



Jednota

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More about IRAs: Taking Charge of Your Tax-Advantaged Retirement Savings Can Yield Income Sources For Years to Come

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary,
First Catholic Slovak Union**

Perhaps you have just started to think about saving for retirement. Or maybe you are already living in it. Either way, now is the time – before the April 17th filing deadline this year – to take charge of your retirement by assessing the best choices among today's tax-advantaged retirement savings plans called IRAs, or Individual Retirement Accounts. The First Catholic Slovak Union has many excellent annuity and IRA products available to help you create safe, finan-

cially-sound sources of income for years to come.

In these days of uncertainty, however, it is more important than ever to know your options, and to assess them again your current and future financial situations in order to develop a strategy that helps you minimize financial risk and stay on track.

The following information is based on questions our experts regularly receive at the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Kenneth Arendt

Can I contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA if I'm covered by a retirement plan at work?

You can contribute to a traditional IRA even if you participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan. For 2011 and 2012, you can contribute up to \$5,000 annually (\$6,000 if you are 50 or older by the end of the year). However, if you

or your spouse is covered by an employer retirement plan, this will affect how much, if

any, of your contribution is tax-deductible.

A Roth IRA – in which you pay taxes on the front end, so withdrawals after age 59 ½ are generally not taxed – is another savings plan option that you can contribute to even if you participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan. With a Roth, you can contribute up to \$5,000 (\$6,000 if you are 50 or older by the end of the year), but the amount you can contribute may be reduced or even eliminated depending on your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) and your filing status.

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**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



Deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2012 Scholarship Program Has Been Extended to March 31st

The First Catholic Slovak Union is still accepting applications for its 2012 Scholarship Program for those qualified members who are graduating from high school this year and entering an accredited college or university. The deadline to apply has been extended to the end of March. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2012.

Scholarships Awarded

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

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SPECIAL, LIMITED-TIME OFFER: Fraternal Dividend to Protect Your Children's Future

Recognizing the important role that children have in the family and their importance in the future of our organization, the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) is proud to offer a special program directed toward protecting the security of our youth.

Who Qualifies & How It Works

All children who are eligible for FCSU membership have the potential to receive coverage under this special, limited-time offer. All qualified applicants* will then receive a special fraternal dividend of \$14 toward the premium of a Juvenile Term to Age 25 policy for the first year.

Depending on the Juvenile Term to Age 25 policy you choose, this could mean because of this special fraternal dividend, you pay absolutely nothing toward the premium for the first

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Inside This Edition:

Deadline Approaching for 2012 Bowling Tournament Entry & Hotel Registration. Look for new information on bowling and golf reimbursements fees on p 4, and details on p 5 about the First Annual United Slovak Fraternals Bowling Tournament, with the FCSU, the Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the Slovak Catholic Sokols to be held May 4 – 6, 2012 in Wickliffe, Ohio. Rules and regulations follow on p 20.:



PLUS NEW IN THIS NEWSPAPER:

- Part I of our popular National Coloring Contest Results – with the first set of district winners on p 12, with more to follow in the next, March 14th edition



Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 4, 2012

Second Sunday of Lent

Mark 9:2-10

Gospel Summary

Today's gospel brings us a story about the illumination of Jesus on a mountaintop in the presence of his closest disciples, Peter, James and John. Tradition tells us that this mountaintop was Mt. Tabor. However, the name of the mountain is not given

in any account of the Transfiguration and so we are invited to ponder the symbolic significance of this major event in the ministry of Jesus.

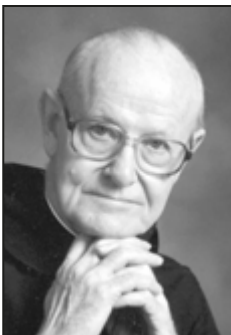
The illumination of Jesus has traditionally been interpreted as a light from heaven to show divine approval of his mission after he has just announced to his disciples that "the Son of man must suffer many things" (8:31). This creates a problem, however, because only three of the disciples are present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

Life Implications

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

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

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



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

March 11, 2012

Third Sunday of Lent

John 2:13-25

Gospel Summary

Since the Passover was near, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival with his fellow Jews. When he arrives at the temple area, he drives out those who were selling animals for sacrifice as well as the money changers, saying, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." When the temple authorities (the "Jews") demanded a sign from Jesus for what he had done, he said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." After Jesus was raised from the dead his disciples remembered what he had said. They realized he was speaking of the temple of his body, and came to believe the Scripture and what he had spoken. John adds that Jesus was able to recognize true belief in him because he could read the human heart.

Life Implications

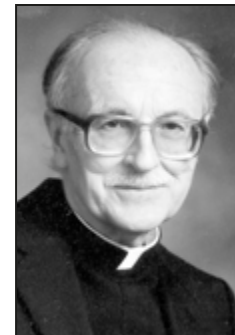
The idea of where one lives or dwells is perhaps the central theme of the fourth gospel. John begins his gospel by telling us that Jesus is the Word who became flesh and made his dwelling among us. "In the beginning" the Word was dwelling with God, and the Word was God. Immediately after his baptism in the Jordan, we hear the first words that Jesus speaks in the fourth gospel. He sees two disciples of John the Baptist following him and says to them, "What are you looking for?" They reply, "Rabbi, where do you dwell?" Jesus replies, "Come, and you will see."

We already are alerted to the fact that John's gospel is a gospel of incarnation. Its essence is sacramental or symbolic: the extraordinary is actualized in the ordinary. The eternal Word becomes present and is revealed by dwelling among us. Thus we realize that the disciples' question about where Jesus is dwelling is not merely about a street address somewhere in Galilee. When Jesus replies "Come, and you will see," we realize he also means seeing with the eyes of faith. When he speaks to his disciples, we realize he is also speaking to us.

The astonishing good news that Jesus reveals is that anyone who believes in him will dwell where he dwells, with the Father. John's gospel is the narrative of the signs that Jesus does so that those whom he encountered then, and those who hear the gospel now might believe and have life in him (20:30-31). John presents various types of people who refuse to see the "extraordinary" through the signs, and also the beloved disciples who do see and come to believe in Jesus.

Today's gospel is a prophetic warning so that we will not be like the temple authorities who do not see that Jesus is the one sent by God to dwell among us in new ways. Jesus' action in the temple is in the tradition of the prophets. They rebuked the people who thought they were safe by coming to the temple while committing all sorts of abominations (Jer 7). Jesus like the prophets before him loved the temple, but he is warning us that even the most holy created realities can become obstacles to believing in him and believing what he has spoken. The temple truly was the dwelling place of the divine presence: the holy place of prayer and communion with God. The temple authorities believed this, but they had narrowed their vision, and thus were unable to see that Jesus himself was the new temple. He himself is the indestructible dwelling place of the divine presence, of prayer and communion with God.

We can reduce the meaning of the Christian sacraments to suit our own purposes, and thus close our eyes to other signs of the divine presence to which the sacraments point. For Catholics the most holy sacrament of the Risen Lord's presence is the Bread of the Eucharist. It is possible to believe in this sacramental divine presence and at the same time to ignore what Jesus has spoken to us of his presence in the least of his brothers and sisters. It might give us pause to note that the criterion of final judgement that Jesus tells us about is not whether we recognize his presence in the Eucharist, but whether we respond with compassion to his presence in the least of his brothers and sisters (Mt 25:31-46).



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

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

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14	MONDAY, MARCH 5
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28	MONDAY, MARCH 19
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25	MONDAY, APRIL 16

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

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

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More about IRAs

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How many IRAs can I own?

There is no limit on the number of Roth IRAs and traditional IRAs you can own; however, your combined annual contributions to all of them cannot exceed the maximum annual contribution limit (\$5,000; \$6,000 if 50 or older).

Can an IRA accept rollovers from other qualified retirement plans?

Yes, provided the IRA document permits rollovers, almost any type of plan distribution can be rolled over into it. The First Catholic Slovak Union offers three excellent savings vehicles that are available as traditional or Roth IRAs: an eight-year flexible premium annuity with a current rate of 3.75% APY; a six-year flexible premium annuity with a current rate of 3.50% APY; and a six-year fixed rate annuity with a current rate 3.23% APY.

I am over age 70 1/2. Must I receive a required minimum distribution if I am still working? Is the answer different if I am the owner of the company?

Both the owner and any employees over age 70 1/2 must take required minimum distributions. Unlike qualified plans (e.g., 401(k), profit-sharing, etc.), there is no exception for non-owners who have not retired.

How much must I take out my IRA at age 70 1/2?

Required minimum distributions apply each year beginning with the year the account owner turns age 70 1/2. The required minimum distribution for each year is calculated by dividing the IRA account balance as of December 31 of the prior year by the applicable distribution period or life expectancy.

If I cash in my IRA before I am age 59 1/2, which forms do I need to fill out?

Regardless of age, the IRA owner will need to file a Form 1040 and show the amount of withdrawal from the IRA. Since the withdrawal was taken before reaching age 59 1/2, unless certain exceptions are met, the IRA owner will need to pay an additional 10 percent tax on early distributions from qualified retirement plans that is reported on Form 1040.

Taking charge of your savings plan can have a significant impact on your retirement, whether that is years away or a reality right now. As you can see, though, it is vitally important to assess each option with an eye to your individual needs and situation. For guidance in selecting or updating an IRA strategy that works for you, call the FCSU Home Office or your local FCSU branch today.

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ Deadline for Scholarship

continued from page 1

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

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

Scholarship Rules & Requirements

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2008 to be eligible under the rules of this period.

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

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2012 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

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

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than March 31, 2012.

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

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

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year (fall semester of 2013).

Send in your application today; don't delay. All applications without the above stipulated postmark of midnight, March 31, 2012 will be considered invalid.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christopher

The Grace of Brokenness

On the night of January 2, 2009, Kevin Wells—a healthy 40-year-old husband and father of three—lay his head on his pillow to go to sleep when a malformed tangle of veins and arteries in his brain suddenly burst. The sharp pain from the blood and other fluids that were filling his head grew quickly and increasingly worse. Thankfully, he was able to wake up his wife, Krista, who called 911.

Still aware of what was going on around him, Kevin remembers being rushed to the hospital, diagnosed with an "intracranial brain hemorrhage," and being transferred to another hospital where doctors could perform emergency brain surgery. The operation was unsuccessful because the shunts inserted into his skull to remove the excess fluid kept clotting.

Kevin's situation was dire for the next few weeks with little encouraging news from the doctors. That's when the Catholic faith in which he had been raised and which he had nurtured throughout his adult life became a major player in Kevin's struggle to find physical and spiritual healing.

I interviewed Kevin on Christopher Closeup about his story which he shares in his fascinating book, *Burst: A Story of God's Grace When Life Falls Apart*. He recalled his parents praying rosaries, going to Mass and Confession, and discussing matters of faith with him and his seven brothers and sisters when they were growing up. As an adult, Kevin was greatly influenced by the practice of contemplative prayer that he learned at a Jesuit retreat house in Maryland. The method involves reading a passage from the Bible, closing your eyes, asking Jesus to come around you and visualizing yourself in the setting of the Bible passage. When Kevin was at his darkest point and struggling with his faith, he turned to this form of prayer.

Kevin said, "I had a lot of Job-like vulnerabilities. Satan was tempting me to just give up. I had enormous headaches and full-body pain. So I would close my eyes and ask Jesus to come to me in a way that would be calming. And what I saw on a daily basis was Jesus in a field with long, swaying green grass and beautiful red poppies. And He would sit down [on] the floor with a smile and there would be seven or eight children around Him. I saw myself with my broken head, my broken brain and my body...and I laid my head and my eight-inch scar onto His lap. Jesus put His hand on my head and I heard Him [say], 'It's going to be okay. I'm here to take care of you.'"

Though it was still a difficult road, Kevin slowly found healing with the help of skilled doctors and nurses, and constant care from loved ones. He's also quick to credit special intercession from the communion of saints, including his beloved late uncle, Msgr. Tommy Wells.

Though Kevin's pain has eased, the whole experience resulted in him seeing his suffering as a positive thing that led him to a more intimate relationship with God. As he writes in *Burst*, "I don't think God has chosen to inject suffering into my life for sport or to harass me. I do believe, though, that along with desiring greater intimacy, He's allowed pain in my life in hopes that I'll gain a greater understanding of the cross...My suffering has often...humbled me and caused my thoughts to rocket back to my Father...Then my pain begins to serve a purpose...Christ's grand message of love grows a bit—which is wonderful for me and those around me."

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

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ Fraternal Benefit to Fraternal Dividend

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year – or pay less than half of the first year's premium on a policy with a higher face amount.

For example, if you choose one of the following plans available under this special program, the FCSU fraternal dividend will apply accordingly:

Face Amount	Total Amount	Fraternal Benefit	First Year Premium
\$10,000	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$ 0.00
\$25,000	\$27.50	\$14.00	\$13.50

Policy Details & Deadlines

This special program from the First Catholic Slovak Union will be offered for a limited time – from **March 1 – July 1, 2012**. All applications must be received in the Home Office **postmarked before July 1, 2012**.

The features of the Juvenile Term to Age 25 Policy are:

- One premium for all ages.
- Premiums that never increase for the length of the term coverage (up to age 25).
- The opportunity to convert to permanent insurance (up to age 25) – with guaranteed insurability and no examination for policyholders.
- Automatic membership for your child in the First Catholic Slovak Union, encompassing all of the following fraternal benefits:
 - Scholarship programs
 - Newspaper subscription
 - Branch activities
 - National youth programs

Applications for this special program are available by contacting your local branch office or by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682. Act today. There is no better time to protect your children's future than now.

*Qualified applicants – those aged 0-21 who are not currently insured with an FCSU Juvenile Term to Age 25 Policy. Standard underwriting applies.



Accent on Activities



2012 International Golf Tournament

March 2012

This year's golf tournament will be held in Sharon, Pennsylvania, at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. This tournament will be a joint event with the National Slovak Society. The tournament will be held the weekend of July 14 and 15. Details are still being planned for this event.



Photo Contest

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

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

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

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

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

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

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

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

Mail your entry to:

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

postmarked by October 1, 2012.



Bowling and Golf Fee Reimbursements

As in past years, our First Catholic Slovak Union will give compensation to all Jednota bona fide Men's, Women's, Mixed Senior and Junior Bowling and Golf Leagues **SHOULD THE FOLLOWING RULES BE FULFILLED** as mandated by the Executive Committee and the Fraternal Activities Committee. This policy was updated at the 2011 meeting of the Fraternal Activities Committee.

All secretaries must comply with the listed requests and fill out all necessary forms and submit them to the Director of Fraternal Activities by the following deadlines: Bowling Leagues - July 1 of every year, for the season just completed; Golf Leagues - September 1 of every year, in order to be considered for Jednota compensation.

