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Fr. Stephen Furdik
Our Founder

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Number 5773

In Memoriam

Jan (John) Beliansky



Jan (John) Beliansky

JAN (John) BELIANSKY, former Slovak Editor of the First Catholic Slovak Union Jednota newspaper, died on February 3, 2008 at age 85. He worked for the Union until he was 82 years old.

Jan was born in Velky Kliz, near Topolcany in western Slovakia. While in Slovakia, he was active in the cultural work of the Matica Slovenska, of which he was a life-long member.

He helped to organize a branch of the Matica Slovenska and a public library in Batovany, Slovakia.

In 1948, Jan left Slovakia for the West and settled in Great Britain. While living in London, he founded and edited the newspaper VATRA and was active in Slovak emigration activities.

In 1952, Jan came to the United States. He first settled in Monessen, Pennsylvania and attended the University of Pittsburgh where he earned a degree in accounting.

In addition to editing and writing numerous articles for the Slovak section of the Jednota, Jan has also been a prolific contributor to Slovak American publications over the years. He was the founder and Executive Director of the Slovak Research Institute in Cleveland, Ohio.

He was awarded the President Jozef Tiso Medallion by the Slovak World Congress Abroad for his work for Slovak causes. Through the Slovak Research Institute, Jan was very instrumental in the organization of several shipments of medical books and equipment for medical facilities and hospitals in Slovakia.

I only got to know Jan personally after he was 65 years old, so what I know of his early years is not first hand.

While I was General Counsel for the FCSU and I was attending the Executive Committee meetings in Cleveland, I always stopped to chat with Jan.

I learned more about Jan and was inspired from reading an earlier biography. He did not brag to me about his past accomplishments.

Jan was in some ways a controversial person, even with people who knew and liked him. But above all, he was a dedicated Slovak.

Jan was born in 1922, a few years after World War I ended, and grew up in a period of political turmoil where Slovak national identity was emerging under the leadership of Fr. Andrej Hlinka and others. The State of Czecho-Slovakia was founded in 1918 and existed until 1939 when in the frantic atmosphere of WW II the First Slovak Republic was founded with Fr. Joseph Tiso as President.

Jan was a young man in the 1939-1945 period when the Slovak people had

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Message From The President

Dear Members,

I hope that you and your family had a blessed and happy Christmas.

Now we are in the "dog days" of winter. Those of you fortunate enough to live in warmer climates still have to live with shorter daylight hours.

I've begun the process of personally telephoning each of our Branches, calling the President or Financial Secretary.

The results have been interesting, informative, encouraging and disappointing. It is a pleasure talking to our Members, especially Branch Officers.

I hear stories of nostalgia, illness, pride, optimism, hope, despair and sometimes anger. Most Branch Officers have been in their positions for many years and most have done excellent jobs. That is both good and raises questions.

I've talked to Officers 90 years old trying to run Branches. God Bless them! They should remain as a key part of their Branch but as an Officer Emeritus tutoring "younger" people in operating and hopefully growing their Branch.

I've been told time and time again that, "No younger people, including our kids, have any interest in the Branch or participating in it". Many times this is true. However, many times they have not been asked. Persistence can be a virtue.

All fraternal societies are built from the ground-up. They are based on their Members. If the Members don't care, the Society eventually becomes just another "regular" insurance company or ceases to exist.

In my effort to send Jednota copies to as many Members' households as possible I've seen cases where the Jednota newspaper and all information, notices, mailings etc. for several Members are sent to one address. I have talked to Members. Some have said; "I bought policies for all my children and grandchildren and did not tell them. If they knew, most of them would cash surrender and take the money out".

My response is, that once the parent or grandparent dies, the child or grandchild will probably find out about the policy and then they could cash surrender anyway. In the meantime those kids or grandkids will not get our newspaper and may not even know about our Society. We have lost thousands of potential Members over the years. However, I respect the right of any Member to have that opinion.

I've seen many times where the parents or grandparents were very involved in their Society and almost tried to shield their children or grandchildren from getting involved.

Some psychologist might say that this is an example of a nationality inferiority complex or an example of a parent thinking that their child will have a better future

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FCSU Reintroduces Senior Promotion Program

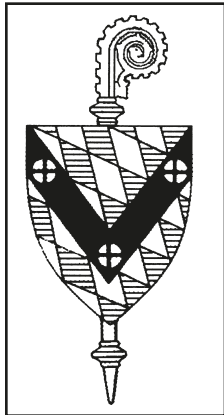
The Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union will introduce a number of programs in the coming months for the benefit of our membership. Back by popular demand is our Senior Promotion Program. This program will be available from October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Initial Program (Current Members)

The Senior Promotion Program is directed to all current members between the ages of 55 and 80. Each member in this age group, subject to current reasonably good health, may purchase the amount of Whole Life insurance that a \$200.00 annual premium will purchase, based on their current age. See the attached Life Insurance Chart. To help offset the cost for the first year, a special fraternal dividend equal to 50% of the first year premium, amounting to \$100, will be provided to each participating member. This means that if each member takes advantage of the Society's offer, they will not only increase their family's life insurance protection, but will receive a generous fraternal dividend.

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 2, 2008

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Gospel Summary

Jesus, in order that the works of God might be made visible, gives sight to a man who had been blind from birth. Members of the community then proceed to debate the meaning of the various aspects of the event: why Jesus put clay on the man's eyes and sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam; whether the man was really the blind man they had known; the significance of Jesus' making the clay with his saliva on the Sabbath; the fear of the man's parents to acknowledge that Jesus was from God; the expulsion of the man

who had been blind because he insisted that Jesus really was from God.

The passage ends with the judgment of Jesus that the man who was born blind now truly sees; while those who claim to see have closed their eyes to the works of God made visible before their eyes.

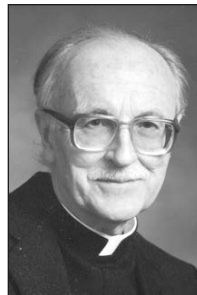
Life Implications

John uses the remembrance of Jesus' cure of a blind man to develop a universal, theological meaning of the event for us, the hearers of his gospel. We are aware that Jesus is the source of division among people today, just as he was in his own Jewish community during his lifetime and decades later at the time of the gospel's composition.

There are numerous actors in the gospel narrative with whom we might identify and then explore the implications for our own life situations.

We can identify with Jesus, the light which shines in the darkness. Christians who have accepted this divine light in turn must allow the light of Christ to shine through them so that the works of God might be made visible. The narrative seems to affirm that the blind man who has received the light of Christ, himself becomes a light shining in

John 9: 1-41



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

the darkness. His simple, to-the-point responses suggest that they might have been spoken by Jesus in similar circumstances. He, like Jesus, has become a source of division.

One might readily identify with the beggar, blind from birth. Here is a person who seeks the truth and has the courage to act upon it even though suffering is the result. The narrative illustrates the cost of discipleship in a world of darkness, which tries to overcome the light (Jn 1:5).

Most Christians would not think of identifying with those who refused to see the light and thus become hardened in their blindness. Jesus, however, also warns us that those who say "We see" may really be blind to the presence of God in their midst. Consider this sentence from the First Letter of John to his fellow Christians: Whoever hates his brother is in darkness; he walks in darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes" (1:11). A good prayer for this Sunday might be: "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief" (Mk 9:24).



March 9, 2008

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gospel Summary

In John's gospel, Jesus is first and foremost the one who gives life. In fact, the whole purpose of the gospel is "that believing you may have life in his name" (20:31). From this perspective, the raising of Lazarus from the grave is merely a preview of the definitive victory of life in the resurrection of Jesus.

In human experience, death has always been the dragon that eats up our hopes and spoils our plans and casts a shadow over even the brightest days. But Jesus came to slay that dragon, and he will do this by means of a power that at first sight seems hopelessly inadequate. It is the power of loving. "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." This means that God loves us also.

This divine power is now made available in our world through the presence of Jesus. In response to Martha's grief, he announces that he is "the resurrection and the life." Such an absolute statement means that his loving has taken him beyond the reach of death. Death is no longer an end but merely an episode on the journey of life.

When Jesus sees how his friends are burdened by grief, he himself gives way to tears and, deeply moved, goes forward to challenge the awesome power of death. When Lazarus comes out of the tomb still bound with his burial wrappings, Jesus says, "Untie him and let him go." This command is an echo of the divine command of God to the Pharaoh to "let my people go" (Exodus 5:1) and, long before that, to the power of darkness to "let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). God has always stood for freedom from bondage and darkness. And we can escape the dark shadow of the dragon if we choose to participate in the love that liberates.

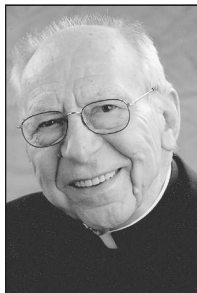
Life Implications

When we feel the cold hand of death upon us, whether it be through the loss of a loved one or in the experience of our own mortality, we feel so helpless that we are often reduced to an anguished, "Why?" or "Why me?" At such times, we can identify easily with Martha when she said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Of course, Jesus is here all the while. It is just that he is more concerned with a life that is so much more important than this fragile existence that we call life. When Jesus asks us whether we believe in his presence and power, we will be able hopefully to answer with a firm "Yes."

Jesus responded to the anguish of Martha by a powerful theological affirmation: "I am the resurrection and the life." But we learn a few verses later that Jesus moved toward the raising of Lazarus only when he noted the tears of Mary. Her accepted human vulnerability and her total trust in Him are models that assure victory for us too over all the forms of death and darkness.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Grain or Chaff



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

When John the Baptizer baptized in the Jordan River those who came to him, he was approached by many of the Pharisees and Sadducees who appeared as the others confessing their sins. He said to them, in part, "Give some evidence that you mean to reform." He added, "I baptize you in water for the sake of reform, but the one who will follow me is more powerful than me... His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear the threshing floor and gather his grain into the barn, but the chaff he will burn in unquenchable fire." (Matthew 3:8, 11, 12)

When John the Baptizer began his preaching, his theme was identical to that of Jesus Christ, "Reform your lives! The reign of God is at hand." (Matthew 3:2) (See Matthew 4:17)

With John the Baptizer, there were the confession of sins (Matthew 3:6), baptism in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:6) and the reformation of the lives of those who came to him (Matthew 3:8)

Jesus Christ, too, demands the reformation of our lives and evidence thereof.

When Jesus sent out the Twelve two by two, he instructed them and afterwards Mark writes, "With that they went off, preaching the need of repentance." (6:12)

"Do you not know that God's kindness is an invitation to you to repent? In spite of this, your hard and impenitent heart is storing up retribution for that day of wrath when the just judgment of God will be revealed, when he will repay every man for what he has done: eternal life to those who strive for glory, honor, and immortality by patiently doing right (Grain); wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness (Chaff). (Romans 2:4-8)

Reform, repent, repentance, these are key words in achieving our personal and lasting relationship and friendship with Jesus Christ.

How do we do this and, in so doing, give some evidence of our reformation?

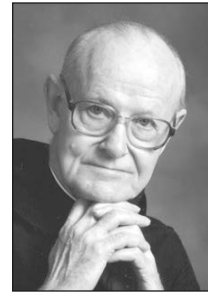
To begin, get to know Jesus Christ personally by reading his life in the Scriptures and, in faith, believing what he teaches us. "You will receive all that you pray for, provided you have faith." (Matthew 21:22)

Jesus accepted an invitation to dinner from a Pharisee and reclined (at table) to eat. A woman, publicly known in town to be a sinner, learned he was there and she came to him. "She brought in a vase of perfumed oil and stood behind him at his feet, weeping so that her tears fell upon his feet. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissing them and perfuming them with the oil."

The host Pharisee said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is that touches him- that she is a sinner."

"You see this woman," Jesus said, "you provided no water for my feet (a customary practice offered by hosts to their guests)," she has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair, you gave me no kiss (also customary),... you did not anoint my

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Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

RE: 2008 JEDNOTA ISSUE DATES & DEADLINE DATES

As we have previously announced in the 1st quarter of 2008 we are increasing the number of our members who will be receiving the Jednota newspaper by almost 100%. In order to keep our overall costs in line we must reduce the number of issues from 26 per year to 21. The size and quality of the paper will remain unchanged.

The reasons for the changes are simple. The Jednota is our primary communication to our members. Many of our members hardly know we exist. If you are a member who has not been receiving the newspaper we welcome you.

We want to communicate with our members.

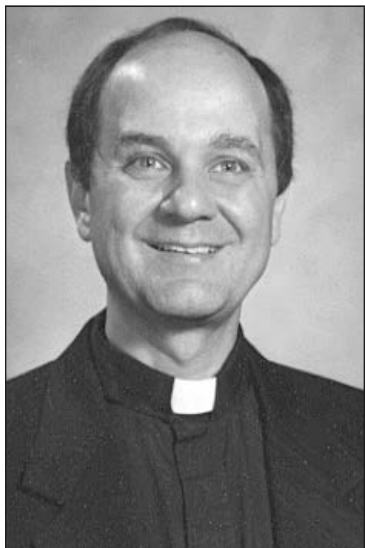
However, since the newspaper is now on the internet at www.FCSU.com, if you do not need an actual newspaper and would rather get it off the internet **call us at 1-800-JEDNOTA (1-800-533-6682) or e-mail us at FCSU@aol.com** to remove your name from our mailing list.

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas please call (1-800-JEDNOTA) or e-mail at FCSU@aol.com to President Andrew Rajec or Executive Secretary Ken Arendt.

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE	ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE
January 9	(December 28)	July 9	(June 27)
January 23	(January 14)	August 6	(July 28)
February 6	(January 28)	September 3	(August 25)
February 20	(February 11)	September 17	(September 8)
March 5	(February 25)	October 1	(September 29)
March 19	(March 10)	October 15	(October 6)
April 16	(April 7)	October 29	(October 20)
April 30	(April 21)	November 12	(November 3)
May 14	(May 5)	November 26	(November 17)
May 28	(May 19)	December 10	(December 1)
June 11	(June 2)		

The five issues eliminated are:
April 2, June 25, July 23, August 20 and December 24.

A Lenten Message From Our National Chaplain



Fr. Thomas A. Nasta

Dear Friends,
Congressional leadership from both political parties recently worked together with President Bush to come up with what is being termed an Economic Stimulus Package. If the Package, which is intended to "get the economy moving again,," is passed by the full Congress, a few extra dollars would soon be in our wallets to purchase things or to pay bills that have accumulated.

As beneficial as this stimulus package would be, there is also a sense that something else, something more is needed for our times, something we might call a Spiritual Stimulus Package.

So many people today have an ambivalent attitude towards morality. Too many stories are told of situations where people act with violence first and then ask questions later. The poor are victims of exploitation far too often. Those who have problems in life turn to drugs, alcohol and gambling for the answers. It is not

unusual for a young person to have his or her reputation ruined by what others transmit in text messages or pictures on cell phones.

A Spiritual Stimulus Package would help us get back to the direction of doing what is good, holy and pleasing to our Creator. It would help us to recapture the basic fundamental dignity that we are all made in God's image and likeness. It would cause us to examine our consciences more closely for attitudes and actions of justice, mercy and love.

The finalized version of the Economic Stimulus Package is sure to be a lengthy document filled with plenty of legalese. The Spiritual Stimulus Package is very brief and easy to remember. It is only one sentence, comes from Jesus himself, and serves us well during this season of Lent. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Fraternally,
Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

FCSU Reintroduces

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Application

As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting will be waived except for serious illnesses, injury, or medical conditions, which required medical treatment or hospitalization in the last five years. This is not a guaranteed issue program. The FCSU may require the applicant to take a physical exam and /or provide additional medical information.

New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year allowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

Please allow sufficient time for your branch proposer or secretary to contact you (up to thirty (30) days.) If contact is not made by November 2007, please contact your branch proposer, branch secretary or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

In the coming months, additional programs directed to various groups of members will be introduced. Watch for announcements in future issues of our JEDNOTA.

FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION

AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE

2007

SCHEDULE 1			SCHEDULE 2		
AGE	MALE NON SMOKING	FEMALE NON SMOKING	AGE	MALE SMOKER	FEMALE SMOKER
55	6,498	7,927	55	4,988	6,928
56	6,175	7,413	56	4,760	6,605
57	5,922	7,145	57	4,598	6,359
58	5,677	6,885	58	4,439	6,122
59	5,438	6,627	59	4,282	5,893
60	5,204	6,380	60	4,129	5,671
61	4,979	6,135	61	3,981	5,456
62	4,762	5,898	62	3,839	5,247
63	4,554	5,666	63	3,702	5,043
64	4,353	5,438	64	3,571	4,845
65	4,157	5,216	65	3,444	4,652
66	3,958	4,999	66	3,317	4,465
67	3,784	4,788	67	3,193	4,283
68	3,604	4,581	68	3,069	4,105
69	3,428	4,379	69	2,946	3,932
70	3,257	4,182	70	2,824	3,766
71	3,091	3,990	71	2,704	3,606
72	2,933	3,804	72	2,588	3,451
73	2,780	3,622	73	2,474	3,301
74	2,632	3,445	74	2,365	3,158
75	2,490	3,275	75	2,253	3,018
76	2,352	3,109	76	2,146	2,883
77	2,221	2,948	77	2,043	2,751
78	2,095	2,791	78	1,943	2,623
79	1,975	2,638	79	1,848	2,497
80	1,866	2,577	80	1,758	2,378

Message From The President

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by "marrying up", that is, subconsciously saying that my child will be better off if they associate with a "higher class" of people.

Please be proud of your heritage and pass on to your children and grandchildren or their spouses. A good example of that would be to enroll a family member, increase their coverage and/or get them involved in our Society.

There is a huge interest in younger people "finding their roots", searching their genealogy. Why not give them a hand and introduce or re-introduce them to Jednota.

Some may say this is "a preaching to the choir". Maybe so, but sometimes even the "choir" isn't listening or they are not singing together.

I'm looking forward to 2008 as a year of excitement, growth and challenges.

I encourage each of you to keep in touch with your Branch, me and the Home Office Staff. Together we will build for the future.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Our Holy Land Pilgrimage with Father Peter Vasko

By Martha Mistina Kona, M.A.

The best way to appreciate and value where Jesus Christ lived His life is to visit the Holy Land as a pilgrim. Viewing the sites that tell the story of Christ's life and His teachings as recorded in the New Testament and following in the footsteps are truly a spiritual journey. Such a journey offers great religious gratification and makes the teaching of Jesus and the apostles a vivid reality.

Our pilgrimage at the end of 2007 was planned and coordinated by Brig. General Robert Disney, GCTJ, GMTJ, Grand Prior, Grand Priory USA, SMOTJ with Father Peter Vasko, GCTJ, KGHS, Franciscan Pilgrimage Director, OFM President Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, an organization that gives an international voice to Christians living in the area. Father Peter, who was our spiritual guide and lecturer in the Holy Land, is a versatile public speaker, published author, scholar, archaeologist and anthropologist. His undergraduate work was in philosophy and theology and graduate studies were in anthropology at Duke University in North Carolina and archaeology at Franciscan Stadium Biblicum in Jerusalem.

Father Peter has appeared on numerous television shows about the Holy Land on Discovery Channel, BBC, NBC and CBS and radio talk shows. Named one of the "Top Ten People in the Catholic Church" in January 2006 issue of INSIDE THE VATICAN magazine, Father Peter also serves as a liaison and guide to the White House at the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and is listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA.

Born in New York and of Slovak heritage, we were fortunate and blessed to have the esteemed Father Peter as our guide.

On our journey through the Holy Land we followed the movements of Jesus and learned of the country where He was born, prayed and preached; performed miracles; was crucified, resurrected, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. One could see the gospels come alive.

We viewed holy places such as the Basilica of Annunciation in Nazareth where the angel sent by God appeared and announced that the Virgin Mary would bear a son called Jesus and the impressive Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem which was built on top of a cave used as a stable where we crawled horizontally into a small hollow opening to see approximately where Jesus was born.

We traveled along the Mediterranean Sea, the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee where Jesus calmed the rough sea and a violent storm and walked on water. At the Sea of Galilee we

took a picturesque boat ride to Capernaum where Jesus preached while in Galilee and also saw the Church of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

We went to Tiberius and the Jordan River where Saint John the Baptist baptized Jesus. We went to Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle changing water into wine at a wedding, to Tabgha where he fed the multitude with 5 loaves and 2 fish and to Bethany where he resurrected Lazarus from the dead. We drove by the Mediterranean coast to Cesarea where Jesus asked his disciples who the people thought he was and where Simon Peter said, "You are Christ the Son of the Living God." And Jesus answered, "Blessed art thou."

We also went to Tel Aviv, a modern city; to Jericho, claimed to be the oldest city in the world dating back to 7,000 B.C. the time period of the Neolithic age when humans stopped being solely hunters and became planters; Haifa, a beautiful city on the slopes of Mount Carmel; and Jaffa, the biblical town famous for the tale of Jonah and the whale.

And finally we arrived back at Jerusalem, splendid and ancient, called the eternal city and built by Solomon, invaded and governed by 20 nations. Its roots in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, surrounded by an ancient wall measuring 2 1/2 miles in circumference with 9 gates, Jerusalem is where Christ was crucified and where you will find one of the holiest shrines of Christendom, the impressive and magnificent church of the Holy Sepulchre. The site of the tomb of Jesus on which it is built was supposedly revealed to Empress St. Helen, mother of Constantine the Great, in a dream while on a visit to Jerusalem. Constantine the Great immediately built a church on that very spot following the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Built within the walls of Jerusalem it consists of three buildings: a round church above the empty grave of Jesus, a magnificent Basilica and a square shrine outlining the crucifixion. On top of Mount Olives is the Chapel of the Ascension where Jesus ascended into heaven. At the site where Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer is the Church of the Pater Noster. On the walls of the church the Lord's Prayer is written in 62 different languages.

The Franciscan's Commitment to the Holy Land

In 1342 Pope Clement VI mandated the Franciscans to become the official custodians of the holy sites of Christendom, that is, to help maintain and preserve the holy sites and at the same time to minister the faithful. It is now 800 years later and the Franciscans remain firm with their commitment and mission.

Today there are only 15,000 Christians in the Holy Land or 2 percent of the population, the largest group being Jews and then Muslims. At the present time, many Christians are fleeing the Holy Land due to violence and economic deprivation. They are desperate and are seeking a better life elsewhere. They want to live in peace. In the early 1990's the Franciscans set up a committee to study the problems in this land. It was concluded by church leaders and the Christian laity that to stop the exodus there should be a three prong approach: college education, employment opportunities and housing.

Father Vasko with the Franciscans cares deeply about stopping this exodus of Christians from the Holy Land. He is committed to keeping the Holy Land as a living community and not for it to become merely a museum. He states, "The time is critical. If we are going to do something about the problems facing our Christian people in the Holy Land then we have to do something about protecting them, love them and maintaining them."

Investiture

For the first time in seven hundred years the new SMOTJ Provisional Commander and the new Provisional Commander of the Holy Land were reestablished in Jerusalem. Eight knights and one lady were invested in the Crusader Church of St. John in a solemn ceremony officiated by Grand Prior U.S.A., General Robert Disney and Most Rev. Archbishop Herbert M. Groce following a dinner of regional cuisine.

Our pilgrimage was a deeply satisfying and rewarding experience that helped us to better understand the New Testament, Gospels and links the holy sites together, where Jesus was born, preached, died, resurrected and ascended into heaven. I believe, if possible, that every Christian should visit the Holy Land.

"Sing praises to the Lord who reigns in Jerusalem.

Tell the world about the unforgettable deeds." Psalms 9:11

For information on pilgrimages to the Holy Land and the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land please call 866/905-3787.

Postscript

President Bush, on his recent trip to the Middle East and Israel in January, stopped in the Holy Land and visited the Franciscans and Father Peter Vasko. Father Peter, OFM, President Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, stated that he was very pleased to guide an American president through the holy sites and that President Bush was extremely interested in archaeology. He also stated that he was impressed by President Bush's spirituality and goodness. "He is a deeply spiritual Christian man," Father Vasko said. Bush is committed to peace in the region and to a two state solution for Israel and Palestine. Following a grueling schedule of political meetings U.S. President Bush was thankful for the opportunity to view several of the Christian holy sites.



L-R Father Vasko, Martha M. Kona, Br. General Robert Disney, and Archbishop Herbert Groce.

In Memoriam

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their first real opportunity to develop as a nation in modern times. After World War II ended and Slovakia was again in the midst of turmoil, Jan was persecuted and imprisoned for his nationalistic and anti-communist activities.

On January 1, 1993 Jan's dream of a new Slovakia came true with the "Velvet Divorce" and he made several trips over the years both to meet old friends and to help his Homeland.

When he came to the United States and completed his higher education he could have gone to much higher paying jobs. But he chose to work in the field of journalism and dedicate his life to telling the story and promoting the cause of Slovaks everywhere. Some would consider that a definition of a hero.

Jan was a patriot and had strong convictions not everyone agreed with. He was not afraid or ashamed to take a stand or give his opinion for what was right.

He will always be remembered as a dedicated Slovak and a dedicated part of Jednota.

The Officers and the Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union will remember Jan.

May he rest in peace with the Lord.

S Bohom, Janko!

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

head with oil." "I tell you, that is why her many sins are forgiven- because of her great love." Addressing the woman, he said, "Your sins are forgiven." Jesus did not admonish the woman, he did not recite her sins, he simply forgave her, saying, "Your faith has been your salvation. Now go in peace." (Luke 7:36-50)

Secondly, make his teaching a real part of your daily life. "...clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another, forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. (Colossians 3:12-14)

"Let your speech always be gracious and in good taste, and strive to respond properly to all who address you." (Colossians 4:6)

Thirdly. Give witness of your love for Jesus Christ by witnessing him daily in your dress, in your bearing, and in your behavior at home, at work, during recreation and as you visit the marketplace. "...your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16)

May the symbols of your Christian faith on your person never call down upon you the epithet of "hypocrite." May your faith always radiate from your heart so that all who pass you by respect you for your unity with Jesus Christ and instinctively refrain from taking his name in vain.

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Charles Boone Has Busy Schedule in Cub Scouting

Charles Boone, age 8, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been very busy with Cub Scouts. Charles is a Wolf Cub Scout with Pack 38 at St. Bernard's Church. In the tradition of Cub Scouting, Charles participated in the Pinewood Derby. Out of a large field of cars, Charles' sparkling gold original-design car took 3rd place. It was a close race and all of participants enjoyed the exciting evening of racing.

On Sunday Feb 3, Charles participated in Scout Sunday at St. Bernard's. At a very special Mass, Charles received from Fr. David Driesch the first of the religious awards presented by the Cub Scouts, the Light of Christ Award.

The next day, Pack 38 held it's annual Blue & Gold Banquet. At the banquet, Charles and his father participated in the Father/Son Cake Bake. Charles enjoys helping his mother in the kitchen so baking a cake was fun for him. This year's theme was "The Safari" with Charles' cake entered into the Mt. Kilimanjaro category (the largest cakes) with his cake being made with 3 boxes of cake mix. At this banquet, Charles was presented the Bobcat Badge which is presented to a boy as the boy is upside down but the badge is in the right side up position. The badge then gets turned after the scout does a good turn for someone. He was also presented with the Wolf Badge, along with a Gold Point of Arrow, 4 Silver Points of Arrow along with other achievement awards for this work as a Wolf scout. It was a very exciting evening for him.

Charles is a fourth generation First Catholic Slovak Union member and is the youngest active member of Branch 853. He helps at the branch meetings and enjoys participating in other Slovak events in the area. Charles is the son of Ron Boone and Monica Rodacy-Boone, FCSU Past National Auditor and Past Pension Board Trustee.



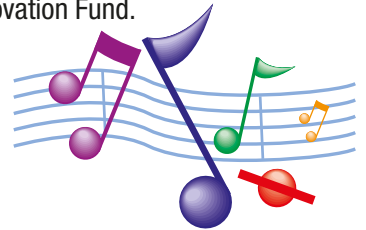
Charles wearing his Light of Christ Award.



Crystal Munoz is a member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago. To celebrate her 14th birthday on New Year's Day, 2008, Crystal's family went to P.F. Chang's gourmet Chinese Restaurant. Crystal, an 8th grader, hopes to become a vet when she grows up. Her godparent, Robert Tapak Magruder, serves as the Recording Secretary of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

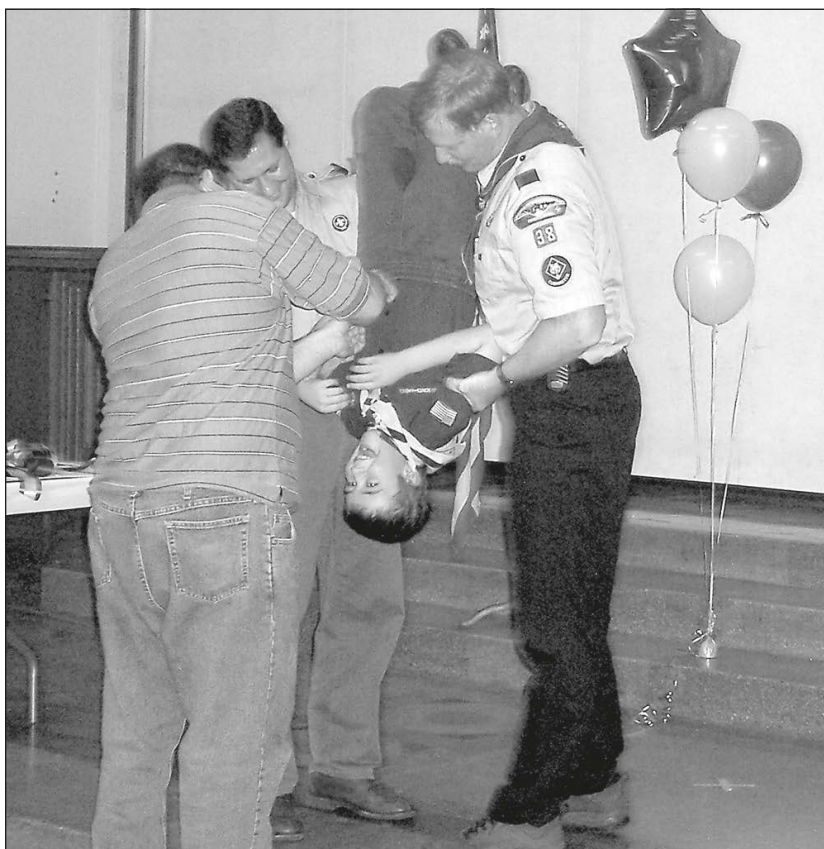
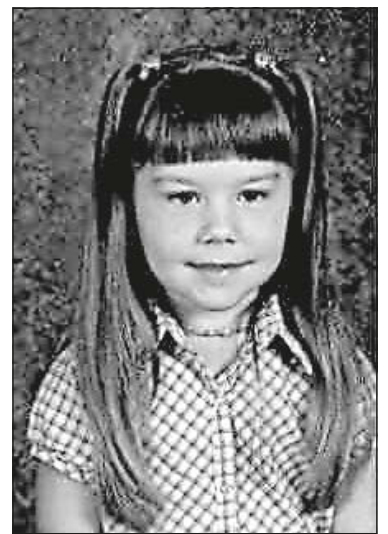
Uniontown Church to Hold Dinner Dance

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church will sponsor a Dinner Dance with an "Ethnic Wedding Theme" on Saturday, March 29, 2008, in the church social hall, 185 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The evening will include dinner (ethnic wedding type food) and entertainment by the Dynasonics featuring polka and dance music. There will also be a mock Bridal Dance and much more. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. followed by dancing from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Admission is \$25.00 person. Reserved seating is available for groups of 8 or more. Advance tickets may be purchased by contacting the church office. Deadline for purchasing tickets is March 22, 2008. For information and tickets call 724/438-6027 during the day and 724/438-5049 or 724/438-6040 in the evening. Proceeds will benefit St. John's Renovation Fund.

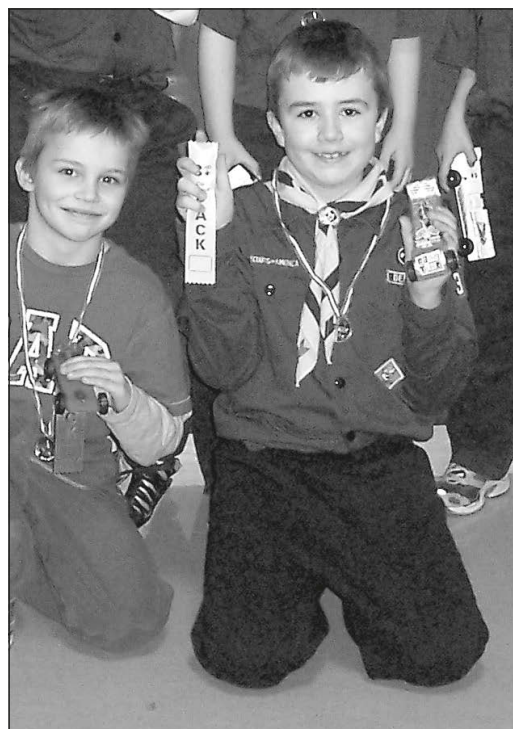


JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST CORRECTION

Paige Remenar
Bannister, MI
First Place
Region 7
4-6 Age Group



Charles laughs as he receives the Bobcat Badge.



