



Jednota

THE UNION

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The 2009 Membership Meet

The First Catholic Slovak Union held a very successful membership meet aboard Carnival's "Liberty" Ship. Members and guests enjoyed a seven night Eastern Caribbean Cruise from November 14-21, 2009.

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

The itinerary from Miami included stops in Half Moon Cay, Bahamas – St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and San Juan, Puerto Rico. An unfortunate incident happened to keep the ship from stopping at Grand Turk.

On Sunday evening the ship gave us a complimentary Club Room to hold our awards night.

The top award for insurance sales in 2008 went to John Jurcenko. Kenneth Arendt captured first place in Annuity/IRA/Park Money Procurement. First in Total Points went to George Sprock while Dorothy Petrus won the top spot for the Number of Policies Sold.

Congratulations for a job well done! Congratulations and a BIG thank you from the Membership and Marketing Committee are also in order for all the recommenders who brought in new members, additional insurance and Annuity/IRA/Park Money.



Half Moon Cay welcomed members and guests aboard Carnival's Liberty Ship

The Best of the Best for 2008

Insurance Sales

- First Place – John Jurcenko
- Second Place – Sophie Pipak
- Third Place – George A. Sprock

Total Points

- First Place – George A. Sprock
- Second Place – Dorothy J. Petrus
- Third Place – Kenneth A. Arendt

Annuity/IRA Procurement

- First Place – Kenneth A. Arendt
- Second Place – George A. Sprock
- Third Place – George F. Matta

Most Policies Sold

- First Place – Dorothy J. Petrus
- Second Place (Tie) – George A. Sprock
- Second Place (Tie) – Joseph Rura
- Third Place – Audrey J. Balazik

Everyone had a great time. On behalf of the Membership and Marketing Committee, I want to thank everyone who took part in this years Membership Meet. We hope to see all of you at the next Membership Meet.

Until Next Time,
Good Luck and God Bless!

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President
Chairman –
Membership and Marketing Committee

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February 14 is widely celebrated as St. Valentine's Day. It also happens to be recognized as a Memorial of SS Cyril and Methodius in the Roman Catholic Liturgical Calendar in the United States. The following is an extract from a presentation made by Sister M. Martina Tybor, SS C.M. of the Jankola Library in Danville, PA, at the Second Midwestern Pastoral Seminar under the sponsorship of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and published in Furdek 1982. Her reflections on the lives of these saints are as relevant today as they were then.

Happy SS. Cyril & Methodius Day to you all!

-Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec

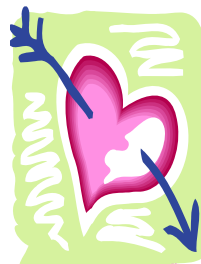
“Saints Cyril and Methodius: Educators”

by Sister M. Martina Tybor, SS. C.M., Furdek 1982

To consider Saints Cyril and Methodius as evangelizers and educators is to turn attention to a gift of God that is unique in the order of grace and unique in the order of natural talents as well.

Even in retrospect they merit accolades and honor, and our contemporary, Pope John Paul II, proclaimed this to the world by naming them co-patrons of Europe. Their physical energies were spent in the ninth century, *continued on page 3*

Saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers born in Thessaloniki, Greece, in the 9th century. They became missionaries of Christianity among the Slavic peoples of Great Moravia and Pannonia and are credited with creating the first alphabet used to transcribe the Old Church Slavonic language. In 1980, Pope John Paul II declared them co-patrons of Europe.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

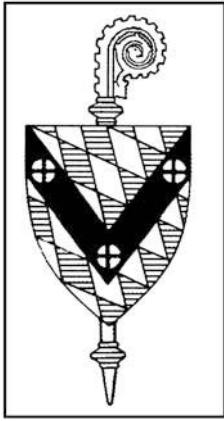
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2010

- The annual yield on Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.40% (4.306% apr)
 - The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.15% (4.066% apr)
 - The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 3.75% (3.682% apr)
 - The first year annual yield on a new "Park Free Plus Annuity" is 3.50% (3.440% apr)
 - The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.00% (3.922% apr)
 - The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 3.90% (3.826% apr)
- If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Insights and Viewpoints



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

February 14, 2010

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 6:17, 20-26

Gospel Summary

It is instructive to compare Luke's Beatitudes with those of Matthew (5:2-11). Luke offers just four Beatitudes while Matthew gives us eight. But the four that Luke shares with Matthew are considered the oldest version and contain the essential

teaching. Luke also adds four Woes, not found in Matthew, and intended to re-enforce, by contrast, the message of the previous Beatitudes.

The most important word in all the Beatitudes is the subject of the first one, namely, the "poor." This English word, suggesting economic destitution, does not at all capture the full meaning of the Hebrew word from which it is ultimately derived. In that fuller sense, the poor are the "afflicted ones" or, more specifically, the "powerless ones." This often includes the economically destitute but it includes also those who recognize their radical poverty when it comes to the matter of final salvation. In the gospel, the poor stand in contrast to the Scribes and Pharisees who, though themselves far from materially rich, were so "full of themselves" and so smug about salvation that they effectively closed themselves to the free gift of the Kingdom.

In essence, therefore, God gives salvation to those humble ones who know how powerless they really are in spiritual matters and who are ready to turn humbly to God who is more than willing to give them the Kingdom. The "hungry" and the "weeping" and the "persecuted" are variations on the poor ones. The hungry know that only God can satisfy their needs and do not try to place that burden on any merely human creature. The weeping know that God's command to love often leads to grieving...and who love nonetheless. The persecuted, or ridiculed ones, gladly embrace the "foolish" wisdom of unselfish service because they realize that God's gift is only for the generous ones.

Life Implications

The seemingly benign appearance of these well-known Beatitudes conceal a very harsh judgment on many of the attitudes of the secular culture in which we live and by which we are probably influenced far more than we realize. This secular culture (and our natural instincts) lead us to place a very high premium on control. A metaphor for this in our contemporary world is the remote control for our TVs. There is a pleasing sense of power in being able to "zap" advertisements and people on the screen with whom we disagree.

This tendency could be relatively harmless except when we allow it to influence our relationship with God and our attitude toward other people. An excessive yearning for control is clearly a prideful attitude and it is pride, more than anything else, that blocks our access to the free gift of salvation. It can also destroy the delicate fabric of our loving relationship with other people.

The opposite of our passion for control is our willingness to love to the point of vulnerability. Machismo is unhealthy because it is so out of touch with reality. We are living in a dangerous illusion when we think that we must always be in control. The fact is that we do not control the most important realities in life, such as love, happiness and life itself. These are wonderful gifts and we should be happy to accept them as such. When we try to seize them, they inevitably slip through our fingers.

We need to understand the true role of power. It can be very useful but it must always be guided by love. When that happens, we can also let go of it, when the time comes, and thus be ready for the exquisite gift of God's Kingdom.



February 21, 2010

First Sunday of Lent

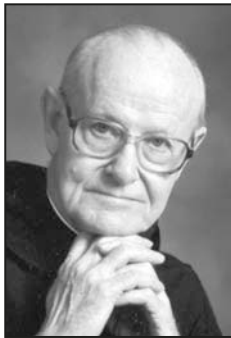
Luke 4:1-13

Gospel Summary

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Recall that this event comes immediately after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. After his baptism Jesus was praying when the Holy Spirit descended upon him, and a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son." The devil now says to Jesus, "If you are Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Then the devil promises all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. Finally the devil challenges Jesus to throw himself from the parapet of the temple to prove that since he is God's Son, he would not be injured. Jesus triumphs over each temptation.

Life Implications

The writers of the gospels clearly affirm the humanity of Jesus.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

However, it is unlikely that they would have dared to say that Jesus was tempted by the devil—with the implication of the possibility of failure—unless Jesus himself had spoken of the trials he was undergoing. The Letter to the Hebrews expresses the tradition that Jesus initiated: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned" (4:15). In the dramatic confrontation between the devil and Jesus, Luke indicates that until the day Jesus died, the devil attempted to entice him from fidelity to his Father's will and to his mission.

Luke explains the meaning of the temptations Jesus underwent by using the Book of Deuteronomy description of the temptations that Israel underwent in the desert wilderness. The key to interpretation lies in the text known in Hebrew as the Shema: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Dt 6:4-5). The Dominican bible scholar Jerome Murphy-O'Connor explains how the Shema was understood in Jesus' time (Bible Review, August 1999).

"With all your heart" means with a heart undivided by a contrary desire. In the desert wilderness the people's craving for food divided their hearts from trust in God's care for them. Jesus, however, would not allow his craving for food to divide his heart from complete trust in his Father's care. "With all your soul" means trust in God even if you should lose your life. In the wilderness the people were afraid they were going to die of thirst, and demanded evidence of God's presence: "The Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying 'Is the Lord among us or not?'" (Ex 17:7). Jesus, however, would not ask God to prove his presence by saving him if he jumped off the temple parapet. (Luke places this temptation last in his sequence because his whole gospel is a narrative of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. There he will choose fidelity to his Father's will and mission over the desire to save his own life.) "With all your might" means with all your wealth. After the Israelites reached the Promised Land, they are warned that their wealth would cause them to forget the Lord, and to worship false gods and demons. The devil, understanding the allure of wealth, promises to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he would forget God, and worship him. Jesus said to the devil in reply, "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve'" (Dt 6:13).

The temptations of Jesus point back to the temptations of Israel in the past, and point forward to the trials that the Church in all its members will undergo in the future. It is now we who are in the wilderness, with no lasting city, on a journey to the Promised Land. Each trial that life brings even to our dying day is a crisis, but is also an opportunity to trust more completely that the Lord is with us, and that we do love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might. We are confident that we will triumph in our trials of faith, not because of our own strength, but because Jesus has given us his holy Spirit. Thus sharing the fidelity of his undivided heart, we can pray with confidence: Our Father, do not let us be defeated by temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the new editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The new E-Mail Address for the articles will be 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 Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; Fax: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

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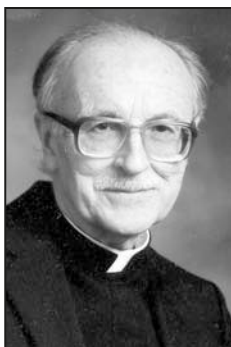
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Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

HOW INSURANCE WORKS

Insurance makes it possible to transfer risk from one person to a group of persons. The risk-sharing group is usually a private insurance company, called insurer, underwriter, or carrier.

Insurance is written (set forth in legal language) in the form of a contract called a policy. The policy states the arrangements for the protection or coverage. In it, the company promises to pay the insurance money if your death should happen within the period covered by the policy. The insurance money is called the benefit, or face amount of the policy.

The person receiving the insurance protection is the insured or policy holder. In return for the protection, he/she promises to pay a premium. The sum of money is payable to the company in a lump sum, annual payments, or in periodic installments.

For the cost of protection to be distributed fairly among all holders of a particular kind of policy, calculation of premium rates has to take into account the amount of risk involved as determined from experience.

In life insurance, matters that affect premium rates are age, health and occupation of the insured at the time he/she applies for insurance. Mortality tables show rates of death at each age and are used in predicting life expectancy of the applicant. Making up premium rate tables is part of the work of actuaries. (An actuary is a specialist in the mathematics of insurance. He calculates the probable length of life, works out rates and premiums, and figures risks for life insurance companies.) Different actuarial calculations are used to determine premiums for such applicants as ...for example... a 28year old man, a 45 year old woman, a test pilot, an office worker, a smoker and a non-smoker.

With participating policies (dividend paying), the actuaries set the annual premiums higher to cover the anticipated expenditures. In general, dividends reflect the investment income a company earned, the mortality its policy holders experienced and the company's expenses. Dividends are paid at the company's discretion, and are never guaranteed.

Companies let you borrow against the cash value of your policy at an interest rates specified in the policy. If you die while the loan is outstanding, the amount you owe is deducted from the death benefit paid to your survivors. If you cash in your policy and take the cash value, the amount of any outstanding loan is deducted from the sum the insurance company owes you.

Let me ease your mind and tell you that life insurance companies are required by state laws to establish certain minimum liabilities on their financial statements based on state mandated assumptions. The chief such liability is known as the policy reserve. This is a fund which together with future premiums and interest earnings will be sufficient to meet future obligations. Insurance companies are subject to state law in many of their operations. Every state has an insurance commissioner who checks on the financial stability of companies who is licensed to do business in their state.

Since our society has been in existence for over 120 years...you can be assured any investments you make with us, whether it is life insurance or annuities, are secure.

Please help our society by signing a loved one today.

For information on our insurance and annuity products contact your local lodge officers. If you do not know who they are, call 1-800- JEDNOTA (533-6682). You can also go to our web site at www.fcsu.com to download information and forms.

Until next time,

**Good Luck and God Bless,
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
Vice President**

Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee



**National Vice President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.**

Saints Cyril and Methodius: Educators

continued from page 1

true, but their ideals, their dedication, their integrity, their vision, and their upright singleness of purpose are perennially fresh and inspiring even down to our own day.

Given this opportunity, and dealing with the privilege of considering Saints Cyril and Methodius in the light of their service or ministry to God and man within the apostolate of education, we can become somewhat embarrassed by the multiple avenues that open to our serious reflection

They were generous, courageous, and resourceful, for when they learned that the Slavs still had no system of writing, they dealt with that problem. They did not ignore it or simply disregard it with wishful thinking. They set themselves to work; they created an alphabet, translated relevant works, and prepared books for an efficient approach to missionary endeavor and cultural expansion. They were honest, humble and submissive, for they presented to Rome's highest tribunal a full and open report of their activities and procedures with a complete willingness to accept either correction or approval as the Holy Father would judge proper upon examining their labors. At all times they were faultlessly loyal to the Holy See even though their native orientation was not western but rather Byzantine.

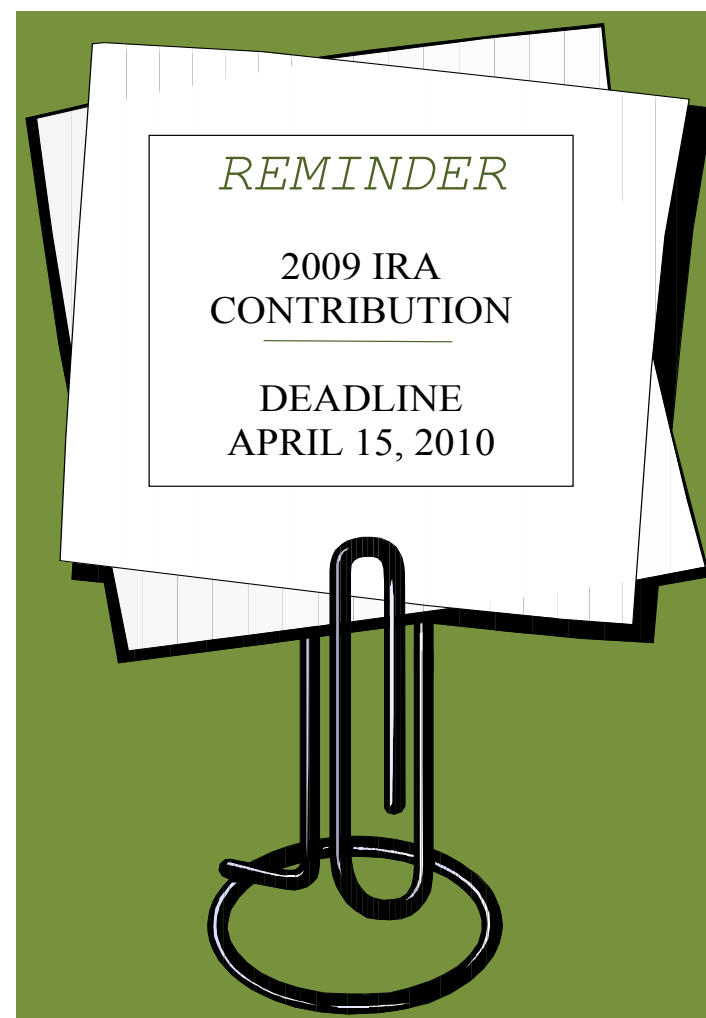
They taught with authority, understanding and patience, for they invited questions and gently gave explanations even to a second and third time until the learner was satisfied that he had a grasp of the matter. Most important of all, they taught both by word and by example, and this imparted an unparalleled dignity to their teaching and filled their learners with respect for the lesson as well as for the instructor. They taught with spirit and enthusiasm, with devotion, vision and purpose, at all times making it clear that God and heaven were the prize to be won by all their disciples. They were indeed model innovative Christian teachers, richly creative and far ahead of their times.

Because of these genuinely blessed apostles, our forefathers were singularly gifted with faith combined with understanding and with an alphabet in the vernacular, the key to cultural attainment among the nations of the civilized world. The best of options were provided for them to become first class citizens of two worlds – the spiritual through grace, and the intellectual through learning and culture. And it is our blessed good fortune to be heirs of this valuable legacy.

To honor Cyril and Methodius, the superlative benefactors of our forefathers and of all our people through the changing generations, let us praise God with the inspired writer, recalling that:

Those who are learned will be as radiant as the sky in all its beauty;

Those who instruct the people in goodness will shine like stars for all eternity.



Beneficiary Changes

Please keep your policies up to date!