1. Each league must present a FULL roster, indicating both members and non-members. Only bona fide Jednota members will receive reimbursements and donations. Names, certificate numbers, and branch numbers for each Jednota member are needed to qualify for reimbursement.
2. All registrations must be filled out in their entirety and signed by a branch officer of the branch they are representing.
3. Your league schedule from the past year, list of officers, including addresses and phone numbers, and/or email addresses should accompany your registration forms and sanction requests.
4. The date of your league banquet honoring your champions should be given to the Director of Fraternal Activities.
5. All USBC sanction fee forms **MUST** be paid as shown and returned with receipt of payment of sanction. We will pay for one sanction per member participating in the International Bowling Tournament. Otherwise, we will pay for one half of the sanction per member.
6. \$25 per Jednota member on the winning teams will be awarded. Leagues can use this compensation for trophies or jackets as they wish.
7. The following compensation will be given to Jednota bona fide members - \$5 per person.
8. In order to receive compensation, at least three golfers from each league **MUST** participate in the International Golf Tournament.

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

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

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

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

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

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



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

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

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

Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

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

Freeway Lanes

28801 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH 44092

Captain Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Team Name: _____
 League: _____
 City: _____

Entry Fees

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

Optional Events

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

Banquet Fees

Member	\$25.00
--------------	---------

Total submitted..... \$ _____

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

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

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

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

- Schedule -
 TEAM EVENT
 Friday, May 4 6 PM & 9 PM
 DOUBLES AND SINGLES
 Saturday, May 5 8:30 AM & 12:30 AM
 Sunday, May 6 9:00 AM (if needed)

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



United Slovak Fraternal's 1st Annual Bowling Tournament May 4 – May 6, 2012

Schedule of Events

Friday:

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

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

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

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

Deadline for hotel reservations is March 16th.

Saturday:

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

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

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

Sunday:

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

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

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

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

Friday May 4th, 2012

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

Saturday, May 5th, 2012

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

Sunday May 6th, 2012

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

See Rules and Regulations on page 20

The Best of the Best!

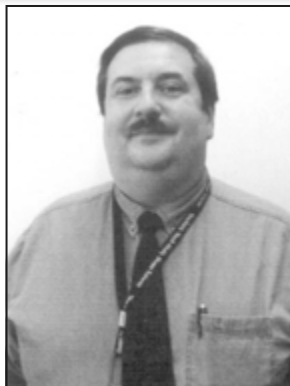
Top Guns For 2011



Dorothy J. Petrus
First Place



Michael E. Lako
Second Place



Michael J. Slovenkai
Third Place



Robert J. Kopco
First Place



Cluey Sandy
Second Place



Michael E. Lako
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance Amount
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	400,000
Lako, Michael E.	2	335,000
Slovenkai, Michael J.	382	200,000
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	135,000
Matta, Florence K.	38	135,000
Froncek, Rose A.	401	130,000
Rura, Joseph Edward	484	130,000
Kapitan, Mary J.	746	130,000
Tarquino, Frances	320	119,201
Tisak, Jeffrey Howard	313	100,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

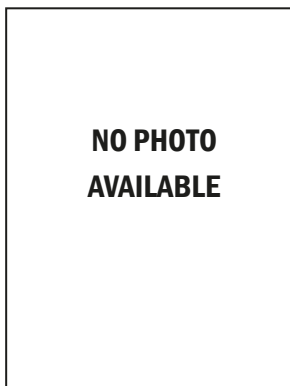
Name	Branch	Total Points
Kopco, Robert J.	24	615
Sandy, Cluey	322	486
Lako, Michael E.	02	420
Tarquino, Frances	320	370
Chupka, Theresa	173	365
Froncek, Rose A.	401	352
Lucas, Joseph John	855	328
Scavina, Joseph T.	682	322
Jurcenko, John A.	153	307
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	238



Robert J. Kopco
First Place



Cluey Sandy
Second Place



Theresa Chupka
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Kopco, Robert J.	24	618,822.38
Sandy, Cluey	322	486,614.65
Chupka, Theresa	173	365,000.00
Lucas, Joseph John	855	328,274.18
Scavina, Joseph T.	682	316,623.78
Jurcenko, John A.	153	298,206.28
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	221,704.52
Rajec, Andrew M.	89	221,422.29
Farcosky, Agnes C.	181	200,000.00
Brunetti, Frederick	764	151,635.00

Correction to FCSU Members March For Life, Feb 15th Edition

In the Feb 15th edition, Jednota reported on our members' attendance at the March For Life outside the National Mall in Washington, DC, on January 23, 2012, along with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. The above photo should have highlighted all four fraternal advocates on that day, including dedicated members of the Slovak Catholic Sokols and the Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union.



Ten year old Bryan Alex Westfall of Aurora, OH, earned his Black Belt in Karate after four years of concentrated effort. He is also active in scouting, soccer, swimming and plays the piano. Bryan is shown here with his grandparents Joseph and Charmaine Mandula. He is the great-great grandson and Joseph is the grandson of one of the founders of the First Catholic Slovak Union and its first president George J. Onda. Both are members of Branch 24 in Cleveland, OH.

Address Changes?

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



Hey Kids.....

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

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

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

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest

Focus on Family

Shadows in the Past

Steve R. Hreha

A bright, blinding light clouded by steam — an oculus penetrating the dark and scanning the horizon — is all I remember from that day. And a sound of thunder as a larger-than-life locomotive slowly made its way past me making sounds I had not heard before.

I was four years old.

It was March 1952. The place was Central Station, in downtown Montreal. My father had boarded a CN train headed west to Winnipeg, then a small prairie town, sitting where the mighty Red and Assiniboine rivers meet. It was before Duff Roblin proposed building the Red River floodway, but long after the Wolseley expedition in 1870 had made the "Red River Valley" love song popular. It was also the hometown of my future wife who was oblivious of my father's imminent arrival.

My father came to Canada in December 1936, a young man in his late teens. In 1942, less than six years after his arrival on Pier 21 in Halifax, he and a group of other Slovak immigrants worked together to launch a new Slovak newspaper, one that would serve the community from coast to coast. On March 5th of that same year the first edition of *Kanadsky Slovak*, with my father as founding editor, was published in Montreal. That August, he was drafted into the Canadian Army.

He was 24.

On that March day in 1952 my father was leaving for Winnipeg to begin publishing *Kanadsky Slovak* at a newly purchased printery. Spring was still a few weeks away. After waving goodbye to my father, my mother and I went home to our house on Cumberland Avenue in Notre-Dame-de-Grace.

Shadows obscure that time in my life. Now, as an adult with greying hair and crow's feet around my eyes, when I think of that scene on the platform of Central Station I am impressed by the single-mindedness of it all. And the incredible heart.

I now recognize the passion, the commitment, the dedication and the dreams firing the imagination of that new, young Canadian, the founding editor of a newspaper which is still being published today, 70 years after its first issue appeared.

In the dark gloom of those wartime nights, did my father dream, I wonder, of the future this paper would have? Did he envision the generations of Slovak readers who would be informed by the news appearing in its pages? Or of the men and women who, after reading a story in its pages, would remember, for a brief moment in a day of toil in the New Country, the villages, friends, songs and dances that once animated their daily life in the Old Country?

My father was no Rupert Murdoch or Conrad Black. The newspaper he edited was not part of a media empire focused on making him a rich and powerful man. My father, and the others working with him on the newspaper, could have made more money elsewhere. On more than one occasion my father worked with my mother, from early dawn, folding and addressing copies of the paper as it came off the press to have them ready for delivery to the main Post Office that same day. No, the paper was not a vehicle for amassing power and wealth. So why did he do it?

The paper, I believe, was the expression of a dream, of a deep bond with Slovaks in Canada and in the Old Country, but most of all, of an enduring love of the Slovak language, its literature and its poetry. When we visited Slovakia, my father told me about L'udovit Štur and the major role he played in establishing the contemporary Slovak literary language. Without the codification of the Slovak Language which Štur accomplished during his lifetime, a future Slovak Republic may not have been possible.

I could not understand, those many years



ago, what passions moved my father to devote his life to the Slovak Community not only in Canada, but, through his many contributions to Jednota over the course of his life, to the Slovak community in the United States. Today, as a consequence of my own passions, I think I better understand that young man with his grand ideas.

Kanadsky Slovak was more than a newspaper.

As the 70th anniversary of the publication of the *Kanadsky Slovak* draws near, I am thankful that my father is still alive and in good health to see what has become of his dream. I am proud that on October 27, 2007, I was able to accept, on his behalf, an award conferred by The National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada. The award, given in recognition of my father's lifelong commitment to the Slovak Press, was presented at Queen's Park, Toronto, by The Right Honorable David C. Onley, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. And I am especially grateful to the distinguished editors who followed my father and who contributed, each in their own way, to keeping the dream alive.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Rudolph Bernath (via teleconference by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT:

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered all the Executive Committee's questions.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

The President reviewed the upcoming joint Bowling Tournament with the Executive Committee and informed them it will be held May 4-6, 2012 at the Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, Ohio.

The President led a discussion on the recommendation by Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, for the Society to pay for the sanction fees for the FCSU members who bowl in our Jednota Leagues. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar for the FCSU to reimburse one half of the USBC sanction fee for bowlers and if the bowlers participate in the FCSU Bowling Tournament, the FCSU will then reimburse the other half of the sanction fee. Motion was carried.

The President announced the FCSU Golf Tournament will be a joint event with the National Slovak Society held in Sharon, Pennsylvania on July 14-15, 2012.

The President reviewed a letter received from Larry Glugosh, President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, stating he is interested in holding joint bowling and golf tournaments in the future.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation by WebEx and Teleconference. He briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio. After he gave his report, Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led a lengthy discussion on our current annuity interest rates. The Executive Committee reviewed the Annuity Rate Survey Report concerning the current interest rates being offered by other financial institutions. It was decided to maintain the current interest rates and the rates will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

INVESTMENT PRESENTATION:

The President introduced Linda A. Duessel, Senior Vice President of Federated Strategic Value Dividend Managed Account Portfolio and Matthew Boyle, Managed Account Specialist, who gave an investment presentation. After their Presentation Ms. Duessel and Mr. Boyle answered all the Executive Committee's questions. The President thanked Ms. Duessel and Mr. Boyle for taking the time to come to our Home Office and make their presentation.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report for the different Regions and the report on our independent agents and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President stated we are continuing to add new agents. Vice President Harcar further stated he will be scheduling 2012 seminars. He recommends interested District and Branch officers to contact him with possible dates for their 2012 seminars.

The Vice President informed the Executive Committee of a new marketing campaign for a Juvenile Term to Age 25 policy with the first year premium free. This campaign, to begin shortly, reintroduces a program that was very successful several years ago. The Executive Secretary will work up the details for the marketing campaign and present them at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Vice President Harcar stated he was reviewing various sites and ideas for the upcoming 2012 Membership Meet.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK**

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our

portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Committee's questions.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of December for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of December:

Disbursements for the month of December 2011:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 264,619.89
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 61,152.87
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President is finalizing his review on the bids received on adding a digital lighted sign to our existing sign on Rockside Road in front of the Home Office. The final decision will be made soon and once the project is completed he will report to the Executive Committee.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

MATLIN PATTERSON PORTFOLIO – (MPAM)

Christopher Welker, Chief Operating Officer, and Craig Ruch, Chief Executive Officer, representing Matlin Patterson, made a full report on our Investment. After the report, Mr. Welker and Mr. Ruch answered the Executive Committee's questions.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President asked Andrew Harcar to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



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Insights and Viewpoints

Going Bananas after a Gorilla in Slovakia? The Latest Slovak Political Scandal

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

Has Slovakia gone bananas? Monkey business that reeks of political sleaze has electrified the atmosphere as the country approaches the upcoming March 10th parliamentary elections. Since late January 2012, thousands of Slovaks have taken to the streets to protest the corruption which has poisoned politics in the country. There were the biggest demonstrations in the country since the fall of communism in 1989.

The scandals threaten to smear the reputations of some of Slovakia's leading politicians, including two former prime ministers, Mikuláš Dzurinda and Robert Fico. It all has to do with the so-called Gorilla file, or as the Slovaks spell it "Gorila." Gorilla refers to a codename which the Slovak Secret Service used for a wiretapping operation that dates from 2005-2006. Officially known as the Slovak Information Service (SIS), the Secret Service stored information which it had collected in the Gorilla file, although the file does not contain a word-for-word transcript of every bugged conversation. The file documents the alleged pandering of influence during the privatization deals which occurred during Dzurinda's second tenure of office and continued afterwards under Fico. All the accused have denied any charges of wrongdoing.

Besides former ministers and all four coalition partners in Dzurinda's former government, the Gorilla file also named representatives from Austria, France, Italy and Russia as involved in the widespread corruption.

News of the Gorilla file first appeared on the internet; someone also e-mailed copies of the document to various media companies. In reaction to the public outcry and the initiative of several politicians, on January 2, 2012, Prime Minister Iveta Radičová took action. Already having a reputation for rooting out corruption, she ordered the General Prosecutor Office to form an investigative committee to look into the allegations in the Gorilla file. The revelations of the scandal shortly before the March elections have literally thrown a monkey wrench into an electoral contest which already had destabilized the political scene. The allegations raise serious questions about the state of democracy in Slovakia, the continuation of communist-style spying, and the meddling of private businesses to obtain government favors.

The Gorilla document showed extensive involvement from several investment firms, especially the Penta Financial Group, which critics have dubbed the "fifth coalition partner." Penta is an economic powerhouse and employs over 25,000 people, and took in over 2.1 billion euro last year. Penta was allegedly paying off government officials and meeting with them in order to secure lucrative privatization deals. Penta has denied any complicity in any illegal practices and claimed the Gorilla file simply did not contain accurate facts. Also, legal counsel for a co-owner of Penta, Jaroslav Haščák, stated that the Special Prosecutor's Office should ignore the document because it was illegally obtained.

However, the Slovak Interior Minister, Daniel Lipšic, disagreed. He affirmed that attorneys had verified the legality of the process, and the investigation was proceeding. Lipšic also

confirmed that the archives of the prime minister indicated that operation Gorilla did in fact exist, and the Secret Service had acted in a perfectly legal manner. Details would unfold as the investigative team uncovers the available evidence. Lipšic is also cooperating with international authorities in the investigation.

A Long Standing Cover-up

While how the Gorilla file became public is not clear at this point, the Slovak-Canadian investigative journalist, Tom Nicholson, indubitably played a pivotal role. He was the first to uncover the dirt. As long ago as 2009, he had obtained a copy of the Gorilla file and tried twice to submit it to authorities. He turned over a copy to the police; within a month, it was "investigated and dismissed." The former Secret Service director Karol Mitrik "stymied the investigation," and no serious follow-up ensued.

