zamestnancov aj ich rodín. Máme otvorený svet, ale mnohí naši občania si nemôžu dovoliť cestovať. Chudoba je najhoršia forma násillia. Kto zastaví toto novodobé otrokárstvo u nás?“ pýtal sa na dnešnej tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave podpredseda AZN Peter Novoveský.

Zároveň novinárov oboznámil s treťou konferenciou Európskej aliancie za voľnú nedeľu (ESA), ktorá sa uskutočnila 21. januára 2014 v Bruseli. Tam vo svojom vystúpení informoval o kritickej situácii v postkomunistických krajinách i na Slovensku aj v oblasti legislatívy. Napríklad aj o neprijateľnom zákone o obmedzení práce v nedeľu v Národnej rade SR 9. septembra 2009.

„Po páde komunizmu nastal vo východných krajinách boom západných investorov v obchodnej sfére. Všetci sme to vítali, pretože sme mohli kúpiť tuzexové veci a zvýšila sa konkurencia. No prišiel obrovský problém nedeľnej práce, dokonca niekde v 24-hodinovej prevádzke, ktorá sa veľmi hrubo zneužíva. Prítom tie firmy v materských krajinách západnej Európy majú nielen v nedeľu, ale aj cez sviatky obmedzenú prácu. U nás to nedodržiavajú aj preto, že to nie je legislatívne ošetrené,“ zdôvodnil predseda AZN Anton Čulen.

Z prezidentských kandidátov vedie R. Fico pred R. Procházkom a A. Kiskom

Bratislava 27. januára (TASR) - Najvyššie preferencie z prezidentských kandidátov dosiahol podľa aktuálneho prieskumu agentúry MVK Robert Fico s podporou 40.1 percenta respondentov pred Radoslavom Procházkom (13.6) a Andrejom Kiskom (13.2 percenta). MVK realizovala prieskum v dňoch 15. až 21. januára 2014 na vzorke 1106 respondentov, ktorá bola reprezentatívna pre populáciu SR z hľadiska pohlavia, veku, vzdelania, národnosti, veľkostných kategórií sídiel a regiónov.

Štvrtú najvyššiu podporu dosiahol v tomto prieskume Pavol Hrušovský (9.0) pred Milanom Kňazkom (8.9), Gyulom Bárdosom (6.6), Jánom Čarnogurským (3.1), Helenou Mezenskou (1.5), Petrom Osuským (1.3), Viliamom Fischerom (1.0), Jozefom Behýlom (0.5), Jozefom Šimkom, Milanom Melníkom a Jánom Jurištom (všetci traja s podporou 0.3 percenta respondentov) a napokon Stanislavom Martinčekom (0.2 percenta).

Išlo o multiklientský (omnibusový) výskum realizovaný kvótnym výberom a technikou face-to-face interview (štandardizovaný rozhovor) prostredníctvom anketárskej siete.

„Respondentov sme sa v ňom pýtali aj na blížiacu sa voľbu prezidenta SR. Na otázku „Prvé kolo volieb hlavy štátu sa uskutoční 15. marca. Aké je z dnešného pohľadu Vaše rozhodnutie zúčastniť sa na prezidentských voľbách?“ uviedlo 38.7 percenta účastníkov výskumu, že sa určite chcú zúčastniť a ďalších 38.9 percenta svoju účasť zvažuje,“ uviedol riaditeľ MVK Pavel Haulík. „Zisťovali sme aj aktuálne šance uchádzačov o post prezidenta: „Keby sa prezidentské voľby konali už dnes, ktorému kandidátovi by ste dali svoj hlas?“ Použili sme abecedný zoznam všetkých kandidátov, ktorí splnili podmienky účasti, pričom respondenti zoznam dostali na osobitnom háčku,“ dodáva.



FOTO TASR/AP/Kirsty Wigglesworth

Na snímke slovenská biatlonistka Anastasia Kuzminová (uprostred) sa teší zo zisku zlatej olympijskej medaily v šprinte žien na 7.5 km na XXII. zimných olympijských hrách vo vytrvalostnom komplexe Laura v Červenej Poľane 9. februára 2014. Druhá skončila Ruska Olga Viluchinová (vpravo), tretia Ukrajinka Vita Semerenková. (vľavo).

Slovakia's Anastasia Kuzmina, center, winner of the women's biathlon 7.5k sprint, poses with silver medalist Russia's Olga Vilukhina, right, and bronze medalist Ukraine's Vita Semerenko, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Výstava Sv. Cyril a Metod – patróni Európy a Metod – patróni Európy z Vatikánu na Slovensko

Slovenská výstava s názvom „Svätí Cyril a Metod – patróni Európy“, ktorá bola počas troch mesiacov inštalovaná vo Vatikánskych múzeách, sa koncom januára presunula na Slovensko. Návštevníci si budú môcť prezrieť množstvo vzácných exponátov dokumentujúcich kresťanskú kultúru Slovenska od 20. februára do 30. júna 2014 v priestoroch Predsália Rytierskej sály Bratislavského hradu.