Charles Boone (right) holding up his 3rd place ribbon and prize winning car while wearing the metal presented to the Wolf Scouts for their good sportsmanship. Hunter Noble, left, also shows off his car and awards.

Allentown Branch 567 to Hold Bake Sale

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, is sponsoring a Bake Sale on Saturday, March 1, 2008, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Society Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. There will be nut and poppy seed rolls and other types of homemade baked goods for sale. Please come and support us. For information call Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614 or Bernie Gerhard at 610/262-6772.



Anniversaries



Joseph and Susan Rimarcik with their family and Father Ben Kosnac.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rimarcik Observe 70th Wedding Anniversary

On January 27, 2008, longtime Jednota members of Branch 743 in Detroit, Michigan, Joseph and Susan Rimarcik celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. The anniversary couple exchanged wedding vows during the Slovak Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Pastor Ben Kosnac presided over the ceremony and blessing. Attending their anniversary Mass were their children, Joseph (Dianna) Rimarcik Jr., Arlene (James) Austin, Eleanor (Milan) Straka, Susan (Mark) Wietchy and many members of the Slovak parish. The Rimarciks have 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



Joseph and Susan Rimarcik on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Vincentian Sister of Charity Observes 60th Anniversary

On Saturday, February 2, 2008, Sister Colette Baran, a Vincentian Sister of Charity of Pittsburgh, PA observed the 60th Anniversary of her Religious Profession by renewing her vows at a Liturgy of Thanksgiving in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Rev. Reginald Russo, OFM Cap., Chaplain for the Sisters officiated at the Liturgy.

Sister Raynita Kristofco

REMINDERS

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Chuba Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Andrew and Dorothy Chuba of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, celebrated the 60th anniversary of their marriage on February 7, 2008. The couple married on Mrs. Chuba's birthday, February 7, 1948 in Holy Trinity Church, Swoyersville, Pennsylvania. They are members of Branch 278.

Mr. Chuba served three years in the U.S. Navy in World War II, and is retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Mrs. Chuba, the former Dorothy Friedman of Swoyersville, is a homemaker.

The couple have four children: Mary Ann Krapsho and her husband, Tom, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Thomas Chuba and his wife, Laura, of Dauphin, Pennsylvania, Andrea Kealey and her husband, Jay, of Harrisburg, and Michele Banaszek and her husband, Alex, of Wilkes-Barre. They also have seven grandchildren; Laura Krapsho of Alexandria, Virginia, Kelly Krapsho of Leesburg, Virginia, Michael and Cheryl Chuba, Elizabeth Kealey, and Zachary and Jason Banaszek.

Family dinners were held to celebrate both occasions, the 60th wedding anniversary and the 83rd birthday of Mrs. Chuba. Congratulations to our anniversary couple and many happy returns to our birthday lady.



Andrew and Dorothy Chuba



Andrew and Dorothy Chuba on their wedding day February 7, 1948.

Slovak Garden to Observe Anniversary

The Slovak Garden in Winter Park, Florida will celebrate the 56th anniversary of its founding on Sunday, March 2, 2008, at the Crown Plaza Hotel near the Orlando International Airport.

The festivities will begin with a Slovak Catholic Mass at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. Entertainment will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will feature The Limbora Dancers from New York as well as the Sarisan Dancers from Detroit, Michigan. Dancing will commence at 5:00 p.m. and will feature The Pajtasi orchestra from New York.

Admission is \$25.00 per person. Reservations may be made by mail at The Slovak Garden, Inc., 3110 Howell Branch Road, Suite 100, Winter Park, FL 32792 or by calling 407/677-6894, or by Fax at 407/677-8442.

The Crown Plaza has reserved a number of rooms for out of town guests. Reservations can be made directly by calling the hotel at 877/227-6963 or 407/856-0100. The room rate is \$99.00 per day. Please mention Slovak Garden for special rates.

The officers of the Slovak Garden invite all to spend an afternoon with an old time Slovak party.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 3 — MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will have a Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 9:00 a.m. Mass will be offered for the living and deceased members.

A breakfast with fellowship will take place in Father Dargay Hall after the liturgy.

Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman

Branch 19 — BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will celebrate the feast day of its patron, St. Joseph, on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 78 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Mass will be offered for the living and deceased members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar, Pastor. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall following the liturgy.

Members of Branch 19 who have reached their 16th birthday in 2007 and have either a term policy of \$5,000 minimum held for at least four years or a reserve policy of \$1,000 minimum held at least for four years will receive the annual Margaret Evancho Award of a \$50 Savings Bond. During the business meeting the following members will receive this award: Stephanie Johnson, Elise Kapitancek, Marie Berarducci, Matthew Lumas, Lisa Ann Mitchell, Lydia Grace Monks, Peter Nielson, Ramon Rodrigues, Kayla Ann Ursini, and Shealeen Worby. This award was established in 1986 in recognition of Margaret Evancho's 40 years of dedication and her concern for the junior members of Branch 19.

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2008. We hope many members will be able to attend the March 9 meeting.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

Branch 40 — STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will be offering scholarships to their youth members. There will be one \$500.00 scholarship for a College Student and one \$250.00 scholarship for a Private School Grade Student. To be eligible, you must be a member of the St. Clement Society, Branch 40 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. You must have a minimum of \$3,000 of reserve insurance with the FCSU for at least four years or \$10,000 with the FCSU or more of term insurance for at least four years. Applicants must be attending a Private Grade School or in High School and applied for the fall term to a qualifying institution.

If you fit these criteria and would like more information and an application, please call Theresa at 815/672-6142 (leave a message) or email her at tgraves@crtelco.com for an electronic application. Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2008.

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Branch 89 — MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The Knights of St. Mary and St. Joseph Society, Branch 89, will hold an Easter Duty Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 16, 2008. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92nd

Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Immediately after the liturgy, breakfast will be held at The Grecian Inn, 14375 West Capitol Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin. The breakfast is complimentary for members. Guests will pay for their own breakfast. Please contact Mike Novak at 414/445-5382 by March 12, 2008, with the number of people attending.

Michael Novak, President

Branch 162 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

Branch 228 — LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, is canceling the March 2008 meeting due to St. Patrick's Day activities at the American Slovak Club and the commitments of our Branch members and officers. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30th and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio.

Our meetings are held on the 3d Monday of each month except for the months, of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the activities of the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come in and become more active in these fine organizations. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com, and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

Branch 260 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril A. Adamko Hall at St. Elizabeth Church. There will be an important discussion on sales and a review of the policy portfolio. There will also be a discussion of upcoming events. Members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

Branch 382 — SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 2, 2008, at 12:00 noon in Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of future activities and the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office. The Auditing of the Books will also take place. Light refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

Branch 510 — KENOSHA, MICHIGAN

The St. Anthony Society, Branch 510, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February

24, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at Bomb Bay Louie's, Kenosha, Wisconsin. On the agenda will be the officers' reports, a discussion of future events, and updates on insurance and annuity programs. The FCSU has good rates to invest into to protect your personal programs. The election of officers will take place after the business meeting. There will also be an open discussion on the new rules regarding the \$4.00 stipend per member. Since we lacked sufficient funds this stipend really kept us going. The last few years our share was cut off due to lack of new members. This hurts our future to be punished in this way. There will be a serious discussion on funds that belong to each branch that help it to continue to exist.

Dinner will be available to those who attend the meeting. For reservations, call President Joseph Scuglik at 262/654-7364.

Joseph Scuglik, President

Branch 553 — AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold the first lodge meeting of the year on Sunday, March 2, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. Come and get some information on the FCSU and the events being planned for you. Plan to stay after the meeting to socialize with other FCSU members.

The Slovak J Club sends a special Thank You to all the volunteers who assisted with the Ash Wednesday Special Meal and for all those who attended to make it a great success.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary

Branch 580 — WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 580, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary Mary Perun, 3621 Outlook Drive, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the officers' reports and the election of officers. All members are urged to attend.

Mary Perun, Financial Secretary

Branch 682 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Materials Research Center, Struthers, Ohio. A planning agenda is on the schedule.

Andrew Hirt, President

Branch 731 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, has scheduled its Saint Joseph Feast Day Liturgy on Sunday, March 2, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. at Saint Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Following the liturgy, there will be a lunch with door prizes. All members are invited to attend. Please confirm your reservations prior to February 17, 2008 by calling Millie Leskovyansky at 330/782-3219 or Theresa Smrecansky at 330/629-9178.

Members of Branch 731 elected officers for the year 2008. Officers were administered the oath of office by Msgr. Peter M. Polando. The following officers will serve in 2008: Millie Leskovyansky, President; Grace Kavulic, Vice President; James Bobby, Secre-

tary; Jackie Bobby, Financial Secretary; and Ed Walko and John Kavulic, Auditors.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

Branch 743 — DETROIT AND STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 16, 2008, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in room 118 at 1:00 p.m.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and enjoy fellowship with other members. Any member who has recently moved or requires branch services should contact the branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Drive, 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, April 13, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. This will be an abbreviated meeting prior to the District Meeting at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be a discussion of a spring bus trip, summer picnic, and a fall dinner dance. Refreshments will be served after the District Meeting.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 764 — WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 24, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at 379-E Quarry Lane, N.E., Warren, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of activities that our branch will sponsor this year. All members are welcome to attend.

Joanne Odom, Secretary

Branch 844 — LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

Also, following the festivities Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there. We would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

**It's Time You
Get Involved
Attend Lodge
Meetings!**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Requests (based on order received)				
Event	Date	Time	Date	Time
Team				
Doubles & Singles				

ENTRY BLANK

54th Annual Men's and 45th Annual Women's International Jednota Handicap Tenpin BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union

MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

Wedgewood Lanes - S. Raccoon Rd., Youngstown, Ohio

ENTRY FEES

PRIZE FEE.....	\$ 6.85
BOWLING FEE (3 games).....	\$ 7.50
TOURNAMENT FEE.....	\$ 4.65
TOTAL EACH EVENT.....	\$19.00
<i>Optional Events</i>	
ALL EVENTS	\$ 2.00
SENIOR SINGLES EVENT (60+).....	\$ 5.00

2008 April 25 • 26 • 27
ENTRIES CLOSE
MARCH 14, 2008

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

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

ALL EVENTS (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINE-UP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. (MUST BE FILLED IN)	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					
SINGLES (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	★★ SCHEDULE ★★ TEAM EVENT Friday, April 25 6 p.m. & 9 p.m. Saturday, April 26 9 a.m. (or as needed) DOUBLES & SINGLES Saturday and Sunday April 26 & 27 9 a.m. & 1 p.m. PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES			
	1.					
	2.					
	1.					
	2.					

- BOWLER CAN BOWL ONLY ONCE IN EACH EVENT
- BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK
- FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION
- INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED
- SEE RULES 8-10 BELOW REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION
- SEE RULE 6 BELOW REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP

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

BOWLING TOURNAMENT - PLEASE READ ALL RULES CAREFULLY

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

1. The 54th Annual Men's and the 45th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Wedgewood Lanes, 1741 S. Raccoon Rd., Youngstown, Ohio. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 25, 26 and 27, 2008.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 14, 2008.

OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 25, AT 5:30 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

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

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

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

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

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

MEN AND WOMEN

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2006-2007 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2006-2007 season will use highest league average as of JANUARY 1, 2008 and this must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HIS NAME. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN- The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2006-2007 season. Bowlers with no average for the 2006-2007 season will use highest league average as of January 1, 2008, and must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. will bowl 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2008, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the ENTRY FORM AT TIME OF ENTRY.

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

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

7. In submitting this entry, THE CAPTAIN AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE TO FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO PRIZE MONEY AS WELL AS THE TOTAL ENTRY FEES IN THE EVENT THAT ANY INFORMATION LISTED HEREIN SHOULD BE FOUND

TO BE FALSE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN AVERAGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22. 319-a-3 It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others. Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average. In case of teams of two or more bowlers, the average shall be combined to determine whether the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total. Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

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

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

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT OFFICERS

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

54th Annual Men's & 45th Annual Women's
JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

At The Wedgewood Lanes, Austintown, Ohio
April 25, 26, 27, 2008

Hosted by the Reverend Joseph L. Kostik District, FCSU

CONTRACT FOR ADVERTISING IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOKLET

RATE SCHEDULE (Please Check Appropriate Box)

_____ FULL PAGE	5" X 8"	\$100	REMIT PAYMENT WITH AD MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: REV. KOSTIK DIST. FCSU
_____ HALF PAGE	5" X 4"	\$50	
_____ THIRD PAGE	5" X 2-2/3"	\$40	MAIL TO: JOSEPH SCAVINA 802 LARKRIDGE AVE. BOARDMAN, OH 44512
_____ QUARTER PAGE	5" X 2"	\$25	
_____ PATRON		\$5	

As per copy below in consideration thereof we are inclosing \$ _____
to cover cost of the ad.

Name _____

Organization _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

PLACE AD BELOW, OR ON REVERSE SIDE, OR ATTACH.
PLEASE SUPPLY CAMERA READY ART OR LOGO YOU WISH TO HAVE IN AD.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AD, APRIL 1, 2008
TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN: PAUL J. RITZ
PHONE 330-744-2377

John's Tour of Slovakia Planned for September 10-27, 2008

John Mago of John's Tours will conduct his annual tour of Slovakia and surrounding countries September 10-27, 2008. The itinerary includes Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Krakow, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Auschwitz, and Wadowice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II.

In Slovakia, the tour will visit Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Piestany, Martin, High Tatras, Banska Bystrica, Banska Stiavnica, Kosice, Bardejov and Presov. Tourists will see a folklore wedding in Krakovany, the Slovak National Museum in Martin, St. James Church in Levoca, Spis Castle, Goral museum in Zdiar, and a cultural performance in Tichy Potok. No visit to Slovakia is complete without a wooden raft ride down the Dunajec River. Tour participants will also have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to the cultural performances, at their own expense. The tour includes 16 nights lodging in first class hotels, an air-conditioned bus for touring, and English speaking guide, two meals a day, and airfare from Pittsburgh. Airfare from other cities is also available.

John Mago along with the Slovak guide will help make arrangements for transportation and a translator for anyone wishing to contact relatives in Slovakia.

For a brochure with further information contact John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690, Phone: 1-800-260-8687 or 724-567-7341.



Slovak League of America to Offer Scholarship Grants in 2008

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, is pleased to announce that it will offer six, \$750 scholarship grants to deserving students for the fall semester of 2008. A student of Slovak ancestry, currently enrolled or who will be enrolled in the fall semester of 2008 in full time study at a college, university or professional school may apply for these grants. These grants are available to students who are on the undergraduate or graduate level of study.

Applicants are asked to write a study paper on some theme from Slovak history or culture of no less than six type-written double-spaced pages. The completed application along with the essay is to be returned by the deadline date of June 1, 2008. Grants will be paid to the individual student in August 2008.

For an application, write: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055, tel. daily, Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 973/472-8993.

The Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc. was established in 1972 as an affiliate of the Slovak League of America to assist students of Slovak ancestry in their quest for higher education. Since then, more than 100 students have benefited from this fund.