Despite his earlier attempt to find out more about the Gorilla file, Nicholson claimed that he did not publish material on the internet, even though the messages contained references to a book he was writing on the subject. In an interview with the *Slovak Spectator*, he stated that he believed that the information in the Gorilla file was accurate; "it is described in such detail that it is impossible to doubt it, once you actually read it." He added: "Political scientists have a useful phrase to describe where Slovakia is at the moment: state capture... "It refers to a situation where non-political actors, such as financial groups like Penta and J&T, have gained access to levers of power that allow them to dictate legislation and major governmental decisions such as privatization or large-scale public procurement."

Nicholson commented that the Gorilla file had far deeper implications than the details in themselves. It "tells us that the state of corruption in Slovakia is worse than even the most pessimistic prognoses foretold, and that the fundamental pillars of democracy in this country, such as the free and conscientious exercise of parliamentary mandates, have been seriously and perhaps irreparably compromised." Nicholson held out little hope for a proper investigation because the file "not only endangers individuals but also how power is exercised in Slovakia. It's a huge blow to the integrity of the state itself. So, understandably, no state institution is capable of pursuing the case to its inevitable conclusion." He expected that after the March elections, "the case will be quietly swept under the carpet."

Influential powers have attempted to suppress publication of the book on the Gorilla file that Nicholson was working on. He noted it is currently being translated into English. A Bratislava court has barred its publication after Penta Financial obtained a court injunction. Nicholson even claimed he received threats and one Secret Service agent offered him ten million dollars to hand over the file and hush the story. Such news will surely make the book a bestseller when it appears in print!

The Protest Movement

When news got out about the file and that the government suppressed the publication of a book on the Gorilla episode, all hell broke loose. A protest movement soon emerged, and it has rocked Slovakia and dominated the headlines in 2012.

The protests began spontaneously and then accelerated with the help of spreading the word over the internet. Hundreds of Slovaks threw eggs and bananas at the parliament building in protest. However, overall the demonstrations have been peaceful.

The protest movement in Slovakia found its inspiration in a 26 year old young woman from Bratislava, Lucia Gallová, who spearheaded the nationwide protest via Facebook and the internet. Overnight, Lucia Gallová has become a national symbol of the fight against corruption, and the internet enabled her to do this. The movement set up a website: www.protestgorila.sk, and people there express their feelings and have organized a series of weekend protest meetings. If one reads Slovak, one can get a good sampling of the conversations among the citizens for change. One can even listen to Gallová speak at a Bratislava rally on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNdy13vpZjo>.

Gallová called for a protest meeting in Bratislava's central square (Námestie SNP – the Square of the Slovak National Uprising of 1944); over 5,000 people showed up the last weekend in January. A second protest meeting a week later in early February brought out over 15,000 nationwide, mostly young people; clubs of disenfranchised citizens started forming in cities all over the country. Demonstrations were staged in Bratislava, Košice, Žilina, Nitra, Zvolen, Trenčín, Prešov, Banská Bystrica and Poprad, and have since spread elsewhere. It quickly turned into the largest movement in Slovakia since the fall of communism in 1989!

By the second weekend of February, over 20,000 Slovak citizens were demonstrating.



Tom Nicholson



Anti Gorilla protest in Slovakia



Protest against Gorilla scandal in Slovakia

continued on page 10

The Latest Slovak Political Scandal

continued from page 9

Protesters bore banners showing their indignation with the scandal. Many read such epithets as 'Slovakia for Sale' and 'This is it, you thieves'. Protests even spread to Dublin, Ireland, where many Slovak nationals moved for employment opportunities.

The third weekend in February brought out fewer protesters, as frigidly cold weather and a massive snow storm hammered much of Slovakia. Protests took place on Friday, February 18, in Prešov and Martin, but many roads were impassable due to the weather. Only a few dozen braved the chilly conditions in eastern Slovakia, while several hundred gathered in the main square of Martin in central Slovak. As organizer Zdeno Mučka stated it: "We want people to realize what is going on in Slovakia, what kind of country they live in and the change we're calling for should only benefit the people, not political parties or financial group. Organizer Robert Grega in Prešov repeated such sentiments: "Something is wrong in Slovakia, and we want to change it." Most important was stopping the theft by politicians that has become rampant. Speakers also called for changes in the elections system, scrapping the criminal immunity of members of parliament, and a turnover of the politicians in power through the electoral process.

The movement has lost some steam as a very frigid February set in. The third anti-Gorilla protest in Bratislava counted fewer than half of the number of demonstrators. The protest organizers also decided to move their grievances from the streets to round table discussions. They were now bringing up issues such as "new rules for referendums, calls for the dismissal of Štefan Harabin as president of the Supreme Court," and asking the president to appoint Jozef Čentéš as general prosecutor-elect. As the movement has expanded in size, speaking with one voice has become an increasing problem, and several splits have emerged among leaders. But the leaders still maintain that they will return to protest in the streets if they feel it is needed.

Conclusion

The reaction to the Gorilla file indicates how thoroughly disgusted Slovak voters are with politicians and corrupt firms. The protests have led to a decline in the opinion polls of all leading parties, for many of their top leaders are suspected in taking questionable financial rewards for government contracts and influence.

A poll showed that as many as 80% of people in Slovakia believed that politicians connected to the corruption scandal should not be placed on ballots for the March elections. Over 40% of poll respondents related that they believe there were no honest politicians whom they could elect. But if given a choice, the most popular personality remains Smer party chief Róbert Fico, followed by the Magyar Most-Hid chair Béla Bugár, and then the Prime Minister Iveta Radičová.

Dzurinda counted among the least popular. Since the Radičová government assumed power in July 2010, Dzurinda has served in the cabinet as foreign minister. But new parliamentary elections will undoubtedly reshuffle the composition of the new government which will form after the March elections.

The Slovak reactions of indignation over the Gorilla file scandal very much reminds one of the wave of popular protests in the USA and around the globe to politics out of touch with citizens. Both the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements as well as turmoil in the Middle East attest to a public demanding change. Here in America and in Slovakia, voters



Huge anti Gorilla protest in Bratislava

Lucia Gallová addressing protest meeting in Bratislava



with have their chances to have their voices heard at election time. Whether politicians in Slovakia will get the message and do more to stop corrupt business and political practices is another question. But the citizens have energized themselves and remain determined to make honest democracy a reality in Slovakia.

Finally, how the Gorilla scandal is resolved will have a bearing upon Slovakia's standing in the world community. Investment rating agencies just lowered their ranking of Slovakia, and if corruption is not rooted out, the Slovak economy and its citizens will suffer the adverse consequences of less foreign capital.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2012

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

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

Please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

Email: fcsu@aol.com

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



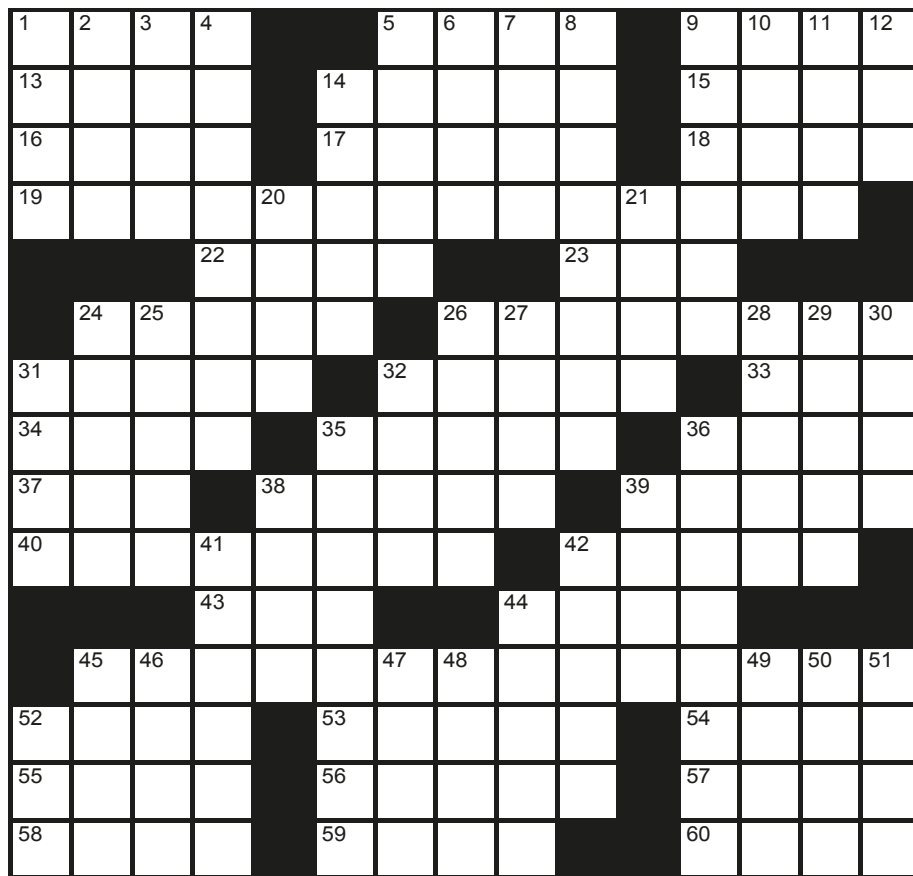
Reminder...

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

phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Fewer
- 5 Banner
- 9 Articulated
- 13 Upon
- 14 Marketing term, f short
- 15 Apiary
- 16 Constructed
- 17 Hindu princesses
- 18 Garden resident
- 19 Tropical Afr. climbing plant
- 22 Angers
- 23 Emmet
- 24 Food product
- 26 Excellent!
- 31 Prearranged fights
- 32 Cowboy show
- 33 Fr. okay
- 34 Tears
- 35 Inferior
- 36 Ceremonial elegar
- 37 Apply
- 38 Road fees
- 39 Sp. houses
- 40 Tower rooms
- 42 Valleys
- 43 Fired up
- 44 ___ monster
- 45 Part of a script
- 52 Berserk
- 53 Readjust
- 54 Division word
- 55 Not any
- 56 Expels
- 57 Citrus follower
- 58 Epochs
- 59 Fr. painter Bonhet
- 60 Young lady

Down

- 1 Dinner choice
- 2 And others (Lat.)
- 3 Soft drink
- 4 Sale items
- 5 Wears out
- 6 Solitary
- 7 In the middle of
- 8 Transparent
- 9 CA volcanic mountain peak
- 10 Verdi opera
- 11 The Terrible
- 12 GOP rival
- 14 Groom with elaborate care
- 20 Malay dagger
- 21 Disentangle
- 24 Pretense
- 25 Drive back
- 26 Chin feature, at times
- 27 Roman date
- 28 Slipknot
- 29 *Musketeers* authc
- 30 Yelps
- 31 Thrash
- 32 Function
- 35 Dawdler

- 36 Impressive, a an estate
- 38 Math course
- 39 See 38 Down
- 41 Some cereal
- 42 Fasts
- 44 Ms. Garbo
- 45 Air pollution
- 46 Chord
- 47 Display
- 48 Wife of Osiri
- 49 Peruvian indi
- 50 Elevator man
- 51 Acts of assent
- 52 Lit. collection



Jesus Ministered to by Angels, James Joseph Jacques Tissot (1836–1902)

A New Journey

In the opaque predawn light,
A heavenly star's golden gleams
Descends upon a Baptized soul ...
A new journey in life begins
It will by Divine guidance
Be gently seeking, searching, until
It finds 'Divine Truth,' following
And experiencing an eternal embrace.

Bright, alert, shining eyes, filled
With grace, mercy, forgiveness, love
Like jewels will count precious moments
On a new journey, stopping at Calvary
To receive redemptions' crown of thorns.
Alas, when twilight time appears
This Eucharistic bond will be revealed
While Heavens' highest places adorn

A jeweled crown by He Who Is ...
Awarding a holy, good life who
Kept pure a new journey since Baptism.

Penned for Lent by Frances X. Markley, O.P.

Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/ Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities

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



Bratislava is one of the many cities featured on the 15th Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour

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

For more information contact:

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

Phone 724-694-5101---cell phone 724-858-5843
e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

or

Adventure International Travel
PO Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Phone 216-228-7171 (Toll free 800-542-2487)
e-mail paul@aits.webmail.com

See Solution on Page 19

2011 JEDNOTA COLORING CONTEST RESULTS, PART I

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6



Owen White
First Place
Perth Amboy, NJ



Peter Monks
Second Place
Trumbull, C



Violet Grady McNamara
Third Place
Point Pleasant, NJ



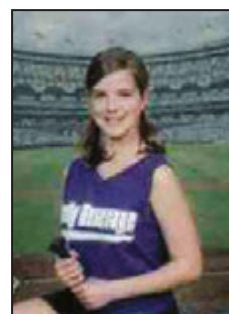
Hunter Lewis
First Place
Perth Amboy, NJ



Ethan White
Second Place
Perth Amboy, NJ



Erich Diehl
Thrid Place
Califon, NJ



Sarah Grega
FirstPlace
Hazelton, PA

REGION 1

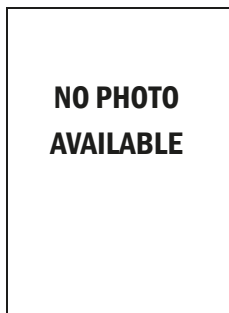
..... Age Group 10-12



Aimee Koller
Second Place
Stratford, CT



Johanna Diehl
Third Place
Califon, NJ



Gregory Horinko
First Place
Hazelton, PA



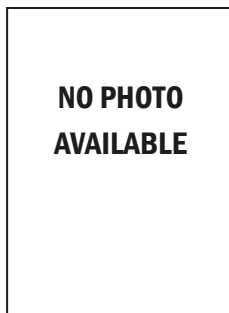
Gabriel Fatula
Second Place
Hazelton, PA



Madison Kemp
First Place
Fairless Hills, PA



Zoe Kemp
Second Place
Fairless Hills, PA



Stefanie Hoyt
Third Place
Reynoldsville, PA

REGION 2

..... Age Group 4-6



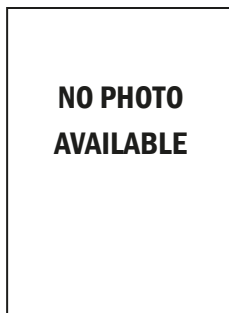
Gabriel Fatula
Second Place
Hazelton, PA



Madison Kemp
First Place
Fairless Hills, PA



Zoe Kemp
Second Place
Fairless Hills, PA



Stefanie Hoyt
Third Place
Reynoldsville, PA

REGION 2

..... Age Group 10-12



Carissa Rohrbach
First Place
Whitehall, PA



Emily Horensky.
Second Place
Slatington, PA



Alison Nowatkoski
Third Place
Cary, NC



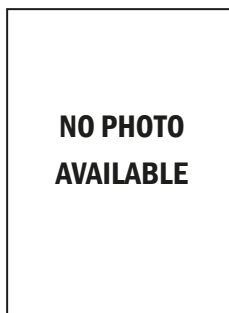
Julia Rudat
First Place
Moscow, PA



Rachel Ann Fay
Second Place
Nicholson, PA



Anna Pechmann
Third Place
Cullowhee, NC



Erica Leventhal
First Place
Manhattan Beach, CA

REGION 3

..... Age Group 7-9



John J. Slovenkai
Second Place
Scranton, PA



David Sudo
Third Place
Plains, PA



Becky Pechmann
First Place
Cullowhee, NC



Karlie Heinz
Second Place
Wilkes-Barre, PA

..... Age Group 10-12



Look for More Coloring Contest Winners in the next issue of Jednota

Scenes from the 20th Annual Slovak-American Ball

The Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC) was founded in 1967 in New York City as a not-for-profit organization that promotes Slovak culture, education, science, and athletic activities in the US and abroad – and provides opportunities for American communities to become more acquainted with Slovak culture and history.