Riaditeľ Historického múzea SNM v Bratislave Branislav Panis vyjadril spokojnosť s realizáciou výstavy vo Vatikánskych múzeách po architektonickej i obsahovej stránke, ktorú sa podarilo naplniť. Bratislavský hrad navštívi veľa zahraničných turistov, ale samozrejmosťou sú aj domáci návštevníci. V priebehu prvého polroka takto bude mať Historické múzeum veľa príležitostí prezentovať záujemcom informácie aj inými rôznymi spôsobmi.

Výstava „Svätí Cyril a Metod – patróni Európy“ pozostáva z viac ako 320 artefaktov a vo Vatikánskych múzeách bola sprístupnená svetovej verejnosti od novembra 2013 do januára 2014.

TK KBS

Novela zákona o zahraničných Slovákoch

Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí tento rok chystá novelu zákona o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí a rovnako tento rok pripraví novú koncepciu štátnej politiky k zahraničným Slovákom. Novela bude korešpondovať s novými politickými, legislatívnymi a sociálnymi podmienkami života krajanov, mení sa štruktúra aj spôsob fungovania slovenských komunit. „Nová generácia, ktorá žije v zahraničí, už nemá čas a priestor sa venovať krajanovým aktivitám. Po istom čase je ale aj u nej jasne vidieť potrebu združovať sa, pripomínať si svoj jazyk, korene a aj sa obracia na svoju domovskú krajinu so žiadosťou o pomoc alebo o podporu,“ priblížil minister. Generačnú výmenu považuje za prirodzenú, mrzí ho však rozdelenie krajanových komunit na niekoľko skupín, ktoré medzi sebou súťažajú o vplyv. „Istým spôsobom je to normálne, ale takýmto spôsobom dochádza k triešteniu síl a prostriedkov, ako aj k oslabovaniu ich pôsobenia, hoci záujmy majú všetci rovnaké,“ poznamenal.

V zahraničí žije okolo 1.8 milióna ľudí slovenskej národnosti. Sem patria menšiny, krajanové komunity, potomkovia Slovákov, ako aj pracovní migranti. Najpočetnejšia krajanová komunita, približne 900,000 ľudí, žije v USA, v Kanade je to okolo 90,000. V rámci Európy ich najviac žije a pôsobí v Čechách, a to viac ako 150,000.

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí vydáva krajanom osvedčenia Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí. Okrem práva pobytu v SR ním získajú následne aj voľný pohyb v krajinách Európskej únie. V roku 2012 prišlo 747 takýchto žiadostí. Najväčší záujem bol zo Srbska a Ukrajiny, ale aj iných štátov i keď podstatne menej hlavne zo štátov mimo EÚ.

TASR

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Saleziáni Don Bosca slávia 90. výročie príchodu na Slovensko

Saleziáni Don Bosca – Slovenská provincia slávia v tomto roku 90. výročie začiatku svojej činnosti na Slovensku. Výročie sa viaže na príchod dvoch prvých slovenských saleziánskych kňazov Viliama Vagača a Jozefa Bokora, ktorí prišli 7. septembra 1924 do Šaštína a prevzali tamojšiu faru a správu pútnického chrámu Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, patrónky Slovenska.

V roku 2014 pripravuje rehoľa saleziánov na Slovensku viaceré podujatia venované tomuto výročiu. „K najväčším udalostiam roka bude patriť usporiadanie Medzinárodných saleziánskych športových hier PGSI 2014 v Bratislave s účasťou asi 1,100 mladých ľudí z 15 krajín sveta. Saleziánska rodina oslávi okružie aj na d'akovnej púti 29. augusta v Šaštíne-Strážach. Saleziáni pripravujú vydanie kníh o svojej histórii, živote a pôsobení saleziánov na Slovensku. Viaceré aktivity a podujatia budú prebiehať v miestnych saleziánskych strediskách na Slovensku,“ uviedol hovorca Slovenskej provincie Saleziánov Don Bosco Peter Novák.

Slovenská provincia má aktuálne 212 spolubratov, ktorí pôsobia v 18 mestách Slovenska, tiež v dvoch komunitách v Rusku a v jednej v Azerbajdžane. Ako vychovávatelia a pedagógovia sa saleziáni venujú práci s mladými v strediskách, oratóriách, farnostiach, na misiách, v školách a internátoch, v ústavoch pre mladistvých. Na východnom Slovensku sa dlhodobo venujú aj práci s Rómami v Bardejove – Poštárke a na sídlisku Luník IX v Košiciach.

Oslavy 90. výročia príchodu saleziánov na Slovensko sa v auguste prepoja aj s celosvetovo sláveným jubilejným rokom 200. výročia narodenia zakladateľa saleziánskej rodiny, svätého Jána Bosca.

TASR

Otvárací ceremoniál zimných olympijských hier v Soči

Kapitán hokejistov Bostonu Bruins Zdeno Chára bol poctený, že mohol byť slovenským vlajkonosičom pri otváracom ceremoniáli XXII. zimných olympijských hier. „Keď som sa to dozvedel o možnosti niesť slovenskú vlajku v Soči, bol som tým potešený a veľmi šťastný,“ vyznal sa obranca „medveďov“ v rozhovore pre oficiálnu webstránku NHL. Hoci Chára reprezentoval svoju krajinu na dvoch predchádzajúcich olympiádach, byť v stredobode pozornosti na otváracom ceremoniáli pred zrakmi tisícok ľudí na štadióne a miliónov pred televíznymi obrazovkami bolo pre neho úplne novou, jedinečnou skúsenosťou.