To change your beneficiaries you can download the *member service request form* from our website at

www.fcsu.com then mail to the home office at

6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300, Independence OH 44131

Insights and Viewpoints

The Effect of the World Economic Crisis on Slovakia

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

During the 21st century, Slovakia has enjoyed one of the fastest growing economies in the European Union (EU). But the Slovak Republic has by no means been immune from dramatic slide in world economic growth, especially since much of Slovakia's growth has come from export markets.

When prominent Wall Street investment firms and banks showed shocking losses and the American economy started to nosedive during the fall of 2008, the economic turmoil quickly spread to Europe. Being an EU member, Slovakia experienced a sudden plummet in exports to its member states, and overall, exports dropped by 25.1 percent in the first nine months of 2009 (Slovak Spectator, November 30, 2009). Soon unemployment began to increase markedly. With its heavy dependency on the auto industry, Slovakia felt a more sudden drop than many of its neighbors. A car-scrapping bonus offered by the government helped temporarily to stem the stiff drop in new car sales, but it could only make a slight dent in the decline in production (Slovak Spectator, December 14, 2009). Many firms, such as Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel, went to a four day work week, which was part of an earlier agreement in the decade not to lay off workers in exchange for tax benefits.

A report from the Statistics Office of the Slovak Republic showed a 30 percent decline in trade during January 2009 compared to a year earlier. Exports fell to 2.913 billion Euros. This was the lowest monthly amount of exports since February 2006. Imports also declined sharply by 22.4 percent. As a result, the January 2009 trade deficit grew to 279.5 million Euros, when there had been a trade surplus of 42.3 million Euros in January 2008 (RSI, March 13, 2009).

During the first quarter of 2009, Slovakia's gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 5.6 percent. This contrasts sharply with past economic growth, for as recently as the second quarter of 2008, Slovak GDP grew at a "blistering" rate of 7.9 percent. GDP shrank an additional 5.3 percent in the second quarter of 2009 (Slovak Spectator, November 30, 2009).

Slovakia's budget has suffered as jobs have been lost and investment spending has dried up. State revenues (3.945 billion Euros) during the first five months of 2009 came in 10.8 percent lower compared to 2008 levels. For all of 2009, central bank estimates posit that "gross domestic product contracted by about 4.8 per cent" (The Irish Times, January 8, 2010).

The economic crisis has also pushed up unemployment, which is the second highest in the European Union. Already by October 2008, unemployment in Slovakia was on the rise and reached 9.9% (Slovak Spectator, October 2, 2008). Jobless rates neared a five year high, at 12.66 percent by December 2009, with 335,490 persons officially registered as unemployed. The drop in jobs zoomed highest in the construction industry, where jobless rates grew 50 percent. Labor experts predict further declines for at least six months in 2010, as the economy gradually recovers (Slovak Spectator, January 25, 2010).

In addition, because of rising unemployment and more government outlays to help citizens, total government expenditures actually rose 5.5 percent to 4.777 billion Euros. Thus the budget deficit skyrocketed, rising as much as 831 million Euros by the end of May 2009 (RSI 1 June 2009).

With the start of 2009, Slovakia had put aside its traditional currency, the koruna (crown), and adopted the Euro as its official currency. It obtained a quite favorable rate of exchange for the crown, because the negotiated rate occurred before the advent of the world economic crisis. While this has provided Slovakia with a strong currency and eased travel and trade from other European Union (EU) states, it also has made Slovak exports more pricy than its neighbors, who still use their original currency. For instance, the nearby Czech Republic experienced less of an economic drop – 4.1%, since it never qualified to adopt the Euro, and still uses the Czech crown, which has declined in value vs. the Euro. Winter tourism in



2010 Slovak Catholic Federation

Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal

The 32nd Annual Slovak Catholic Federation SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal starts on the weekend of February 13 – 14, 2010.

Funds from this collection will aid the priest-graduate students studying at the Pontifical College of SS. Cyril & Methodius in Rome, Italy. A percentage of the monies collected also goes to those religious congregations in Slovakia represented in the Conference of Slovak Religious, namely Vincentian Sisters (Ruzomerok); Dominican Sisters (Dunajsk Luzna); School Sisters of St. Francis (Zilina); Daughters of St. Francis (Bratislava-Prievoz); Sisters of the Order of St. Basil (Secovce, Presov); and Franciscan Fathers (Bratislava), and the House of Benedict (Bacurov). The 2009 Appeal collected \$50,322.49. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

All checks are to be made payable to the: Slovak Catholic Federation and should be sent to:

Ms. Dolores M. Evanko, National Secretary/Treasurer
Slovak Catholic Federation
173 Berner Avenue
Hazelton, PA 18201

Slovakia experienced a 26 per cent decline due to economic crisis and a strong Euro (The Irish Times, January 8, 2010).

As a result of the strong Euro, Slovak economic growth has suffered, but that has been good for Slovaks traveling in neighboring states. Many Slovak citizens have gone on shopping sprees in nearby Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, where they can pick up goods at bargain rates, since those states' currencies have plummeted (RSI, 20 May 2009).

Acknowledging the challenges ahead, Slovakia's President Ivan Gasparovič stated his disappointment with the economic health of the country in an interview with Slovak SITA news agency at the close of 2009. The president compared Slovakia's situation to a "hard blow between the eyes, letting us know that not everything is as we thought and not everything would develop as it started" (BBC Monitoring Europe, December 28, 2009). However, Gasparovič tempered his outlook by noting that no Slovak banks collapsed, and the decline has decelerated. Third quarter GDP moderated to a 4.9 percent decline, and that was actually 1.6 percent less than the previous quarter, so many economists see it as a possible end to the steady decline (Slovak Spectator, November 30, 2009). Gasparovič is hoping that 2010 will be a turnaround year, and counts on the Slovak Republic scaling back government spending, reducing debt, and creating new jobs. Parliamentary elections will take place at midyear, and people vote with their pocket books. Foreign investment can help jumpstart Slovakia out of the economic malaise.

On a positive note, Zdeněk Tuma, a Czech National Bank governor, stated that "the Euro had helped spare Slovakia the worst of the economic disruption that affected the rest of the region." As a result of a strong currency, Slovakia can borrow at a lower rate on international markets, and that helps lower the budget deficit. In addition, growth is projected to return to Slovakia in 2010, with forecasts estimating 3.1 percent positive turnaround, which would be higher than the more stagnant growth forecasts for its neighbors. As a result, investors are more likely to invest in Slovakia than elsewhere, because the currency risk lessens.

Specific examples illustrate this point: Volkswagen Slovakia going ahead with plans to start production of a new small car in a factory outside of Bratislava. Likewise, AU Optronics of Taiwan signed a EUR 191 million agreement in December 2010 and will build an LCD television component factory in Trenčín (The Irish Times, January 8, 2010). The factory will bring 1,300 direct jobs, and stimulate the local economy, bringing an additional 2,000 indirect jobs to the Trenčín area (Official Web Site of the City of Trenčín).

Thus the future looks somewhat brighter, and recovery appears to be on the horizon, albeit at a much slower rate than the decline. Slovakia still enjoys the brightest outlook of any EU state according to the Economic Sentiment Indicator tracked in London's Daily Mail (January 8, 2010). But a full Slovak recovery ultimately still depends upon economic health in the rest of the EU and the world.

Sources:

BBC Monitoring; Daily Mail (London); "Down in the dumps: Eastern Europe's economic woes," The Economist (November 7, 2009); Irish Times; Official Web Site of the City of Trenčín (Accessed 25 January 2010); Radio Slovakia International (RSI); and the Slovak Spectator.

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, FEB 17	MONDAY, FEB 8
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WEDNESDAY, MAR 17	MONDAY, MAR 8

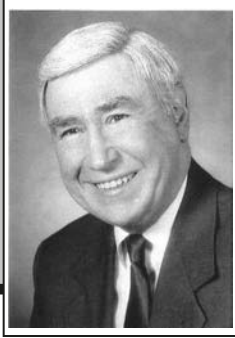
Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the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

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"JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300 Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

By *Joseph T. Senko*

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



Getting a Job in Tough Times

If you are among the thousands of people seeking work, do not give up hope and do not panic. It is important to protect yourself from being scammed into paying for faulty leads or useless information.

DON'T GET SCAMMED

Many people fail to follow their better judgment when they are anxious to find work. Unfortunately, they often find themselves taken advantage of by employment scams. Remember that most legitimate organizations do not require job applicants to pay for a work opportunity or for information about openings. Some scammers try to sell unsuspecting job hunters information about federal or postal service jobs, but these agencies never charge application or information fees, according to the Federal Trade Commission. In some cases, a scammer may try to sell you a brochure that supposedly contains job listings or test questions for government exams. The information in these booklets may be incorrect or useless. You can find out legitimate information at www.usajobs.opm.gov, the official job site of the federal government or at www.usa.gov.

REACH OUT TO YOUR CONTACTS

Employment professionals advise that networking with those who know you and your skills can be a much more effective job-search technique than sending out stacks of resumes to strangers. Begin by making a list of people who might be able to help you in your search. Be creative, listing not only former colleagues and employers, but also friends, family members, and neighbors who might have great contacts. Send each one a personal note, or arrange a meeting. Tell them you are looking for new opportunities and explain exactly what you are seeking. Ask if they know of any companies or professionals that you can contact.

LOOK FOR SUPPORT AND IDEAS

Isolation from the workplace is a tough part of any job loss, but it can also prevent you from finding a new position. Stay in touch with former colleagues or with other contacts in the same field. Socialize with them as often as possible to keep current with the marketplace and maintain your good spirits. Whether they have a job or are looking themselves, these professionals can be a sounding board and information source.

DO THE RESEARCH

When you land an interview, make sure you are prepared. Use resources in your local library, such as corporate information guides and business publications – as well as the organization's own website – to learn everything you can about the company.

MAKE YOUR CASE

Once you know what the company's about, begin to consider how you should best market yourself to this employer. No matter what else is discussed in the interview, your potential employer is seeking answers to a couple of basic questions: Why should I hire you? What's in it for me? As you head into the appointment, make sure you have thought about answers to these questions. Be prepared to explain how your past experience fits with this organization and how the company can benefit from having someone with your skills and background.

IRS Circular Disclosure: In order to ensure compliance with IRS Circular 230, I must inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this transmission and attachments hereto is not intended or written to be used and may not be used by any person for the purpose of (1) avoiding any penalty that may be imposed by the Internal Revenue Code or (2) promoting, marketing, or recommending to any other party any tax-related matter(s) addressed herein.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the new editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The new E-Mail Address for the articles will be 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.

49TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
24 PUBLIC SQUARE
CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113
PHONE: 216-696-5600; FAX: 216-696-0432

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010 through WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010

By direction of the Executive Committee and with the approval of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be held at

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 24 PUBLIC SQUARE, CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113.

All National Officers, Regional Directors, District Officers, Branch Officers, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union are notified herewith that the Convention dates are: **Saturday, August 14, 2010 – Wednesday, August 18, 2010** so they may schedule their 2010 calendars accordingly.

All Officers and Members are directed to review Section 11.03 through Section 11.08 of our By-Laws to determine delegate eligibility and duties and Section 11.09 through 11.12 for the Convention business. Election of delegates to our 49th International Convention must be completed by May 17, 2010, ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention (see Section 11.03c). However, to assure guaranteed hotel registration and room assignments, it is requested that all delegates to the 49th International Convention be elected as early as the annual meetings of the districts and branches in December 2009, or by **January 31, 2010** at the latest. **The final delegate count** shall be based on members as of February 1, 2010 (see Section 11.04c). Appointments to the various convention committees will begin as soon as delegate credentials are received and certified at our Home Office at 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131.

The National Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union are looking forward to a cost effective and productive 49th International Convention. All potential delegates to this 49th International Convention are requested to study our existing By-Laws, ask questions of the National Officers and Members of the Board of Directors, and review the programs and financial statements (see our website (www.fcsu.com) for the Financial Statements for 2006, 2007 & 2008). Proposed By-Law change forms will be sent out to the Branches and Districts in September 2009 and are due back by January 31, 2010.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

Publication Schedule for 2010

Issue Date	Deadline
January 6	December 28
January 20	January 11
February 3	January 25
February 17	February 8
March 3	February 22
March 17	March 8
March 31	March 22
April 28	April 19
May 12	May 3
May 26	May 17
June 9	May 28
July 7	June 28
August 4	July 26
September 1	August 23
September 15	September 3
September 29	September 20
October 13	October 4
October 27	October 18
November 10	November 1
November 24	November 15
December 8	November 29

Entries Now Accepted For District-Wide Easter Coloring Contest

HEY KIDS

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls, ages four – 12, who 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. Enter By March 26 Return your coloring page by March 26, 2010. On the back side, please print your name, age, address, and branch number – be sure to include a picture of yourself, too.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer, IN 46311

Lodge members will judge the entries at our District II meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010. Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter.
GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

Barbara Fayta, Chairperson Easter Coloring Contest



News From Slovakia

Lajcak to Discuss Middle East Peace Process in Cairo

Bratislava, January 10 (TASR) - Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak on Sunday left for an official visit to Egypt, ministry spokesman Peter Stano told TASR on the same day.

In Cairo, Lajcak will discuss new impulses vis-a-vis the Middle East peace process, as well as the intensification of Slovak-Egyptian co-operation.

"Egypt plays an important role in the Middle East region, so it's natural to start with a visit to Cairo," said Lajcak, adding that he plans to visit other countries in this region later.

On Monday and Tuesday, January 11-12, Lajcak will meet his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Abul Gheit, head of Parliament Ahmed Fathi Sorour and Omar Suleiman, Minister without portfolio and director of the Egyptian General Intelligence Services (EGIS).

Egypt is currently preparing a new initiative concerning the Middle East peace process and Lajcak is the first foreign affairs minister from the European Union to visit Egypt this year.

"The issues that we'll hold talks on with our Egyptian partners will be interesting for our EU allies as well, while on the other hand, Egyptian representatives will be able to inform other EU members through us," said Lajcak before his departure.

While in Cairo, Lajcak also wants to focus on bilateral relations, which, according to him, have a long and rich tradition. The main focus should be on economic projects, partly in view of Slovak Economy Minister Lubomir Jahnatek's planned visit to Egypt in February.

TASR

NBS Has Already Withdrawn 97 percent of Koruna Notes and Coins

Bratislava, January 8 (TASR) - The Slovak central bank (NBS) has already withdrawn Slovak-koruna banknotes and coins worth Sk150 billion (€5 billion) from circulation, which represents 96.9 percent of the total circulation as at December 31, 2007, NBS informed on Friday.

According to NBS managing director for payment system and money circulation Milena Korenova, 111.5 million pieces of notes and 232.6 million pieces of coins were taken out of circulation last year.

More than 20 million banknotes, mostly with denomination of Sk20 and Sk100 still remain in circulation, informed Korenova, adding that people can exchange koruna-notes in NBS without any time limits, while exchange of koruna-coins for euros is only possible until December 31, 2013.

TASR

Analysts: Foreign Trade Awakening, Car Industry Remains Driving Force

Bratislava, January 6 (TASR) - Slovak foreign trade was hit hard at the beginning of 2009 by not only the forced shutdown of several export-oriented industrial companies due to the disruption of natural gas supplies from Russia but also by the precipitous slowdown of industries focusing on export markets in the Eurozone.

Economy analysts approached by TASR agreed Wednesday that this double-whammy effect last January represented the worst of times for the country in 2009.

During the course of the year, exports revived gradually, and the analysts assume that the revival of Slovak foreign trade will surely continue in 2010, since signs of slight improvement have been evident for several months. In turn, industrial production and revenues in industrial branches are starting to return to life, the analysts agree.

According to Postova Banka analyst Jana Mrvova, future development will also be influenced by phasing out the "impact of several anti-crisis measures introduced by countries' governments - especially the oft-mentioned scrapyards contribution (which provided savings for people who scrapped older cars and bought new ones)". The driving force of Slovak exports in 2010 will remain the car industry as well as the manufacture of electronics.

Volksbank Slovakia analyst Vladimir Vano thinks that, like in 2009, industrial branches with international business concerns manufacturing in several countries which decide to take advantage of Slovakia's euro introduction and move larger parts of their manufactures to local factories, will have the favorable position in 2010.

TASR

SkyToll Collected €1.5 million During Nine Days

Bratislava, January 9 (TASR) - Operator of the recently-introduced electronic road-toll system in Slovakia - SkyToll - has collected €1.5 million as of Saturday.

The system was launched on January 1, 2010. "Vehicles obliged to pay toll have been

driving on 9,926,140km of tariffed road sections in total," SkyToll spokesperson Lenka Lenkacka told TASR on Saturday, adding that there are 84,801 registered trucks.

All the financial means collected by SkyToll on Slovak highways head for the coffers of the National Highway Company (NDS).

TASR

President Appoints Makuch as New NBS Governor

Bratislava, January 12 (TASR) - President Ivan Gasparovic on Monday appointed Jozef Makuch to the post of governor of the Slovak central bank (NBS).

Slovakia's membership of the Eurozone ensures Makuch a chair in the governing council of the European Central Bank (ECB).

The new governor, who is 56 years old and has been on the NBS bank board since January 2006, replaces Ivan Sramko, whose term in office expired at the end of 2009. Sramko himself turned down a repeat candidacy. The Government and Parliament approved the proposal for Makuch's appointment in December.

"I wasn't interested, and I didn't accept the offer that I was given either," said Sramko concerning the possibility of staying on in the post.