One S-ACC tradition is the Slovak Ball, which promotes Slovak heritage and helps fund various projects of the organization. This year, the 20th Annual Slovak Ball was held on February 4, 2012, at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. The 2012 guest of honor was Dr. Zoltan Mesko, who was recognized for his scholarly research and authoring of two books on the political history of Slovakia.

Representatives from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) were among the many attendees of the Slovak Ball, including National President Andrew M. Rajec and son Andrew P. Rajec, Joseph Senko, FCSU Branch 746 Branch President Sabina Sabados, who is S-ACC Secretary/Treasurer, and who also served as this year's Ball Chair and Co-Master of Ceremonies.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing, as well as a raffle including prizes donated by the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Peter Burian and his wife Nina.

On Sunday, members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended Mass at the Church of St. John Nepomucene, a Slovak parish on East 66th Street and First Avenue in New York City.



Slovak- American Ball Honoree Dr. Zoltan Mesko flanked by S-ACC President Rosemary Harvilova Golia (R) and S-ACC Ball Co-Master of Ceremonies Matus Culen (L)



(L - R) Friends of Slovak Board Member Kenneth J. Bombara, Honorary Slovak Consul for Pennsylvania and FCSU Branch 254 Member Joseph Senko, FCSU Branch 89 Member Mrs. Andrew Rajec, FCSU Branch 89 Member Idka Rajec, Slovak Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Peter Burian, Mrs. Peter Burian, FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, FCSU Branch 746 President and Ball Chair and Co-Master of Ceremonies Sabina Sabados, and FCSU Branch 89, and FCSU Branch 89 Member Andrew P. Rajec



Attendees enjoyed the 20th Annual Slovak Ball held at the New York Athletic Club in New York City on February 4, 2012.



(L - R) FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, FCSU Branch 89 Member Mrs. Andrew Rajec, FCSU Branch 746 President and Ball Chair and Co-Master of Ceremonies Sabina Sabados, FCSU Branch 89 Member Idka Rajec, FCSU Branch 89 Member and Andrew P. Rajec, U.S. Congressman John Mica, Mrs. Peter Burian, and Slovak Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Peter Burian.



The day after the Ball, members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended Sunday Mass at the Slovak parish, St. John Nepomucene, and enjoyed a morning of fellowship at the church hall.



Some of the attendees to the annual meeting of District 8, the Rev Stephen Furdek District of Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, DC, pose with the homemade and hand-decorated cake that was served as part of a delicious homemade luncheon.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District of Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington DC held its Annual Meeting on October 16, 2011 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Levittown, PA. This is the first time since 1979 that Levittown Branch 857 has hosted a meeting at its own parish. After our meeting, we attended Mass celebrated by our National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta. After Mass, a homemade lunch was served.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OH

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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

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

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

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Marion Rubino

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

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

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

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

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

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

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 38, the Holy Trinity Society, will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2012, at 7:00PM at the home of Florence Matta, 3409 Eisenhower Ct, White Oak, PA. The agenda will consist of the financial report; Fathers' Day Brunch at Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, PA; and participation in Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Refreshments will be served.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

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

Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

All Branch 153 members are invited to the May 20, 2012 district event - A brunch and performance of "Making God Laugh." This district event will be at The Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. The Brunch is at 12:45 p.m. and the show at 2:30 p.m. The cost for Branch 153 members who have attended previous shows will be \$19.50. For Branch 153 members attending for the first time the cost will be \$29.50. Guests who are not FCSU members the cost will be \$54.50. The cost is kept low to encourage fraternalism. The district is subsidizing this event along with Branch 153 subsidizing \$15.00 for its members. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763 0810 before April 6, 2012.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

Our winter rest will soon come to an end as the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity, Branch 228, will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review as is done during each December meeting. The exact date for this year is December 17, 2012. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This is an opportune time to get active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its first meeting for the new year on Sunday March 18 at 1:00 P.M. at Woody's Restaurant on Walnut Street in Versailles. On the agenda will be discussion of the District meeting to be held at Holy Trinity Church hall in West Mifflin hosted by our branch on Sunday, April 18. All members are invited to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

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

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

Fraternally submitted,

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

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

Fraternally,

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch #367 will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 5 PM at the Red Lobster, Uniontown, PA. Planning for the 2012 agenda will be discussed. All officers are to attend and all members are also invited to attend. Please call Kathryn at 724-569-1006.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

**Fraternally,
Marie Gryzko, President**

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

BRANCH 567 – ALLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

We will discuss plans for our fundraisers for this year.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Monthly meetings are held at Tatra Hall, Sixth Street and Sherman Blvd., on the third Sunday of

each month at 2 p.m. (September through May).

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

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 706 – ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Branch 706 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Friday, March 16, 2012, at 3:00pm at the home of Vice President, Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. If you plan on attending, please call Barbara at 219-864-8251, so arrangements for refreshments can be made. Dinner will follow the meeting. On the agenda discussion on insurance sales, and new business will be discussed. If you have moved or know of a member that has moved; please send us their address so we may update our files.

Sincerely,

Barbara Fayta, Vice-President

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, April 8, 2012, at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA, 90706. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00AM. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass, along with an Easter egg hunt conducted 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 officer reports and discuss branch activities.

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

Fraternally yours,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II Semi-annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. We will enjoy a short period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments starting at 1:30 pm.

The Semi-annual Meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm.

Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. All branches are asked to send delegates; individual Jednota members who wish to learn more about becoming active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please call District President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810, so enough food and beverages can be ordered for the meeting.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-Annual meeting on Saturday, April 21, 2012 following the 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church in United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. National Vice President, Andrew Harcar, will be present to conduct a Sales Seminar and answer any questions you may have. We look forward to a great attendance. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR RURA DISTRICT

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

Mary J. Kapitan, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012. There will be a Mass at 11 AM at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church, 600 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. 17948. Afterward, the dinner will be at 12:30 PM at A & C Catering Hall, 505 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. The meeting will then take place at 1:30 PM in the hall.

Donation for the dinner is \$15.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 112. All checks and credentials must be returned by Saturday, April 21, 2012. PLEASE be prompt!!

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

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

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

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

Fraternally,

Barbara A. Holly, District Secretary

DISTRICT 13 – JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO

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

Members from District 13 branches are asked to attend. Dues for 2012 are due from each branch. Please call or fax Rosemary Deliman @ 814-342-5592, if you are planning to attend.

Rosemary Deliman, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

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

Carla Peshek, District President

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold a Meeting on Palm Sunday April 1, 2012. The celebration begins at 11:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706.

The Meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After the meeting will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a Slovak gourmet lunch, with dessert and other refreshments to be served. Children will enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt. All members are invited and all branches in our area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting.

On the agenda will be: Promotion and schedule of District fraternal activities and First Catholic Slovak Union Insurance program information.

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, President

OBITUARIES

BERNIECE (ORRIS) YUROS BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

Berniece (Orris) Yuros, 83, of Forest Hills, PA, died Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012. The beloved wife of Joseph J. Yuros for 58 years, she was the loving mother of Maribeth (Michael) Colbaugh, of Level Green, Patricia Ann (Joseph) Wojnar, of Apollo, and Janet (Pete) Sullivan, of Forest Hills. Berniece was a retired secretary from the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. She was a member of the First Catholic Ladies Slovak Association, the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Catholic Slovak Sokols. She attended many Jednota conventions as both a guest and a delegate and participated in the ladies' bowling tournaments. She was active in many Pittsburgh District (Okres) meetings and events. Berniece enjoyed computer word games and competed with people around the nation via the Internet. Berniece also enjoyed knitting, cooking, and baking.

Mass of Christian burial was concelebrated by Fathers John Skirtich, Pastor of St. Maurice Church in Forest Hills, and Reverend Joseph R. Grosko, Pastor of Holy Trinity in West Mifflin and the Spiritual Director of the Pittsburgh District (Okres). Interment was at All Saints Braddock Catholic Cemetery in Braddock Hills, PA. Berniece was remembered in Mass by Father Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

- Submitted by Janet Sullivan, Branch Recording Secretary

JOAN M. GONGLIK BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Joan M. Gonglik, 71, of Canonsburg, PA, passed away Tuesday, January 30, 2012, in Washington County Health Center, Chartiers Township.

She was born April 4, 1940, in Canonsburg, daughter of the late Martin P. and Helen Talpas Gonglik.

Miss Gonglik lived her entire life in Canonsburg, where she was a member of St. Patrick Church, First Catholic Slovak Union and First Catholic Ladies Union.

She enjoyed spending time with her family.

Surviving are a sister, Kathleen (Mark) Bainer of Washington; two brothers, Gilbert Gonglik and Kenneth Gonglik, both of Canonsburg; nieces and nephews Martin (Heather) Gonglik, Charles (Maria) Gonglik, Helaina (Darby) Teahan, Jarred Kobert and Autumn Gonglik; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

Friends were welcomed from 6 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, February 2, 2012, in Salandra Funeral Service Inc., Canonsburg, where a blessing service was held at 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 3. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, Canonsburg, with interment in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Canonsburg.

- Submitted by Margaret Graytok, Branch Financial Secretary

ELIZABETH "BETTY" (VAMOS) SPERHAC BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Elizabeth "Betty" (Vamos) Sperhac of West Homestead, died January 27, 2012, at the age of 87. Beloved wife of the late Andrew J. "Spare"; mother of Ronald of Munhall, Marsha (Bill) Middleton of North Hills and Thomas of Greenfield; grandmother of Jessica Middleton; sister of Frank (Irene) Vamos of North Versailles. Friends were received at the Savolskis - Wasik - Glenn Funeral Home, Inc., Munhall, PA, on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m, with a funeral Mass celebrated on the following Wednesday 10 a.m., St. Therese Church, Munhall, PA.

- Submitted by Virginia Jasek, Branch Secretary

SISTER MARY LORETTA POLASKI

Sister Mary Loretta Polaski, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, died February 6, 2012, at the age of 92. She served God and the Church for 78 years through the ministry of education and as organist, CCD instructor, and clerical work in the hospital and nursing home settings. Sister Loretta ministered in Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and Johnstown/Altoona in PA, Mobile, AL, and Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO, and in Ontario, Canada. Sister was predeceased by parents, John and Anna (Vargo); brothers, John, William, Rudy, and Edward. She is survived by her sister, Mrs. Elmer (Gertrude) Butti; by nieces, Amy Spemak, Margaret Babirad; and nephew, Daniel Polaski; as well as many great-nieces, nephews, and friends and all her sisters of the SCN Community. Friends were received at St. Louise Convent, Pittsburgh, PA, on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 from 2-8 p.m. and on Thursday, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at St. Louise Convent Chapel. Burial will follow in the Sisters' cemetery.

Branch 75 Elects Officers For 2012

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75KJ, held its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2011, at the residence of President and Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA.

President Anderson opened the meeting with prayer. Recording Secretary Christine Anderson read the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted as read. Mr. Anderson gave the Financial Secretary's report. A motion to accept the report, including the branch's net worth, was made by Mark C. Gilger, Sr., with a second by William J. Gilger, Jr.

G. Stephen Jacoby gave the Auditor's report. A motion to accept was made by Christine Anderson with a second by William J. Gilger, Jr. The Auditor's report was in agreement with the Financial Secretary's report.

Nomination and election of officers for 2012 took place at this semi-annual meeting. James L. Walsh was nominated for the office of President, on a motion by Christine Anderson and second by William J. Gilger, Jr. There were no further nominations for this office and therefore the nominations for president were closed. A motion by Christine Anderson to retain the remaining officers in their current offices was seconded by William J. Gilger, Jr. and passed unanimously.

The following will serve for calendar year 2012:

- President – James L. Walsh
- Vice President – Mark C. Gilger, Sr.
- Financial Secretary – Ronald M. Anderson
- Recording Secretary – Christine M. Anderson
- Treasurer – William J. Gilger, Jr.
- Auditors – Christine Jacoby, G. Stephen Jacoby, and Mark C. Gilger, Sr.
- Fraternal Activities Director – George A. Dorko

Branch dues notices will be ready for mailing by December 23, 2011. The annual donation of \$75 to the Mother Cabrini Youth Center was unanimously approved following a motion by G. Stephen Jacoby and a second by Mark C. Gilger, Sr. A motion to adjourn was made by William J. Gilger, Jr. with a proper second by Christine Jacoby.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Anderson, Recording Secretary



Photos by Gina Peirce

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

February Meeting of Branch 682

Branch 682, the Saint George Lodge, held a meeting on February 17, 2012, which was called to order by President Andrew J. Hirt at 8:00pm following a prayer.

Reading of prior meeting minutes and financial report were suspended. It was noted that the branch membership has dropped over the last year to 651 due to deaths and cash outs.

Under old business, there was continued discussion of plans for 100th anniversary celebration of Branch 682 in 2013. Items to be addressed included:

1. Identify how many members live in the local area versus elsewhere.
 2. Obtain current Branch 682 roster as computer file.
 3. Set up call list for local members to solicit help with anniversary celebration and bolster attendance.
 4. Tentative preliminary organization date has been set for next meeting on June 24th, 2012. Attempt to have plans in place for celebration advertising and events.
 5. Identify members at June 24th meeting to handle event planning and advertising. Set up budget at June 24th meeting for the celebration.
 6. Plan to get to work after June to ensure a successful celebration.
- Motion to adjourn made by Florence Hirt and seconded by Milan Krivan.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Joe Scavina, Financial Secretary



Branches 24, 450, and 855: \$5 Lake Erie Monsters Hockey Game, Plus Dollar Dog/Pop



Friday, April 13, 2012

7:30pm

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



Special Offer Includes:

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

To order tickets, please contact the representative in

your branch:

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

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please fill out completely)

NAME _____ DAY PHONE () _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

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

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

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



Slovak Catholic Federation seeks Contributors for “The Good Shepherd” Annual

Dobry Pastier (The Good Shepherd), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, compiles articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is currently accepting articles for inclusion in the 2012 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is **June 1, 2012**. **Due to the publication schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual.** The annual will be available for distribution in the latter part of 2012.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

- It is strongly preferred that **English** 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 faster

and more cost effective to work from a text that is provided digitally instead of having to retype the entire article.