TASR



FOTO TASR Michal Svítok

Vlajkonosič Zdeno Chára so slovenskou zástavou na otváracom ceremoniáli XXII. zimných olympijských hier v Soči 7. februára 2014.

Hockey Player Zdeno Chara carried the Slovak flag in the opening ceremonies at the XXII Olympics in Sochi. Zdeno Chara is a Slovak professional ice hockey defenseman who currently serves as captain of the Boston Bruins of the National Hockey League (NHL).

Púť slovenských a českých hnutí k hrobu svätého Cyrila

Spoločnú púť slovenských a českých hnutí k hrobu svätého Cyrila v Ríme pri príležitosti sviatku 14. februára Rada KBS pre laické apoštolské hnutia, Fórum kresťanských inštitúcií a Rada pro laiky Českej biskupskej konferencie uskutočnili v dňoch od 10. do 17. februára 2014.

Pre Slovákov šlo už o piaty ročník púte hnutí a združení do Večného mesta k hrobu spolupatróna Európy. Púť sa niesla v znamení vďačnosti za dar viery a v rovine budovania spoločenstva laikov zo Slovenska medzi sebou navzájom, ako aj s partnermi z Českej republiky. Rozhodnutie spoločne putovať do Ríma padlo na jesennom zasadnutí Slovenskej a Českej biskupskej konferencii. Slovenskú púť viedol predseda Rady Konferencie biskupov Slovenska pre laické a apoštolské hnutia Mons. Peter Rusnák, bratislavský eparcha a tajomník Jozef Konc.

Súčasnou púťou bola aj účasť na pravidelnej audiencii Svätého Otca. Pri tejto príležitosti biskupi Čiech a Moravy plánovali predstaviť pápežovi Františkovi svätováclavské korunky Staroboleslavského Paládia země české a požiadali ho pri tejto mimoriadnej príležitosti požeňať tieto korunky.

K púti patrilo aj stretnutie na veľvyslanectve SR pri Svätej stolici, kde sa pútnici stretli s veľvyslancom SR vo Vatikáne Petrom Sopkom, ale aj s významnými slovenskými osobnosťami, ktoré pôsobia v Ríme a vo Vatikáne. Rímske putovanie nebolo len stretnutím s osobnosťami a cirkevnými a historickými pamiatkami. Bolo najmä putovanie do svojho srdca, zastavenie sa a osobné stretnutie s Ježišom. K prehĺbeniu tohto osobného rozmeru napomohla aj duchovná obnova pre účastníkov púte, ktorú viedol arcibiskup Cyril Vasiľ SJ, sekretár Kongregácie pre východné cirkvi.

Bohatý program, ktorý bol popretkávaný spoločnými modlitbami a zážitkom hlbokého spoločenstva navzájom, vyvrcholil v piatok pri slávnostnej bohoslužbe pri hrobe sv. Cyrila v Bazilike sv. Klimenta. V sobotu pútnikov sprevádzala vatikánskymi záhradami Marianna Pilátová, radkyňa Veľvyslanectva SR. Putovanie ukončili v spoločenstve v nedeľu so slovenskou komunitou v Ríme v chráme sv. Girolama.

Pre hnutia a združenia bola táto púť príležitosťou bližšie sa spoznať, vytvoriť si osobnejšie putá a kontakty, prehĺbiť vzájomné porozumenie a spoluprácu.

TK KBS

Krásna zima ...

Aj keď zima vie byť niekedy veľmi - veľmi krutá, pohľad na zasnežené vrchy našu pozornosť upúta. Celý svet, ako by bol oblečený v bielom rúchu, ako čakajúca nevesta na ženícha, pred oltárom. A tu, naši športovci lyžiari, dolu svahom letia a ten krásny pôžitok, im peniaze, nikdy nezaplacia. Nuž a čo ten náš malý, dedinský drobizg? Celý deň sa na zamrznutom potoku smeje, hraje Sánky, korčule, šmykanie, ich sem tam, pomôči do vody. Vtedy smiechu nie je koniec, ako by šlo o dáke závody. A čo tu robí náš deduško? O mladosti sníva, aj on bol raz mladý. Ale nemal ani sánky, ani korčule, bol rád, že nebol hladný. Nuž a čo možno povedať, o našej starej, prihrbenej babičke. Spomína, spomína, nikdy nezabudneme o jej prvej hubičke. Všetko má svoj začiatok, aj svoj koniec, keď po dlhom dni sa ohlásil večerný zvon, čo urobil všetkým zábavám koniec. Nie, dnes deťom, nebolo treba spievať uspávanku ... Áno, Zima má aj svoju neuveriteľnú krásu! Pán, ten tam hore, vie, kedy a čo má dať, svojmu vernému ľudu.

Jozef Smák