54th Men's & 45th Women's International Bowling Tournament

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 25, 2008

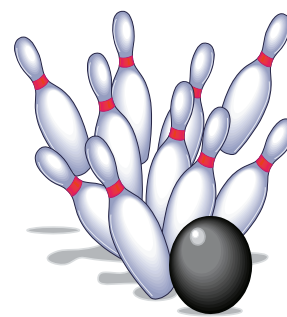
- 4:30 PM Registration
Wedgewood Lanes
1741 S. Raccoon Rd.
Youngstown, OH
- 4:30 - 6 PM Hospitality Reception
Wedgewood Lanes
- 5:45 PM Opening Ceremonies
- 6 PM - 11:30 PM Team Events
- 7:30 - 9 PM Hospitality Reception
Wedgewood Lanes

Saturday, April 26, 2008

- 9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Wedgewood Lanes
- 5:30 PM Mass
Holiday Inn Boardman
- 6:30 PM Tournament Banquet

Sunday, April 27, 2008

- 9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Wedgewood Lanes



Hotel Information for Bowling Tournament April 25, 26, 27, 2008

Tournament Headquarters: 50 rooms blocked

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
 10111 MARKET ST.
 NORTH LIMA, OH 44452

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:

You must indicate that you are with

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

Phone: 330-549-0070

Rate: 99.99 + tax

OTHER AREA ACCOMODATIONS:

HOLIDAY INN- BOARDMAN 7410 SOUTH AVE. BOARDMAN (330) 726-1611

QUALITY INN 4055 BELMONT AVE. YOUNGSTOWN (330) 759-3180

**25 Rooms blocked at \$58.00/night + tax **

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

COMFORT INN & SUITES 5435 CLARKINS DR. YOUNGSTOWN (330) 792-9740

The Youngstown Sister Cities 2007 Tour

By James Bench

It is certainly fun to be Slovak- especially when you are with people such as in the 2007 Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour hosted by Kay and Jim Bench of Derry, Pennsylvania. Ranging in age from 40 through 80, this group composed of mostly first time visitors left a positive lasting impression on our brothers and sisters in Slovakia. An often heard remark such as from the young female college student guide at Bojnice Castle who said, "This was my first experience with Americans and it certainly changed my negative views." That sentiment was echoed at the Dunajec River rafting event by another college student gondolier when he explained, "If more Americans such as these visited Slovakia, we would readily see why America is such a great country." Oh and yes, the economy! Anyone who has not visited Slovakia for several years will notice the improvement, although there is still progress to be made. However, this group of distinguished Slovak/Americans did as much as possible to help the Slovak economy improve as our luggage on the return home was considerably heavier. Slovakia's crystal, embroidery, jewelry, woodcraft, and other items too numerous to mention was simply too tempting to be denied.

To be sure, our first class accommodations at hotels such as Bristol in Kosice, Satel in Levoca, Grand Hotel Praha in Tatranska Lomnica, Park Hotel Tartuf in Beladice and the Danube in Bratislava made the sometimes hectic schedule comfortable.

There were many highlights on the trip such as the tour of Kosice and the beautiful theatre. The theatre employees were most gracious allowing our group on stage while permitting anyone interested to try on various costumes. The always beautiful Holy City of Levoca was even more glorious as we were there during the annual pilgrimage when the small city swelled by over 400,000.

The Grand Hotel Praha, majestic as befitting the revered Tatra Mountains, provided an air of old time elegance. A game was concocted by some of our female group members of descending the eloquent staircase leading to the formal lobby. We will remember the Tatras for their natural beauty and also for the Koliba, which demonstrated the talents of our group members, as we sang, danced and frolicked the entire evening. We were able to schedule the Koliba on an evening in which we were the only group in attendance. The Roma (Gypsy) musicians were outstanding and the owners went beyond expectations to make our stay memorable. They joked, served, danced and interacted with the group, culminating with a congo line which reached all parts of the building including the kitchen.

By mid trip the group was ready to relax, and this was accomplished at the Bojnice Spa. Despite having to compete with other tourists from Germany and Austria for the Spa treatments, the full body massage, sauna, paraffin treatments as well as the aqua therapy were relaxing and enjoyable. The Chateau at Beledice proved to be worth the bus ride. Located about 8 miles from Nitra, the grounds surrounding the Chateau were beautiful as were the accommodations. Breakfast was enjoyed in the dining room reserved exclusively for our group.

We will have a lasting impression of Nitra inasmuch as we were invited to attend Mass at St. Emmeran, Slovakia's oldest cathedral.

Bratislava rings with history, and our two-day stay was much too brief. The Hotel Danube strategically located, was the last of the first class accommodations experienced by the group. As we bid farewell to this gorgeous country and its beautiful people reflections of the tour were prevalent.

Certainly the meeting and the welcome ceremony by the Mayor of Spisska Nova Ves, Jan Volny made a lasting impression. This welcome always provided by our Sister City truly reflects a welcome as only the Slovaks can provide. Regional Slovak television covered the event in its entirety, with some group members interviewed. It was shown on Slovak TV, and also placed on the internet for 3 weeks. Prior to the Mayor's appearance the group was entertained by two young vocalists, a young male and female counterpart- plus an extraordinary musician. To say the group was awestruck is an understatement.

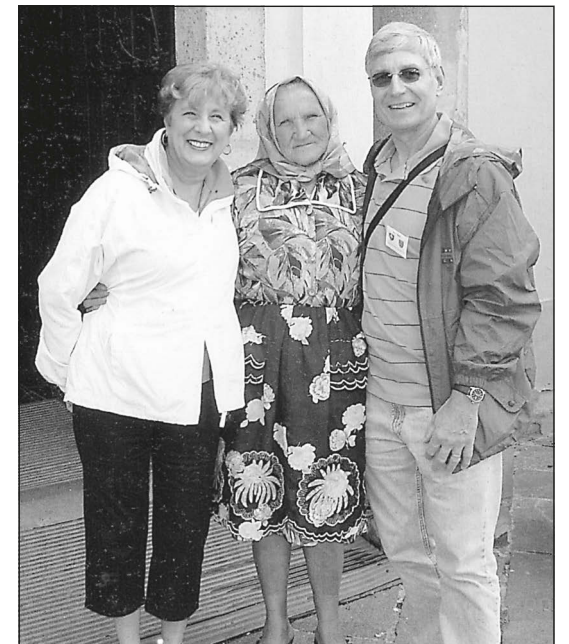
The ceremony concluded with a sincere, heartfelt welcome by Mayor Volny. Each tour member was invited to sign the official Spisska Nova Ves city registry. Following the official ceremony, a champagne brunch was enjoyed, and Mayor Volny and his staff circulated among the tour group with individual greetings. This sincere warm relationship has existed



Participants on the 2007 Youngstown Sister Cities Heritage Tour.



Tour guides Jim and Kay Bench with Mayor Jan Volny of Spisska Nova Ves.



Ray and Sondra Cebula of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania with a unknown lady in Kosice.

since the inception of the Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Program of 1992. The highly successful sister city program, second to none, was founded by Steve Bacon of Poland, Ohio, who has worked diligently to provide medical equipment and related services to the Spis region.

Other highlights included attending Mass in St. George Church in Spisska Sobota. This historic church with hand carvings by Master Paul, like all churches in Slovakia, is historic as well as beautiful. Following the Mass, the carvings were described in detail by our masterful guide Viera Marecova. This group is indebted to former Mayor of Presov, Milan Benc (a distant cousin of tour host Jim Bench) who accompanied the group in Presov and arranged a lunch following the tour. A similar experience occurred in the city of Prievidza when Ludmila Husarova, mother of former St. Vincent College basketball star Robert Husar, volunteered to lead the group on a tour of Prievidza including the best places to shop.

There were many highlights on this tour, and individual stories are too numerous for this article. Every person on the tour was able to make contact with long lost relatives, or in the very least visit ancestral homes. It was a tour to remember and the cohesiveness of this group cannot be overstated. It was a magnificent group of intelligent, accomplished, and generous Americans of Slovak descent who value their beautiful Slovak heritage. Yes indeed, being of Slovak ancestry is a lot of fun.

Scenes from
the 2007
Heritage Tour



DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT — Los Angeles, California

The Prince Pribina District will hold a Meeting on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Bosco Chapel followed by the meeting in the cafeteria. After the meeting there will be a period of fraternal fellowship. A gourmet lunch, dessert and refreshments will be served. All members are invited to attend and all branches in the area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting. Children participating in the summer camp in Slovakia and their parents will have the opportunity to meet their guide and become acquainted at the meeting.

Paul Skuben, President

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT — New Jersey

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its next Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Branch 746 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Mary Kapitan at 732/225-2658 with the number of members who will be attending. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT — Houtzdale, Pennsylvania

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Camberg's Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania. All branches are urged to send delegates to this meeting. Please notify Rosemary Deliman at 342-5592 if you plan to attend.

Marcella Kopchik, Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT — Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at Melonie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. A luncheon will be served at 1:00 p.m. Each member attending is asked to contribute \$5.00 towards their meal. Reservations should be made by Monday, March 10, 2008, by contacting President James Marmol at 724/437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724/438-0697. On the agenda will be the elections of officers and the updating of accounts.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT — Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches in District II are encouraged to send delegates. A delicious meal will be served. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food and beverages, please contact District II President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 if you plan to attend.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary



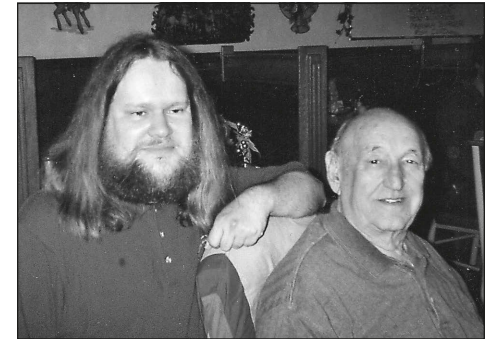
Emily and Jozko Janusek



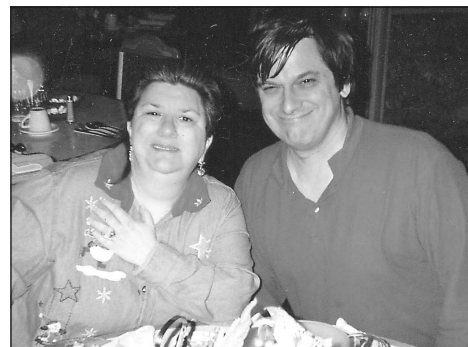
Amelia Rogalin and Gerry James



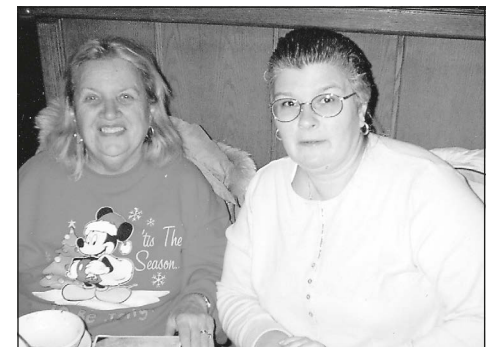
Vice President Emil Rusinak with wife Beverly.



Financial Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder with President Ed Kedzuch.



Recording Secretary Valerie Vesely with Pete Turner, Sergeant at Arms.



Joan Hepner with niece Melody Bobo.

Chicago Branch Hosts Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, held its Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 8, 2007. The following officers were elected to serve in 2008: Ed Kedzuch, President; Emil Rusinak, Vice President; Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary; and Valerie Vesely, Recording Secretary. After the 2:00 p.m. meeting, the 12 members present enjoyed a delicious dinner at Mabenka's Restaurant in Burbank, Illinois.

Robert Tapak Magruder

St. Thomas A' Becket Fish Fry

The Fish Fry will be held at St. Thomas a' Becket School, 139 Gill Hall Road in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania. It begins on Friday, February 8, 2008 and will be held every Friday from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m., including Good Friday.

The menu includes: fresh fish dinner, baked fish dinner, fried shrimp dinner, French fries, halusky, homemade soup, various specials each week, and homemade desserts. Pirohy will be included in the specials.

Take-out orders can be made beginning at 3:00 p.m. by calling 412/655-9966. Take-out orders can be picked up in the rear of the school.

The public is invited to enjoy St. Thomas a' Becket's Special Fish Fry.

Lenten/Easter Items Available

The Jankola Library has items available for Lenten reflection. Hymns for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter sung by the Slovak Heritage Society Festival Choir are on cassette tapes and CD's. Cassette tapes are \$12.00; Cd's are \$15.00. Easter Cards with Slovak inscriptions are also available through the Jankola Library. Assorted packets of ten are \$5.00 each. Postage and handling are additional.

Orders may be placed by phone, mail, or e-mail to: Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698; Phone: 570/275-5606; E-mail: SSCM2734@yahoo.com.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008 THRU
MARCH 31, 2008

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

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.75% (4.641% APR)

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

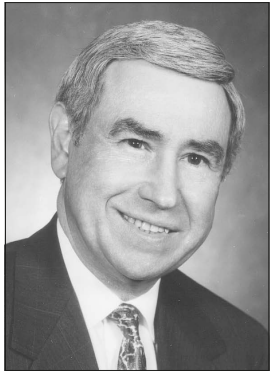
The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.50% (4.402% APR)

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact the Home Office!

1-800-533-6682

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Joseph Senko Named Fraternalist of the Year



Joseph Senko

Joseph Senko of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been selected as Fraternalist of the Year by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh. A reception will be held in his honor on Saturday, April 5, 2008, at

the Greentree Radisson Hotel in Pittsburgh. For ticket and ad information, call Pam Postler at 412/531-2990.

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh is made up of 21 fraternal benefit societies representing over 1.1 million members. The total insurance of the member societies is more than 4.5 billion dollars. Ten of the societies have their national headquarters in the Pittsburgh area. This is the most of any city in the United States.

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh has been serving the Western Pennsylvania fraternal community for 65 years. Its mission is to strengthen and promote the fraternal movement. Through monthly meetings, FSGP strives to keep its members abreast of the issues and concerns affecting fraternal business.

Each year, FSGP honors one of its members who has displayed the true fraternal spirit. The Fraternalist of the Year is awarded to an individual who has worked and dedicated himself to the cause of fraternalism.

Joseph T. Senko

Joe Senko has been a resident of Pittsburgh since his birth in 1935. Both of Joe's parents immigrated to the United States from Slovakia in the early 1900's. His father came in 1909 as a 25 year old and his mother came in 1913 as a 17 year old. They were married in a Slovak church in Pittsburgh in 1914. Joe is the youngest of seven children. Joe and his wife, Albina, who is also a native of Slovakia, are married 52 years and are the parents of six children, all college graduates, and seven grandchildren.

Joe was the only one in his family to attend a university. He received his Bachelors Degree from Duquesne University

and his Masters Degree from Robert Morris University. He is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma (National Business Honor Society) and Beta Alpha Psi (National Accounting Honor Society).

After graduating as an accountant, he worked for the Internal Revenue Service, then with an international accounting firm before starting his own accounting firm, which he owned for 29 years. He is now associated with the public accounting firm of McKeever, Varga & Senko. He is licensed as a certified public accountant in Pennsylvania, Ohio and the District of Columbia. He is also a certified financial planner and accredited as a Personal Financial Specialist. Over the years, he has received numerous awards in the accounting profession. He received the Distinguished Service award from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs and he was twice selected as the local "Accounting Advocate of the Year" by the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 2006 he was honored as the "Distinguished Accounting Alumnus" by the Duquesne University accounting faculty. He has chaired the State Board of Accountancy which issues and monitors CPA licenses in Pennsylvania.

In addition to his family and professional life, Joe does volunteer work for many non-profit organizations. He shared his years of professional experience by serving on the boards of 28 of these organizations since 1962. In fact, he has served as president of 13 of the non-profit organizations. He presently services on the board or on the advisory committee of seven non-profit organizations. Joe is also a member of ten fraternal benefit societies and seven Slovak cultural organizations. In 1995, he served as president of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh. He also served as a national officer (Chairman of Auditors) of the First Catholic Slovak Union for 12 years.

According to the U.S. census, Pennsylvania has more people of Slovak heritage than any of the 50 states. Because of the active role that Joe played in Slovak events in Pittsburgh, the Slovak Foreign Ministry appointed Joe the Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania in 1997. In his capacity as Slovak Honorary Consul, Joe has promoted Slovakia in many ways. He and Albina

have entertained many overnight guests from Slovakia at their home; he has led eight tours to Slovakia, which included approximately 250 participants; in addition to the tours, he has visited Slovakia 12 other times since 1995. Each year, he receives and answers approximately 100 phone calls and e-mails seeking information regarding Slovak matters or seeking solutions to Slovak problems. In his capacity as Honorary Consul, he also attends approximately 30 to 40 ethnic social events each year. Since Metropolitan Pittsburgh has the highest population of Slovak-Americans of any city in the United States, Joe formed a non-profit organizations (501-c-3), Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association in 1997. He has been the Executive Director since its inception. During the past 10 years, the Association has held over 70 cultural events such as Slovak language classes, Slovak cooking classes, Slovak dance classes and Slovak film festivals. WPSCA has also brought six musical folk groups and three exhibits directly from Slovakia to Pittsburgh. Some of the more prestigious WPSCA events include permanently displaying a Slovak flag in the County Court House and a biennial testimony dinner honoring local citizens who by their distinguished leadership and service have enriched the Slovak culture and heritage in the Pittsburgh area.

Joe Senko is also a charter Board member and Treasurer of the Friends of Slovakia, another non-profit organization formed in

2001, and based in Washington, D.C. in order to foster a closer relationship between the Slovak Republic and the United States.