- If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, a “hard copy” may be mailed to Sister Bernadette at Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. **Please do not send photo copies of articles.**

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

USE OF PHOTOS

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

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

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

ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

- It is preferred that articles be written in English. Articles submitted in Slovak will be sent to a third party for editing. **Please note:** Articles submitted in Slovak that need to be typeset are set by a person who does not read Slovak; therefore, it is imperative that the author include all appropriate accent marks, diacritical letters, and other special characters. Correct punctuation is essential. Use commas and periods where appropriate, not dashes. **ALL SLOVAK ARTICLES NEED TO BE CHECKED FOR CORRECTNESS BEFORE THEY REACH THE TYPESETTER.**

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

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

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

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

Reverend Philip A. Altavilla, V.G.
National President
Slovak Catholic Federation



Gifted young musicians from the Bratislava State Conservatory in Slovakia will perform in Johnston, PA on March 13, 2012.

Anabela Patkoló, a twelve year old violin prodigy and singer, is the youngest member of the Bratislava State Conservatory.



Music from the Heart of Europe Comes to PA in March

Music from the Heart of Europe will sound through the hills of Pennsylvania when a group of gifted young musicians from the Bratislava State Conservatory in Slovakia is hosted by the city of Johnstown and the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands.

The concert, to be held Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 7:00 PM at the Christ the Saviour Educational Center, 307 Garfield Ave., Johnstown, PA 15906, will focus on spiritual and traditional songs as well as instrumental music.

The group includes Igor Loškár, baritone, who describes himself as a music messenger and argues that music can move people and help them through good and bad times. Patrik Horňák is a tenor and a clarinetist who in addition to his classical training is an expert in the interpretation of Slovak folk music. Alena Vaciková is a soprano who believes that making others happy by her singing is the best job ever. Jana Feriková, another soprano, sees her music as an international language for conveying feelings. The singers will be accompanied by concert pianist Dana Hajóssy.

The youngest member of this extraordinary group is Anabela Patkoló, a twelve year old violin prodigy and singer who comes from a family of musicians including her mother, Anikó Patkoló, who will accompany her on piano. Her dream is to perform in America at Carnegie Hall, and her many successes already suggest she is on her way to that goal. Traveling with the group is Daniela Sliacká, Assistant Director of the Bratislava State Conservatory.

Admission at the door: \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. For information call (814) 255-5517 or email susan@kalcik.com.

The musicians will also be performing in Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh and the Wilkes-Barre area before and after their concert in Johnstown.



(AP Photo/David Duprey)

Buffalo Sabres' Andrej Sekera (44), of Slovakia, battles for the puck with New Jersey Devils' Ilya Kovalchuk (17), of Russia, during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Buffalo, N.Y., Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012. Sekera (born June 8, 1986 in Bojnice, Slovakia) is an ice hockey defenseman drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the third round in the 2004 NHL Entry Draft.

News From Slovakia

Slovak Economy Grew by 3.4 percent Y-o-Y in 4Q11

Bratislava, February 15 (TASR) - According to a preliminary estimate, the Slovak economy grew by 3.4 percent year-on-year in the final quarter of 2011, the Statistics Office announced on Wednesday.

When seasonal influences are taken into account, GDP in 4Q11 grew by 3.3 percent y-o-y and by 0.9 percent quarter-on-quarter.

In current prices, GDP reached €17.809 billion in the final quarter of 2011, which represents an increase of 5.3 percent y-o-y.

More-detailed statistics on GDP will be published by the Statistics Office on March 6.

President and US Ambassador Discuss ISAF and Bilateral Relations

Bratislava, February 8 (TASR) - Bilateral relations and the continued presence of the Slovak ISAF contingent in Afghanistan were discussed at the meeting between President Ivan Gasparovic and U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick on Wednesday, Gasparovic's spokesman Marek Trubac told TASR on the same day.

"President confirmed that Slovakia is determined to continue fulfilling its commitments as part of NATO's ISAF operation in Afghanistan and any major political decisions as to the future nature of the operation will be up to the future Slovak Government," said Trubac.

Sedgwick updated the president on the new U.S. defence strategy. At his meeting with Prime Minister Iveta Radicova in January 2012 Sedgwick said that although the new defence strategy shifts focus to the Pacific region, the importance of cooperation with Europe continues to be high.

At the meeting with Gasparovic, Sedgwick also expressed his appreciation for Major Roland Bartakovics and the entire Slovak Explosive Ordinance Disposal team in Afghanistan for their hard work and bravery in Kandahar.

GLOBSEC to Address Eurozone Crisis and Arab Spring

Bratislava, February 14 (TASR) - The future of the European currency and the current debt crisis will be the key issues at the upcoming international security forum GLOBSEC 2012 in April in Bratislava.

"For almost 60 years Europe has been functioning within a more or less stable frame with occasional turbulence, however the situation is different nowadays, said Rastislav Kacer, president of the Slovak Atlantic Commission (SAC) that is organising the forum.

According to Kacer, former defence ministry state secretary and Slovak ambassador to the US, it is the disruption of stability that presents a major security challenge nowadays.

Other topics that the prestigious conference will cover include the latest development in the Middle East, cyber threats and the new U.S. defence strategy.

"We will also talk about whether the Arab spring will lead to something positive for us or whether it presents a risk," said Robert Vass from SAC.

Speakers and guests at this year's Globsec will include influential experts, foreign and defence ministers and possibly even premiers and presidents.

"If a new government is established (after the March election), it would be interesting for the guests to discuss Slovakia's future with its representatives," said Kacer.

Globsec 2012 will take place between April 12-14 in Bratislava. It will be the seventh time that the prestigious yearly event, organised by the Slovak Atlantic Commission (SAC), is held. This year's Globsec will also be the last major political event prior to the NATO summit in May. Another sign about the significance of the forum is that more than 80 journalists from 20 countries and hundreds of foreign guests attended it in 2011.

Parliament Rejects Changes to Act on Citizenship

Bratislava, February 9 (TASR) - Slovak citizens who acquire the citizenship of another country will continue to be stripped of their Slovak one after Parliament on Thursday voted down an amendment to the Citizenship Act drafted by SDKU-DS, Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) and the Christian Democrats (KDH).

The aim of the amendment was to ensure that those who have acquired a certain kind of residency in another country don't lose their Slovak citizenship. In addition, the legislation was designed to return Slovak citizenship to people who have lost it due to the current form of the Citizenship Act passed by Smer-SD chairman Robert Fico's government (2006-10).

According to the current legislation, people who apply for citizenship of another country automatically lose their Slovak one. The legislation was approved by the previous government in reaction to Hungary's dual-citizenship law, whereby people with Hungarian ancestors can acquire Hungarian citizenship even if they have never lived in the country.

Palenik: Slovakia Has Highest Unemployment Rate in EU over Long Term

Bratislava, February 13 (TASR) - Slovakia has had the highest unemployment rate in the EU on a long-term basis, Michal Palenik from the Employment Institute said at an employment conference in Bratislava on Monday.

"It's roughly one in eight economically inactive people," said Palenik.

The conference served as a platform for a few political parties to present their programmes in employment policy.

Transport, Construction and Regional Development Ministry economic expert Milos Moravcik (Christian Democrats/KDH) said that the state should increase the motivation of employers to hire the long-term unemployed by introducing a 'vacation on levies (payroll deductions)'. This length of the period should depend on the unemployment rate in the given district, but could last up to three years.

According to Marian Klenko (LS-HZDS), it's necessary to temporarily release employers from the duty to pay levies if they create new jobs for long-term unemployed. He said that he sees a scope for new jobs mainly in agriculture. Meanwhile, courses of study which are needed on the labour market should be financially stimulated. This concerns mainly technical courses, said Klenko.

The strongest party in Slovakia, Smer-SD, wants to solve the problem at the level of several ministries. Smer MP Brano Ondrus cited one example of policies surrounding the building of public housing. The current situation in this sphere is having a negative impact on the mobility of job applicants, Ondrus pointed out.

Moody's Downgrades Slovakia's Rating to A2 over Lack of Consolidation

Bratislava, February 14 (TASR) - The main reasons why Moody's rating agency lowered Slovakia's credit rating from A1 to A2 on Tuesday is the situation in the eurozone, but the fall of Iveta Radicova's government and the fact that Slovakia has sunk deeper into debts was also highlighted by the agency.

"The uncertainty over the prospects for institutional reform in the euro area and the weak macroeconomic outlook across the region" are stated as the main reasons for downgrading Slovakia's bond rating and changing its outlook to negative.

The situation in the eurozone and Slovakia's strong pro-export links to other eurozone countries are the main reasons for this move, UniCredit Bank analyst David Derenik told TASR in reaction to the downgrade. "Basically, Moody's followed its competitor, which took this step last year," said Derenik, pointing to the decision taken by Standard&Poors.

"It's also possible that Moody's took into consideration Slovakia's planned deficit for this year, which will be no great shakes in terms of international comparisons," said Derenik. This is also indicated by Moody's mentioning Slovakia's vulnerability to political and financial risk, i.e. problems in meeting fiscal consolidation and the inability to reverse growth in the state debt.

"Increased susceptibility to financial and political event risk present considerable challenges to achieving the government's fiscal consolidation targets and reversing the recent adverse trend in debt dynamics. Slovakia's general government debt-to-GDP ratio has climbed from 28% in 2008 to over 44% in 2011, and will not stabilise in 2012-13 as had been initially expected," stated Moody's.

Politicians Concur that Top Universities Entitled to More Funds

Bratislava, February 13 (TASR) - High-quality Slovak universities ought to receive more funding than their low-quality peers, several politicians concurred at a panel discussion of the Economic Policy Institute (IHP) on Monday.

The effect it would have would be to help create top-notch universities and stop the outflow of the best secondary-school students abroad, which is often the case today.

Peter Osusky, from the Most-Hid caucus but running now with Freedom and Solidarity (SaS), drew an analogy between colleges and universities and henhouses, saying wrong to pay both the good and the bad hens the same amount of money. In the first place, the Government ought to determine the volume of funding for facilities specialising in technical areas, natural sciences or arts, he said.

SDKU-DS lawmaker Miroslav Beblavy urged the need to make sure that there are several top-notch bachelor courses in various fields that would boost the competitiveness of Slovak education. "This would enable us to keep the best secondary-school graduates in Slovakia," he said, indicating that 25,000 Slovaks study at foreign universities.

Former (2006-10) education minister Jan Mikolaj (Slovak National Party/SNS) admitted that the major problem plaguing Slovak universities is their "lack of distinctiveness and excellence".

REFLECTIONS ON POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS February 2012

General Intention - Access to Water

That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.



An estimated two-thirds of the earth's surface is water. For most of us all we need to do is turn on a tap for clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. Water seems so cheap and available that we tend to take it for granted and waste it. Yet lack of access to water kills more children annually than AIDS, malaria, and measles combined. The United Nations declared 2005 to 2015 as the "International Decade for Action: Water for Life."

This month Pope Benedict draws our attention the need to take care of this precious resource so that all people will have the water they need to live. The Holy Father maintains that access to water is part of every person's right to life. In a message for the 2007 World Water Day he wrote: "Water, a common good of the human family, constitutes an essential element for life...Access to water is in fact one

of the inalienable rights of every human being." He repeated this message a year later saying that water is not "an economic commodity" and the right to water "is founded on the dignity of the human person." Water also has a profound religious significance. The Sacred Scriptures use water as a symbol of purification and of life. God, the Creator, uses water to sustain and clean all that lives. In Baptism water purifies from sin and gives new life.

We pray this month that the nations, communities, and people of the world will value God's gift of water and use it in a way that makes it accessible to every one of our brothers and sisters in the human family. We join St. Francis of Assisi in his prayer: Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Reflection: In what ways do I value and conserve the water that I consume each day?
Reading: Ezekiel 47:12 Wherever the river flows every sort of living creature shall live.



Mission Intention - Health Workers

That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.



Every year on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, we celebrate the World Day of the Sick. On this day we pray for our brothers and sisters who are carrying the cross of illness.

With that in mind, this month Pope Benedict asks us to join him in praying also for health workers, especially those in the poorest regions of the world. Health workers in poor countries are truly missionaries as they offer people the Gospel not so much with words as with their actions of love.

Caring for the sick is extremely challenging. The work is hard, especially without adequate medicine and equipment. The work is also dangerous, as health workers are continuously exposed to infectious diseases. Even diseases that are easily prevented

and treated are rampant in many of the poor areas of the world. Health workers in these areas are often exhausted and tempted to hopelessness. We join Pope Benedict in praying that God may sustain them.

Blessed John Paul II called the work of health workers "the apostolate of God's mercy." Health care is, in Pope Benedict's words, "central to the mission of the Church." In some areas of the world, the only health care available is provided by the Church. The Church as the Body of Christ carries on Jesus' healing ministry for the benefit of all, without discrimination. Jesus commanded us to care for the sick when he told the parable of the Good Samaritan and said: "Go and do likewise." We pray that the Lord may strengthen health workers to continue to serve God's poorest children throughout the world.



Reflection: What are some of the qualities that you have appreciated in health care workers who have cared for you or a loved one?

Reading: Luke 10:25-37 You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Prayer of the Month



God our Father, you sent your Son Jesus to reveal the great love you have for each one. Look upon the world's health care workers—doctors, nurses, administrators, and all who serve our brothers and sisters who are sick. They share in your Son's ministry of healing. May they continue his work with respect for the sacredness of life and with the compassion that filled the Heart of Jesus when he met anyone who was sick.