Sramko said in December that he was satisfied with the Government's choice of Makuch to replace him, noting that he has been active in the financial sphere for a long time. "I certainly expect him to affirm continuity and to continue to develop the good name of the institution. I expect that he'll continue normally as an experienced person for whom this area isn't new," added the former governor.

TASR

*From the Desk of the Executive Secretary -
Kenneth A. Arendt*

ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2010 Scholarship Program.

Seventy (70) **ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS** in the amount of \$500.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a **ONE-TIME** "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional **ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS** of \$500.00 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.

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$1,000 of reserve insurance (JEP Policy, 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 \$5,000 or more of 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, 2006 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 ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term 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 our web site (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.**
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.**

Application forms can be obtained from a Branch Officer, the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA, or can be downloaded from the website at www.fcsu.com.

Applications must be postmarked by **Midnight, February 28, 2010.**

All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2010 • HOME OFFICE

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

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

ROLL CALL

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President – via telephone
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors, by invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the November 2009 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer submitted a written monthly report which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer answered all questions of the Committee. The President led a review of our current annuity rates. A decision was made by the Executive Committee to keep the current annuity rates and review them again at the January 2010 Executive Committee Meeting.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CINCINNATI – VICTORY ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments with Key Bank Corporation and reviewed all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. He stated everything is in order and working well.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President led a discussion regarding our 8-year annuity product. It was decided by the Executive Committee that the first year bonus will be 5.75% on deposits of \$10,000.00 and greater. After the first year of the annuity, the same interest rate will apply as to what the flexible rate is at that time. Additional deposits may be accepted after the first year, with no cap. This new annuity program will start on February 1, 2010.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC. REPORT

Mr. Larry White from AQS Asset Management, LLC. joined the Executive Committee meeting via telephone and presented his report by Webex with the following agenda:

- Portfolio metrics and distribution
- Transactions
- Projected Portfolio Cash Flows
- Market Data
 - Fed Fund Futures /FOMC
 - Market Levels
 - 10 year corporate bond spreads vs. treasuries
- Corporate Bond Spreads 1yr and 10yr historical
- The CIT Exchange – Impact and Results
- Commentary

After his presentation Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

At this time the Vice President continued with his report. The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in the different regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President urged the Regional Directors to contact him as soon as possible if they would like to have a sales seminar within their region.

2010 CONVENTION

The President stated that Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, is in process of securing St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in downtown Cleveland for Mass at the 2010 Convention. The President further stated that we are in process of contacting Slovak dance groups and musicians for the Convention.

The Executive Secretary stated that the final count of delegates for each Branch that may be sent to the 2010 Convention will be mailed out from the Home Office in mid-February and will be based on the final count of Members as of February 1, 2010.

JEDNOTA ESTATES

The President updated the Executive Committee on the cleaning of the Printery building.

The President also stated that the building already looks one hundred percent better. He further stated that the building's roof has several leaks and that he will find a contractor to fix the roof as soon as possible.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Secretary stated the Home Office will continue to advertise our products through the monthly branch mailings and insert advertisements in the monthly billing as well as in the Jednota newspaper.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of November for the Committee's review and answered their questions. He informed the Executive Meeting of the IRA Annuity deposits and stated that we will start with advertisements on our website and in the Jednota newspaper.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of November 2009:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 200,147.30
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 32,122.41
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.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President stated that he has hired Mrs. Terri Ivanec as the new Editor of the Jednota newspaper, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. He stated that her introduction will be in the January 6, 2010 Jednota issue and that she will work at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. Anybody who wishes to contact her, may so at:

Phone: 216-642-9406; Fax: 216-642-4310 or e-mail: fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

ADJOURN

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

The Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

DON'T BUY LIFE INSURANCE

UNTIL YOU CALL

1-800-533-6682

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.FCSU.COM



You'll find out about our products:

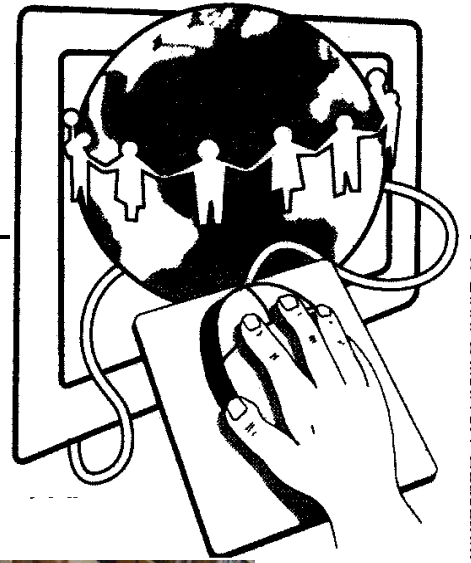
- *Ordinary Whole Life
- *20 Payment Life
- *Single Premium Whole Life
- *Juvenile Life with Savings Plan
- *Yearly Renewable Term
- *10 Year Level Term
- *20 Year Level Term
- *Term to age 25
- *Annuities

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**



UR_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



© 2006 Discovery Education



Culture Space

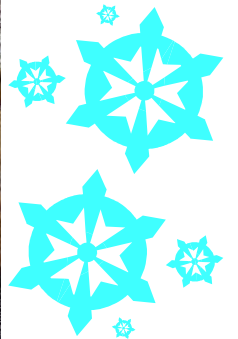
Priadky



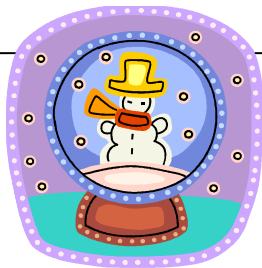
Fashion as we know it had to wait until mankind learned to weave textiles out of twisted fibers -- the spinning of thread to make cloth is indeed an art - which years ago was part of a normal winter routine in a Slovak home. The women not only had to repair their clothes over the winter months but, if any new ones were to be made, they first had to make the thread and weave it into a piece of material which could then be made into something to wear. Usually, the married women and girls met at someone's house in the evening bringing along the work that needed to be done. This was called Priadky—a spinning bee.

The girls also had to bring along a log or two of firewood. It was customary not to bring the wood from home but to surreptitiously take wood from their boyfriend's yards. The hum of the spinning wheels would occasionally be interrupted by song, or a little gossip. The girls eagerly awaited the

arrival of the boys. Not only did the necessary work get done, but everyone had a good time doing it. Needless to say, many romances blossomed as a result of these evenings. This is how the long cold winter evenings were spent.



Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR_Space.jrs
234 Ilion St.
Pgh., PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com



Activity Space



© Elizabeth O. Dulemba
www.dulemba.com

Unscramble the Winter Words

- iwetnr _____
- maonsnw _____
- naaJyur _____
- torsf _____
- ogvsle _____
- otca _____
- rascf _____
- ganloewns _____
- gskini _____
- ocdl _____
- izfngree _____
- cei _____
- nlsakweof _____
- ath _____
- ootsb _____
- elshvo _____
- nedldgsi _____
- lanbolssw _____

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

Please Read Carefully

ENTRY BLANK

56th Annual Men's and 47th Annual Women's International Jednota Handicap Tenpin

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

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

**Eastway Lanes
Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA**

Entry Fees

Prize Fee	\$6.85
Bowling Fee (3games).....	\$7.75
Tournament Fee.....	\$4.40
Total Each Event.....	\$19.00

Optional Events

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

2010

April 30-May 1-2

Entries Close
March 12, 2010

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
FCSU Activities

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

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

All Events (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. <i>MUST BE FILLED IN</i>	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					

Singles (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)
	1.		
	2.		
	1.		
	2.		

- Schedule -

TEAM EVENT
Friday, April 30 6 PM & 9 PM
Saturday, May 1 9 AM (or as needed)

DOUBLES AND SINGLES
Saturday and Sunday
May 1 & 2 9 AM & 1 PM

BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION

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

SEE RULES 8-10 ON BACK REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

SEE RULE 6 ON BACK REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP

PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES

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



Hotel Information for Bowling Tournament April 30 - May 2, 2010

Tournament Headquarters: 50 rooms blocked
Comfort Inn - Erie
8051 Peach St.
ERIE, PA 16509


TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:
You must indicate that you are with FCSU Bowling

Phone: 814-866-6666 Rate: 99.00 + tax

Reservation cutoff date is February 25, 2010

OTHER AREA ACCOMODATIONS:

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS	8101 PEACH ST. ERIE	(814) 217-1100
SUPER 8	8040 PERRY HIGHWAY ERIE	(814) 864-9200
HOWARD JOHNSON	7575 PEACH ST. ERIE	(814) 864-4811



56th Men's & 47th Women's International Bowling Tournament

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 30, 2010

4:30 PM Registration
Eastway Lanes
4110 Buffalo Rd.
Erie, PA

4:30 - 6 PM Hospitality Reception
Eastway Lanes

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

7:30 - 9 PM Hospitality Reception
Eastway Lanes

Saturday, May 1, 2010

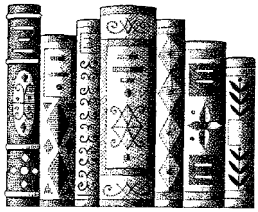
9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Eastway Lanes

5:30 PM Mass
The Palms Banquet Room

6:30 PM Tournament Banquet
Presque Isle Downs Casino

Sunday, May 2, 2010

9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Eastway Lanes



Book Corner

“Illustrated Slovak History,” A Good Read, Good Guide

a Review by Andrew M. Rajec, National President

During the Christmas holidays I took the opportunity to read a very interesting book titled “Illustrated Slovak History – A Struggle for sovereignty in Central Europe.”

It was originally written in Slovak by Anton Speisz and the Slovak edition was published in 2002 with an Afterword by Dusan Caplovic. The English Edition was edited by our Jednota member, Ladislaus J. Bolchazy and published in 2006 by Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. whose web-site is at www.bolchazy.com.

This book, over 400 pages with a preface by Prof. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. and a forward by Ivan Gasparovic, President of the Slovak Republic, covers the history of the land now known as Slovakia and its various inhabitants, now ultimately the Slovak people, from the earliest pre-historic times to 2006. It chronicles the history of the Slovaks in their struggle for identity, mere survival and ultimately independence.

The book is composed of 14 chapters with a Afterword, and 50 pages of Endnotes with numerous citations and an extensive bibliography and index.

The writing is of high quality and easy to understand for the average reader.

Reading the book gave me a greater understanding of who, what and why modern day Slovaks are what we are. You gain a greater knowledge that Slovakia never existed as an actual country until modern times. It was a multitude of small and smaller villages populated with people who worked the soil, with a small part of the population working in crafts or mining, and a yet smaller number as managers or landowners. For many hundreds of years the land of the Slovaks was primarily agricultural and most of the people were peasants.

Most of land was owned by the king or lesser nobility. Peasants owned very small tracks of land (1-2 acres), if they owned any at all. Starvation occurred often as crops were entirely dependent on the weather.

Most of the land was owned by Magyar or German landowners. Up into the Middle Ages, and beyond, a person’s religious faith, Catholic or Protestant, and loyalty to the king or local landowner were of primary importance; ethnic identity was still relatively weak. Modern nationalism did not emerge until the 19th century. This was true in most areas of Eastern Europe. We see this many times over the course of the years – even in our own fraternal societies in the United States and Canada, where allegiances are based on the towns where people live or where they are from.

This general area of the world experienced ups and downs with regard to human advancement over the years depending to a large extent on wars, agriculture and weather and the skills and attitude of the kings and local nobility. Until relatively modern times only the nobility, clergy and a select few others could read and write; and thus most people were illiterate.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s there was mass migration to the United States, Canada, Australia, South America and other European countries for many reasons, including starvation, oppression and lack of opportunity.

It is interesting to note that in the 1920s the Slovak population of Cleveland, Ohio was larger than any city in Slovakia. This says something about the size of the migration to U.S. cities but also about the lack of development of cities in Slovakia.

Ever since the coming of Cyril and Methodius in 863, religion has been a very influential part of the Slovaks’ life. It can also be said that it has been very controversial. Czechs were largely converted by German speaking monks while Slovaks and many Slavic people were converted by Cyril and Methodius and their disciples. The Hussite revolt, named after an ex Catholic priest Jan Hus, caused many Slovaks to become Protestants in the 1400s, about 100 years before Martin Luther. The Catholic Counter- Reformation in the later 16th century reconverted about three quarters of the population back to Catholicism. Remember, most people were peasants or others tied to the nobility and were forced to follow the religion of the lords and the religious hierarchy. Religion was a major factor in peoples’ lives.

The entire aspect of Slovak nationalism and political life is very interesting. Ethnicity in Eastern and Central Europe only became a common bond in the 19th century for many people. As societies became more industrialized and people moved into cities, political awareness increased. The year 1848 witnessed peoples’ revolts in many countries. Of course World War I saw the European map change and Slovakia became part of Czecho-Slovakia, a union with the Czechs for the first time. Prior to that, Czechs were part of the Austrian Empire and Slovaks were part of Hungary and ruled by Magyars.

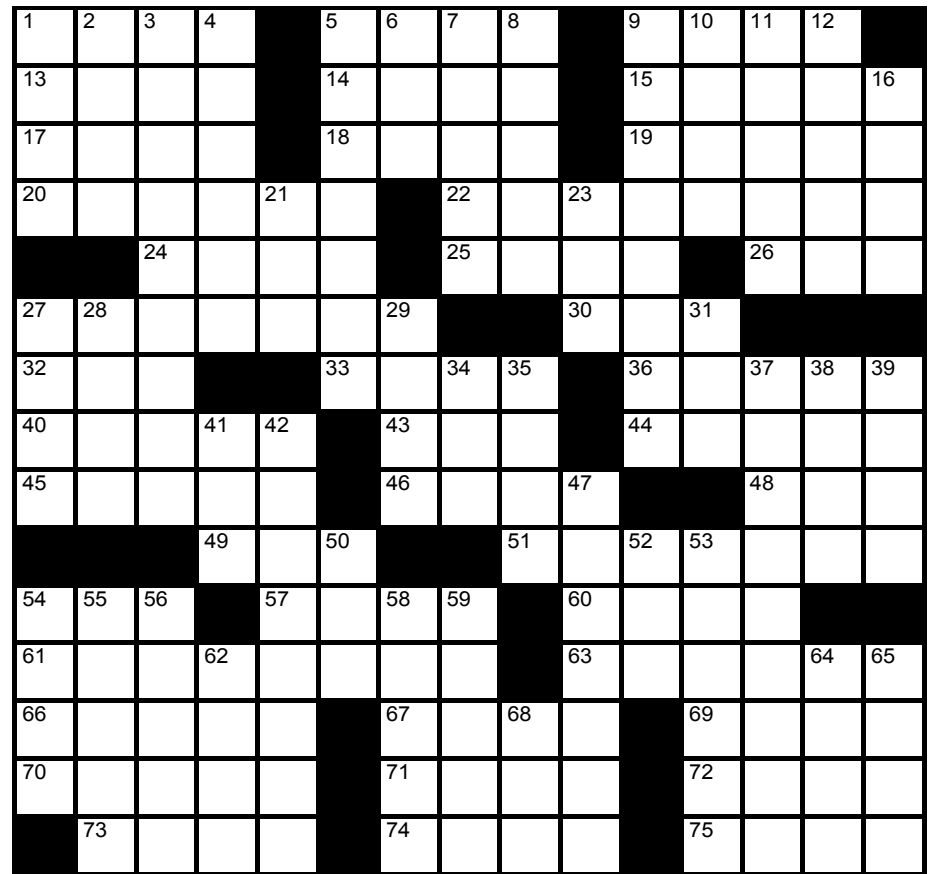
The political climate and its participants changed many times during these years, before, during and after World Word II. I cannot do any justice to all the pieces of this complex landscape of personalities, alliances and intrigues. I can only say it is fascinating and its study gives you an insight to who Slovaks were, and are today, both in Slovakia and in the diaspora, including the United States, Canada and other places.

I also recommend to all the study of the history of the Slovaks and their development in Europe as well as their movement to and development in the U.S.

I recommend the book. “Illustrated Slovak History”, not only as a good comprehensive starting point but also as a guide to other footnoted books and articles. This is good reading for all ages. A noted author once stated, “You can’t know where you are going, if you don’t know where you came from.”

Like it or not, much of who a person is depends on their genetics and their background. Happy reading.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Harp (It.)
- 5 Zealous
- 9 Skin injury
- 13 *Wizard of Oz* lion, _____ Lahr
- 14 Path
- 15 Gem State
- 17 Blue-pencil
- 18 Halt
- 19 Small drum
- 20 Sandwich ingredic
- 22 Presidential mountain
- 24 Winged fruit tree
- 25 Jog
- 26 Nurses (Abbr.)
- 27 Missile payload
- 30 Gr. letter
- 32 Fr. affirmative
- 33 Not any
- 36 Lay to rest
- 40 Mountain nymph
- 43 Condiment
- 44 Capture
- 45 Riata
- 46 News item
- 48 Brim
- 49 Broker (Abbr.)
- 51 Coaxes
- 54 Daytimes (Abbr.)
- 57 Grains
- 60 Negatives
- 61 Affability
- 63 Mortgage payer
- 66 Spoken
- 67 Poker term
- 69 Scintilla
- 70 Twilled woolen fabric
- 71 Building part
- 72 Stumble

Down

- 73 Visionary
- 74 Crafts’ buddies
- 75 Plan of action (Abbr.)
- 41 King of Judah
- 42 Benefactor
- 47 Bicycles-built-for-two
- 50 Scot. cap
- 52 G.I. follower
- 53 Paths
- 54 Goat and camel hair fabrics
- 55 Insectivores
- 56 Saw logs, noisely
- 58 Headdress
- 59 Sp. title
- 62 Immense
- 64 Inventor Elisha
- 65 Absorbed
- 68 Child
- 10 Dutch cheese
- 11 Toil
- 12 Sticker
- 16 Minerals
- 21 Golf item
- 23 Soak
- 27 Fleece
- 28 Mystique
- 29 Extinct bird
- 31 Lodge
- 34 Bill
- 35 Heroic verse
- 37 Lie
- 38 Keystone State city
- 39 Congressmen, for short

See Solution on Page 18

The 2009 Membership Meet

continued from page 1



Cruise ships docked at Saint Thomas



Carnival's private island, Half Moon Cay, in the Bahamas



Carnival's "Liberty" anchored off Half Moon Cay.