As a parishioner of St. Bernard's Church, Joe has served as captain of the annual Minuteman fund drive, Eucharistic Minister and a member of the finance committee.

Joe is also the President of the Mount Lebanon Public Library, member of the Accounting Advisory Board at Duquesne University and Honorary Chairman of the Boy Scouts of America (Frontier District) Friends of Scouting.

The activities of which Joe is most proud are his various shipments to Slovakia. In 2004, after collecting over 800 used computers over a two-year period, Joe sent over 250 rebuilt computers, monitors and keyboards to Slovakia along with 980 computer textbooks with the help of Brother's Brother Foundation and U.S. Steel Corp. They were distributed to 45 schools in 12 different cities. The shipment was valued at \$120,000. In 2005, he sent 60,000 "Children's Highlights" magazines to Slovakia which were distributed to 830 schools, reaching about 45,000 students and teachers with the help of Brother's Brother Foundation and the U.S. Embassy. This year, Joe is sending a 40-foot shipping container to a nursing home in Bratislava. The container is filled with wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, canes, beds and other equipment valued at \$10,000.

When it comes to volunteer work, Joe likes to follow the quote of Thomas Edison, "There is a way to do it better-find it."



Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Annual Coloring Contest

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin is sponsoring an Easter Coloring Contest for all boys and girls from ages 4 through 12 who are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups of 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

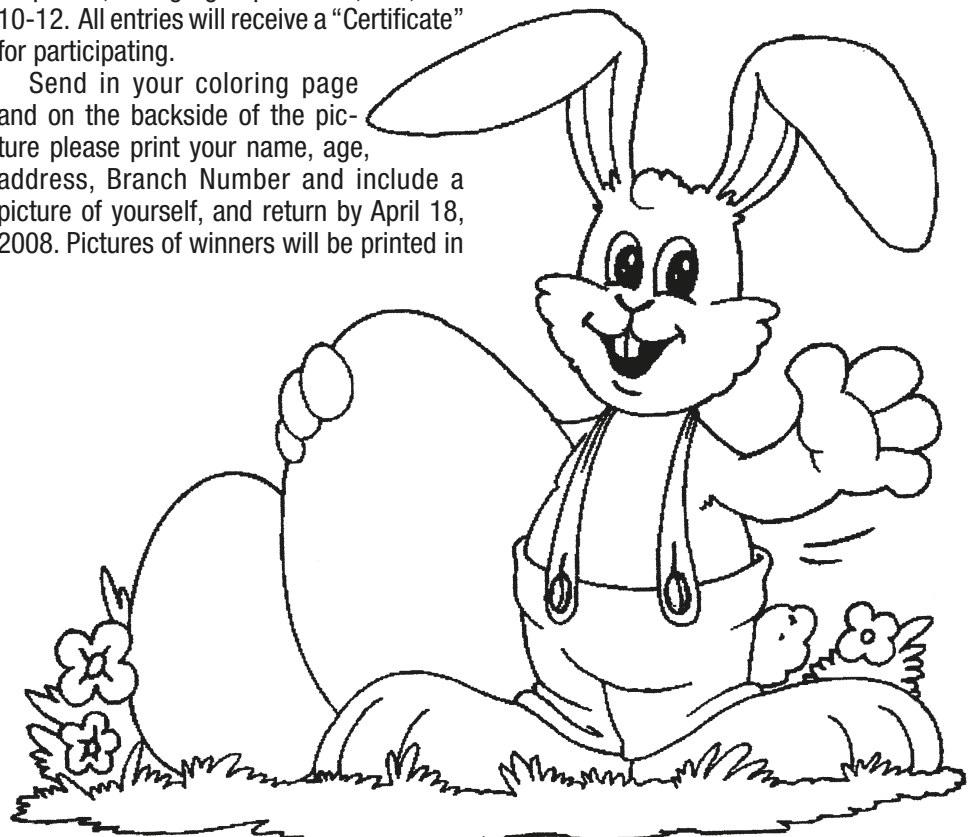
Send in your coloring page and on the backside of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself, and return by April 18, 2008. Pictures of winners will be printed in

the JEDNOTA newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on April 20, 2008.

Mail your entries to Mrs. Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311.

Good luck to all.

**Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest**



NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19	MONDAY, MARCH 10
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16	MONDAY, APRIL 7

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:
Anthony Sutherland, Editor
"JEDNOTA"
1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835
FAX: (717) 944-3107

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:
Attention: All Jednota Michigan Members Residing in Michigan

The Michigan Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program.

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is **1-800-533-6682**.

Michigan Fraternal Congress
 College Scholarship Program
 16185 Markese Avenue
 Allen Park, MI 48101-1937



Three \$500.00 non-renewable College Scholarships shall be awarded each year. The Michigan Fraternal Congress Scholarship Committee will use their discretion in selecting the honorees that are chosen. The Scholarship recipients are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

Rules and Regulations

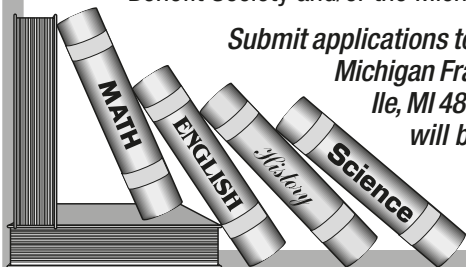
1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a fulltime student (minimum 12 credit hours) in an accredited two or four-year College, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following the receipt of proof of enrollment, which must be received by November 1, 2008. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible, or at the Annual MFC Meeting Banquet.

Selection Criteria

1. Applicants must have a minimum Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 out of a 4.0. A transcript request form must be filled out and sent along with an official high school transcript (with affixed seal by the deadline).
2. An essay (maximum 100 words) will be submitted detailing volunteer activities that the individual has participated in, including dates, with their Fraternal Benefit Society and/or the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

Submit applications to Brian Medved, Scholarship Chairperson, Michigan Fraternal Congress, 27620 Elba Drive, Grosse Ile, MI 48128 and postmarked by April 1. The winner will be notified by May 1.

Forms are also available on our Web site: MIFRATERNALCONGRESS.COM.



Coming Events

MARCH

- 9 – The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Camberg's Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania.
- 16 – A Meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meeting and lunch.
- 16 – A meeting of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District, at 1:00 p.m. at Melonie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

APRIL

- 13 – The. Msgr. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey.
- 20 – The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

❖❖❖
Lenten Retreat

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius will again host their annual Lenten Retreat on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 9, 2008, at the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania. The retreat will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Advance registration is necessary. An offering of \$30.00 is requested. Discounts are granted for groups of three or more. For more information and for registration contact Sister M. Philothea, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698; Phone: 570/275-3581.

Luba Gregus Mason Returns to New York

Slovak American recording artist and vocalist Luba Gregus Mason, debuting new songs from her upcoming album KRAZY LOVE, Broadway star of Chicago, Jekyll and Hyde, How to Succeed, The Capeman and others, returns with Daryl Kojak Trio to the Metropolitan Room, 34 West 22nd Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues), New York City. She will make her appearance February 27 through February 29 at 7:30 p.m., March 1 at 7:30 p.m., and March 2-3 at 9:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended by calling 212/206-0440; website: www.lubamason.com.



Luba Gregus Mason

Luba's recent performances in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago left fans thirsting for more. Critics note Luba has a tart, muscular voice with a brain behind it, and a lot of bristling Eastern European passion behind each lyric. Her CD release COLLAGE is available from PS Classics.

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

HOME OFFICE • 6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
 PHONE: 216-642-9406 • FAX: 216-642-4310
 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AND 15, 2008

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 and Saturday, March 14 and 15, 2008.

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.

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors on Saturday, March 15, 2008.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary at the Home Office located at 6611 Rockside Road Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131, on or before Monday, March 3, 2008.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 3, 2008.

By invitation of the President, Andrew M. Rajec, Society Members who wish to attend the morning session of the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada on Friday, March 14, 2008 may do so. Members interested in attending this meeting should call the Home Office prior to the meeting. Members are responsible for their own transportation, accommodations, meals etc.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at 216/642-9406 or 1-800-JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
 National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

From the Office of the Vice President

The Membership and Marketing Committee of "FCSU Life" is offering agent contracts to anyone in the following states who has a "state department of insurance producer's license" (state license) and wishes to sell our insurance and annuity products.

Colorado	Massachusetts	New York
Connecticut	Michigan	Ohio
Florida	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Missouri	West Virginia
Indiana	New Jersey	Wisconsin

Please send your resume and copy of your state license to:

Andrew R. Harcar Sr
 National Vice President
 First Catholic Slovak Union
 6611 Rockside Road
 Independence, OH 44131

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**Edward Mihalek
Branch 60**

McKeesport, Pennsylvania

Edward Mihalek, 80, of Glassport, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, January 15, 2008. He was born in Glassport and was the son of the late George and Susanna (Mayher) Mihalek. He was a retired carpenter for Graziano Construction. He was a member of Queen of the Rosary Church and served in the U.S. Navy in World War II.

Mr. Mihalek was the father of Edward M. (Cathy) Mihalek Jr. of Port Vue and Susan (Bill) Nichols of West Mifflin; grandfather of Keith (Holly) Nichols and Bethany (Aaron) Felter; great-grandfather of Jacob Aaron Felter; and brother of Sister Frances Louise Mihalek of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Andrew, George, and Paul Mihalek, and a sister Helen Andes.

Friends were received at the Wojciechowski Funeral Home, Glassport. A Funeral Mass was held at Queen of the Rosary Church with the Rev. Kedzierski as celebrant. Interment followed in Calvary Cemetery, Port Vue.

The officers and members of Branch 60 express their deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Margaret M. Perla, Secretary

John A. Hovanec

Branch 292

Windber, Pennsylvania

John A. Hovanec, 81, of Windber, Pennsylvania, died September 21, 2007, at Windber Medical Center.

He was born June 24, 1926, in Windber, a son of Adam J. and Susan (Ulatsky) Hovanec.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Margaret DeBarto. He is survived by a sister, Mary, wife of Paul Katch, and brother, Joseph Hovanec, both of Windber; a brother, Andrew Hovanec, married to the former Mary Doyle, of Baltimore, Maryland; brother-in-law, Eugene DeBarto of Windber; and nieces and nephews.

John was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II having fought in the Battle of Luzon, Philippines. John was the former manager at Tru-Form Manufacturing, Windber, with over 35 years of service.

He was a member of the Windber American Legion, Richland VFW, Windber Moose and Slovak Club. He was also a member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, Windber and Jednota Branch 292.

Friends were received at the William Kisiel Funeral Home, Windber. A Funeral Mass was held in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church with the Rev. Matthew Misurda as celebrant. Burial was in St. John Cantius Catholic Cemetery, Windber, with military honors by the Windber VFW Ritual Team.

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

Kvetná nedela (Palm Sunday)

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

What in English we call Palm Sunday is referred to as Kvetná nedela in Slovakia, literally meaning "Blossom Sunday" or "the Sunday of Flowers." The feast commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a last moment of glory before he experienced his painful passion and death on the cross.

Because Slovaks did not have easy access to palm trees for the holy day, they always used zelené konáriky, or Green Branches, to serve as reminders of the palm branches which the crowd used to wave as Jesus passed by them on his donkey.

The use of branches to pay tribute dates from pagan practices in pre-Christian times, and after the seventh century A.D., Christians across Europe began to bless them and use them for this feast day. When Slovaks converted to Christianity in the ninth century, they adapted what was available for them, the willow branch.

Slovaks have used a variety of names for the willow branch, which we call in English, "catkins," because they resemble a cat's tail. One of the most common terms Slovaks have favored is bahniatka, "a drooping, deciduous scaly spike of unisexual flowers without petals (Webster). We see such branches on poplar, walnut and birch trees as well. In addition to calling them bahniatka, Slovaks using dialects in different regions have referred to them as

púzalky, manky, manušky, barky, barišky, búziky, baburence, kocicky, and mládniky.

On Kvetná nedela, the priest in Slovakia would bless these branches with holy water. After Holy Mass and a customary procession around the church and through the village or town, people would take these treasured branches home and typically place them behind holy pictures on their walls. In some cases, Slovaks would place some of the branches behind the wooden beams of their ceilings in order to protect their homes from lightning. During severe storms, many people would place the branches in the window or break off a twig and toss it into the fireplace as a safeguard against bad luck. The peasants believed that bahniatka offered spiritual powers to those who used them properly or placed them in the right place.

How people specifically used the bahniatka varied from village to village. For example, in the Zvolen region of central Slovakia the locals would smoke the willow buds in the belief that it would cure sore throats. In Orava, peasants placed the buds into the first furrows they dug for spring planting, in the hope that they would reap a bountiful harvest that year.

In eastern Slovakia, peasants used the buds when planting their staple crop, the potato. In the Horehronie of central Slovakia, as spring commenced, peasants would drive their cattle out of the barn with the bahniatka

during their first trip out of the stable and into the pastures. In several communities in the southern counties of Hont and Novohrad, Slovaks proceeded directly from the church to the cemetery, where they placed the bahniatka on the graves of their loved ones.

Even today, many Slovaks in the villages continue to decorate the graves of their ancestors. Folklore has it that one could arouse the good spirit of one's ancestors, since nature was starting to spring to life with the improving weather.

In the pre-Christian era, pagans believed that souls dwelt within various trees and plants. The pagan Slavs considered plant life as a sort of intermediary between the spirits of the living and the dead. Trees and plants could supposedly facilitate the return of the spirits of those who had already passed away. When adapted to Christianity, the placing of the willow rod on their predecessors' graves served a plea for assistance, so that the spirit of former loved ones would help them in their daily chores.

During Holy Week, Slovaks also placed eggs on the graves of their loved ones. Some even put all sorts of foods there. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Slovakia banned such practices during the late 16th century in Gemer and Malohont counties.

Other customs of Kvetná nedela also smacked of egging on spiritual aid. In the Brezno area of central Slovakia, young mothers carried their infants to church in the belief that they might begin to speak at an earlier age. The child would blossom with the coming spring.

Generally for all Slovaks, as it is for us today, Kvetná nedela was a time of hope and renewal. The long winter was finally ending and prayer with the right ritual would bring about a bountiful and happy year. As Christ rose from the dead, so would the plants and spirits of the faithful arise in a new flowery celebration of life.

SCF Seeks Contributors for 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, compiles articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is currently accepting articles for inclusion in the 2008 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 May 1, 2008. The annual will be available in the Fall.

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:

*All articles must be type-written, double-spaced in Microsoft WORD format in 12 points, Times New Roman font.

*It is strongly preferred that articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Editor, at: bernsscm@yahoo.com. In this age of modern technology, it is more accurate and 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, a "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

*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.

*If at all possible, kindly send photos to accompany articles. If sending photos digi-

tally, 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).

*In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs should be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M. for inclusion into 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.

*It is preferred that articles be written in English. Articles submitted in Slovak will be sent to a third party for editing.

*As editor, Sister Bernadette Marie retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange ideas to make them clearer, etc. However, she will not substantially change the author's ideas without first consulting the author.

*Our sincere thanks to all 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.

**Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, V.E.
National President,
Slovak Catholic Federation**

*From the desk of the
Executive Secretary –*
Visit our web site!
www.fcsu.com

Exciting News – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site.

Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

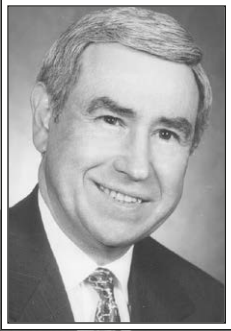
If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is fcsu@aol.com if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements such as our special 2% bonus now being offered through our annuity program, special offers on our insurance products, trips to Slovakia, and our Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet.

WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By **Joseph T. Senko**

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



Tax Check: Is Your Filing Status Accurate?

Choosing the right filing status is important. Not only does it determine the tax rate that applies to your taxable income, but it also determines the amount of standard deduction you're eligible for and the types of deductions and credits you can take. Here is an explanation of five filing status options to help you select the right one for your circumstances.

Single

You are considered to be a single filer if you are unmarried, divorced, or legally separated from your spouse on the last day of the tax year. If you have dependents that you support, you may qualify for a more favorable filing status, such as head of household or qualifying widower.

Married Filing Jointly

You may file jointly if on the last day of the tax year you were married and living together as husband and wife, or were married and living apart, but not legally separated under a divorce decree or separate maintenance agreement. You may also file jointly if your spouse died in 2007.