Amen.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

L	E	S	S		F	L	A	G		S	A	I	D					
A	T	O	P		P	R	O	M	O	H	I	V	E					
M	A	D	E		R	A	N	I	S	A	D	A	M					
B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E	D	S	U	S	A	N					
					I	R	E	S		A	N	T						
					G	R	A	I	N		J	I	M	D	A	N	D	Y
D	U	E	L	S		R	O	D	E	O		O	U	I				
R	I	P	S		L	O	W	E	R		P	O	M	P				
U	S	E		T	O	L	L	S		C	A	S	A	S				
B	E	L	F	R	I	E	S		D	A	L	E	S					
					L	I	T			G	I	L	A					
					S	T	A	G	E	D	I	R	E	C	T	I	O	N
A	M	O	K		R	E	S	E	T		I	N	T	O				
N	O	N	E		E	M	I	T	S		A	C	I	D				
A	G	E	S		R	O	S	A			L	A	S	S				

Rules and Regulations

continued from page 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



"Park 2 Annuity" 2.50% APY

Rate Effective February 1, 2012

Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you make a **one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00** into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a **guaranteed rate for two years**. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

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

Štrnásty marec 1939

Prejav prof. Františka Vnuka dňa 18.03.2006



Prof. František Vnuk

Drahí rodáci, sestry a bratia,

Šesťdesiat sedem rokov uplynulo od udalosti, ktorá položila Slovensko na mapu Európy a ktorou sa Slováci pripojili k ostatným vyspelým národom sveta ako rovnoprávny a rovnocenný člen. V rokoch, ktoré nás delia od 14. marca 1939, slovenský národ prechádzal vari najpohutejším obdobím svojej histórie. Zažil chvíle hlbokého poníženia, aby po ťažkých skúškach a mnohom utrpení dosiahol odmeny, ktorá prichádza tým, čo neprestali dúfať. Keď sa 20. storočie blížilo ku koncu, stredná Európa opäť zmietala v spoločensko-politickej kríze. Počas tejto krízy predstavitelia národa konali tak, ako ich predchodcovia v marci 1939. Nič nie je takým presvedčivým obdobím 14. marca 1939, ako je jeho rehabilitácia 1. januára 1993, keď bola obnovená slovenská samostatnosť. V oboch prípadoch zákonití predstavitelia národa robili iba to, čo im diktovalo svedomie a zmysel pre zodpovednosť. Nie z vôle cudzích, ale z Božej vôle, nie z márnomyseľnosti jednotlivcov, ale z úsilia a túžob celého národa vznikla samostatná Slovenská republika v marci 1939 a z tých istých pohnútok bola obnovená v januári 1993.

Objektívny historik a vyhodnocovateľ udalostí okolo 14. marca sa nemusí nútiť do prílišnej veľkodušnosti, ani zamlčovať historické skutočnosti, ani okrášľovať jednotlivé podrobnosti, aby mohol vyhlásenie slovenskej štátnej samostatnosti smelo označiť za najväčšiu hodnotu v histórii nášho národa. Ak totiž prijímame univerzálne uznávanú zásadu, že samostatnosť je konečným cieľom každého národa, tak potom dosiahnutie tohto cieľa nemožno pokladať za nič menšieho ako vrcholiaci bod vývojovej krivky národného dozrievania. Takto hľadajú na svoje dni nezávislosti, osamostatnenie, alebo oslobodenia príslušníci všetkých kultúrnych národov sveta a takto hľadajú na 14. marec 1939 všetci sebavedomí synovia a dcéry nášho národa. Dnes už nikomu netreba pripomínať, že národ, ktorý bojuje za svoju slobodu a domáha sa svojho prirodzeného práva na samostatnosť, koná len svoju povinnosť. A kto koná povinnosť voči sebe, nemôže sa dopustiť krivdy voči nikomu. Kto sa v mene spravodlivosti domáha toho, čo mu patrí, nemôže nijako poškodiť záujmy iného. A ako by bolo urážkou zdravého rozumu dokazovať, že samourčovací právo sa vzťahuje aj na Slovákov a teda, že aj my máme právo na samostatnosť, tak by bolo nemiestne cítiť vinu, alebo sa dokonca niekomu ospravedlňovať za to, že sme ju 14. marca 1939 získali a chceme si ju zachovať.

Slovenská samostatnosť bola, je a bude v súlade s prirodzeným právom, s platnými zásadami medzinárodného práva, so všetkými deklaráciami ľudských práv a základných ľudských slobôd a s neodcudziteľným právom národa riadiť si svoj vlastný osud. Bohužiaľ, na tomto nedokonalom svete to býva tak, že ľudské práva a vznesené humanitné princípy je vždy ľahšie vyhlásovať, než ich uskutočňovať. Ba často tí, čo sa najviac nimi oháňajú, nie sú vždy ochotní veľkodušne priznať ich aj svojim mladším bratom, chudobnejším susedom, slabým a menej vyvinutým národom. Práve pre tento národný egoizmus nedosiahli všetky európske národy svoju štátnu samostatnosť v tom istom časovom období. Veľké a mocné národy si ju vedeli zaistiť pred storočiami, slabé a menšie národy len v 20. storočí a niektoré národy musia o samostatnosť zápasit ešte aj dnes. Žijeme veru v nedokonalom svete...

Slováci mohli uskutočniť svoje národné túžby až v r. 1918, keď na troskách mnohonárodných monarchií vznikali nové národné štáty. V revolučnom vlnobití, v ktorom sa zmietala celá stredná Európa, Slováci spojili svoje životné osudy s bratským národom českým v spoločnom štáte. Ale toto spolužitie s Čechmi nemohlo byť natrvalo, aj keby bolo bývalo anjelsky dokonalé. Politický vývoj a dospievanie národa sa nemohli zastaviť v r. 1918. Ten revolučný pohyb, ktorý viedol k rozpadu Rakúsko-Uhorska, neskončil vznikom Česko-Slovenska, Juhoslávie a iných nástupníckych štátov.

Pokračoval nezadržiteľne ďalej a jeho celkom normálnym, prirodzeným výsledkom bol rozpad Česko-Slovenska i Juhoslávie. Umelé pokusy obnoviť existenciu týchto neosvedčených štátnych útvarov po II. svetovej vojne, boli vopred odsúdené k neúspechu. Dnešná Európa je toho najpresvedčivejším dôkazom. Vznik národných štátov, ktorých je dnes v Európe toľko, ako nikdy predtým, bol zákonitým vývojovým procesom. A osamostatnenie Slovenska v 1939 bolo teda celkom normálnou výslednicou prirodzeného vývoja.

Vo svetle tejto skutočnosti sa 14. marec 1939 javí ako jasný prelomový bod našej histórie. V tento deň poslanci slovenského snemu stáli pred výberom medzi bytím a nebytím, medzi samostatným životom vo vlastnom štáte alebo otrockou existenciou pod nadvládou cudzích. Volili samostatný život a ich voľba má v sebe toľko mravnej, národnej i všeľudskej hodnoty, že to prevyšuje a zatienuje aj tie sprievodné zjavy vzniku a existencie prvej Slovenskej republiky, ktoré neboli dokonalé po každej stránke. Malé národy stredoeurópskeho priestoru sa musia prispôsobiť politickému vplyvu, ktorý tam momentálne je. Od r. 1918 to bol mocenský vplyv Francúzska, Nemecka, Sovietskeho zväzu a dnes sú to liberálne kruhy vo Washingtone a v Bruseli. A preto Slovenská republika rokov 1939-1945 bola taká, akou bola Európa, v ktorej existovala. Zaisťovala však obyvateľom Slovenska slobodnejší, bezpečnejší a plnší život, než mali Česi v Protektoráte, Poliaci v rozdelenom Poľsku, Slováci na južnom, Maďarmi obsadenom území. Toto je pravá hodnota a trvalý odkaz 14. marca.

Postoj k 14. marcu by nás mal všetkých spájať v myšlienke, že v tom podstatnom a pre život národa prepotrebnom, sme všetci za jedno. Bohužiaľ ani po 67 rokoch nie je on tým zjednocujúcim tmelom, ktorým by mal byť. Namiesto toho je tým skúšobným kameňom, ktorý oddeľuje silných od slabých, sebavedomých od neistých, bedlivých od neprebudených, živých od živoriacich, tých čo sem prišli od tých, čo nás budú zajtra v masmédiách ohovárať a sa nám vysmievať.

V neistotách tohto sveta jedno je isté: že triumf ľži a krivdy, čo ako krutý a neúprosný, je vždy len dočasný. A keď v slovách štúrovského básnika, opäť "za stôl zasadne pravda môjho ľudu", aj 14. marec, tento "diamant, ktorý v hrude nezahynie", aj keby mal v nej ležať ešte ďalších 67 rokov, sa zaskvie v tej nádhere a bude sa tešiť tej úcte, ktorá mu zasluhuje patriť.

FAKTY. sk

SNG začína realizovať dlhodobý projekt Digitálna galéria

Slovenská národná galéria (SNG) spúšťa projekt Digitálna galéria a približne tri a pol roka bude digitalizovať zbierky 18 galérií s počtom asi 110,000 diel výtvarného umenia pre propagačné, vzdelávacie, výskumné, výstavné a ochranné účely.

Je to podľa zmluvy o poskytnutí nenávratného finančného príspevku na realizáciu aktivít projektu Digitálna galéria, ktorú s SNG 24. januára 2012 podpísalo Ministerstvo kultúry SR. Po dlhodobej príprave sa tak projekt začne a na Zvolenskom zámku v správe SNG vznikne špecializované digitalizačné pracovisko, vytvorí sa 12 nových pracovných miest, ktoré ostanú aj po ukončení projektu. Objekt Kapitánsky dom zrekonštruujú a popri digitalizovaní tam budú umelecké diela aj ošetrovať a reštaurovať.

Okrem špeciálnych skenerov na digitalizáciu bude v objekte reštaurátorský ateliér využívajúci najmä nedeštruktívne technológie a metódy, komora na fumigáciu zbierkových predmetov, dočasné lokálne úložisko na ukladanie skenov a ďalšieho digitálneho obsahu. Digitalizácia bude prebiehať aj v galériách vybavených mobilným skenerom. Okrem digitalizácie metódou skenovania (obrazy, kresby, grafiky, fotografie) bude použitá aj strednoformátová digitálna zrkadlovka na snímanie 3D objektov - sôch a predmetov úžitkového umenia. Pracovisko na Zvolenskom zámku poslúži nielen SNG, ale po ukončení projektu (30.6.2015) bude k dispozícii aj ďalším galériám a pamäťovým inštitúciám.

SNG získa pre projekt nenávratný finančný príspevok takmer 15,5 milióna eur na základe financovania z Európskeho fondu regionálneho rozvoja. Digitálna galéria je jedným z národných projektov Operačného programu Informatizácia spoločnosti, prioritnej osi 2 Rozvoj pamäťových a fondových inštitúcií a obnova ich národnej infraštruktúry.

Proces digitalizácie a vysoký objem výsledných dát kladie nároky na informačný systém pre tieto účely. Plánovanie a riadenie procesu digitalizácie, uloženie, vyhľadávanie a dlhodobé uchovanie digitálneho obsahu bude prebiehať v Informačnom systéme pre galérie Centrálna evidencia diel výtvarného umenia (ISG – CEDVU), ktorý SNG vyvíja už dlhšiu dobu a v ostatných šiestich rokoch prešiel zásadnými zmenami. Projektom dôjde k ďalšiemu vylepšeniu katalogizácie zbierkových predmetov, evidencie pohybu diel a iných potrieb, ktoré poslúžia zapojeným galériám rovnako ako digitalizačné pracovisko.

TASR

Po prvýkrát v EP Medzinárodný týždeň manželstva

Pod záštitou slovenskej europoslankyne Anny Záborskej sa 8. februára na pôde Európskeho parlamentu po prvýkrát uskutočnila oslava Medzinárodného týždňa manželstva. Táto iniciatíva, ktorá vznikla v roku 1997 vo Veľkej Británii, je zameraná na podporu manželstva. Prebieha každý rok a nadväzuje na oslavy svätého Valentína, spájaného s láskou a partnerskými vzťahmi. "Už aj vedecké štúdie dokázali, že ľudia žijúci v manželstve sa dožívajú vyššieho veku a sú šťastnejší. Som rada, že som mohla predstaviť túto zmysluplnú iniciatívu práve na pôde Európskeho parlamentu. Vnímam to ako protiváhu útokov proti manželstvu ako zväzku jedného muža a jednej ženy, ktoré v konečnom dôsledku oslabujú základy, na ktorých Európa vznikla," uviedla Záborská vo vyhlásení pre médiá.

Pozvanie slovenskej europoslankyne na diskusiu v Európskom parlamente prijali Richard Kane, zakladateľ a prezident Medzinárodného týždňa manželstva, a Antoine Renard, prezident Európskej federácie katolíckych združení rodín (FAFCE). Súčasťou podujatia je aj premietnutie sfilmovanej hry Karola Wojtyły Zlatníctvo o dôležitosti manželstva pre človeka a spoločnosť. Iniciatíva Medzinárodný týždeň manželstva, ktorá je oficiálne registrovanou medzinárodnou organizáciou, sa od svojho vzniku rozšírila už do 20 štátov vrátane Slovenska.

TASR

Takmer 230-ročnému trnavskému organu vrátia silu a hlas

Najstarší trnavský 230-ročný organ v Bazilike sv. Mikuláša čaká niekoľkomesačná rekonštrukcia. V nedeľu 12. februára po omši, ktorá sa uskutočnila pri príležitosti 200. výročia smrti jeho staviteľa Valentina Arnolda, bol prevezený do reštaurátorských dielní. Ujali sa ho členovia Komory reštaurátorov Slovenska, organár Ján Valovič a reštaurátor dreva Peter Gregvoren. Vynovený nástroj by mal prvýkrát zaznieť 10. augusta 2012 počas festivalu Trnavské organové dni.

Arnoldov vzácny barokový organový 8-registrový pozitív pochádza z roku 1783. Majster, ktorý prišiel z Nemecka a v Trnave sa usadil len niekoľko rokov predtým, ho prispôbil vyšším požiadavkám na produkciu hudby, ako vtedy bývalo v bežných kostoloch. Nástroj dala postaviť Ostrihomska kapitula, sídliaca v tom čase v Trnave, po jej odsťahovaní do Ostrihomu si naň ale robila nárok. Fara a magistrát však boli proti a vynášali sa tým, že by musel byť kvôli tomu zbúraný gotický oblúk svätyně. To zabralo a organ zostal na svojom mieste. V súčasnosti je nefunkčný, sčasti poškodený. Posledná čiastočná oprava sa uskutočnila v 80-tych rokoch 20. storočia. Ide o menší organ, umiestnený na rozmedzí hlavnej lode a svätyně baziliky.

Väčší a funkčný organ je na chóre. Pôvodne aj ten bol dielom Arnolda z roku 1800, v roku 1913 ho nahradil organ firmy Rieger. Má tri manuály, 45 registrov a 2766 píšťal a patrí k najväčším romantickým organom a jedným z mála svojho druhu, ktoré sa v Európe zachovali v pôvodnom stave. S ním sa okrem iného spája meno skladateľa Mikuláša Schneidra Trnavského, ktorý ho používal ako regenschori baziliky.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu pripravuje schôdzu, ktorá sa bude konať na Kvetnú nedeľu, 1. apríla 2012. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine ráno 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 slovenský obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa budú zabávať tradičným hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek. Po obede bude schôdza pokračovať v jedálni.

Na programe je príprava plánu aktivít na ďalšie obdobie a informácie o poisťovacom programe Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie pozývame všetkých našich členov ako aj delegátov jednotlivých spolkov nášho Okresu Princa Pribinu.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Kultúrne a spoločenské podujatia

60. Slovenský deň vo Winter Park, FL

V nedeľu 4. marca 2012 sa v Slovenskej záhrade (3110 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park, FL) bude konať 60. Slovenský deň. Program začne o 11.00 hodine slovenskou svätou omšou. O 1.00 hodine bude obed. Podávané budú slovenské jedlá. O 3.00 hodine začne kultúrny program, v ktorom sa predstaví folklórny súbor PAS. Do tance i na počúvanie bude hrať skupina Európa. Vstupné je \$ 25.00 za osobu. V cene je započítaný obed.