San Juan's government building



Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. served as Master of Ceremonies for the Awards Night Celebrations.

Bottom left to right:

R to L, Dr. Ladislaus J. Bolchazy, PhD, President of the Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation, Inc. presents National President Andrew M. Rajec with a book on Slovak history.

L to R, National President Andrew M. Rajec presents National Treasurer George Matta with a trophy for third place in Annuity/IRA/Park Money Procurement.

L to R, National President Andrew M. Rajec presents Joseph E. Rura with a trophy for second place in the number of insurance policies sold.



L to R, National President Andrew M. Rajec, Joseph E. Rura, National Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt, National Treasurer George F. Matta, National Vice-President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.



L to R, National President Andrew M. Rajec presents National Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt an award for being the Society's top producer in Annuity/IRA/Park Money Procurement as National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. looks on.



L to R: Rep. Joe Sestak (D-7th), Ambassador Peter Burian, Minister Miroslav Lajcak, Rep. John Mica (R-7th), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-2nd)

Velvet Revolution: 20 Years of Freedom in Central Europe

“Those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it”
Edmund Burke

Part II

By John Karch

We continue coverage of the 20th Anniversary of the “Velvet Revolution” (VR) with the November 18, 2009 Workshop co-organized by the Slovak Embassy-Heritage Foundation: “Twenty Years of Freedom in Central Europe, Slovak-U.S. Partnership through the Eyes of Ambassadors.” The Key-note speaker was Dr. Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic (SR), who spoke on several occasions during the two-day observance. Summaries of the first U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, Theodore E. Russell (1993-96), and the first Slovak Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Branislav Lichardus (1994-98), are below. No texts of the ten speakers are available but video/audio can be found at heritage.org.

Minister Lajcak

The Minister was “honored” to address the audience here where the mission is “to build a nation where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish.” He said, rightly, that while our diplomatic relations began on January 1, 1993, Slovak-American human relations date much earlier. He

continued on page 19



4.40%

(4.306% apr)

**FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY
FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA**

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Rate Effective March 1, 2010 ~ 4.40% (4.306% apr)

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

CONTACT THE HOME OFFICE OR YOUR LOCAL BRANCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.
YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT FCSU.COM

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 2 or 3 YEAR PAYMENT PLAN ON A SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

Enjoy all the advantages and convenience of Single Payment Life Insurance except the payments are made in installments. This enables you to purchase the larger face amount that you need and want, but avoids the necessity of paying the entire premium in one payment. The balance due premium will be a loan against the policy cash value.

- Interest free loan
- Affordable way to get life insurance
- Minimum face amount \$10,000 male age 50; female age 55; thereafter \$5000

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

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



Contact your local branch officer or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.

Visit us on the web at www.fcsu.com or email us at fcsu@aol.com



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*Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years

SIX YEAR
FIXED RATE
4.00%
(3.922% apr)

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- A safe, secure and competitive investment for your retirement (IRA) funds
- Opportunity to lock-in a competitive rate for 6 years and avoid the turmoil of stock market volatility

The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR annuity has the following features and terms:

- Interest rate fixed for 6 years
- 10% penalty free annual withdrawal (based on contract cash value at the beginning of each year)
- 6-year withdrawal penalty period: 1st year-6%, thereafter reduces 1% each year for next 5 years. Bank withdrawal penalties are much higher
- Not applicable to any settlement option annuity funds, or interest only annuities
- Annuity withdrawal prior to age 59 ½, subject to Federal Excise Tax Penalty
- Minimum deposit \$5,000

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Independence, OH 44131-8013
Call 1-800 Jednota or 1-216-642-9406

Obituaries

Mary Krompegel Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio

Mary Krompegel, age 91, passed away Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at the Assumption Village Nursing Home. Mary was born October 27, 1918, in Youngstown, the daughter of John and Anna Ruzela Macupa.

Her great love was Jesus, our Lord; and her great love in life was her husband, Joseph, whom she married in 1940 and who passed away May 9, 2005. Mary leaves to cherish her memory: her children Joseph T. of Campbell, Robert (Martha) of Boardman, and Nancy (Richard) Douglass of Unity; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; Greg Macupa whom she raised the last 43 years; and many nieces and nephews. Friends were received at St. Elizabeth Church where a Mass of Christian Burial followed.

The officers of St. Matthews Br #260 offer their deepest sympathy to the Krompegel family. May she rest in peace.

Charles M. Terek
Branch 260

Anna Olean Branch 831 Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Anna (Nevolnik) Olean, 87, of Creighton, died Wednesday, December 30, 2009, in St. John's Lutheran Senior Care Center, Mars Borough. She was born June 10, 1922, in Creighton, and was the daughter of the late Stephen and Mary (Dunaj) Nevolnik. She lived her entire life in Creighton, East Deer Township. She was a member of SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Tarentum. Survivors include her daughter,

Patricia A. Olean of McCandless Township; and a brother, Joseph Nevolnik of Allegheny Township. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 51 years, Michael Olean, on January 9, 1993; and sisters, Mary Olar, Margaret N. Miller, and Kathryn Heffran. Friends were received at Paul R. Ajak Funeral Home on Saturday, January 2, 2010. Interment followed in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazier Township.

Kathleen M. Persun
Branch 831

Sister M. Bernadette Giba, OSF Bellevue, Pennsylvania

Sister M. Bernadette Giba, formerly known as Sister Rosita, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis of the United States Province and in her 55th year of profession, died on Friday, January 15, at Mount Assisi Convent Motherhouse in Bellevue PA at the age of 72.

Sister Bernadette was the daughter of the late John Joseph and Julia (Poruba) Giba. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Sister Barbara and Mrs. Theresa Pappert, and her brother, Paul. She is survived by her religious community, her sisters, Sister M. Rosalia Giba, and Mary Giba, who resides in Sebring FL; and her brother, Anthony from Northside, Pittsburgh PA, as well as a nephew and wife, niece, great niece and great, great nephew.

The viewing was at Mount Assisi Convent on Sunday, January 17. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, January 18, in Queen of Angels Chapel, Mount Assisi Convent in Pittsburgh PA.

Maureen A. Sekercak, Administrative Assistant, Mount Assisi Convent

Sister M. Jude Sutak, SS.C.M. Danville, Pennsylvania

Sister M. Jude, SS.C.M. (Margaret Sutak), 98, died on January 11, 2010 at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pennsylvania. Born in Yonkers, New York, on December 11, 1911, she was the daughter of Stephen and Anna (Kosc) Sutak.

On January 6, 1933, she entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and made her first profession of vows on August 22, 1935.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Mrs. Irene Hritz. She is survived by a grandnephew and grandnieces.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place on Friday, January 15, 2010, followed by a wake service at Maria Hall in Danville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated, also at Maria Hall. The celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Joseph Fennesy. Concelebrants were the Reverend Gerard Heintzelman, the Reverend Albert Oldfield, the Reverend John Kilpatrick, the Reverend Lawrence Nwabueze, O.P. and the Reverend Dominic Azagbor, O.P.

Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius

Dorothy E. Chuba Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Dorothy E. (Friedman) Chuba, 84, passed into Eternal Life peacefully early Monday morning, January 11, 2010, in the Inpatient Unit of Hospice of the Visit-

ing Nurses Association of Heritage House, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, following a prolonged illness.

Born February 7, 1925, in Swoyersville, she was the daughter of the late Felix and Veronica Yoschak Friedman. She was a member of Holy Assumption of Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, North Wilkes-Barre.

Mrs. Chuba is remembered by family and dear friends as being a devoted homemaker to her loving husband of 61 years, Andrew, their children and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a sister, Mrs. Mary Mikulka. Surviving, in addition to her loving husband, Andrew, are children Mary Ann Krapsho and her husband, Tom, of Harrisburg; Thomas Chuba and his wife Laura, of Dauphin; Andrea Kealey and her husband Jay, of Harrisburg; and Michele Banaszek and her husband, Alex, of Bear Creek Township; as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services with Panachida for Mrs. Chuba were conducted on Thursday, January 14, at the John V. Morris Funeral Home in Wilkes-Barre, followed by Divine Liturgy in Holy Assumption of Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church with the Very Rev. James G. Hayer, pastor, officiating. Internment followed in Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Dallas.

Andrew M. Chuba
Branch 278K

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective March 1, 2010, the "Park Free Plus" Annuity is earning **3.50% (3.440% APR)** for the first year.

The new annuity plan that combines features from our most popular annuities...
The Park Annuity and the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

The "Park Free Plus" offers a first year interest rate of **3.50% (3.440% APR)**. This initial interest rate is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

Withdraw the full value of the accumulated Annuity funds (principal plus interest) WITHOUT INCURRING A SURRENDER CHARGE!

*Note: If the funds are withdrawn prior to the first anniversary of the policy, a 6% surrender will be imposed on the funds withdrawn.**

2. If this option is not exercised, the Annuity will continue for an additional five years. The interest rate at that time will be based on the interest rate established by the Society on its Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity. This rate is published regularly in the official publication and on our website.

If the policy is continued, the Annuitant may withdraw up to 10% of the policies cash value at the beginning of each policy year, without incurring a surrender charge.*

If the Policy is continued, withdrawals that exceed 10% of the policy's cash value will incur a surrender charge of 5% in the second year and withdrawal charges will decrease by 1% each year until the end of the sixth year from the issue date*.

INITIAL DEPOSIT MAY BE AS LOW AS \$1,000!

Low Minimum Deposit. Initial deposit may be as low as **\$1,000 for the "Park Free Plus" Annuity.** Maximum deposit for this program is \$100,000.00. No additional deposits are permitted during the first year.

Flexible Deposits. Additional deposits of \$1,000 or more will be accepted at any time after the first year.

Maturity Options. At the end of the six year policy period; the Annuitant has these options:

- The policy can be continued. There will be no surrender charges on any withdrawals.* The interest rate will be based on FCSU Life's Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity interest rate.
- The policy can be converted to any Annuity product offered by FCSU Life at that time. The interest rate will be based on the then current declared interest rate on the selected policy.
- Taxes on all interest earned on the "Park Free Plus" Annuity and any subsequent policy selected, will be deferred until funds are withdrawn.

For additional information, contact your Branch officer or the Home Office.

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

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1-800-JEDNOTA - Website: www.fcsu.com - E-mail: FCSU@aol.com



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT FCSU.COM

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood OH. If you have any questions, please call 216.228.8179. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3- HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 003P will meet on February 14 at 9:30 am in the church basement of St. Joseph's Church on North laurel Street in Hazelton, PA to elect delegates to the 49th Convention of the FCSU in Cleveland, OH in 2010. Delegates and/or alternates will be elected at this important meeting.

Michael Koval

BRANCH 6 - PITTSBURGH

There has been a merger between Branch 006P Pittston, PA and Branch 005P Pittston, PA. All members of Branch 006P will now hold membership in Branch 005P. This merger has taken place as of January 11, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Martha Zavada Wojcik, 101 Jean St, Exeter, PA 18643-1513, (570) 655-4141.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Congratulations to our branch member Terri Ivanec who was recently appointed Editor of the Jednota newspaper!

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35- BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 35, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Joseph Yuros, 15 Sumner Avenue, Forest Hills, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention. Other branch issues will be discussed.

Joseph Yuros, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 82 - HAVERSTRAW, NY

There has been a merger between Branch 082K Haverstraw, NY and Branch 041K Yonkers, NY. All members of Branch 082K will now hold membership in Branch 041K. This merger has taken place as of January 7, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Albert J. Figura, 92 Wickes Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701, (914) 963-8229.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Please join us on Sunday, February 14, 2010, for our meeting and election of officers, with a luncheon to follow. Social time is from 12:30 until 1:00. The meeting is from

1:00 to 2:00 (approximately). Some topics of discussion will be: Election of Officers; Election of delegates for the convention in Cleveland; Donations; and 2010 Activities.

Lunch is to be served at 2:00. Location: The Grecian Inn, 14375 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, WI. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20.00. Reservations must be made by February 9, 2010 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382 with number of attending. Make check payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail check to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Our Easter Duty Mass will be held at the 9:00 Mass on March 21, 2010, St. Margaret Mary, 3970 N. 92nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Breakfast will be served immediately after Mass at 10:30, also at the Grecian Inn. Breakfast for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$12.00, and kids under age six are free.

Reservations for breakfast must be made by March 17, 2010 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382 with number attending.

Make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89.

Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 168 - S. AMBOY, NJ

There has been a merger between Branch 168K S. Amboy, NJ and Branch 746K Linden, NJ.

All members of Branch 168K will now hold membership in Branch 746K. This merger has taken place as of January 14, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Mary J. Kapitan, 166 Echo Ave., Edison, NJ 08837-2631 (732) 225-2658

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 237 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 237J Pittston, PA and Branch 005P Pittston, PA. All members of Branch 237J will now hold membership in Branch 005P. This merger has taken place as of January 07, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Martha Zavada Wojcik, 101 Jean St., Exeter, PA 18643-1513, (570) 655-4141

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society Branch 259 will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 14, 2010, at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Struthers, OH at 1:00 PM. On the agenda will be the election of delegates for the 2010 convention in Cleveland, OH. We will also conduct an audit; and upcoming events for the coming year. All members are asked to attend this important meeting. The officers of Branch 259 wish all members a Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 266 - HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 266 will meet on February 14 at 9:30 am in the church basement of St. Joseph's Church on North laurel Street in Hazelton, PA to elect delegates to the 49th Convention of the FCSU in Cleveland, OH in 2010. Delegates and/or alternates will be elected at this important meeting.

Richard Lazar

BRANCH 339 - PORT CHESTER, NY

There has been a merger between Branch 339K Port Chester, NY and Branch 041K Yonkers, NY. All members of Branch 339K will now hold membership in Branch 041K. This merger has taken place as of January 05, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Albert J. Figura, 92 Wickes Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701, (914) 963-8229.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 340 - TARRYTOWN, NY

There has been a merger between Branch 340K Tarrytown, NY and Branch 041K Yonkers, NY. All members of Branch 340K will now hold membership in Branch 041K. This merger has taken place as of January 04, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Albert J. Figura, 92 Wickes Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701, (914) 963-8229

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 342 - WARREN, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 342P Warren, OH and Branch 764K Warren, OH. All members of Branch 342P will now hold membership in Branch 764K. This merger has taken place as of January 13, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: George J. Yuricek, 1190 Beechwood Street SW, Warren, OH 44485-4190, (330) 394-8249.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 380 - CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 28, 2010, at 2:00 PM at Kings Restaurant, Rte 19, Canonsburg, PA. Agenda: Convention, election of delegates.

Margaret Graytok

BRANCH 382- SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will hold a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, March 7, 2010, at 12:00 noon at Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The election of delegates to the 2010 Convention will be held. Also on

the agenda will be a discussion of future activities and the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office. The auditing of the books will also take place. Light refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 553 - UNIONTOWN, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will be holding their annual Ash Wednesday Dinner on Wednesday, February 17, 2009 from 4 to 8 pm. The dinner will be held at the Slovak "J" Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311.

We will be serving Haluski, pirohy, salad, bread and butter. The cost to dine-in is \$7.50 and takeout will be \$8.00. Come join us for this special meal and enjoy the fraternalism.

Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 565K - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 565K Donora, PA and Branch 670K Donora, PA. All members of Branch 565K will now hold membership in Branch 670K. This merger has taken place as of January 21, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Dorothy J. Petrus, 545 Castner Ave, Donora, PA 15033-1814, (724) 379-5881

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 567 - NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The following officers were elected for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 567KJ: President: Bernadine Gerhard; Financial Secretary and Treasurer: William Micek; Recording Secretary: Rosalie Favere; Auditor: Loretta Dashner Officers were sworn in. The election of officers took place on December 16, 2009. The convention was discussed and the delegates were elected.

Branch 567KJ will have a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 1:00PM in the church social hall, 924 N. Front St., Allentown, PA. All members are urged to attend meetings and take an interest in their branch. The bake sale of nut- and poppy-seed rolls will be held Monday, March 22, in the social hall from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. Please spread the word to fellow members.

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Rosalie Favere, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 581 - GARY INDIANA

The St. Michael The Archangel, Branch 581, will hold a special meeting at my home at 953 Portage Ave., Porter, IN, on Sunday, February 21, 2010 at 1:00 PM. On the agenda is the election of a delegate and an alternate to the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, on August 14 - 18 2010, in Cleveland, OH. Any member interested in attending the convention, please contact me at 219-926-2410.