When you're married and file a joint return, both spouses report their income on the same Form 1040, and both are responsible for any tax due. For married couples, filing jointly generally offers the greatest tax savings. Despite the tax advantages, there are certain instances, described below, when it may not be advisable to file jointly.

Married Filing Separately

Couples who are married but file separately report their income, exemptions, and deductions on separate individual returns. In most cases, these couples pay a higher tax rate than joint filers. That is due, in part, to the fact that when you file separately you lose some of the tax credits and deductions you could have claimed on a joint return. These include the child and dependent care credit, the adoption expense credit, and the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning credits. You also lose out on deducting student loan interest.

There are, however, times when filing separately might benefit your overall tax situation. For example, if one spouse has high medical or miscellaneous itemized deductions. These expenses are deductible only to the extent that they exceed a certain percentage—7.5 percent for medical and 2 percent for miscellaneous deductions—of your adjusted gross income (AGI). By filing separately, the AGI for each spouse is reduced, making it easier to qualify for the deduction.

Head of Household

Head of Household tax rates are lower than those for single or married filing separately taxpayers. To be eligible, you must be unmarried at the end of the year and not entitled to file as a qualifying widow (er) with a dependent child. You must also have paid more than half the cost of maintaining the main home of a qualifying person who lived in the home for more than six months. In some cases, married persons who have not lived with their spouses may qualify for this status.

Qualifying Widow or Widower with Qualifying Child

Eligibility to use the qualifying widow (er) with dependent child status is generally two years following your spouse's death if you have not remarried. To qualify, you must meet the following criteria: you were entitled to file a joint return with your spouse the year before he or she died, regardless of whether you actually did; you have a child, stepchild, or adopted or foster child that you claim as a dependent; for the past year, you paid more than half the cost of maintaining your main home in which your dependent child lived for more than half of the year. A dependent child away at college is considered to be living in your home during the months the child is at school.

As you can see, choosing the right filing status can make a significant difference in the amount of taxes you pay.

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

the Book Corner

Celebrate Slovak Independence on March 14

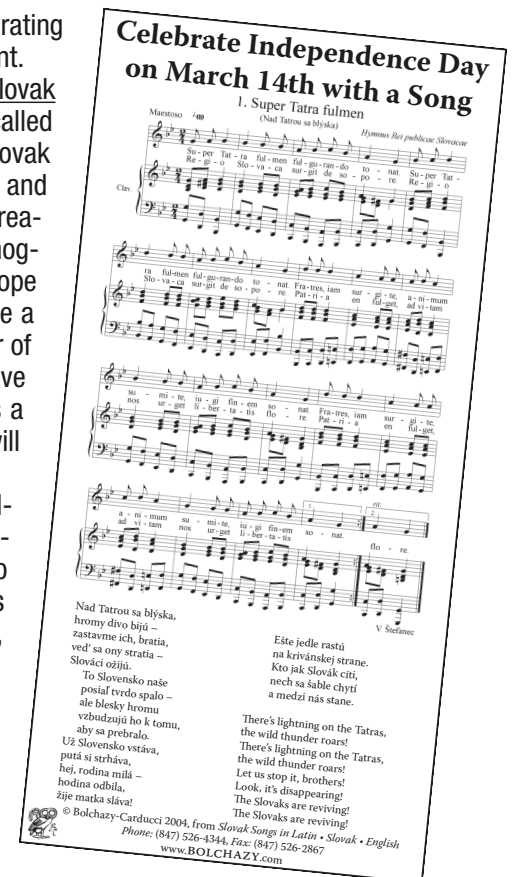
Shown at right is the Slovak hymn celebrating Slovakia's independence for your enjoyment.

The large 8 1/2 by 11 book is called Slovak Songs in Latin, Slovak, and English. Also called Cantus Populi Slavaci, it contains 170 Slovak hymns and folk songs--in Latin, Slovak, and English--with 170 music scores. What a treasure! What an heirloom! It is a virtual ethnography about the people in the heart of Europe who after a millennium of struggle became a sovereign state in 1993 and a full member of the European community. The folk songs have been newly edited in Slovak. This truly is a gift of Slovakia's culture and tradition that will enrich the world and be treasured forever.

The Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation is a not-for-profit educational foundation that takes the initiative to create, produce, publish, and promote books about significant aspects of Slovak culture, history, and ethnography and to showcase Slovak art.

Should you wish to order the address is:
 Slovak-American Cultural
 International Foundation, Inc.
 1000 Brown St., Unit 2
 Wauconda, IL 60084

ISBN 978-0-86516-567-0 \$33.00 & \$7.00 shipping



2008 International Tournaments

Bowling
 April 25-27
 Wedgewood Lanes ~ Youngstown, Ohio

Golf
 July 12-13
 Tam O'Shanter ~ Canton, Ohio

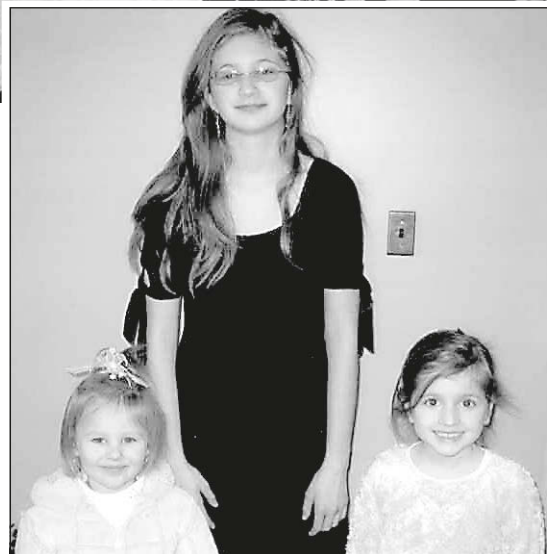
If each member would sign up just one new member,
 we could double our Society immediately.
Think About It!

2007 Holiday Parties



Top photo, left to right, back row: Julia Kovac, Daniel Zelenak, Joseph Kovac. Left to right, front row: Nicholas Fleck, Victoria Kovac, Sofia Prusak, Zuzanna Prusak, Nathan Fleck.

The annual meeting of Branch 743 of Sterling Heights, Michigan, included a Christmas party for the younger members of the Branch. Prior to discussing new business, the children in attendance played musical instruments and sang songs. They were presented with a Christmas gift bag of candy and school supplies.



Left to Right: Sofia Prusak, Julia Kovac, Victoria Kovac.

Scenes from the Branch 2 Family Holiday Gathering

Branch 2 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, hosted a Family Holiday Gathering at North Park Ice Skating Rink. Before skating, those in attendance filled out Valentines for the National Salute to Hospitalized and Paralyzed Veterans. Bingo games were played with the non-skaters. Branch 2 provided refreshments, skate rental, and Bingo prizes for everyone in attendance.



Kent-Dudince Sister City Association Announces Events

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association (KDSC) will hold its Fifth Annual Banquet on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane, State Road 59, in Kent, Ohio. The event will begin with a social hour at 1:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 2:00 and a program at 3:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band. The cultural program will feature The Pittsburgh Slovians and Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and must be ordered in advance. Make checks payable to Kent-Dudince Sister City Association, and mail to Rudy Bachna, 1544 Vine St., Kent, OH 44240. Please include the names of all the guests.

On Friday, May 9, 2008, the Kent-Dudince Sister City Association will host the nationally known musical group "Harmonia". The concert will be held at the Kent Stage located in downtown Kent, Ohio. Advance tickets are \$15.00 per person. Harmonia explores the shared musical roots of the culturally rich territories of Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Hungary and western Ukraine.

The association will sponsor a Heritage Tour to Europe, September 3-16, 2008. KDSC President Rudy Bachna will be the tour escort. For more information call Rudy at 330/673-3255.



Egg Eggstravaganza

The 3rd annual Egg Eggstravaganza will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2008, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall, 185 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. This year, the Egg Eggstravaganza is being sponsored by local egg artists and the St. John's Ethnic Crafts Club.

The Egg Eggstravaganza will feature various egg artists, who will display and demonstrate the various methods and styles of decorating eggs for the Easter Season. All egg artists are welcome to set up a demonstration and sales table for a nominal fee. Egg artists will demonstrate etching styles, egg scratching as well as other techniques.

In addition to the egg artists, there will be an Egg Bazaar featuring egg dyes, beeswax, tools, books, videos and pysanky kits for sale. Traditional items used in ethnic Easter baskets will also be available such as embroidered covers, candles, lamb butter molds, egg wraps, sugar lambs, parish cook books, and much more. There will be a Children's Craft Corner, storytelling, pysanky jigsaw puzzle area and a display of traditional Easter basket covers.

A Lenten Luncheon Menu will be available for purchase. There is no admission fee. For further information please contact Bonnie Balas at 724/438-8412.



L'uba Greguš Mason príde zase do New Yorku

Profesionálna herečka a speváčka L'uba Greguš Mason, známa z viacerých popredných úloh v divadelných hrách na Broadway v New Yorku - Jekyll & Hyde, Chicago, How to succeed, Capeman - bude zase vystupovať v Metropolitan Room na 34 West 22nd St. (5th & 6th) v Manhattan. Predstavenia budú 27., 28., 29. februára 2008 večer o 7:30 hodine; 1. marca o 7:30; 2. a 3. marca o 9:30. Jej show je pod názvom The Collage Tour. Záujemcovia si môžu urobiť rezerváciu na tel. č. (212) 206-0440; www.lubamason.com.

L'uba nedávno zorganizovala kabaretné predstavenia v Los Angeles, San Franciscu, Chicagu, Edgewater a dostala vynikajúce ohodnotenie od nadšeného obecnstva a viacerých odborníkov v muzikálnom svete: JAZZ TIMES "príjemná a obdivuhodná fyzická kvalifikácia, TIME OUT NY mohutná citová interpretácia piesní". Po predstavení v San Franciscu odborný divadelný kritik napísal: "L'uba má všetko, čo pre kariéru potrebuje. Má vynikajúci hlas, krásu a mnohé skúsenosti z Broadway. Teraz si môže pridať aj titul kabaretnej umelkyne a "Recording star".



L'uba Greguš Mason

Reorganizácia gréckokatolíckych diecéz na Slovensku

Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. sa rozhodol reorganizovať gréckokatolícke diecézy na Slovensku.

1. Vyzdvihol Prešovskú eparchiu na metropolitné sídlo, povýšiac J. E. Mons. Babjaka, SJ na hodnosť arcibiskupa - metropolitu.

2. Vyzdvihol Košický apoštolský exarchát na eparchiálne sídlo, povýšiac J. E. Mons. Milana Chautura, CSsR na košického eparchu.

3. Zriadil Bratislavskú eparchiu s teritóriom vyčleneným z Prešovskej eparchie a menoval za prvého bratislavského eparchu d.p. Petra Rusnáka.

Životopis d. p. Petra Rusnáka

Dôstojný pán Peter Rusnák sa narodil 6. septembra 1950 v Humennom. Je synom gréckokatolíckeho kňaza, ktorý bol počas komunistického režimu pernasledovaný a vyhostený s celou svojou rodinou do Čiech. Následne bolo dovolené rodine vrátiť sa na Slovensko, avšak s podmienkou, že sa budú

zdržiavať v Bratislave. V roku 1982 vstúpil ako 32-ročný do kňazského seminára v Bratislave. Za kňaza bol vysvätený 16. júna 1987 v Prešove. V rokoch 1987-1990 sa venoval pastorácii v rôznych farnostiach ako kaplán a potom ako farár. V roku 1990 sa stal spirituálom v gréckokatolíckom seminári v Prešove a aktívne spolupracoval na jeho obnovení. V rokoch 1995-1998 bol biskupským vikárom a kancelárom eparchiálnej kúrie v Prešove. V období rokov 1990-2003 vyučoval pastorálnu teológiu a homiletiku na Gréckokatolíckej teologickej fakulte Prešovskej univerzity v Prešove. V roku 1998 sa vrátil do aktívnej pastorácie a bol menovaný za farára v Bardejove. Od roku 2003 je zodpovedný ako farár a dekan za diasporu gréckokatolíckych veriacich v Bratislave. 30. januára 2008 bol vymenovaný pápežom Benediktom XVI. za prvého bratislavského eparchu.

TK KBS

Slovensko vyrieši problémy blokujúce Lisabonskú zmluvu

Brusel (TASR) – Predseda Európskej komisie (EK) Jose Manuel Barroso verí, že slovenské politické strany dokážu vyriešiť interné problémy, ktoré im bránia v ratifikácii Lisabonskej zmluvy. Šéf EK to uviedol v súvislosti so situáciou v slovenskom parlamente a v reakcii na odklad hlasovania o tomto dokumente na Slovensku na neurčito. "K odkladu došlo z vnútropolitických dôvodov, ktoré nebudem komentovať. Viem, že Lisabonská zmluva má na Slovensku širokú podporu a že hlavné politické strany ju veľmi podporujú, takže dúfam, že sa problémy vyriešia, aby sa mohla zmluva ratifikovať," konštatoval Barroso. Šéf EK privítal postup francúzskeho zákonodarného zboru, ktorý nedávno ratifikoval Lisabonskú zmluvu. Francúzsko tak urobilo ako prvé spomedzi "starých" členských krajín. Stalo sa tak takmer tri roky po tom, ako francúzski voliči odmietli v referende pôvodne plánovaný projekt európskej ústavnej zmluvy, ktorá v dôsledku týchto rozhodnutí a rovnakého postoja holandských voličov stroskotala. Doteraz Lisabonskú zmluvu ratifikovalo Maďarsko, Slovinsko, Malta a Rumunsko. Pre vstúpenie zmluvy do platnosti ju musí ratifikovať všetkých 27 členských krajín EÚ.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Členská schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Pozývame všetkých členov ako aj delegátov spolkov v našom okolí na členskú schôdzu Okresu Princa Pribinu v nedeľu 16. marca 2008. Slávnosť sa začne o 11:00 hodine ráno slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni.

Deti, ktoré sa zúčastnia poznávacieho putovného tábora na Slovensku a ich rodičia, budú mať príležitosť sa zoznámiť s pedagogickým vedúcim skupiny z Los Angeles.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Sviatok sv. Jána Bosca

Saleziáni sú na Slovensku od roku 1924

Bratislava (TASR) – Členovia saleziánskej rodiny na Slovensku i vo svete si 31. januára pripomenuli sviatok sv. Jána Bosca, zakladateľa rehole saleziánov zameranej na výchovu mládeže.

Svätý Ján Bosco zomrel presne pred 120 rokmi - 31. januára 1888. Don Bosco (1815 - 1888) ako kňaz zasvätil svoj život výchove chudobných chlapcov v talianskom priemyselnom Turíne. V jeho diele po celom svete pokračujú dve rehoľné rodiny, ktoré založil, a to – Spoločnosť sv. Františka Saleského, teda saleziáni a Inštitút dcér Márie Pomocnice - saleziánky. S nimi úzko spolupracuje Združenie saleziánov spolupracovníkov, ktoré tiež založil Don Bosco. Do saleziánskej rodiny patria ešte ďalšie rehoľné spoločenstvá, sekulárne inštitúty a združenia, ktoré sa inšpirovali dielom sv. Jána Bosca. Na Slovensku je dielo Dona Bosca prítomné od roku 1924. Dnes je tu 255 saleziánov, vyše 80 sestier saleziánok, 905 saleziánov spolupracovníkov, vyše 150 členiek sekulárneho inštitútu Do-

brovoľníčok Dona Bosca a tisícky mladých v dvoch združeniach - DOMKA a LAURA.

Saleziáni sa venujú výchove mládeže, organizujú rôzne voľnočasové aktivity pre deti a mladých, najmä športové, kultúrne a duchovné podujatia. V Bratislave dnes pôsobi okolo 80 členov saleziánskej rodiny, je tu niekoľko saleziánskych domov - centier, v ktorých sú telocvične, ihriská, herne, kde mládež môže tráviť voľný čas pri športe, v divadelných či hudobných krúžkoch, na duchovných a iných podujatiach. Ženy - saleziánky majú v Bratislave dva domy, kde pracujú hlavne s dievčatami a spravujú materskú školu v Petržalke. Saleziánske zariadenia sú vo viacerých mestách na Slovensku. V Šaštíne už tradične pôsobi saleziánske gymnázium, v Žiline je učilište pre chlapcov, v Michalovciach, Bardejove a na iných miestach východného Slovenska sa saleziáni venujú práci s Rómami.