Na druhý deň – v pondelok 5. marca 2012 bude konvencia Slovenskej záhrady. Registrácia členov bude od 9.00 do 10.00 hodiny. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie, ktoré majú byť urobené do 29. februára, na tel. č. (407) – 677-6894, e-mail: slovakgarden@centurylink.net

Oslava slovenskej štátnosti v Detroite

34. zbor Slovenskej ligy, ktorý nesie meno Kráľa Svätopluka, pozýva slovenskú verejnosť z Detroitu a okolia na spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti v nedeľu 4. marca 2012 v spoločenskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Sterling Heights, Michigan. Oslava sa začne o 1. hodine po slovenskej omši. Oslava sa koná pri príležitosti 64. vzniku 1. Slovenskej republiky (14. marca 1939). S týmto dátumom je historicky spojený aj vznik súčasnej Slovenskej republiky, ktorej 19. výročie bolo 1. januára 2012.

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

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

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

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

Slovenská liga oznamuje

55. kongres Slovenskej ligy bude 8. a 9. júna v Bridgeporte, CT

Na základe rozhodnutia Výkonného výboru Slovenskej ligy oznamujeme, že 55. kongres Slovenskej ligy sa bude konať v piatok a sobotu 8. a 9. júna 2012 v hoteli Bridgeport Holiday Inn v Bridgeport, Connecticut. Adresa hotela je: Bridgeport Holiday Inn, 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport CT 06640. Telefónne číslo na rezervácie je 1-888-465-4329.

Prvé zasadanie kongresu bude v piatok 8. júna o 1:30 hodine popoludní a ďalšie zasadanie bude v sobotu o 9. hodine a bude pokračovať popoludní. Banket bude v sobotu 9. júna. Recepčia začne o 6.30 večer a banket bude o 7:30 hodine.

Slovenská liga pozýva na 55. kongres členské organizácie, spolky, zbory Slovenskej ligy a doživotných členov, ako aj slovenskú verejnosť. Bližšie informácie a inštrukcie budú poskytnuté v písomných komunikáciách v ďalších tlačových správach Slovenskej ligy.

Ponuky Slovenskej ligy

Slovenská liga v Amerike má ešte na predaj historický 105-minútový video-film Slovaks in America (v slovenskom znení Slováci v Amerike). Možno si ho objednať za \$ 8.00 vrátane poštovného a balenia.

Tiež ponúkame posledné číslo publikácie Slovakia za \$ 7.00 a predchádzajúce ročníky za \$ 4.00, vrátane poštovného a balenia.

Slovak League of America
205 Madison Street – Passaic, N.J. 07055

Daniel F. Tanzone, predseda
W. Nina Holy, tajomníčka

ŽSK predstavil rodostrom astronauta E. A. Cernana

Predstavením umelecky spracovaného rodostromu amerického astronauta s kysuckým pôvodom Eugena Andrewa Cernana 13. februára 2012 Žilinský samosprávny kraj (ŽSK) zavítal rok E. A. Cernana, ktorý vyhlásil v roku 2011. Rodostrom zatiaľ posledného človeka na Mesiaci chce ŽSK odovzdať prostredníctvom zastupiteľskej misie Slovenska v USA. Genealógiu – rodostrom Cernanových predkov pripravil ŽSK v spolupráci s Kysuckým múzeom (KM) v Čadci aj pri príležitosti astronautových 78. narodenín. „Jeho starý otec sa vystaľoval z Vysokej nad Kysucou do Chicaga, kde začal pracovať a potom tam všetko potomstvo ostalo. Eugen Cernan bol trikrát vo vesmíre a bol posledným astronautom, ktorý bol na Mesiaci. To sú veci, na ktoré je potrebné myslieť a môžeme v podstate povedať, že na Mesiaci bolo prítomné aj Slovensko,“ skonštatoval Blanár.

Riaditeľ KM Miloš Jesenský predstavil výtvarné dielo, zhotovené kombinovanou technikou na hodvábe. „Je to kombinácia všívania, textílií a práce s metalickými farbivami. Odlišnosť od tradičného genealogického stromu je v tom, že rodokmeň musíme čítať v smere od koruny ku koreňom. Čím sme chceli povedať, že Cernanove korene ako najvýznamnejšej osobnosti ležia práve u nás,“ povedal Jesenský. Doplnil, že po genealógii rodu Čerňanovcov pátral historik KM Martin Turóci, ktorý sledoval cirkevné matriky zhruba do polovice 18. storočia. „Do tejto doby sú zachované v prípade obce Čierne, odkiaľ pochádzajú aj príslušníci rodiny Čerňanovcov. Títo sa neskôr presťahovali do obce Vysoká nad Kysucou, odkiaľ pochádza aj dedo Eugena Cernana. V roku 1900 emigroval do Ameriky, aby zarobil nejaké peniaze a začal živobytie za oceánom,“ uviedol riaditeľ KM.

Na Slovensku bol Cernan celkovo trikrát – v roku 1974, 1994 a 2004. „Pri každej návšteve bol na Kysuciach, pretože javil záujem poznať aj vzdialenú rodinu v obci Vysoká nad Kysucou. K slovenským koreňom sa priznáva. Dokumentuje to príhoda, keď sa ako veliteľ Apollo 17 vrátil z vesmírnej misie a na otázku ako sa cíti doma vo vlasti odpovedal, že môj domov je na Slovensku a moja vlasť je v USA,“ podotkol Jesenský.

Pripomenul, že KM vybudovalo v Čadci expozíciu E. A. Cernana. „Zaujímavosťou sa môžu symbolicky poprechádzať po mesačnom povrchu, ktorý sme napodobnili vo veľkej výstavnej sieni. Je tam kópia skafandra, ktorý používali americké lunárne misie, model rakety, ktorá vyniesla E. A. Cernana na Mesiac a samozrejme veľmi bohatá panelová príloha expozície, kde na veľkoplášnych expozíciách môžu návštevníci nahliadnuť do zákulisia amerických vesmírnych letov,“ dodal Jesenský.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

Rodostrom Cernanových predkov odhalili predseda ŽSK Juraj Blanár a riaditeľ Kysuckého múzea v Čadci Miloš Jesenský.

On the occasion of the 78th birthday of American astronaut Eugene Cernan, a silk embroidered family tree of the Cernan family was unveiled in Žilina. Eugene Cernan's father was a native of the Žilina region.

Matica slovenská uzatvorila súťaž na pamätník Cyrila, Gorazda a Metoda

Matica slovenská (MS) uzatvorila súťaž na pamätník Cyrila, Gorazda a Metoda, ktorý by mal stáť v Bratislave na roku Obchodnej ulice a Hurbanovho námestia. Na tlačovej konferencii o tom 8. februára v Martine informoval predseda MS Marián Tkáč.

MS dostala podľa Tkáča 24 návrhov pamätníka. „Taký pamätník ešte nie je nikde na svete. Porota by mala do 28. februára 2012 rozhodnúť, ktorý sa bude v Bratislave budovať. Zaiste bude záležať aj na stanovisku Starého Mesta,“ skonštatoval Tkáč.

Vybudovanie pamätníka je súčasťou podujatí Roka MS, o ktorom Tkáč informoval. „Rok Matice slovenskej bude o oslavách, o pripomínaní si tradícií, našej histórie. Budú sa konať spoločenské podujatia pre mladých, pre strednú generáciu, pre starších, rôzne vedecké podujatia, budeme si pripomínať našu minulosť aj budovaním pamätníkov,“ dodal Tkáč.

TKKBS, TASR

Prezident Ivan Gašparovič prijal poslancov Snemovne reprezentantov Kongresu USA

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Slovensku a jeho ľuďom. Ocenil, že rokovanie ministrov financií 20. februára v Bruseli prinieslo dohodu na riešení pôžičky Grécku. Podľa neho USA majú záujem na vyriešení dlhovej krízy v Európe. Kongresmani vyzdvihli úspechy Slovenskej republiky, ktoré sú „obdivuhodné“. Slovenská republika bez ohľadu na svoju veľkosť je pre USA dôležitým partnerom. Kongresman Gregoty Meeks vyzdvihol pôsobenie Slovenskej republiky v Afganistane a jeho podiel na operáciách NATO pri ochrane bezpečnosti a mieru vo svete.

Ivan Gašparovič za najzávažnejší problém súčasnosti označil nezamestnanosť mladých ľudí, ktorí si len ťažko hľadajú prácu. Za pozitívum označil vznik nových pracovných príležitostí v automobilovom priemysle. Predstavitel'ov kongresu USA zaujímal názor prezidenta na povolebný vývoj na Slovensku. Prezident im priblížil svoj pohľad, podľa ktorého by Slovensko mohlo mať zmiešanú ľavicovopravicovú vládu, ktorej politika by mala byť založená na princípe rozumného kompromisu. Slovensko potrebuje podľa Gašparoviča silnú a stabilnú vládu, aby mohla čeliť súčasnej zložitej hospodárskej situácii.

Správa tlačového oddelenia prezidenta

Krátké správy zo Slovenska

• Po sérii úspešných januárových predstavení s novým galaprogramom *Lúčnica – môj život*, venovaným 85. jubileu prof. Štefana Nosáľa, odletel v stredu 8. februára náš svetoznámy tanečný súbor na umelecké turné do krajiny vychádzajúceho slnka. V Japonsku predvedú lúčničari počas takmer šiestich týždňov 26 reprezentačných predstavení v divadlách a sálach na ostrovoch Honšú, Šikoku a Kjúšu. O vystúpenia slovenských tanečníkov je mimoriadny záujem a s veľkou odozvou sa stretlo aj rozhodnutie usporiadať benefičné predstavenia vo Fukušime a v Sendai, ktoré Lúčnica, v spolupráci so slovenskou ambasádou v Tokiu, venuje na pomoc týmto postihnutým oblastiam.

• **Najnovšie** svetové bestsellery, slovenská i svetová klasika, bohatý výber detských knižiek, ale napríklad aj poézia či slovenčina pre cudzincov. Takto momentálne v skratke vyzerá ponuka Slovak Library Ireland, teda slovenskej knižnice, v írskom Dublini. Návštevníci knižnice si tak môžu vybrať z viac ako tisícok kníh, z ktorých je väčšina voľne dostupná, a teda si knihy môžu požičať domov. Okrem toho v Slovak Library Ireland nájdú aj prezenčné tituly najmä o Slovensku, jeho histórii, mestách, pamiatkach či kultúre – nielen v slovenskom, ale aj v anglickom jazyku.

• **Šéf rezortu** diplomacie Mikuláš Dzurinda (SDKÚ-DS) udelil 6. februára plaketu ministerstva zahraničných vecí (MZV) príslušníkom EOD tímu, ktorý sa v decembri minulého roka vrátil z misie ISAF v afganskom Kandaháre. Tím sa špecializuje na zneškodňovanie improvizovaných výbušných prostriedkov. Plaketu si z jeho rúk prevzal major Roland Bartakovics, rotný Michal Mieres, rotmajster Richard Veselka a rotmajster Mário Ruckschloss. Od svojich nadriadených v Afganistane si vyslúžili čestný vojenský titul Hrdina bojiska, čím sa stali najlepším EOD tímom spomedzi všetkých koalíčných tímov misie ISAF.

• **Od januára** do septembra 2011 prišlo do Bratislavského kraja 670,539 návštevníkov, z toho 431,165 (64.3 %) zo zahraničia. V porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím roku 2010 ich počet vzrástol o 15.8 %, z toho zahraničných o 18 %. Podiel Bratislavského kraja na celkovom počte návštevníkov Slovenska bol 24 % a na počte zahraničných 36.9 %. Najviac návštevníkov pricestovalo z Českej republiky, a to 18.4 % a z Nemecka 10.2 %. Ďalej nasledovali hostia z Poľska 7.8 %, Talianska 6.3 %, Rakúska 5.6 %, Spojeného kráľovstva 5 %, Francúzska 3.7 %, Spojených štátov 3.2 % a zo Španielska 2.9 %.

• **V ženskom svetovom tenisovom rebríčku** WTA nenastali po fedcupovom týždni žiadne zmeny. Na čele je naďalej víťazka Australian Open Bieloruska Victoria Azarenková pred vlnajúcou wimbledonskou šampiónkou Českou Petrou Kvitovou a Ruskou Mariou Šarapovou. Najlepšia slovenská singlistka Dominika Cibulková je 16., Daniele Hantuchovej patrí 20. priečka.

• **V snahe sprístupniť základné pravidlá ochrany spotrebiteľa a pacienta** nevidiacim a slabozrakým, vydala Spoločnosť ochrany spotrebiteľov (S.O.S.) Poprad v spolupráci so Slovenskou knižnicou pre nevidiacich Mateja Hrebandu v Levoči (SKN) prvý Spotrebiteľský slovník v Braillovom písme. Táto publikácia je k dispozícii v 30 slovenských knižniciach pre nevidiacich i v krajských a regionálnych pobočkách Únie slabozrakých a nevidiacich Slovenska.

• **Nový študijný odbor** otvoril od nasledujúceho školského roka Stredná odborná škola automobilová v Trnave. Vznikne v spolupráci s PSA Peugeot Citroën Slovakia a jeho absolventi budú pripravení ako mechanici automobilových liniek. Trnavský závod tím prepojí vzdelávanie s praxou a pripraví si svojich budúcich zamestnancov. Počas odbornej prípravy žiaci spoznajú systém fungovania spoločnosti, výrobné haly, zariadenia a kultúru automobilky. Po štyroch rokoch teoretickej a praktickej prípravy sa úspešní absolventi budú môcť zamestnať priamo v automobilke PSA Peugeot Citroën Slovakia.

• **Na Slovenku** sa vlni transplantovalo 19 srdc, 25 pečeni a 132 obličiek. Ak by sa hodnotil trend posledných desiatich rokov došlo v posledných troch rokoch k výraznému nárastu transplantácií pečene a nárastu počtov vykonaných ostatných orgánových transplantácií. Sieť nemocničných koordinátorov darcovského programu sa vytvorila v roku 2009. V minulom roku sa okrem transplantácii orgánov vykonávali aj transplantácie tkanív ako koža, spojivové tkanivá, očné tkanivá, cievy, srdcové chlopne či buniek. Jednou z najčastejších transplantácií vykonávaných vo svete je transplantácia krvotvorných kmeňových buniek vrátane transplantácie kostnej drene a pupočníkovkej krvi. V roku 2011 pracovalo na Slovensku sedem centier pre transplantáciu krvotvorných kmeňových buniek.