-George Kelchak, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 644 - MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch

continued on page 16

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

644K McKees Rocks, PA, and Branch 002 Pittsburgh, PA. All members of Branch 644K will now hold membership in Branch 002K. This merger has taken place as of December 31, 2009.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Michael E. Lako, 1 Gamble Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212-1011, (412) 766-3222

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 706- SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its first meeting of 2010 on Friday, February 5, 2010, at the home of the vice president, Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. If you plan to attend, please call Barbara at 219/864-8251 at least one week before the scheduled meeting so arrangements for refreshments can be

made. This meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. sharp. On the agenda will be the election of delegates to the 2010 Convention, the 2009 audit, and a discussion of insurance sales, the 2010 picnic, and new business. If any member of Branch 706 has a change of address, please send it to Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311.

The officers of Branch 706 wish all members of the Jednota family a very Happy New Year.

Art Fayta, Treasurer

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 14, 2010, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of Branch 743. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in The Slovak Heritage Room.

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Joanne Tkach Polt is a newly elected officer for Branch 746: Vice President. The other officers remain the same

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include final election of Delegates to the August Convention. Okres meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 759 – NEWTON FALLS, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 759K Newton Falls, OH and Branch 764K Warren, OH. All members of Branch 759K will no longer hold membership in Branch 764K. This merger has taken place as of January 07, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: George J. Yuricek, 1190 Beechwood Street SW, Warren, OH, 44485-

4190, (330) 394-8249.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Sts Cyril & Methodius, Branch 764, Feast Day Celebration will be held February 7, 2010. A dinner will be served at the SS. Cyril & Methodius Social Hall, Laird Avenue, Warren, OH. Tickets may be purchased by contacting George Yuricek, 330-394-8249. No tickets will be sold at the door. All members and guests are welcome.

On February 14, 2010, Sts Cyril & Methodius, Branch 764, will hold a meeting at 12:00PM at Christ Our King Church, Tod Avenue, Warren, OH. On the agenda will be a discussion of future activities and the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office. The auditing of the books will also take place. All members are encouraged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 1 PM in Holy Trinity Church hall Egypt, Pennsylvania. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Discussion of promoting new members as well as selecting of delegates for the district meeting will take place.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT II – ILLINOIS, INDIANA, AND WISCONSIN

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, Illinois. A period of refreshments and fraternal fellowship will begin at 1:30 p.m., with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches are requested to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to learn more about becoming active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. If you plan to attend, please call District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810 to let her know, so adequate food and beverages will be available.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District II Recording Secretary

THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND, AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2010 (Please note DATE change). Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 AM in St. John the Baptist Church, 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA 18102. Dinner will be served at 12:30 PM in the Social Hall, and the meeting will start at 1:30 PM. Donation for the dinner is \$17.00. Please make checks payable to Branch 567. All checks and credentials must be returned by Friday, February 26, 2010. PLEASE be prompt!

We will be electing our District Delegate for the FCSU Convention which will be held in August, 2010, at this meeting. Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at (610) 432-8350. Thank you!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT – NEW JERSEY

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. Convention Delegate will be elected at this meeting.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 1:00 P.M. in the meeting room of Denny's Restaurant at 653 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2010 and a discussion of the upcoming convention and district business. All convention delegates are requested to attend this meeting. Reservations are to be made by contacting President Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724-438-0697 by Thursday March 11, 2010. Everyone is asked to contribute five dollars to the district to help cover the cost of the meal.

Barbara Ann Holly, Secretary

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Branch 746 Christmas Party

Linden Branch 746's meeting and Christmas party was held on December 13th. Despite the inclement weather, there was a nice turnout, including a visit from President Rajec and his wife.

Mary Kapitan



Marge and Frank Feltovich



Members in attendance

Members enjoying food and refreshment



Executive Board of Branch 746: L to R, Mary Karch (Treasurer), Mary Kapitan (Secretary), Sabina Sabados (President), Joann Polt (Vice President)



L to R, Joann Polt, Mary Karch, Mr. and Mrs. Rajec, Sabina Sabados, Mary Kapitan, Michael Karch, Mrs. Tkach

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First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
First Catholic Slovak Union

"For God and Nation"




Holy Trinity Society 109 Enjoys Joint Holiday Business Meeting/Luncheon in 2009

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 109, thoroughly enjoyed the joint Christmas extravaganza it shared with the St. Louis Branches of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for a day of fellowship and business. The 65 Slovak nationals in attendance on December 13th, 2009, feasted on a wide range of Slovak holiday desserts, deli treats and the famous "Traditional Pauline Miklovic Slovak Potato Salad" of which Julia Child would have been truly jealous and overwhelmed.

On an absolutely beautiful December day in St. Louis, holiday-spirited Slovaks, both young and old, enjoyed each others' company, toasting another prosperous year of existence and praying for those members who could not be with us owing to their untimely passing away during the year – a change of address to the "Church Triumphant."

Branch officers were re-elected for the New Year with the assemblage heartily applauding those officers who served so magnificently during the year. The members in attendance were awed by the Treasurer's report of assets and member statistics of insurance in force and the President's fluidity in moving the meeting along so as to get to the holiday feast. The Vice-President's report of those 23 members who reached 80 years of natal existence was fervently received, as each octogenarian was rewarded with a tributary \$ 10 bill. The VP was truly moved during her ardent presentation to these most deserving members.

Each senior and junior JEDNOTA constituent in attendance collected a door prize of association "goodies" and was awarded an attendance prize of festival cheer to cap-off their fellowship excitement. Junior member Nick Uxa was in command of welcoming the fellow 'senior' & 'junior' members.

As the Board basked in the glow of hosting another triumphant holiday spirited revelry, the Board, in retrospect, was remorseful for not mentioning during the course of the business meeting that member Jacob Joseph Miklovic, of the Senior Branch, was presently defending his country in Iraq as a United States Marine and was 'in attendance' in 'mind only.' We salute and offer our prayers to every member of the military at this time of the year in 'harm's way.'

Joseph G. Miklovic, CPA

"Park 2 Annuity" 3.75% (3.682% apr)

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- 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
Visit our web site at FCSU.com

Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA Cooks Up Great Food & Fun

It was like being in the audience of your favorite television cooking show. In reality, it was a "cooking class" that The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania recently held for a very interested audience of 34, all of whom were eager to see three Slovak specialties demonstrated, and then served for their pleasure.

First, Anna Hendershot from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, gave a light-hearted presentation of chopping mushrooms to a consistency embellished with eggs, oleo, milk, and flour to create "Fritters" (Hubové Zákusky) that looked more like small potato pancakes, to the surprise of all. The fritters were so tasty and offered such visual appeal that even those who weren't sure they liked mushrooms came back for more.

Next Michael Stretanski from Kingston, Pennsylvania, like a true television chef, took the audience through a slow, homemade approach to preparing all the ingredients for his European-style Paprikas (Uhorský Paprikáš). Everyone enjoyed his instruction during each step, along with the aromatic fragrances that filled the air almost from the start.

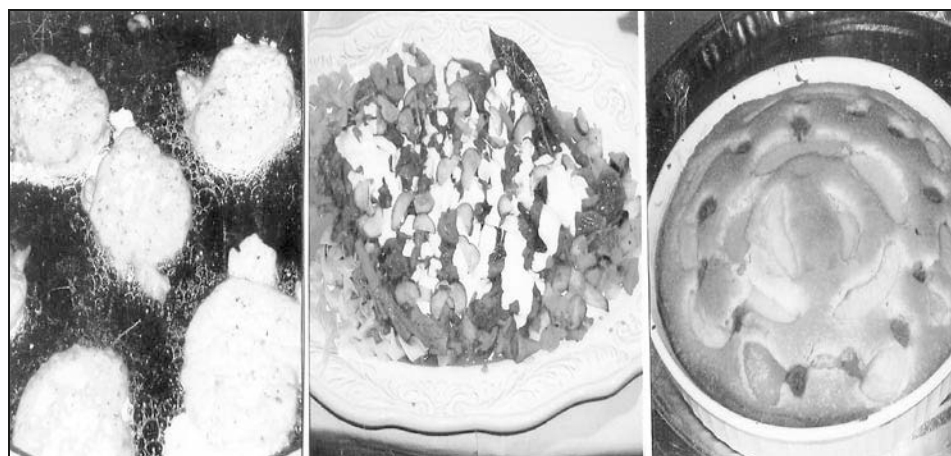
Andrew Sofranko from Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, then prepared his "Fruited Cake" (Ovocný Koláč) recipe. The audience was very interested in learning how to transform a relatively easy cake recipe into a culinary delight by adding (strategically placed) fruit prior to baking, and a touch of sprinkled powdered sugar prior to serving.

After the cooking/baking demonstrations, the three Slovak dishes were enjoyed by all the participants in attendance, each expressing great satisfaction with the finished dishes and an eagerness to try the recipes at home.

Everyone received recipe copies of the food prepared, and a dozen attendees also were lucky recipients of Slovak Art Treasures as prizes in a special raffle held at the affair as well.

For more on the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, go to www.shsnepa.org.

Wm. A. Zdancewicz, Public Relations



The three dishes prepared and demonstrated by three excellent Slovak cooks at a recent event by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania transported the audience back to Mom's kitchen where time was lovingly spent learning the secrets of Slovak home cooking.

MUSHROOM FRITTERS

Hubové Zákusky

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ½ lb mushrooms, chopped | 1 tsp. baking powder |
| 1 tbs. butter or margarine | ½ tsp. salt |
| 2 eggs, separated | Pinch of paprika |
| ¾ cup milk | Frying oil |
| 1 cup flour | |

Sauté the mushrooms lightly in butter. In a separate bowl, beat the two egg yolks with milk and then blend in flour, baking powder, salt and paprika. Beat the batter until smooth and add in the mushrooms. Beat the egg whites until stiff and fold into the batter. Drop by spoonfuls into hot oil and fry on both sides until golden brown.

EUROPEAN STYLE PAPRIKAS

Uhorský Paprikáš

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 5 large onions, chopped | ¼ cup flour |
| 4 tbs. shortening | 1 cup tomato juice |
| 2 lbs. beef or pork, cut into 1" cubes | 4 potatoes, cubed |
| 2 tbs. paprika | 2 cups water |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 cup red wine |
| 1 tsp. pepper | 1 bay leaf |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | |

In a large skillet, sauté the onions in the shortening until brown. Add meat and lightly brown. Add paprika, salt, pepper, garlic, and flour, stirring to coat evenly, and fry for 5 minutes. Add tomato juice, potatoes, water, wine, and bay leaf. Cover and let simmer until potatoes are done.

FRUITED CAKE

Ovocný Koláč

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 stick butter at room temperature | 1 tsp. baking powder |
| 1 ¾ cups sugar | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1 ½ cups flour | 3 eggs |

Fruit of your choice, sliced or halved, depending on size. Berries are good.

Cream the butter and sugar.
Add eggs one at a time.

Mix. Add the flour to which you have added the baking powder. Mix. Add vanilla. Finished product will be quite thick. Pour into a greased and floured pan. Place fruit on top, and bake in a 350° oven until top is browned. Cool completely and sprinkle with powdered sugar just before serving.

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: 1/800-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Velvet Revolution

continued from page 13

said that at the beginning of the 20th century, Slovaks who immigrated mainly to industrial centers, such as PA, IL, MI, and OH, have integrated into American society. "Those returning to Slovakia," he pointed out, "did not bring only some earnings, but also a sense of freedom and values."

Knowledgeably, the Minister stated that "Many Slovak immigrants became good American citizens willing to help a cause of self-determination of the Slovak nation. The Pittsburgh Declaration of 1918 had significantly contributed to the establishment of the common state of Czechs and Slovaks after World War I." The Pittsburgh Pact and Wilson's 14 points became a "part of our national heritage.... where freedom and multiculturalism have always been present, preserved and promoted."

In the early 1990s the Czech-Slovak Federation was no longer viable for Slovaks in Slovakia and abroad, thus the "Velvet Divorce." Self-determination was established but, the Minister noted: "We in Slovakia had to start almost from scratch." Its Government decided to align Slovakia with NATO and the European Union (EU); its goal was to become members of both. According to the Minister, "We used to say, 'We shall be ready for the membership when the EU and NATO are ready.'" Membership toward NATO "was not always smooth," he admitted, mentioning domestic political differences.

The first years of independence in Slovakia were "soul-searching," he said, but 1997 was a "a clear eye-opener" when, in Madrid, a NATO Summit not only excluded Slovakia from its next enlargement, but refrained from even mentioning Slovakia, while the EU extended its delay. "This double red light has served as a wake-up call and motivated leaders of my country to pursue its strategic vision. This is still the main lesson of the past 20 years and what we tell to other partnering countries....We remain committed to sharing our experience in those countries east and south of our border that are also trying to embrace good governance, rule of law, free and fair trade, individual freedoms and human rights. And we are doing so in Western Balkans as well as Eastern Europe while keeping an open and frank dialogue with Russia."

The Minister emphasized that "Slovakia is a good example of a country that is capable of sustaining good relations with Russia while unquestionably anchored in the EU and NATO. We remain fully committed to the EU and NATO enlargement process based on individual readiness of the countries from these regions. Let me underline one particular precondition reiterated again and again to all the countries seeking membership in NATO or the EU—the necessity to commit to good neighborly relations and regional stability. This, however, does not mean that a third country might automatically have a veto power with regard to the foreign policy decision-making of another nation."

The Minister stressed that "we still see the danger of building new artificial walls, cemented with political prejudices. Thanks to the help of the U.S., as well as from other Western nations, we managed in the 90s to overcome the political division lines in Central and Eastern Europe." He then quoted Secretary Clinton on her comment that "History did not end the night the Wall came down."

Interestingly to this writer, a former VOA Chief of its European Division, Dr. Lajcak recalled that "Twenty years ago, most of us listened to the Voice of America to escape the ever-present ideological cage. When the decision came to terminate the broadcast in the Slovak language, we felt perhaps a bit nostalgic."

The Minister then cited examples of Slovak-U.S. international relations: Constantly reviewing Slovakia's military operations and development aid; with the country struck by the global economic crisis, supporting the outcome of the London and Pittsburgh G-20 Summits; Slovakia continuing to lend strong support to the stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and being sensitive to numerous other issues, such as security, climate, energy, and health.

The Minister concluded: "Today, we need to continue to promote freedom, stability and reform processes beyond the boundaries of established democracies...."

Ambassador Russell

The "Workshop" continued with presentations on developments in Central and Eastern Europe, with focus on Slovakia, the past twenty years. The first Ambassadors were vital. U.S. Ambassador Theodore E. Russell was a career Foreign Service Officer and, among other assignments, served in Prague in 1968 and 1969.

Ambassador Russell, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) in 1989, recalled an "emotional scene" on Letna Field with wife Sally on Sunday afternoon, November 26, 1989 as a crowd of half million cheered for Dubcek and the release of Jan Carnogursky from prison and jangled their keys as last rites for Prague Party boss Miroslav Stepan who resigned the next day from the Politburo.

The VR, he said, created a new U.S. relationship with Slovakia. On arrival in Bratislava in late 1993, he was impressed with the "huge challenge" Slovakia faced in building a democratic, free market, independent state after 40 years of Communist rule.

The Ambassador said there was "good news" too. Slovakia asked for U.S. and EU help in joining Western institutions and building democracy and market economy. Both the U.S. and EU responded—Washington \$180 million beginning in 1989—and association with the EU and NATO.

Vladimir Meciar's "authoritarian tendencies" increased, Mr. Russell said, when he returned to power after the fall election in 1994. The U.S. and the EU were concerned with Government control. When, in 1995, the Government privatized state farms "cheaply to political cronies," the U.S. switched its funding to Slovak NGOs.

The Ambassador stated that Slovakia's progress in its democratic and free market transformation was the "basis" of U.S. government's support and key to its acceptance into the Trans-Atlantic community.

Cooperation with Slovak military was "exemplary," he said. Slovakia was an enthusiastic Partnership for Peace participant. The U.S. and EU lobbied successfully for Slovakia to sign the Slovak-Hungarian basic treaty in March 1995 despite opposition. Slovakia joined the post-COCOM Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Russell said: "Because U.S. and EU were committed to helping Slovakia rejoin the West and made clear the conditions for doing so, relationship survived the tensions of the third Meciar Government and Slovakia went on to join NATO and the EU. Congratulations to Slovakia: Very tough challenges successfully met."

Ambassador Lichardus

In 1993, the Government and the President of the Slovak Republic invited Dr. Branislav Lichardus, President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, to serve as the first Slovak Ambassador to the United States. His 1994-98 assignment covered a difficult period domestically and in the U.S. This writer, who had been associated with the Embassy and Dr. Lichardus from the beginning, can say that he performed magnificently.

In the rented offices on Wisconsin Avenue in Washington, D.C. the Ambassador found a small staff but, he said a "skillful and experienced diplomat," Charge d'Affaires, Peter Burian, who became his DCM and whom he cited in his remarks. Dr. Burian subsequently became Ambassador to NATO, U.N. and is currently SR's Ambassador in Washington.

The Ambassador related that "the U.S. Administration and the UN promptly accepted the newborn Slovak Republic but at variance with the Czech Republic, Slovakia was taken more as a new subject on the map and there were also questions about introducing democracy, rule of law, and free market during Slovakia's first year of sovereignty."