K 60. výročiu svadby Dorothy a Andy Chuba

*Láska - láska, je najkrajší dar Boží,
ktorú nám Boh dal a priamo, do náručia vložil.*

*60 požehnaných rokov, uplynulo do mora večnosti,
čo ste spolu, zbožne pri oltári stáli
a skrušeným srdcom, lásku a vernosť si dali.
Pod sv. Križom, vyslovili, to snubné, krásne "Áno",
by spoločný, rodinný život ste začali, to pekné "Ráno".*

*Nuž, k tomuto tak významnému spoločnému sviatku,
chceli by sme pridať, aj naše modlitby na pamiatku.
Nech Vám to potrebné, dobré, zdravie slúži,
nech skutkom sa stane, po čom srdce a duša túži.
Nech to sv. Božské srdce, sa pre Vás, dokorán pootvorí
a tá, pekná 60-ročná láska, Vás ešte, šťastnejšími spraví.*

*Andy, nech tá tvoja harmonika, nikdy nezhrdzavie,
ale vo zvukoch krásy, všetko vyjadrí, všetko povie.
Nech, americko-slovenská krv, vždy vo Vás prúdi,
my boli sme a vždy budeme, na Vás hrdí.
Vieme, že aj veľké, slovenské srdcia máte,
že nám z nich, polovičku z lásky, vďačne dáte.*

*Nuž, toto je k Vášmu sviatku, úprimné, zbožné prianie,
ku ktorému vyprosujeme, od Pána, to "Božie požehnanie"!*

Jozef Smák

"Fantázia sa zvyčajne začína tam, kde sa končí komunikácia."
John Powell

Nové publikácie a DVD zo Slovenska

Kniha 1000 zaujímavostí Slovenska
Bratislava (TASR) – Vo vydavateľstve Ikar práve vychádza obrazovo-textová publikácia 1000 zaujímavostí Slovenska. Jej autor Ján Lacika sa v knihe venuje histórii známych pamiatok, prírodným úkazom a zaujímavým lokalitám Slovenska.

“Nebolo ľahké rozhodnúť, čo z množstva zozbieraného materiálu o Slovensku ponechať a čo vylúčiť. V mnohých prípadoch rozhodlo estetické kritérium. Niektoré významné historické pamiatky, najmä kaštiele a sakrálné stavby, boli pre zlý technický stav z exkluzívneho zoznamu vylúčené. Rovnako ako niektoré zaujímavosti, ktoré sú ťažko fotografovateľné,” uvádza v úvodnej poznámke knihy Lacika.

Autormi fotografií v publikácii sú Ján Lacika, Karol Demuth, Jozef Lomnický, Karol Kallay, Michal Rengevič, Ladislav Sternmuller. Podľa informácií PR manažérky vydavateľstva Ikar Márie Leškovej pripravuje vydavateľstvo aj vydanie českej, anglickej a nemeckej mutácie knihy. Publikáciu oficiálne uviedli do života 6. februára v Slovenskom národnom múzeu v Bratislave mimoriadny a splnomocnený veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Vincent Obsitnik a prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič.

Kniha Najkrajšie mestá predstavuje SR ako krajinu nádherných miest

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovensko ako krajinu nádherných miest predstavuje nová publikácia v edícii Kultúrne krásy Slovenska z bratislavského vydavateľstva Dajama. Okrem miest zapísaných do zoznamu svetového dedičstva UNESCO je v knihe Najkrajšie mestá výber turisticky najzaujímavejších mestských pamiatkových rezervácií (MPR). “Niektoré sú nimi už 57 rokov, najmladšia pamiatková rezervácia je od roku 1995 Štiavnické Bane,” konštatuje autorka publikácie Viera Dvoráková. Podľa nej MPR predstavujú slovenské rodinné striebro – sú to výnimočné lokality našich dejín, ktoré treba chrániť pred tlakom investorských aktivít. Čitateľ sa dozvie, že v druhej polovici 19. storočia malo Slovensko 25 slobodných kráľovských miest i 227 miest a mestiečiek. Historické mestá s chránenou zástavbou predstavujú najhodnotnejšie súčasti hmotného kultúrneho dedičstva a pamiatkového fondu. Od roku 1950

ich vyhlasujú za pamiatkové rezervácie. Že nerozhoduje iba ich veľkosť, dokazuje počet obyvateľov od 425,500 v Bratislave po 800 v Štiavnických Baniach. Táto obec púta technickými banskými pamiatkami, šachtami či zalesnenými mohutnými haldami po banskej ťažbe, dreveným opevnením zo 16. storočia s renesančnou vnútornou bránou, zachovanými strieľňami a päťbokou baštou. Pozoruhodný je aj kostol s kláštorom hieronymitanov – mohutný komplex tejto rehole a baroková krajinárska dominanta – Kalvária. Vo výbere 18 MPR je aj obec Podolíneč, časť Popradu Spišská Sobota či menšie malokarpatské mestečko Svätý Jur s takmer 5,000 obyvateľmi. Nechybujú revitalizované historické centrá ôsmich krajských a ďalších vynovených miest. Okrem histórie je každá obec či mesto predstavené najzaujímavejšími objektmi a ďalšími pozoruhodnosťami, kvôli ktorým sa oplatí spoznávať a zachovávať ich históriu. Kniha vyšla s finančnou podporou Ministerstva kultúry SR.

Virtuálna 3D Bratislava je na DVD

Bratislava (TASR) – Projekt Multimediaálnej historickej Bratislavy na DVD predstavili autori koncom januára na tlačovej konferencii. Sprístupňuje najmodernejšími virtuálnymi technológiami to najlepšie z minulosti v lokalite historického jadra Bratislavy. Ide o bezkonkurenčný súbor akademických projektov, ktorý nemá v strednej Európe obdobu. Na Univerzite Komenského vyvinuli špeciálny softver nielen na rýchle prezeranie rozsiahlych dát, ale tvorbu virtuálnych prechádzok, preletov a animácií. Originálny multimediaálny kiosk nainštalujú pre verejnosť v priestoroch Mestského múzea v Bratislave. Ako dodal koordinátor Virtuálnej 3D Bratislavy Andrej Ferko, projekt sa v rámci európskej súťaže Top Talent Award prebojoval medzi dvoma najlepšimi. Na spoluautorskom diele sa podieľalo takmer sto Bratislavčanov. Prvých 1000 kusov DVD sa postupne dostane do predaja. Ešte nie je stanovená cena, ale Ferko predpokladá, že ak sa podarí osloviť dostatok sponzorov, ktorým prezentácia historickej Bratislavy pomôže v podnikateľských aktivitách napríklad v hoteliárskej či reštauračnej činnosti, mohlo by sa DVD predávať za jedno euro.

Dôležité oznámenie

Ako sme už predtým oznámili v prvom štvrtroku 2008 zvyšujeme počet našich členov, ktorí skoro stopercentne dostanú časopis JEDNOTA. Aby sme udržali v súlade naše celkové náklady musíme znížiť počet vychádzajúcich čísiel z 26 za celý rok na 21.

Veľkosť a kvalita časopisu Jednota zostane nezmenená.

Dôvod k týmto zmenám je jednoduchý. JEDNOTA je náš hlavný komunikačný prostriedok s našimi členmi. Mnoho z našich členov ani nevie, že vôbec existujeme.

Chceme komunikovať s našimi členmi. Odkedy je náš časopis na internete na www.fcsu.com, nietorí hádam dajú prednosť si ho prečítať na internete, miesto doručenia poštou. Ak sa rozhodnete pre JEDNOTU len na internete, oznámte nám to láskave telefonicky 1-800-JEDNOTA (1-800-533-6682) alebo e-mailom: fcsu@aol.com aby sme mohli vaše meno vyňať z nášho zoznamu Jednoty zasielanej poštou .

Ján Beliansky na večnosti

Oznamujeme príbuzným, blízkym priateľom a známym, že dňa 3. februára 2008 usnul tíska vo veku 85 rokov Ján Beliansky . Jeho telo bolo spolpolnené v Lakewoode, Ohio, USA.

Spomienková omša sa za nebohého konala v sobotu 9. februára o 12:00 hodine napoludnie v kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Lakewood, OH. a v rodnej dedine Veľký Klíž si uctili pamiatku zosnulého zvonením zvonov.

Janko Beliansky sa narodil na Slovensku 17. septembra 1922 vo Veľkom Klíži. Bol jediným emigrantom, ktorému Matica slovenská udelila čestné členstvo ešte za jeho života.

Pozostatky jeho tela budú uložené do hrobu vo Veľkom Klíži v ktorom odpočívajú jeho rodičia Ján a Magdaléna (rod. Gogolová) Beliansky.

Nech odpočíva vo svätom pokoji a nech je mu slovenská zem, ktorú tak nesmierne miloval, ľahká.

**Karolína, Marián a Emily Altman
Veronika a Michal Kovacocy
(priatelia zosnulého)**

In Memoriam

Ján (John) Beliansky

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

príležitosť sa rozvíjať ako slobodný národ v modernom svete. Po skončení druhej svetovej vojny, kedy Slovensko bolo znovu stredobodom nepokojov, Ján za svoje národné a protikomunistické aktivity bol kruto prenasledovaný a väznený. 1. januára 1993, Jánov sen slobodného Slovenska sa stal skutočnosťou “Zamatový rozvod”. Od tohto roku podnikol nespočetné množstvo ciest na Slovensko nielen navštíviť svojich starých priateľov, ale hlavne pomôcť svojej rodnej domovine.

Keď prišiel do Spojených štátov a po skončení svojich vysokoškolských štúdií mohol si nájsť zamestnanie s vyššie plateným miestom, namiesto toho si vybral prácu v oblasti žurnalistiky a tak zasvätil celý svoj život obhajobe a upozorňovaniu slovenských záujmov. Niektorí by to mohol nazvať definíciou hrdinu.

Ján bol vlastencom silného presvedčenia, s ktorými nie každý súhlasil. Nebál sa pristúpiť k veci, ktorú považoval za správnu a vysloviť k nej svoj osobný názor. Budeme predovšetkým pamätať na neho ako príkladného Slováka a obetavého pracovníka Jednoty. Všetciia hlavní úradníci a členovia Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty si na neho budú s úctou spomínať.

Nech odpočíva v pokoji v mene Pánovom. S Bohom Janko!

**Andrej M. Rajec
predseda IKSJ**

Ťažba uránu na Spiši nedostane šancu, zelenú má cestovný ruch

Spišská Nová Ves (TASR) – Prípadné obnovenie ťažby uránu na Spiši nemá šancu, aktivity v tejto oblasti sú utlmené. Prioritou je rozvoj turizmu.

Primátor Spišskej Novej Vsi Ján Volný uviedol, že región má všetky predpoklady na rozvoj turizmu. Ako uviedol, nedávno sa stretol aj s pracovným tímom pripravovaného projektu výstavby rozsiahleho športovo-rekreačného centra. S iniciatívou prišla britská spoločnosť Dorchester Group, pre ktorú snahu o obnovenie ťažby uránu v Novoveskej Hute boli nezlučiteľné s rozvojom turizmu.

“Slovenský projekt pod názvom HorSKIPark je rozsahom menší a mohol by byť realizovaný do jedného roka. Predpokladá výstavbu zjazdovky s kapacitou vlekov 4 tisíc osôb za hodinu. Stredisko by bolo porovnateľné s podobnými na Slovensku, asi dvakrát väčšie ako Plejsy v Krompachoch,” priblížil Volný. Vyrásť má na severných svahoch Muráňa, teda v lokalite, kde sa napriek miernym zimám dlhodobo udrží sneh. “Ide o investíciu spoločnosti Skilab Spišská Nová Ves. Mesto sa chce podieľať na vybudovaní záchytného parkoviska a riešení ciest v Novoveskej Hute. Predpokladáme, že na budúcu zimu by sa v časti areálu už mohlo lyžovať,” konštatoval primátor. Podľa neho mesto Spišská Nová Ves bolo aj doposiaľ bránou do Slovenského raja, ale vybudovaním záchytného parkoviska a cestnej infraštruktúry sa otvorí priama cesta.

Jednoznačná orientácia na cestovný ruch súvisí aj s poklesom disponibilných pracovných síl v regióne, ktorý v minulosti patrilo mierou nezamestnanosti k najviac postihnutým na Slovensku. Výrazne mu pomohol príchod brazílskeho investora. Spoločnosť Embraco, ktorá sa etablovala na Spiši pred desiatimi rokmi, zamestnáva v súčasnosti 2,350 ľudí. “Potenciál odbornej pracovnej sily je už limitovaný. Súčasná miera nezamestnanosti v regióne predstavuje asi 11 percent, ale podstatnú časť tvoria dlhodobo nezamestnaní,” uviedol Volný.



Slovenský raj v zime.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Vypredané sály čakali sólistov banskobystričkej Štátnej opery (SO) v Japonsku počas už 14. koncertného turné, z ktorého sa nedávno vrátili. Ich umeniu tleskalo v mestách Hakodate, Sapporo a Jokohama takmer 4,000 milovníkov operného umenia. V Jokohame absolvovali Banskobystričania až šesť vystúpení v rámci Jokohamských operných týždňov pod záštitou ministra kultúry SR Mareka Maďariča a veľvyslanca SR v Japonsku Petra Vršanského. Operní speváci si nachystali pre náročného japonského diváka prierez známou Verdiho operou Traviata a výber árií z najpopulárnejších operetných a muzikálových diel. Banskobystričania majú už v rukách pozvánky na ďalšie dve turné do Japonska začiatkom júla 2008 a v januári 2009.

Školy v Žilinskom kraji reagujú na dopyt po kvalifikovaných pracovníkoch v automobilovom priemysle. Pre automobilky KIA Motors, PSA Peugeot či Volkswagen Slovakia bude päť stredných škôl v zriaďovateľskej pôsobnosti žilinského VÚC od budúceho školského roka vzdelávať študentov v rámci nového projektu Tvorba nových vzdelávacích programov v odbornom vzdelávaní pre potreby automobilového priemyslu. Činnosti pri výrobe automobilov si však vyžadujú aj iný druh pracovnej sily ako v súčasnosti ponúka školský systém na Slovensku. Takto zapojením škôl do projektu by sa mali zlepšiť možnosti pre vzdelávanie študentov.

Bývalý minister obrany František Kašický, sa stal minulý týždeň zamestnancom ministerstva zahraničných vecí a pripravuje sa na diplomatický post. Potvrdil to po rokovaní vlády šéf rezortu Ján Kubiš. Podľa zatiaľ nepotvrdených informácií by mal byť vymenovaný za veľvyslanca Slovenska pri NATO v Bruseli.

So zaujímavým projektom Informácie - most medzi generáciami oslovila Základná škola a Občianske združenie Klub priateľov školy staršiu generáciou v obci Sačurov. Počas troch mesiacov sa budú snažiť odstraňovať bariéru medzi starými rodičmi a ich vnukmi - žiakmi Základnej školy. Pravidelne sa budú stretávať v počítačových učebniach, kde budú malí učitelia učiť svojich dedkov a babky pracovať s počítačmi a internetom.

Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš 7. februára 2008 vymenoval členov predsedníctva Slovenskej komisie pre UNESCO na ďalšie štvorročné obdobie. Dňa 23. januára sa konalo Valné zhromaždenie Slovenskej komisie pre UNESCO, na ktorom plénum zvolilo za predsedu Ľudovíta Molnára, dekana Fakulty informatiky a informačných technológií Slovenskej technickej univerzity v Bratislave a za podpredsedu Júliusa Oszlányiho, riaditeľa Ústavu krajinskej ekológie Slovenskej akadémie vied. Členmi predsedníctva sú predstavitelia intelektuálnej obce, vysokých škôl, vedeckých pracovísk a kultúrnych inštitúcií Slovenska. Hlavným cieľom UNESCO je rozvoj medzinárodnej spolupráce a porozumenia v oblasti výchovy a vzdelávania, spoločenských a prírodných vied, životného prostredia, kultúry, informácií a komunikácií. UNESCO je súčasťou systému Organizácie Spojených národov, združuje 193 členských štátov. Slovenská komisia pre UNESCO je poradným orgánom vlády, ktorý sústreďuje intelektuálny potenciál potrebný pre činnosť UNESCO v Slovenskej republike a smerom do zahraničia.