• **Slováci** v práci strávia v priemere 1,693 hodín. Susední Maďari či Česi sú však oproti Slovákom ešte pracovitejší. Zistila to Organizácia pre hospodársku spoluprácu a rozvoj (OECD). V prieskume jej vyšlo, že ľudia v priemere v práci strávia 1,739 hodín ročne. Najviac času v práci venujú Kórejčania – 2,256 hodín ročne. Veľa však pracujú aj v Grécku a tiež v celom stredo európskom regióne. Najmenej času v práci strávia Holanďania, len 1,378 hodín ročne. Z krajín V4 sú najviac pracovne vyťažení Maďari, Poliaci, Česi a až po nich Slováci.

• **Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK)** na tohtoročnom veľtrhu práce Profesia days 15. - 16. februára v Bratislave hľadala stovky pracovníkov. Návštevníci v bratislavskej Inchebe si mohli pri stánku VW SK pozrieť aj nový VW up! vyrábaný v bratislavskom závode firmy ešte pred slovenskou premiérou. Záujemcovia o prácu sa mohli informovať o spoločnosti, voľných pracovných pozíciách, sociálnom programe či vzdelávacích aktivitách. V súčasnosti má VW SK otvorených 12 typov pracovných pozícií a ponúka stovky pracovných miest. Pre bratislavský závod hľadá 650 výrobných pracovníkov pre karosáreň, lakovňu, montáž a zváračov CO2 v súvislosti so spustením tretej zmeny pre produkciu vozidiel radu New Small Family. Ďalej potrebuje obsadiť pozície pracovníkov lisovne, plánovačov, údržbárov elektrikárov/elektronikov a údržbárov mechanikov.

• **Viac ako polovica Slovákov** v prieskume Eurobarometer uviedla, že sa s korupciou osobne stretáva vo svojom bežnom živote. Až 92 respondentov zo Slovenska takisto verí, že korupcia je prítomná v celoštátnych inštitúciách. Eurobarometer sa uskutočnil v 27 členských štátoch EÚ v septembri 2011. Výsledky nedávno zverejnila Európska komisia (EK). Korupciu považujú za významný problém vo svojej krajine takmer tri štvrtiny Európanov. Podľa 47 percent oslovených sa rozsah korupcie za posledné tri roky zvýšil.

• **Až 66 percent mladých ľudí** očakáva od politikov pomoc s lepším uplatnením na trhu práce po získaní diplomu. Vyplýva to z prieskumu, ktorý v decembri a januári zrealizovali iniciatíva Za lepšie príležitosti pre mladých a Inštitút pre rozvoj Slovenska. Oslovili 3,000 respondentov vo veku 18 až 25 rokov s otázkou, čo mladí ľudia očakávajú od politikov po marcových predčasných voľbách.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Veľvyslanec USA navštívil regióny Slovenska

Problémy mesta, ale aj regiónu zaujímali počas oficiálnej návštevy Rimavskej Soboty 7. februára veľvyslanca Spojených štátov amerických na Slovensku Theodora Sedgwicka. Primátor mesta Jozef Šimko povedal, že hovorili spolu o nezamestnanosti, zložení obyvateľstva, ale aj o infraštruktúre.

Veľvyslanec USA už v pondelok (6. februára) navštívil Lučenec. Tam sa zaujímal najmä o pôsobenie americkej spoločnosti v priemyselnom parku. Oficiálne cestuje po regióne najmä preto, aby podrobnejšie spoznal krajinu, v ktorej pôsobí. „Na pôde Rimavskej Soboty ho zaujímali aj problémy, s ktorými sa stretávajú investori. Hovorili sme spolu o viacerých problémoch a jedným z nich bola aj chýbajúca rýchlostná cesta zo Zvolena do Košíc. Pána veľvyslanca som informoval, že časť politického spektra má záujem o urýchlenie výstavby. Je to pre nás mimoriadne dôležité, pretože takéto cestné spojenie môže výrazne ovplyvniť životnú úroveň obyvateľov regiónu,“ povedal Šimko.

Theodora Sedgwicka zaujímalo aj národnostné zloženie obyvateľov mesta, ale aj to, ako sa v meste snažia riešiť nelichotivú situáciu vo vývoji nezamestnanosti. „Hovoril som s ním najmä o aktivitách za minulý rok, stretnutiach so zástupcami ministerstva hospodárstva, agentúry SA-RIO, ale aj s predsedníčkou vlády. Vysvetlil som, že v Rimavskej Sobote žijú Slováci, Rómovia a Maďari. Priznal som fakt, že máme vysokú mieru nezamestnanosti, ale hovorili sme aj o vybudovanom poľnohospodárskom priemysle, ktorý tu fungoval ešte pred pádom socializmu. Pán veľvyslanec sa konkrétne spýtal aj na sídlisko Dúžavská cesta, kde momentálne žije viac ako tisíc Rómov. Verím, že informácie, ktoré dostal, mu pomôžu tak na vytvorenie si obrazu o regióne, ako aj o možnosti podať nám pomocnú ruku,“ dodal primátor.

TASR

V Žilinskej diecéze sa začal Rok sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Žilinská diecéza si v utorok 14. februára 2012 pripomenula 4. výročie svojho vzniku. Oslavy sa začali v Diecéznom centre v Žiline prednáškou historika Gabriela Brendzu s názvom: Svätí Cyril a Metod- patróni diecézy. „Cyrilo-metodská tradícia nie je mŕtve bremeno, ani sentimentálna spomienka, a už vôbec nie nejaká historická rozprávka. Je to sprítomnená historická skutočnosť, ale aj inšpirácia stavať na týchto fundamentoch, či podnet na nevyhnutné korektúry životných postojov. Cyrilo-metodská tradícia je hodnota, ktorú by sme mali v správnej podobe vrátiť do našej kultúry ako fundament, ktorý má svoju stabilitu,“ povedal Gabriel Brendza.

Program pokračoval slávnostnou svätou omšou v Katedrále Najsvätejšej Trojice v Žiline, ktorú celebroval žilinský biskup Tomáš Galis. V homílii sa veriacim prihovril generálny vikár diecézy Ladislav Stromček. Spomenul myšlienku o trojitom koreni európskej civilizácie, ktorá stojí na troch kopcoch: Akropola v Aténach, Kapitól v Ríme a Golgota v Jeruzaleme. Európske dejiny majú grécky, rímsky a biblický základ. „Misia sv. Cyrila a Metoda nás pevne ukotvila do tohto trojitého východiska.“ Na záver diecézny biskup dekrétom vyhlásil v Žilinskej diecéze Rok svätých Cyrila a Metoda. Počas neho budú v diecéze realizované rôzne pastoračné projekty. Biskup Tomáš bude navštevovať jednotlivé dekanáty s katechézou o našich slovanských apoštoloch. Zároveň bude prebiehať program formácie laikov vo farnostiach, súťaže pre školy, spoločenstvá i miništrantov a diecéza bude vydávať časopis Naša Žilinská diecéza, ktorý má pomáhať pri vytváraní spoločného povedomia miestnej cirkvi. „My máme za čo ďakovať Solúnskym bratom. Okrem toho, že máme kultúru, máme písomníctvo, máme vypracovaný súdny systém, rovnako máme univerzity a sú tu tí, ktorí odovzdávali Božie slovo.“ pripomenul biskup.

Rok zasvätený patrónom diecézy bude ukončený v júli 2013 slávnosťou v Terchovej, kde je najväčší kostol na Slovensku, zasvätený solúnskym bratom.

TK KBS

Kardinál Ján Ch. Korec ocenený cenou Fra Angelico

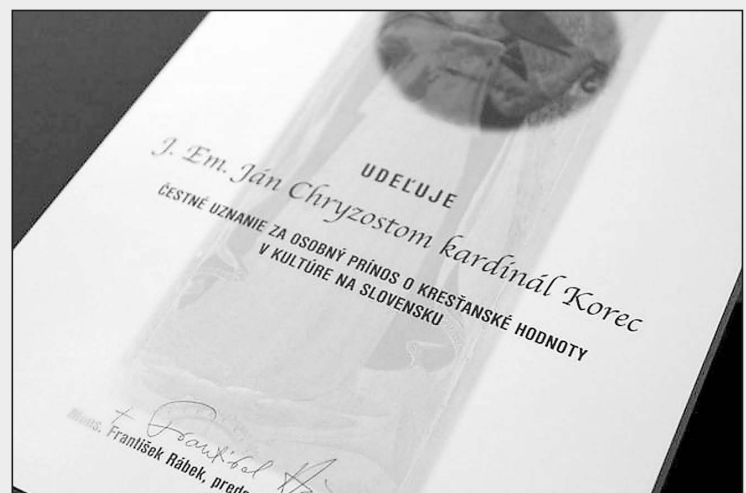


FOTO: TK KBS/ Tibor Ujlacký

Kardinál Ján Chryzostom Korec získal vo štvrtok 16. februára ocenenie Fra Angelico v kategórii slovesné umenie. V priebehu slávnostného večera odovzdávania cien Fra Angelico umelcom za rok 2011 v Zrkadlovej sieni Primaciálneho paláca v Bratislave, ho za neho z rúk ordinára Ozborených zborov a Ozborených síl SR Mons. Františka Rábeka prevzal nitriansky biskup Mons. Viliam Judák.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 121

STREDA, 29. FEBRUÁRA 2012

Číslo 5859



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke uprostred vpravo prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič si podáva ruku s vedúcim delegácie Danom Burtonom.

On February 21, President Ivan Gasparovic welcome a delegation of representatives from the United States Congress at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. In the photo President Gasparovic is shown greeting Dan Burton, head of the American delegation.

Prezident Ivan Gašparovič prijal poslancov Snemovne reprezentantov Kongresu USA

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič prijal 21. februára 2012 v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave poslancov Snemovne Reprezentantov Kongresu USA. Hlava štátu ich informovala o súčasnom postavení Slovenskej republiky ako modernej demokratickej a ekonomicky aktívnej členskej krajine EÚ.

Prezident Ivan Gašparovič pripomenul, že úspech, ktorý Slovensko od svojho osamostatnenia dosiahlo, by nebol možný bez pomoci spojencov. Pokiaľ ide o spoluprácu v Severoatlantickej aliancii, Ivan Gašparovič potvrdil, že slovenskí vojaci zotrávajú v misii ISAF v Afganistane až dovtedy, kým tam ich účasť bude potrebná. Dodal však, že budúcnosť slovenskej účasti v Afganistane bude závisieť od záverov májového summitu NATO v Chicagu.

Kongresman Dan Burton prezidenta informoval o pretrvávajúcej podpore USA

Pokračovanie na str. 22



Slovák Peter Tomka sa stal predsedom Medzinárodného súdneho dvora

Slovenského sudcu Petra Tomku 6. februára 2012 zvolili za nového predsedu Medzinárodného súdneho dvora (MSD) so sídlom v Haagu. Informoval o tom tento najvyšší súdny orgán OSN, ktorý rozhoduje o sporoch medzi štátmi.

Tomka (55) na vrcholnom poste medzinárodného súdu nahradil Japonca Hisašiho Owadu. Novým podpredsedom MSD sa stal Mexičan Bernardo Sepulveda-Amor, uviedla tlačová agentúra AFP. Funkčné obdobie oboch je trojročné.

Sudcom MSD sa Tomka stal v roku 2003, od roku 2009 pôsobil ako jeho podpredseda. Na Slovensku sa stal predtým známym zastupovaním Slovenska pred MSD v spore s Maďarskom vo veci vodného diela Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros.

MSD zriadili v roku 1945 a je jediným zo šiestich hlavných orgánov OSN, ktoré nesídli v New Yorku.

TASR



Peter Tomka of Slovakia was elected President of the International Court in Hague, Netherlands.

Rok Maticy slovenskej pripomenie významné výročia a osobnosti

Rok Maticy slovenskej (MS), ktorý začal symbolicky 5. februára 2012, v deň 150. výročia napísania prvých stanov MS, pripomenie významné výročia a osobnosti slovenskej histórie. MS ho uzavrie pri príležitosti 150. výročia ustanovujúceho valného zhromaždenia v auguste 2013. Na tlačovej konferencii o tom nedávno v Martine informoval predseda MS Marián Tkáč. Pripomenieme si také významné jubileá, ako je 250. výročie narodenia a 200. výročie úmrtia Antona Bernoláka, 150. výročie vzniku prvého slovenského gymnázia v Revúcej, 200. výročie narodenia Jonáša Záborského a iné osobnosti, ktorých životné jubileá budeme oslavovať. Osobitne by som chcel poďakovať stretnutie mladých Slovákov z celého sveta v roku 2013 v Košiciach, ktoré budú v tom čase európskym hlavným mestom kultúry," povedal predseda MS.

Na príprave podujatí bude MS spolupracovať predovšetkým so Slovenskou národnou knižnicou (SNK), ktorá podľa Tkáča vyrástla v lone MS a bola donedávna jej súčasťou. Riaditeľ sekcie Pamätníka slovenskej literatúry a umenia SNK Peter Cabadaj považuje Rok MS za rok plný výziev. „Málokedy v minulosti bola taká silná koncentrácia významných výročí, ako práve počas roku, ktorý sme vyhlásili. Je to skutočná výzva pre všetky kultúrne, vedecké, vzdelávacie a iné inštitúcie, aby sa zapojili. Pretože by to mal byť dôkaz o našej kultúrnej vyspelosti. Stopäťdesiat rokov MS je nielen výročím jednej inštitúcie. Je to aj významný letopočet z pohľadu slovenskej národnej minulosti a našej národnej kultúry. Preto je profesionálnou, morálnou a inou povinnosťou všetkých kultúrnych inštitúcií, aby sa do tohto roka zapojili," podotkol Cabadaj.

Zdôraznil, že z MS vzniklo viacero inštitúcií, ktoré dnes fungujú samostatne a ktoré by sa mali zapojiť do roka MS. „Jednak z dôvodu, aby na seba upozornili. A zároveň ukázali verejnosti, že slovenská veda, kultúra, vzdelanosť, aj napriek ťažkej situácii, stále fungujú, dýchajú a majú čo ponúkať aj súčasným generáciám. To je hlavný zmysel, prečo SNK podporuje rok MS a prečo chce byť silným partnerom MS pri príprave tohto pamätného a významného roka z pohľadu našich národných dejín," dodal riaditeľ sekcie Pamätníka slovenskej literatúry a umenia SNK.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

Na snímke zľava správca MS Ján Eštok, Marián Tkáč, riaditeľ Sekcie pamätníka slovenskej literatúry a umenia zo Slovenskej národnej knižnice Peter Cabadaj a vedecký tajomník MS Imrich Sedlák.

The Year of the Matica Slovenska began on February 5, 2012. This marks the 150th anniversary of the first written bylaws of the cultural organization. Activities are planned for the year. Seated are the officials of the Matica Slovenska, L-R: Jan Estok; Marian Tkac, Peter Cabadaj, and Imrich Sedlak.