The "peak achievement" of Slovak diplomacy, supported by the Slovak American lobby, he acknowledged, was Slovakia's inclusion in the NATO Participation Act in 1994, together with the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary. The discussions with American counterparts were, as a rule, concluded by the "affirmation of U.S. assistance and support of Slovakia's Government pursuing the building of democratic governance and strengthening the rule of law." With established contacts in the White House and Congress, President Kovac's five and other officials' visits, there was hope for possibilities of membership in NATO, OECD, and the EU. There were also detractors, for example Secretary of State Albright who described Slovakia as "a hole on the map of Europe." Dr. Lichardus pointed out that in 1996 Slovakia was "deprived of its candidacy to NATO."

The perception of the Slovak economy at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, he indicated, was "constructively critical" and the conference on CEFTA (Central European Free Trade Agreement), organized by the Embassy in New York, was a success as well as the opening of five Honorary Consulates.

His Embassy successfully cultivated relations with NGOs, such as CSIS, Heritage Foundation, B'nai B'rith, and especially with Slovak-American institutions. Also, he said, it organized a variety of well-received cultural events. "All activities of our Embassy were gracefully reported by the fraternal newspapers SLOVAK v AMERIKE, JEDNOTA, and others. I am thankful namely to the then Editor-in-Chief of SvA Mr. Holy and to Mr. Karch for their objective and attractive reports and analyses."

Last, but certainly not least, he said sadly, "after the splitting of Czechoslovakia, both the Chancery and the Residence in Washington, D.C. were allotted to the Czech Republic." His wife, Dr. Eva Lichardus, along with the Chief Administrator and several Real Estate firms, screened about fifty buildings before they singled out one, in McLaan, VA. This has been serving as the Ambassador's Residence for 13 years and "enabled us to conduct a respectable diplomatic life that enhanced Slovakia's image in official Washington and its diplomatic community." Further, the Embassy selected and rented from the State Department a building ground for a new Chancery and contracted with a construction firm.

Ambassador Lichardus concluded: "In the first five years of the existence of the Slovak Republic, our small Embassy Staff opened doors to the White House, to the U.S. Congress, to the influential Think Tanks, to our Slovak American Compatriots and became a trusted institution representing Slovakia."



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

ATTENTION:

ALL JEDNOTA MICHIGAN MEMBERS RESIDING IN MICHIGAN

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

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the home office for an application. Our toll-free number is 1-800-533-6682. All applications must be submitted by April 1, 2010.

Michigan Fraternal Congress

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL FRATERNAL CONGRESS OF AMERICA



MICHIGAN FRATERNAL CONGRESS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two (2) \$500.00 non-renewable College Scholarships shall be awarded each year. The Michigan Fraternal Congress Scholarship Committee will use their discretion in selecting the honorees that are chosen. The Scholarship recipients are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a full-time student (minimum 12 credit hours) in an accredited two or four-year College, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following receipt of the proof of enrollment which must be received by November 1, 2010. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate, provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress, is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible or at the Annual MFC Meeting Banquet.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Applicants must have a minimum Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 out of a 4.0. A transcript request form must be filled out and sent along with an official high school transcript (with affixed seal by the deadline).
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Odhalenie pamätnej tabule jezuitu Michala Lacka v Košiciach

V nedeľu 17. januára 2010 sa v Krásnej nad Hornádom konala slávnosť spomienky na nedožité deväťdesiaty jezuitu, prof. Michala Lacka, ktorá sa stala vhodnou príležitosťou na odhalenie pamätnej tabule na rímskokatolíckom Kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Krásnej nad Hornádom.

V roku 1992 inštalovali pred tamojším chrámom bronzovú bustu prof. Lacka, ktorú pred časom niekto ukradol. Jeho rodáci mu preto dali vyhotoviť pamätnú tabuľu. Svätú omšu, na ktorej bola posvätená celebrol pomocný košický biskup Bernard Bober, ktorý ocenil úsilie pripomínať si veľkých mužov národa a to v každej dobe. Vyzdvihol skutočnosť, že práve oni posunuli hranice poznania a z ich práce žijeme dodnes.

Prof. Michal Lacko, SJ bol znalcom cirkevných dejín východoeurópskych a balkánskych krajín. Srdcovou záležitosťou pre prof. Lacka boli gréckokatolíci na Slovensku i v zahraničí. Skúmal a publikoval množstvo štúdií o gréckokatolíckej Cirkvi a všemožne ju podporoval. Jeho meno nesie aj centrum spirituality Východ – Západ v Košiciach. Prof. Michal Lacko je pochovaný na cintoríne Rozália v Košiciach.



Prof. Michal Lacko SJ

TK KBS

Don Ernest Macák slávi 90 rokov

Prenasledovaný pre vieru a starostlivosť o spolubratov, spolupracovník Vatikánskeho rozhlasu počas komunistickej totality, misionár Slovákov v Bazileji, prvý riaditeľ novootvoreného Gymnázia Jána Bosca v Šaštíne, spisovateľ, niekdajší provinciál saleziánov ale najmä hlboký človek viery, horlivý salezián, kňaz, otec Ernest Macák, sa dožil 7. januára 90 rokov života.

Na poďakovanie za toto jeho vzácne životné jubileum bola v stredu 6. januára v Bazilike Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne slávnostná svätá omša. Zúčastnil sa na nej aj generálny vikár bratislavskej arcidiecézy Mons. Ján Formánek, ktorý priniesol osobné blahoželanie – list otca arcibiskupa Stanislava Zvolenského. Provinciál slovenských saleziánov don Karol Maník prečítal na záver svätej omše dvojstranový blahoprajný list hlavného predstaveného saleziánov dona Pascuala Cháveza. Ten označil jubilanta za vzácneho syna svätého Jána Bosca. „Ďakujem vám za Vašu múdrosť, dobrotu a saleziánsku svätosť, za Váš konkrétny príklad toho, ako sa má správať pravý syn dona Bosca v rôznych životných okolnostiach a v bolestných historických kontextoch, v akých sa môže ocitnúť,“ napísal okrem iného hlavný predstavený saleziánov.

Niekoľko mladí, ktorí osobne poznajú tohto vzácneho saleziána kňaza založili na sociálnej sieti Facebook stránku s jeho menom, aby sa jeho životný odkaz mohol šíriť aj touto formou.

„Taký deväťdesiat ročný salezián sa cíti plný vďaky a plný obdivu, že ma Pán Boh až doteraz trpel a že mi pomáhal. Prajem všetkým dobro, prajem všetkým, najmä mladým ľuďom, pretože mi prirástli k srdcu a budú mi pri srdci až do posledného dychu,“ povedal don Ernest Macák k svojmu jubileu.

Životopisný prehľad:

Don Ernest Macák sa narodil 7. januára 1920 v obci Vištuk ako prvý z piatich detí roľníckych rodičov. Základnú školu navštevoval v rodisku a neskôr študoval na štátnom Gymnázium Jána Holého v Trnave, odkiaľ v roku 1932 prestúpil na saleziánske gymnázium v Šaštíne. Po skončení piatej triedy vstúpil do noviciátu Saleziánskej spoločnosti v Hronskom Sv. Beňadiku. V roku 1936 zložil prvé rehoľné sľuby a v Moravskej Ostrave potom dokončil gymnaziálne a filozofické štúdiá (1936 – 1939). Saleziánsku pedagogickú prax si vykonával v rokoch 1939 – 1942 v saleziánskych ústavoch v Hronskom Sv. Beňadiku, v Šaštíne a v Trnave.

Na štúdium teológie ho predstavení poslali do Turína v Taliansku. Na tamojšej Teologickej fakulte Pápežskej saleziánskej univerzity však absolvoval iba dva semestre, lebo pre vojnové udalosti sa tam už v jeseni 1943 nemohol vrátiť. Teológiu dokončil na Slovensku a 29. júna 1946 ho biskup Dr. Michal Buzalka vysvätil za kňaza. V jeseni toho istého roka nastúpil na Filozofickú fakultu Slovenskej univerzity v Bratislave (filozofia a dejiny), pričom vykonával aj kňazskú a pedagogickú činnosť medzi mladými v Bratislave na Miletičovej ulici a na saleziánskom pedagogickom inštitúte v Hodoch pri Galante (1948 – 1949) a nakoniec aj v Šaštíne (1949 – 1950). Tam ho v apríli 1950 stihol drastický zásah komunistického režimu proti slovenským rehoľníkom.

V Podolínci, kde ho deportovali s ostatnými spolubratmi, začal uvažovať o úteku, ktorý sa mu ešte 10. októbra toho istého roka aj vydaril. Zatykaču, ktorý naňho vydali, sa vyhol tajnou prácou medzi mladými saleziánmi. Pri organizovaní jedného z posledných útekov mladých spolubratov za hranice „sovietskej zóny“ ho 7. septembra 1952 v českom Přešove ŠtB zatkla. Prešiel väzením v Bratislave a na Pankráci. Z vlastnej iniciatívy sa pustil do „hry na blázna“, a tak sa dostal aj na policajnú psychiatriu v Bohniciach, odkiaľ ho poslali na liečenie do Havlíčkovho Brodu a do Pezinka. Nakoniec ho 20. apríla 1955 prepustili – k rodičom. Až do apríla 1968, keď vycestoval do Talianska, pracoval ako roľník v rodnom Vištuku, stále „ako blázon“, trinásť rokov.

V Taliansku účinkoval najprv ako kaplán španielskych rehoľných sestier v Ríme (1968 – 1976), pričom intenzívne spolupracoval na mládežníckom vysielaní Vatikánskeho rozhlasu (viac ako šesťsto výstupov). V ďalšom období (do roku 1985) zastával úrad direktora saleziánskej komunity Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Vyučoval aj na slovensko-talianskom gymnázium a od roku 1987 bol direktorom komunity v Bazileji (Švajčiarsko). Práve z tejto poslednej „zahraničnej vinice Pána“ sa v roku 1990 vrátil na Slovensko, kde mu zverili úlohu direktora saleziánov a riaditeľa Gymnázia Jána Bosca v Šaštíne. V roku 1993 sa stal provinciálom Saleziánov dona Bosca na Slovensku. Po šiestich rokoch služby bratom a mladým v úlohe „otca“ sa vrátil do milovaného Šaštína. V roku 2005 mu hlavný predstavený don Pascual Chávez počas svojej návštevy Slovenska verejne prejavil poctu a uznanie na veľkom stretnutí saleziánskej rodiny v Bratislave.

Popri svojich rehoľných a pedagogických záväzkoch sa otec Ernest Macák venoval aj literárnej činnosti. V zahraničí a po páde totality aj na Slovensku publikoval niekoľko kníh: Malý generál/Malá superstar (Michal Magone), Muž s ranami (Páter Pio), V bunkri hladu (Maximilián Kolbe), Lurdy – maják atómového veku, Naša Sedembolestná Matka. Don Macák je aj spoluautorom (spolu s Rudolfom Blatníckym a Andrejom Paulíny) významného katechetického diela – príručky Dejiny spásy.

Sériou kníh: Zápisky spoza mreží (vyšli v slovenskom, anglickom a španielskom jazyku), Dva roky v katakombách, Diagnóza: blázon pre Krista, Utečenci pre Krista a Prenasledovaní pre Krista priblížil dejiny prenasledovania Cirkvi na Slovensku. Posledné jeho dielo – pohľad na vlastný život – vyšlo v minulom roku pod názvom Bože, oplátilo sa mi žiť.

TK KBS

Zahraničný obchod SR ožíva, jeho ťahúňom je stále automobilový priemysel

Bratislava (TASR) – Najvýraznejší úder zažil slovenský zahraničný obchod na začiatku roku 2009. Spôsobila to nielen nútená odstávka viacerých exportne orientovaných priemyselných firiem a to v dôsledku prerušenia dodávok plynu z Ruska, ale aj prudké ochladenie priemyselnej aktivity na našich hlavných exportných trhoch, v krajinách eurozóny. V priebehu uplynulého roka sa však exportná výkonnosť postupne zotavovala. Analytici, ktorých oslovila TASR, predpokladajú, že oživenie zahraničného obchodu na Slovensku v roku 2010 určite nastane, nakoľko znaky mierneho oživenia sú badateľné už v posledných mesiacoch.

Priemyselná produkcia aj tržby jednotlivých odvetví priemyslu začínajú ožívať. „Napomáha k tomu nízka porovnávacia báza a očakávané pozvoľné zotavenie ekonomík našich obchodných partnerov. Tento trend začal už v posledných mesiacoch, kedy sa dynamika medziročného prepadu exportov aj importov postupne zmierňovala,“ uviedol analytik UniCredit Bank Slovakia, a. s., Ľubomír Koršňák. Prebúdajúci sa dopyt u našich obchodných partnerov by mal podľa Koršňáka napomôcť oživiť slovenské exporty. Na druhej strane oživenie domácej produkcie zvýši aj nároky na dovozy materiálov a polotovarov. Ruka v ruku s rastom vývozu je tak možné očakávať aj nárast dovozov. Dovozy by nahor mohla potiahnuť aj vyššia investičná aktivita a dovoz technológií. „Na budúci rok sa očakávajú väčšie investície, napríklad v automobilovom priemysle investícia Volkswagenu Slovakia, a.s., do rozšírenia výroby v Bratislave, či elektrotechnickom priemysle AU Optronics v Trenčíne,“ spresnil Koršňák.

Ťahúňmi slovenského exportu by aj v tomto roku mali ostať najmä automobilový priemysel a spotrebná elektronika. „Tieto dve odvetvia tvoria približne 40 % slovenského exportu. Naopak, klesať by mal aj naďalej význam textilného, či kožiarskeho priemyslu,“ avizoval Koršňák.

Podobne ako v roku 2009 budú podľa analytika Volksbank Slovensko Vladimíra Vaňo vo zvýhodnenej pozícii tie odvetvia, v ktorých pôsobia nadnárodné koncerny so závodmi vo viacerých krajinách, a ktoré sa rozhodnú využiť výhody eurového Slovenska na presun väčšej časti svojich kapacít do svojich tunajších závodov. „Ak sa splnia očakávania postupného oživenia rastu v eurozóne, postupné oživenie externého dopytu bude priat' exportne orientovanému priemyslu vo všeobecnosti,“ dodal na záver Vaňo.

Arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský menovaný za sudcu Apoštolskej signatúry

Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. dekrétom zo dňa 15. decembra 2009 menoval Jeho Excelenciu Mons. Stanislava Zvolenského, bratislavského arcibiskupa metropolitu, do úradu sudcu Najvyššieho Tribunálu Apoštolskej signatúry na päťročné obdobie.

Podľa Apoštolskej konštitúcie Pastor Bonus Najvyšší Tribunál Apoštolskej signatúry má dôležité kompetencie, medzi ktoré patrí dozeranie na správne vykonávanie spravodlivosti v Cirkvi, rozširovať kompetenciu nižších tribunálov alebo zriaďovať interdiecézne tribunály.

Rozsahom kompetencií a váhou rozhodnutí Najvyšší Tribunál Apoštolskej signatúry možno prirovnať k Ústavnému súdu.



Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský

TK KBS

Slovenský vakcinologický kongres na Slovensku

Štrbské Pleso (TASR) – Na Štrbskom Plese sa konal od 14. 1. - 16.1. 2010 1. Slovenský vakcinologický kongres, ktorý vznikol na základe prudkého rozvoja vakcinológie v posledných rokoch. Kongres sa uskutočnil pod záštitou ministra zdravotníctva SR Richarda Rašiho, informovala predsedníčka Slovenskej epidemiologickej spoločnosti Zuzana Krištúfková. Cieľom kongresu bolo spojiť odborníkov z rôznych odborov, čo má prispieť k lepšiemu poznaniu problémov. Organizátori chceli ponúknuť priestor na širokú diskusiu a poučenie v oblasti vývoja, výroby, zloženia, testovania bezpečnosti a účinnosti, ale aj správnej aplikácie vakcín pre praktických i špecializovaných lekárov. Cieľom je tiež informovať o efektívnosti očkovacích postupov a stratégií, a tým aj ochrany zdravia.

Krištúfková uviedla, že aktivity odporcov očkovania sa v poslednom období rozrástli a svojím spôsobom ohrozujú zdravie populácie, pretože očkovanie prezentujú ako život ohrozujúci medicínsky zásah. Odborníci na tento spôsob prevencie sa preto nebránili diskusiám o rizikách očkovania, chceli sa jej však venovať na základe vedecky podložených dôkazov.

Na kongrese tiež mohli účastníci vidieť prezentácie o klinickej závažnosti ochorení, o ich epidemiológii a laboratórnej diagnostike, „pretože len keď o probléme vieme, tak ho môžeme riešiť,“ zhodnotila Krištúfková.

Na kongrese odznelo 52 prednášok a 13 prezentácií od lekárov z rôznych univerzít, kliník, nemocníc, úradov verejného zdravotníctva, ale aj laboratórií a primárnej praxe. Organizátormi podujatia boli Slovenská epidemiologická a vakcinologická spoločnosť, Slovenská pediatrická spoločnosť, Slovenská spoločnosť všeobecného a praktického lekárstva, ďalej Slovenská infekčologická spoločnosť a Fakulta verejného zdravotníctva Slovenskej zdravotníckej univerzity v Bratislave. Okrem toho sa na vzniku kongresu podieľala aj Jesseniova lekárska fakulta Univerzity Komenského v Martine, Lekárska fakulta Univerzity Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach, a tiež vydavateľstvo SAMEDI. Svoju účasť na kongrese potvrdilo viac ako 300 lekárov.