Príspevkom k skvalitneniu zdravotnej starostlivosti o ženy v prešovskej nemocnici je dar v hodnote 800 tisíc Sk, ktorý 8. februára odovzdala manželka prezidenta SR Silvia Gašparovičová od svojej nadácie Vzdelanie a zdravie pre všetkých. Ide o vybavenie pracoviska jednotky intenzívnej starostlivosti Gynekologicko-pôrodnickej kliniky Fakultnej nemocnice s poliklinikou (FNsP) J. A. Reimana. Kúpa medicínskych prístrojov pre nemocnice patrí k stabilným cieľom nadácie. Nové pracovisko je vďaka daru kompletne zariadené, napr. i polohovateľnými lôžkami a slúži pacientkám v kritickom stave a po náročných operačných výkonoch. Gašparovičová slávnostným prestrihnutím pásky uviedla do prevádzky aj pracovisko invazívnej kardiológie a v jeho rámci aj nový angiograf röntgen na vyšetrenie srdcových ciev.

Pri príležitosti 150. výročia lurských zjavení sa 9. februára uskutočnilo v Kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Puškinovej ulici v Bratislave prezentácia filmového dokumentu o histórii bratislavskej Lurskej jaskyni na Hlbokej ceste. Približne polhodinový dokument vznikol na základe knihy cirkevného historika Jozefa Haľka Dejiny lurskej jaskynky vydané pred dvoma rokmi. Dokument obsahuje aj svedectvá veriacich. Po prezentácii a diskusií o dokumente podujatie pokračovalo sviečkovou procesiou z kostola do Lurskej jaskynky na Hlbokej ceste a modlitbou ruženca. Na záver sa uskutočnila svätá omša v Kostole Panny Márie Snežnej na Kalvárii. Pápež Benedikt XVI. udelil v jubilejnom roku 2008 všetkým mariánskym miestam, spojeným s úctou Panne Márii Lurskej, možnosť získať za obvyklých podmienok úplné odpustky. História bratislavskej Lurskej jaskynky sa datuje od roku 1892. Založila ju grófkya Szapáry, ktorá nechala postaviť aj známy Modrý kostolík v Bratislave a venovala sa charitatívnej činnosti. V Lurskej jaskynke sa podľa informácií Jozefa Haľka nachádza viac ako 4,200 ďakovných a pamätných tabúľ veriacich v 12 jazykoch vrátane nápisov v azbuke.

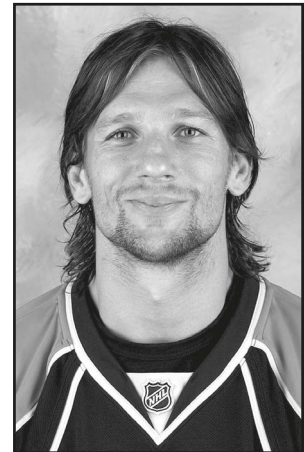
Najvyššie ocenenie Trenčianskej univerzity Alexandra Dubčeka - Zlatú medailu Maximiliána Hella - odovzdal 7. februára prezidentovi Ivanovi Gašparovičovi rektor univerzity Juraj Wagner. Vyznamenanie "za zásluhy o rozvoj univerzity, vedy a vzdelanosti" Gašparovič získal už vlni v septembri pri oslave 10. výročia univerzity, na ceremónii sa však nezúčastnil. Vyznamenania získali aj premiér Robert Fico, minister školstva Ján Mikolaj aj expremiér Vladimír Mečiar, za ktorého vlády univerzita vznikla. Cenu získal aj exprezident Rudolf Schuster. Nasledoval ho podpredseda vlády Dušan Čaplovič, predseda Trenčianskeho samosprávneho kraja Pavol Sedláček, primátor Trenčína Branislav Celler a rektor Technickej univerzity v Košiciach Juraj Sinay. Univerzita ocenenia udeľovala po prvý raz.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Slovenský hokejista Zedník vážne zranený

Buffalo (TASR) Slovenský hokejista Richard Zedník utrpel počas nedeľňajšieho zápasu 10. februára 2008 NHL Buffalo - Florida (5:3) vážne zranenie krku. Poranenie mu zapríčinil v polovici záverečnej tretiny kurióznym spôsobom jeho vlastný spoluhráč Olli Jokinen, ktorý v páde Zedníkovi rozťal korčulou krčnú tepnu a klzisko HSBC Arény zaliala krv. Zedník nestratil vedomie, ale pudom sebazáchovy si chytil krvácajúcu ranu, čím si pravdepodobne zachránil život. Okamžite ho odviezli do nemocnice Buffalo General Hospital, kde sa podrobil operačnému zákroku a jeho stav je stabilizovaný.

Na súčasnej snímke slovenský hokejista Richard Zedník z Floridy Panthers.



Richard Zedník
FOTO TASR/AP

V Košiciach výstava fotografií o slovenskom živote v USA

Košice (TASR) - Fotografie súvisiace s rozvojom slovenského života v USA, fotografie zakladateľskej osobnosti slovenskej fotografie Pavla Sochaňa, žijúceho na Slovensku i v USA, ako aj mnohých amerických Slovákov a osobností so slovenskými koreňmi, približuje výstava Slovensko, Slováci - Súvislosti na historických pohľadniciach a fotografiách, ktorú otvorili v košickej Štátnej vedeckej knižnici (SVK). Výstava vznikla v rámci medzinárodného projektu Konzervovanie fotografie. Prezentuje aj techniku na diagnostikovanie fotografií, ukážky najčastejších poškodení, výber pohľadníc z filokartistickej zbierky Slovenskej národnej knižnice v Martine či ukážky dagerotypov. Ide o projekt vzájomnej spolupráce Gettyho konzervačného

inštitútu v americkom Los Angeles, ktorý poskytol najmodernejšiu techniku na konzervovanie dobových fotografií a pohľadníc, Vysoké školy výtvarných umení v Bratislave a Slovenskej národnej knižnice v Martine. Cieľom projektu je pomôcť pri ochrane bohatého fotografického dedičstva v krajinách strednej, južnej a východnej Európy.

Oblasťou ďalšej spolupráce medzi týmito troma inštitúciami je rozvíjanie vzdelávacích aktivít pre oblasť konzervovania a reštaurovania fotografie, pripravovanie spoločných projektov, hľadanie nových metód práce, budovanie spoločného dokumentačného centra a organizovanie kurzov, letných škôl a stáží pre záujemcov o identifikáciu, konzervovanie a reštaurovanie fotografií.

Vážení krajanovia, milé Slovenky a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí

Opätovne odovzdávame minulosti jeden kalendárny rok, ktorý nám síce z nášho života ukrojil 365 dní, ale nás aj obohatil o poznanie osudov ďalších a ďalších krajanov roztrúsených po celom svete, nepochybne v nás upevnil vieru v zmysluplnosť našej práce zasvätenej slovenským komunitám a menšinám za hranicami našej drahej vlasti.

Pre náš Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí bol odchádzajúci rok obdobím plným úsilia a tvorivého nasadenia. V uplynulom roku sa nám podarilo zorganizovať množstvo úspešných podujatí, uskutočniť viacero návštev vo Vašich komunitách a absolvovať veľké množstvo pracovných rokovaní, ktorých cieľom bola pomoc krajanom v zahraničí, ako aj ich zviditeľnenie na Slovensku.

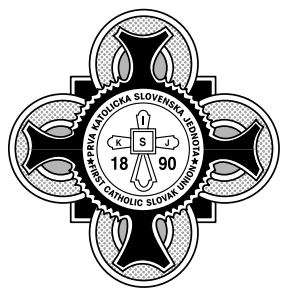
Vláda Slovenskej republiky schválila v tomto roku pre grantový systém úradu na podporu aktivít krajaňských spolkov doteraz najväčšiu finančnú čiastku, vďaka ktorej mohla byť naša pomoc ešte väčšia a efektívnejšia.

Dni Vianoc a príchod Nového roka nie sú len obdobím bilancovania. Práve tento čas ľudia zblížuje, všetci sa podvedome vraciame k svojim koreňom prostredníctvom zvykov a obradov vytvorených našimi predkami. Toto je dedičstvo, ktoré máme všetci spoločné a vnútorne nás spája. Je potrebné ho chrániť a ďalej rozvíjať a to nielen niekoľko dní v roku. Práve v tomto smere môžete byť Vy, naši milí krajanovia, pre nás vzorom. K slovenským tradíciám sa vraciate v priebehu celého roka prostredníctvom rôznych podujatí, ktorými obohacujete slovenskú kultúru a pripomínate si Slovensko. Za Vaše úsilie, námahu, nezištnosť a osobnú angažovanosť Vám patrí naša vďaka a obdiv.

Náš úrad sa i v budúcom roku bude snažiť zabezpečiť tie najlepšie podmienky pre Vašu ďalšiu tvorivú a obetavú prácu. Chceme Vás všetkých ubezpečiť, že pôda Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí bude aj naďalej miestom, kde vás vždy prijímú s otvorenou náručou, kde Vás vždy vypočujú a pomôžu Vám. Pevne veríme, že naďalej budeme môcť byť pre Vás oporou nielen materiálnou, ale i morálnou a ľudskou.

Dovoľte mi, aby som za seba a všetkých mojich spolupracovníkov z Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí popriala Vám, drahí krajanovia, spolupracovníci, milí priatelia, všetci Slováci žijúci za hranicami vlasti, do všetkých dní nového roka veľa zdravia, osobnej i rodinnej pohody, radosti, vzájomnej súdržnosti, solidarity a veľa obvyčajného ľudského šťastia.

Vilma Prívarová, predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

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In Memoriam

Ján (John) Beliansky

Ján Beliansky, bývalý redaktor slovenskej časti časopisu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, zomrel 3. februára 2008 vo veku 85 rokov. V Jednote pracoval až do svojich 82. rokov.

Ján sa narodil na Slovensku 17. septembra 1922 vo Veľkom Klíži pri Topoľčanoch. Pokiaľ žil na Slovensku, venoval sa aktívne osvetovej činnosti v rámci Matice slovenskej, ktorej bol doživotným členom. Pomáhal zorganizovať miestny odbor Matice slovenskej a verejnú knižnicu v Baťovanoch.

V roku 1948 Ján odchádza do zahraničia, kde sa neskôr usadí vo Veľkej Británii. Počas pobytu v Londýne, založil časopis VATRA a rozvíjal plodnú organizačnú a vydavateľskú činnosť. V roku 1952 sa Ján presťahoval do USA. Najprv sa usadil v Monessen, Pensylvánia a na University of Pittsburgh dosiahol licenciát v účtovníctve. Okrem redaktorskej činnosti a písania mnohých článkov do slovenskej časti

Jednoty, bol po mnohé roky plodným prispievateľom do slovensko-amerických časopisov. Založil Slovenský výskumný ústav v Cleveland, Ohio, ktorého sa stal aj výkonným riaditeľom. Za prácu v prospech slovenskej veci ho Svetový kongres Slovákov odmenil medailou prezidenta Jozefa Tisu. Cestou Slovenského výskumného ústavu Ján organizoval na Slovensko niekoľko zásielok lekárskech kníh a pomôcok do zdravotných zariadení a nemocníc.

Osobne som mal možnosť spoznať Jána až 65-ročného tak, že čo viem o ňom z jeho predošlých rokov, nie je z prvej ruky.

Pokiaľ som bol hlavným právnym zástupcom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty zúčastňoval som sa schôdzí Výkonného výboru v Clevelande, kde som sa stále pristavil u neho a porozprával. Viac som sa z mladosti o Jánovi dozvedel z čítania jeho biografie, ktorá ma inšpirovala. Bol skromný a nevystatoval sa predomnou svojimi dosiahnutými výsledkami. Ján bol v určitých prípadoch polemik a vymenil si názory i s ľuďmi ktorých poznal a ktorí ho mali radi. Predovšetkým však bol zasväteným Slovákom.

Ján Beliansky sa narodil niekoľko rokov po skončení Prvej svetovej vojny v roku 1922, a vyrastal v období politických zmätkov, kedy Slovenské národné hnutie si razilo cestu pod vedením Otca Andreja Hlinku a iných. V roku 1918 vznikol Česko-Slovenský štát, ktorý trval do roku 1939, kedy v zúrivej atmosfére druhej svetovej vojny bola založená prvá Slovenská republika na čele s prezidentom Jozefom Tisom. Ján bol mladíkom v období rokov 1939-1945 kedy Slováci mali svoju prvú



Ján Beliansky

Pokračovanie na str. 18

Americký veľvyslanec vyznamenal slovenských vojakov

Bratislava (TASR) – Americký veľvyslanec Vincent Obsitnik ocenil príslušníkov slovenskej armády za účasť a podporu v operácii Iracká sloboda. Slávnostný ceremoniál sa uskutočnil 14. februára v priestoroch Veľvyslanectva USA na Hviezdoslavovom námestí.

Obsitnik udelil ocenenia šiestim vojenským veliteľom. Podplukovník Anton Sládeček získal tzv. Meritorious Service Medal. Päť vojenských dôstojníkov - Richard Kollár, Peter Bielik, Vladimír Gažo, Miroslav Zástera a Peter Garaj - dostali tzv. Army Commendation Medal za svoje vynikajúce výkony v rámci jednotky irackých pozemných síl v Bagdade.

The Meritorious Service Medal sa udeľuje ktorémukoľvek členovi ozbrojených síl koalíčných jednotiek, ktorý počas služby na územiach mimo vojenskej zóny preukázal výnimočné zásluhy. The Army Commendation Medal sa dáva členovi ozbrojených zložiek spriatelenej misie za hrdinský čin, výnimočný výkon alebo službu, ktorá priniesla obojstranný prospech spojeneckej misii aj armáde Spojených štátov. Informovala o tom Jana Illešová z amerického veľvyslanectva.



Americký veľvyslanec Vincent Obsitnik

MS spravuje Národný poklad SR v hodnote 31 miliónov

Bratislava (TASR) – Zbierka na Národný poklad SR spravovaná Nadáciou Matice slovenskej (MS) dosiahla 8. februára od jej vyhlásenia hodnotu necelých 31 miliónov korún. Z celkovej výšky Národného pokladu je v peňažnej forme 23 miliónov korún, hodnota predmetov z drahých kovov je vyše 3,5 milióna korún, hodnota umeleckých diel, obrazov ocenených umelcami dosahuje štyri milióny korún. Istina Národného pokladu je nedotknuteľná, teda nesmie sa používať na hradenie nákladov národno-kultúrnych projektov. Výnosy z peňažných prostriedkov Národného pokladu Nadácie MS používa na podporu rozvoja kultúrnych aktivít smerujúcich k prehlbo-

vaniu národného povedomia Slovákov, úcty k historickým tradíciám slovenského národa. Peniaze idú tiež na sprístupňovanie slovenskej kultúry a informácií o Slovensku príslušníkom iných národov a Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí, na oceňovanie osôb za vynikajúce výsledky dosiahnuté najmä v oblasti slovenskej kultúry, vedy a techniky, ochrany ľudských práv prínosov k slovenskému národnému životu.

Aj v súčasnosti je stále možné prispieť na Národný poklad SR na účet číslo 150134-012/0200 vedený vo Všeobecnej úverovej banke. TASR informoval Predseda MS a predseda správnej rady Nadácie MS Jozef Markuš.

Obec Beckov plánuje rekonštrukciu hradu

Beckov (TASR) - Obec Beckov chce zrekonštruovať vybrané časti beckovského hradu. Objekt kaplnky a sakristia by mal byť zastrešený slúžiť ako celoročná sobášna kaplnka. V západnom krídle Severného paláca by sa mala vykonať statická sanácia a konzervácia pamiatkovo chránených artefaktov. Upraviť by sa malo aj nádvorie a jeho západná hradba. Pri rekonštrukcii by sa nemalo zabudnúť ani na opatrenia, ktoré majú zabezpečiť bezpečný pohyb návštevníkov. Keď bude hotová projektová dokumentácia, obec podá žiadosť o pridelenie nenávratných finančných prostriedkov z Európskeho fondu regionálneho rozvoja.

Na snímke pohľad na časť hradu.



FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Minister Kubiš v USA hovoril aj o vízovej politike

Bratislava (TASR) – Minister zahraničných vecí Slovenskej republiky Ján Kubiš bude počas svojej pracovnej cesty v USA hovoriť aj o vízovej problematike. TASR o tom informoval tlačový a komunikačný odbor rezortu. Kubiš do Washingtonu odletel 11. februára a do 14. februára plánuje rokovať s predstaviteľmi americkej administratívy, kongresu, členmi tímov prezidentských kandidátov a predstaviteľmi analytických a politologických inštitútov. Z iniciatívy záujmovej skupiny Friends of Slovakia sa šéf diplomacie SR stretne aj so skupinou amerických podnikateľov a obchodníkov.

Okrem vízovej problematiky budú predmetom rozhovorov celkové bilaterálne vzťahy a niektoré aktuálne otázky medzinárodnej politiky, najmä Kosovo, Afganistan a blížiaci sa summit NATO v Bukurešti.