Stredná Európa sa prezentovala americkým novinárom z oblasti cestovania

Tourist sites in Slovakia presented to American media in Los Angeles

Los Angeles (TASR) – Skupina šiestich stredo európskych krajín sa v polovici januára predstavila americkým novinárom z oblasti cestovania. Marketingové združenie Central European Experience (CEE), ktorého členom je aj Slovenská republika, propaguje na americkom trhu strednú Európu ako autentickú turistickú destináciu.

Súčasťou prezentácie bolo predstavenie najnovších hotelov, aktuálnych festivalov a turistických noviniek, ako aj ochutnávka stredo európskej kuchyne. „Cieľom podujatia je prezentovať šesť krajín nášho regiónu vrátane Slovenskej republiky, na západnom pobreží Spojených štátov amerických pre novinárov, píšucich o cestovnom ruchu v amerických médiách,” vysvetlil Peter Petian, vedúci obchodnej a ekonomickej sekcie Veľvyslanectva Slovenskej republiky v USA. Slovenská republika je najmenšou krajinou marketingového združenia a pomerne neznámou pre amerických cestovateľov. Petian však približne 50 prítomným novinárom v úvode svojho vystúpenia pripomenul niekoľko mien slovenských hokejistov, pôsobiacich na západnom pobreží.

Z atrakcií, ktoré by mohli amerických turistov v tomto roku zaujať, vybrala Slovenská agentúra pre cestovný ruch mesto Levoču ako najnovší prírastok na zozname pamiatok UNESCO a Košice ako budúce európske hlavné mesto kultúry. Petian Američanom predstavil aj festival Jánošíkove dni a najnovší slovenský film Jánošík, ako aj nový bratislavský hotel Kempinski River Park, ktorý by mal privítať prvých turistov už v máji tohto roka. Americkí novinári sa v prípade Slovenska zaujímali najmä o ponuku luxusnejších služieb a otázky bezpečnosti.

Rakúsko pozvalo Američanov do novej luxusnej predajne Swarovski vo Viedni, Česi propagovali najnovšiu turistickú atrakciu Cestu po stopách železnej opony a Nemci chcú v tomto roku zlákať turistov na 200. výročie Oktoberfestu. Maďari sústredili pozornosť amerických novinárov na Pécs, ktorému patrí titul európskeho hlavného mesta pre kultúru v tomto roku, a Poliaci predstavili ako zaujímavý turistický cieľ priemyselné mesto Zabrze, kde sa môžu turisti prepraviť do podzemnej bane a navštíviť netradičné banícke múzeum.

CEE podávalo americkým novinárom nemecký rizling a české pivo. Predjedlom boli bryndzové halušky, pripravené americkým šéfkuchárom. Tých, ktorí halušky už na Slovensku jedli, trochu prekvapilo, že na tanieri dostal každý presne tri kusy vkusne naaranžovaných halušiek poliatych syrovou omáčkou s príchutou bryndze. Ako hlavný chod sa podávalo kurča s nemeckými späetzlami a dezertom bola jablková štrúdl'a s vanilkovou zmrzlinou.

Stredo európska prezentácia na západnom pobreží USA bola súčasťou propagačnej série CEE, ktorá sa snaží zlepšiť informovanosť o stredo európskej turistike v USA. Podobné stretnutie zorganizovala CEE už v New Yorku a v apríli sa plánuje sústrediť na ďalšie štyri veľké americké mestá.



Anglická pútnická modlitba



Bože, daruj nám rozum prijať to, čo nevieme zmeniť.

Bože, daruj nám odvahu zmeniť to, čo zmeniť môžeme.

Bože, daruj nám múdrosť, aby sme vedeli odlíšiť jedno od druhého.

Prezident SR prijal predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských spoločností na Slovensku

Bratislava (TASR) - Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič s manželkou nedávno prijali v Prezidentskom paláci predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských spoločností v Slovenskej republike. Na stretnutí sa zúčastnili Marek Maďarič, minister kultúry SR, Mons. Mario Giordana, apoštolský nuncius a Ján Juran, riaditeľ cirkevného odboru Ministerstva kultúry SR.

Na tradičnom novoročnom stretnutí hlava štátu zdôraznila, že novoročné stretnutia s predstaviteľmi cirkví na Slovensku vníma predovšetkým ako prejav dlhodobých vzťahov medzi štátom a cirkvami. Gašparovič pripomenul, že Slovenská republika má záujem, aby sa tieto dobré vzťahy naďalej rozvíjali. „Štátu záleží na tom, aby občania mali svoje duchovné a náboženské potreby všestranne zabezpečené. Pre cirkvi a náboženské spoločnosti je dobré a užitočné, ak svoju činnosť môžu vykonávať v usporiadaných, kultúrnych a bezpečných podmienkach,” uviedol prezident. Zároveň ocenil významnú úlohu, ktorú zohrávajú cirkvi pri vytváraní zdravej morálnej spoločenskej klímy v spoločnosti.

Za predstaviteľov katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku poďakoval za pozvanie na už tradičné novoročné stretnutie Stanislav Zvolenský, predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska. Aj on apeloval na zmenu morálneho poriadku a nezdravej situácie v životnom štýle. Ako v tejto súvislosti uviedol, „problém treba riešiť veľkou snahou o zmenu mentality spoločnosti a o nový životný štýl”.

V mene predstaviteľov Ekumenickej rady cirkví na Slovensku vyjadril poďakovanie za prijatie generálny biskup Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania Miloš Klátik, ktorého teší záujem hlavy štátu o službu duchovných predstaviteľov v kresťanských cirkvách, ktorá je podľa jeho slov aj službou pre celú spoločnosť.

Čestný predseda Ústredného zväzu židovských náboženských obcí v SR Pavel Traubner ocenil, že aj malá židovská komunita na Slovensku je rešpektovaná ako aktuálna súčasť spoločnosti a vyjadril radosť, že hlava štátu zachováva tradíciu novoročných stretnutí, čím podľa Traubnera dokazuje, že akceptuje všetkých predstaviteľov bez ohľadu na ich konfesiu.



Z terorizmu obvinili muža v SR

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovenská polícia po prvý raz obvinila osobu zo zločinu terorizmu. Jeho páchatelom má byť tri razy súdne trestaný Stanislav Č. z obce Spišské Vlachy v okrese Spišská Nová Ves. Na tlačovej konferencii o tom 21. januára informoval prezident Policajného zboru Ján Packa. Obvinený z voľne dostupných chemikálií vyrábala výbušniny a komponenty na výrobu nástražného výbušného systému a skladoval ich v garáži rodinného domu. Podľa polície chcel použiť výbušniny ako zbraň v kostoloch počas náboženského obradu.

Okrem terorizmu je muž obvinený aj z nedovoleného ozbrojovania a prechovávaní omamných látok. Policajti pritom odhalili plány Stanislava Č. vyhodit' do vzduchu kostoly pri vyšetrovaní jeho drogovej trestnej činnosti. Výbušninu vraj chcel odpáliť na diaľku a podľa Packu ich dva razy vyskúšal v lese. V prípade dokázania viny mu hrozí 20 až 25 rokov väzenia.



Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

federatívnej republiky, kde sa uskutočnili Cyrilometodské dni. Počas 20 rokov sa na nich predstavili významné osobnosti cirkevného, umeleckého a spoločenského života.

Cyrilo-metodská púť v Nitre

V starobylej Nitre v nedeľu 5. júla 2009 vyvrcholili oslavy svätých Cyrila a Metoda národnou púťou pod miestnym hradom. Slávnostnú svätú omšu pod holým nebom celebroval arcibiskup Mons. Marin Srakić, predseda Biskupskej konferencie Chorvátska, ako koncelebranti boli prítomní: kardinál Ján Chryzostom Korec, apoštolský nuncius Mons. Mario Giordana, arcibiskup bratislavskej arcidiecézy Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, nitriansky biskup Mons. Viliam Judák, nitriansky pomocný biskup Mons. Marián Chovanec a ďalší biskupi, kňazi, diakoni, rehoľníci a veriaci. Na bohoslužbe sa zúčastnil aj prezident Slovenskej republiky, poslanci Európskeho parlamentu, Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky, podpredseda vlády, predstavitelia štátnej správy i samosprávy, rektori univerzít.

Na začiatku bohoslužby nitriansky biskup Mons. Viliam Judák predstavil prítomným svätých Cyrila a Metoda ako mužov, ktorí dokázali spojiť kresťanstvo a kultúru: „Potvrdilo sa, že kresťanstvo svojou inkulturáciou je vždy kultúrotvorné. Práve tieto duchovné aktivity sa stali základom trvalého cyrilometodského hodnotového dedičstva, pôsobiacoho formatívne a pozitívne nielen v dejinách Slovákov, ale aj v dejinách národov strednej a juhovýchodnej Európy“.

Arcibiskup Mons. Marin Srakić počas homílie okrem iného zdôraznil, že svätí Cyril a Metod sa pričínili o identitu slovanských národov tým, že pracovali na poli jazyka, viery a kultúry: „Nezabúdajme, že svätí Cyril a Metod sú predovšetkým zvestovatelia viery, vierozvestcovia. Svätý Metod drží v ruke kríž. Pre niektoré slovanské národy svätí solunski bratia boli tým, čím je svätý Bonifác pre Nemcov, svätý Patrik pre Írov, svätý Oskar pre Švédov, svätý Augustín pre Angličanov, t.j. zakladateľmi viery“.

Exkomunikovaní kňazi a diakon porušili cirkevnú disciplínu

Arcibiskup R. Bezák podporil rozhodnutie metropolitu S. Zvolenského

Trnava (TASR) - Trnavský arcibiskup Róbert Bezák vydal k trestom exkomunikácie dvoch bratislavských kňazov a jedného trnavského kňaza a diakona vyhlásenie, v ktorom podporil rozhodnutie bratislavského arcibiskupa-metropolitu Stanislava Zvolenského. Exkomunikovaní kňazi a diakon podľa Bezáka vážne porušili cirkevnú disciplínu, čím vzbudili pohoršenie u veriaceho ľudu. Cirkevný trest exkomunikácie je liečivým trestom, teda nie je trvalý, ale má napomôcť predovšetkým k náprave vinníka a k odstráneniu škôd.

„Vyhlásenie adresované všetkým slovenským biskupom v sebe skrýva mnohé teologické omyly a mylne vykladá dogmatické a morálne učenie Katolíckej cirkvi. Je tu teda vážne nebezpečenstvo uvedenia do omylu a narušenia jednoty. Pripájam sa k výzve k modlitbe za menovaných kňazov,” uviedol trnavský arcibiskup. Informovala o tom Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska.

Bratislavský arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský ešte v decembri minulého roka suspendoval a exkomunikoval dvoch kňazov bratislavskej arcidiecézy - Stanislava Cigáneka a Martina Chlebeka. Dôvodom mala byť heréza. Kňazi sa spolu s novokňazom Trnavskej arcidiecézy Martinom Jarabicom a diakonom Trnavskej arcidiecézy Petrom Mazúrom 15. decembra 2009 obrátili na Zvolenského a všetkých katolíckych biskupov Slovenska s výzvou, aby vyznali vieru podľa nimi stanoveného viero vyznania a zriekli sa nimi stanovených bludov a s heretickým tvrdením, že ak tak neurobia, stratia posvätnú moc.

„Toto je zásadne nezlučiteľné s pravou katolíckou náukou o posvätných vysviackach a z nej plynúcej posvätných moci, ktorú dostáva každý platne vysvätený diakon, kňaz a biskup navždy,” uviedol v tejto súvislosti Zvolenský. S rovnakou výzvou podľa arcibiskupa postupne oslovujú iných cirkevných predstaviteľov, dávajú im rozličné ultimáta, vyzývajú ich k neposlušnosti voči biskupom. Tiež spochybňujú pravovernosť pápeža Jána Pavla II., pričom sa v ich vyjadreniach objavuje aj žiadosť o posmrtnú exkomunikáciu tohto veľkého pápeža. Činnosť týchto kňazov je podľa arcibiskupa Zvolenského škodlivá pre Katolícku cirkev. Zároveň veriaciach vyzval k modlitbám za obrátenie týchto kňazov.

SLOVENSKÁ LIGA OZNAMUJE

Zasadnutie Výkonného výboru

Výkonný výbor Slovenskej ligy mal zasadnutie v sobotu 12. decembra 2009 v New Yorku. Rokoval o bežných administratívnych otázkach a prijal odporúčanie, aby v lete 2010 bolo publikované ďalšie číslo SLOVAKIE, ktorú už vyše dvoch desaťročí rediguje prof. Mark M. Stolárik. Výkonný výbor tiež rozhodol, že v roku 2010 bude pokračovať v štipendijnom programe na školský rok 2010/2011. Podmienky budú uverejnené v americkoslovenskej tlači. Na programe agendy bola aj otázka miesta a času budúceho kongresu Slovenskej ligy. Odporúčané boli mestá Pittsburgh, Pa a Bridgeport Conn. a čas konania jeseň 2010 alebo jar 2011. Dátum konania kongresu je potrebné koordinovať s už programovanými konvenciami členských fraternalistických organizácií. Definitívne rozhodnutie sa urobí na nasledujúcej schôdzke Výkonného výboru.

Ďakujeme darcom

Slovenská liga vyslovuje poďakovanie doživotnému členovi Slovenskej ligy Metodovi Balcovi, ktorý daroval na štipendijný fond Slovenskej ligy \$3,000.00 na pamiatku svojej zosnulej manželky Dr. Márie Balcovej. M. Balco bol aktívny v Slovenskej lige v 50. a 60. rokoch a bol spoluzakladateľom Fondu pre slovenských utečencov v roku 1968 v rámci Slovenskej ligy.

Ďalej zaznamenávam s vdáku, že teraz už zosnulá oddaná Americká Slovenka Júlia Demková nechala vo svojom testamente obnos \$ 4,500.00 pre potreby Slovenskej ligy. Ako sme už oznámili, Júlia Demková darovala už pred dvoma rokmi \$ 4,500.00 na štipendijný fond Slovenskej ligy. Obom darcom vrele ďakujeme.

120. výročie Slováka v Amerike

V decembri 2009 sa časopis Slováka v Amerike dožil 120. výročia svojho vychádzania. Je to nielen vzácné jubileum v celoslovenskej žurnalistike, ale aj veľký úspech tohto periodika, ktoré je teraz najstarším existujúcim slovenským časopisom v Amerike. Od založenia Slovenskej ligy tento časopis bol jej stálym podporovateľom a propagátorom jej cieľov a programu.

Slováku v Amerike želáme dobrú budúcnosť a odporúčame slovenskej verejnosti a hlavne členom Slovenskej ligy, aby si Slováka v Amerike predplácali. Ročné predplatné je \$ 45.00. Adresa redakcie a administrácie: Slováka v Amerike, 225 N. Wood Ave, Linden, N.J. 07036; Tel.: 1 (908) 486-2222; Fax: 1 (908) 486-8020; e-mail: office@slovakvame.ike.com.

Spolupráca Slováka v Amerike a Slovenskej ligy potvrdzuje aj okolnosť, že mnohí čitatelia SvA posielajú členské príspevky a dary pre Slovenskú ligu spolu s predplatným na Slováka v Amerike. Začiatkom januára 2010 vydavateľ SvA Milan Čuba odovzdal tajomníčke Slovenskej ligy obnos \$ 279.50, ktorý pre Slovenskú ligu poslali predplatitelia Slováka v Amerike. Darcom a vydavateľom SvA ďakujeme.

Členské poplatky

Členský poplatok do Slovenskej ligy pre jednotlivcov je \$ 10.00 ročne, alebo \$200.00 za doživotné členské. Doživotní členovia majú na kongresoch SlvA plné práva delegátov. Členský poplatok za spolky je \$ 25.00 ročne. Členské poplatky, ako aj dary na štipendijný fond a iná korešpondencia majú byť poslané na adresu SLvA: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison Street, Passaic, N.J. 07055

So slovenským pozdravom

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

Ideálne vzory alebo pomýlená úcta?

Pred niekoľkými rokmi vo verejnom prieskume sa pýtali mládeže koho by chcela mať za rodičov. Prevažná väčšina hlasovala na Madonu a na Michala Jacksona. Ale ako je to, veď ani jedného sme nevideli nakupovať životné potraviny do domácnosti?

Michal sa vyzíval v precíznom telocviku a v rôznych hudobných kompozíciách, ktorým mnohí nerozumeli. Ale mládež pri jeho predstaveniach bola vo vytvorení a narobila toľko kriku a vresku ako pri padaní veľkej gule na Nový rok na Times Square v New Yorku. Madona obľubuje šport. Vraj nedávno bola prítomná na basketbalovom zápase vo Phoenix, ale nikto ju nemohol poznať, lebo bola oblečená.

Mládež si pletie talent slávnych športovcov a hercov s úlohou alebo vzorom, ktorý majú predstavovať vo svojom okolí, štáte a krajine.

Charles Barkley, vynikajúci basketbalový hráč povedal tieto významné slová: „Len preto, že viem hodiť loptu do basketbalového koša, to ešte neznamená, že som schopný vychovávať deti.“

My myslíme, že poznáme ideálne vzory – našich hrdinov. Je to skutočne tak? Často nás klamú správy vo večerných hodinách v ktorých sa hovorí o zločincoch, podvodníkoch a vrahoch. Tvár vraha, ktorý sekerou zabil človeka sa objaví na obrazovke a hneď za tým výpoveď jeho suseda „To bol skutočne milý človek. Mal psa a každý týždeň si pokosil trávu okolo svojho domu.“ Sused ale nepripustil, že ten človek mal taký temperament, že sa rozhneval rýchlejšie ako zápalka zažatá na plyne.

My vieme rýchlo pomazať našich „hrdinov“ posvätným olejom. A to len preto, lebo vedeli niekoho prekabátiť a previedli „husárske kúsky“.

Nie je tomu tak dávno, čo ozbrojený muž násilne zastavil lietadlo a ukradol milióny dolárov. Za niekoľko hodín stal sa z neho hrdina, namaľovaný na T-tričku len za to, že sa vedel vyhnúť trestu.

Pre mládež nie je ľahkou vecou oddeliť osobu od charakteru ktorý predstavuje alebo povest' a prestíž, čo si verejnosť utvorila. Mládež obdivuje trénerov, vynikajúcich športovcov a filmových hercov. Ale u uctievaného trénera niekto našiel aj pornografickú obrázku. Športovci podľahli drogám a filmoví herci a herečky klamali pri platení daní.

Ak by sme mali dať radu našej mládeži, potom by sme jej radili asi toto: Talent ľudí možno obdivovať, ale neponáhľajte sa ich uctievať a zbožňovať. Hľadajte ľudí, ktorí sa vedia uspokojiť s malým úspechom, ktorí prispievajú niečím ku zveľadeniu svojho okolia, morálne i duševne obohacujú ho, robia vážne rozhodnutia a majú odvahu ísť aj cez prekážky. A nakoniec hľadajte u ľudí trpezlivosť a bezúhonnosť.

Mládež nech nie je prekvapená, ak si svoje vysnené vzory nájde u svojej matky a svojho otca.

Rudo L. Greguš



Rudo L. Greguš



FOTO TASR - Jozef Poliak

Zvýšený záujem o pôvodné dedinské domy zo strany cudzincov zaevidovali v uplynulých dvoch až troch rokoch vo Svätom Antone. Ľudia spoza hraníc vyhľadávajú dedinu najmä pre jej polohu v blízkosti starobylej Banskej Štiavnice. Na snímke vo Sv. Antone je zo 420 domov až 110 víkendových domov, využívaných ako chalupy.

The small village of Svätý Anton located near Banská Štiavnica has attracted the interest of foreigners. A total of 110 of the 420 homes have been purchased by foreigners looking for vacation homes.



České a slovenské múzeum v Cedar Rapids musí premiestniť budovu

Po ničivej povodni, ktorá v roku 2008 značne poškodila National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library v Cedar Rapids, Iowa, budova už nemôže slúžiť ako múzeum. Nie je ani možné získať potrebnú poisťku na zbierky a výstavné materiály, nakoľko budova sa nachádza v povodňovej zóne. Vedenie sa z toho dôvodu rozhodlo nadvihnúť a premiestniť budovu na bezpečnejšie miesto. Na uskutočnenie tohto kroku sú však potrebné finančné prostriedky, preto je potrebná aj podpora verejnosti. Finančné dary sú odpočítateľné z daní. Šeky majú byť vystavené na: NCSML a zaslané na adresu National Czech & Slovak Museum, 87 Sixteenth Ave., SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. Bližšie informácie na telefónnom čísle: 319-362-8500.



Slovenský deň v Orlando, Florida 7. marca 2010

V nedeľu 7. marca 2010 bude v Slovenskej záhrade vo Winter Parku, FL 58. slovenský deň. Slovenská svätá omša, ktorú bude slúžiť Rev. Louis P. Luljak, bude o 11. hodine v Kultúrnom centre na 3110 Howell Branch Road. Po omši bude obed. Kultúrny program začne o 2.00 hodine. Počas popoludnia bude hrať hudba do tancia i na počúvanie. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor PAS z Pittsburghu, PA. Vstupné je \$ 25.00 za vstupenky kúpené vopred. Pri vchode budú vstupenky predávané po \$ 30.00. V cene je započítaný obed. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie na tel. č. (407) 677-6894.

V pondelok 8. marca bude ročná schôdza. Registrácia účastníkov schôdze bude o 9.00 hodine a schôdza začne o 10.00 hodine.

18. reprezentačný ples v New Yorku

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku usporiada v sobotu 13. februára 18. reprezentačný ples (black tie). Bude sa konať v New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York, N.Y. Vstupné je \$ 160.00 za dospelých a \$ 90.00 za študentov. Podujatie začne o 6.00 hodine koktailom. O 7.00 hodine bude večera.

Bližšie informácie a rezervácie: Gitka Hlavinka, telefónne číslo: (201) 242-0214; e-mail: peggyhlavinka@rcn.com alebo Lubica Markovich tel. č. (212) 923-7800 ext. 1244; e-mail: Lubical@verizon.net.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Zlepšenie** podmienok na podnikanie je hlavnou myšlienkou, s ktorou chce na politickú scénu vstúpiť nová strana Aliancia živnostníkov a zamestnávateľov. Živnostníci a malí podnikatelia sa rozhodli využívať svoj rozum sami a pokúsia sa dostať do politiky tak, aby mali možnosť ovplyvňovať dianie v podnikateľskom prostredí. Ich cieľmi je stabilita, rovnosť podnikateľského prostredia a vymožitelnosť práva. Sú za zníženie celkového finančného zaťaženia podnikateľských subjektov a občana v daňovom systéme. Ďalšími programovými smermi strany sú zníženie odvodového zaťaženia, zrušenie dvojitého platenia odvodov a nemocenského poistenia a práceneschopnosti, zabezpečenie rovnocenného postavenia živnostníka ako samozamestnávateľa so zamestnancom všeobecne a obnova existencie Rady vlády pre malé a stredné podnikanie.

• **Bývalý** guvernér Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) Ivan Šramko bude pôsobiť ako veľvyslanec SR pri Organizácii pre hospodársku spoluprácu a rozvoj (OECD) v Paríži. Šramko ukončil svoje päťročné pôsobenie vo funkcii guvernéra slovenskej centrálnej banky 12. januára, kedy ho na tomto poste vystriedal dovtedajší člen bankovej rady Jozef Makúch. Nedávna novela zákona o NBS mu umožnila kandidovať aj na druhé funkčné obdobie, takúto ponuku však odmietol. Dôvodom bola podľa neho snaha zaťať centrálnu banku do politického boja zo strany viacerých opozičných predstaviteľov, ktorí opakovane spochybňovali jej nezávislosť na vláde.

• **Slovensko** by malo poskytnúť Haiti, ktoré v pondelok (11.1.) zasiahlo silné zemetrasenie, finančnú pomoc vo výške 50,000 eur. Rozhodlo o tom 14. januára Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí (MZV) SR. Peniaze pôjdu na Haiti zo zbierky, ktorú už vyhlásil Slovenský Červený kríž a z prostriedkov MZV SR. Najefektívnejšie je distribuovať pomoc cez medzinárodné organizácie, prípadne európskych partnerov, ktorí už na Haiti sú a majú tam potrebné dopravné spojenia aj zázemie, aby mohli pomoc prepraviť na tie územia, ktoré ju potrebujú. Takže MZV SR už rozbehlo hľadanie a komunikáciu s partnermi, ktorí by prepravili slovenskú pomoc na Haiti, a vybavuje potrebné medzinárodné formality na akceptáciu tejto pomoci. Na Haiti je podľa oficiálnych informácií MZV SR päť Slovákov. Z toho štyria sú občania Slovenskej republiky a jeden má české občianstvo.

• **Medzi** Slovákami, ktorí na Haiti pomáhali, je aj rehoľná sestra Anna Ciganpalová (51) zo Spoločnosti dcér kresťanskej lásky sv. Vincenta de Paul. Stará sa nielen o chorých a bezvládných, ale aj o matky s deťmi či podvyživené deti. Prvýkrát v krajine pôsobila v rokoch 2003-2006. Je živá a zdravá, ale dom majú zničený.

• **Pomoc** obyvateľom Haiti, ktoré zasiahlo silné zemetrasenie s magnitúdou 7.0, sa rozhodla poskytnúť aj spoločnosť U. S. Steel Košice. Prostredníctvom svojej nadácie sa rozhodla okamžite venovať 10,000 eur na pomoc tejto chudobnej a prírodnou katastrofou postihutej krajine, a to cez Slovenskú katolícku charitu. „Uvedomujeme si, že rýchla pomoc je v takejto situácii podstatná, preto sme bez váhania prijali toto rozhodnutie. Okrem priamej finančnej pomoci chceme tak vyjadriť našu spolupatričnosť trpiacim na Haiti,“ komentoval rozhodnutie hutníckej firm jej prezident George Babcoke.

• **Nové** lieky na vysoký krvný tlak, cholesterol aj na liečbu rakoviny od apríla pribudnú na Slovensku v lekárňach a nemocniciach. Rakovine totiž každoročne podľahne približne 12-tisíc Slovákov. Muži najčastejšie zomierajú na nádory pľúc a priedušiek, ženy na rakovinu prsníka. Medzi dospelými lekári ročne diagnostikujú okolo 24-tisíc nových ochorení, u detí ročne pribudne 190 až 210 nových prípadov. Aprílový zoznam z dielne ministerstva zdravotníctva obsahuje 5, 348 liekov, z nich majú poisťovne plne uhrádzať 1,873. Materiál je zatiaľ v pripomienkovom konaní a môže sa ešte upravovať. Definitívny zoznam liekov aj s doplatkami bude zverejnený začiatkom marca, aby sa na aprílovú kategorizáciu dopredu mohli pripraviť lekárnici.

• **Medzi** najsympatickejšie národy zaradili Česi vo výskume agentúry CVVM Slovákov, Francúzov, Švédov, Angličanov i Rakúšanov, za ktorými nasledujú Gréci, Poliáci a Američania. Na prvom mieste v pondelok 18. januára zverejneného výskumu však skončili samotní Česi. Respondenti priradili 24 národnostiam známky, podobne ako v škole, ale k dispozícii mali až sedembodovú škálu. Sami sebe pridelili Česi priemernú známku 1.88, Slovákom 2.02 a Francúzom 2.48. Z výskumu CVVM ďalej vyplynulo, že najmenej sympatickí sú Čechom Čiňania, Turci, Afganci, Kurdi, Palestínčania a Iračania.

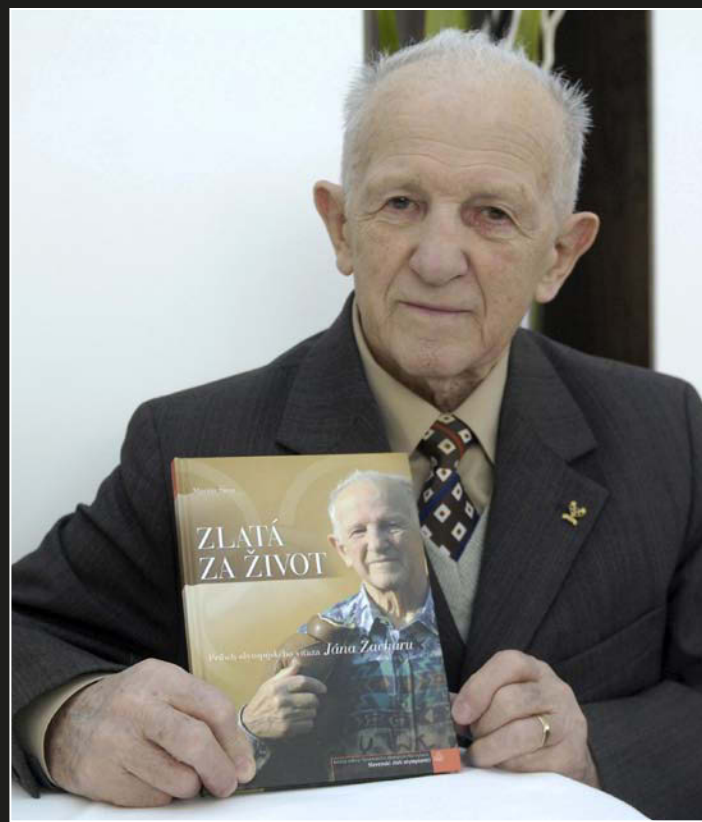
• **Slovenskí** lekári začali v stredu (20. 1. 2010) večer s poskytovaním prvej pomoci obetiam zemetrasenia v hlavnom meste Haiti Port au Prince. Prvú pomoc začali podávať v americkej nemocnici, pôvodne vybudovanej pre deti. „Keďže kapacity nemocnice nie sú postačujúce, pacienti sú ošetrovaní aj pred budovou v improvizovaných podmienkach,“ uviedla Martina Utešená z Vysokkej školy zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce svätej Alžbety. Slovenským lekárom sa podarilo zriadiť lekáreň z liekov a pomôcok, ktoré previezli zo Slovenska. Hneď ráno začali aj s budovaním pooperačnej jednotky a prípravou pôdy pre slovenskú mobilnú nemocnicu. Zemetrasenie zničilo 80 percent škôl, pod ich troskami je mnoho detí, ktoré sa v tom čase nachádzali na vyučovaní. Na miestach, kde sú sutiňy, prichádzajú príbuzní nezvestných a čakajú, kedy ich vyťahnu. Bezpečnostná situácia s výnimkou niektorých oblastí je v poriadku, ľudia sú pomerne disciplinovaní. Všetci členovia misie sú v poriadku, vyplýva z očítých svedectiev slovenských lekárov.

• **Švédsko** plánuje v rámci šetriacich opatrení uzavrieť svoje veľvyslanectvá v šiestich krajinách vrátane Slovenska. Oznámila to nedávno podľa agentúry DPA švédska vláda. Svoju činnosť ukončia švédske ambasády aj v ďalších štyroch členských štátoch Európskej únie: v Bulharsku, Írsku, Luxembursku a Slovinsku, ako aj západoafrickom Senegale. Súčasne však Švédsko otvorí desať nových veľvyslanectiev, ktoré vzniknú z doterajších diplomatických misí s nižším štatútom. Spomedzi európskych krajín by sa tak malo stať v Albánsku, Kosove, Gruzínsku a Moldavsku. Nové švédske veľvyslanectvá začnú pôsobiť v afrických štátoch Burkina Faso, Libéria, Mali a Rwanda, a tiež v Bolívií a Kambodži.

• **Na** bratislavskom letisku sa schýľuje k zatvoreniu ďalšej leteckej linky. Posledný let do anglického Manchestru uskutočnil 29. januára slovenský letecký dopravca Danube Wings. „Od prvého februára spoločnosť Danube Wings pozastavuje prevádzku linky Bratislava - Manchester - Bratislava,“ oznámil obchodný riaditeľ Danube Wings Arpád Agócs. O dôvodoch ukončenia prevádzky na tejto linke nevie letisko nič bližšie. Koniec letov do Manchestru bude pre bratislavské letisko znamenať už tretiu zrušenú linku v tomto roku.

• **Hrozba** straty zamestnania či zníženie mzdy stresuje Slovákov. Výsledkom je, že miznú menej a vytvárajú si finančnú rezervu na horšie časy. Nie sú v tom sami. Vo finančnom strese sa v čase krízy ocitli obyvatelia celej strednej a východnej Európy. Potvrzuje to analýza UniCredit Group. V súčasnosti podľa nej zaznamenávajú domácnosti v tomto regióne narastajúci finančný stres. A ten ovplyvňuje spotrebiteľské správanie ľudí.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



At the 38th General Assembly of the Slovak Olympic Committee on January 26, 2010, a book, "Gold for Life" was officially presented on the life of John Zachary, Slovak Olympic boxing champion in 1952.

FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na 38. valnom zhromaždení Slovenského olympijského výboru (SOV) 26. januára 2010 v Bratislave pokrstili monografiu o slovenskom olympijskom víťazovi v boxe z roku 1952 Jánovi Zacharovi (na snímke) s názvom „Zlatá za život.“



Nikdy nezabudneme na obeť pádu slovenského špeciálu pri obci Hejce

Hejce (TASR) – Devätnásť január ostane navždy v našich srdciach ako spomienka na obeť pádu slovenského vojenského špeciálu pri maďarskej obci Hejce. Vo svojom príhovore pri pamätníku obetiam leteckého nešťastia to 19. januára uviedol minister obrany SR Jaroslav Baška. Pripomenul, že toto nešťastie bolo zhodou nešťastných náhod a jedného okamihu, ktorý nemilosrdne rozhodol o tých, ktorí boli v tom čase v armádnom lietadle An-24. „Vracali sa po úspešnom splnení svojej mierovej misie v Kosove v plnej sile s plánmi a predsavzatiami do života. Človek odchádza, už sa nevracia, už sa neopakuje, ale predsa tu niečo po sebe necháva. Je to jeho práca, ktorú vykonal pre dobro ľudskej spoločnosti,“ dodal. Zároveň sa poďakoval občanom obce za to, čo v osudných chvíľach urobili pri záchranných prácach po havárii.

Na pietnom akte sa zúčastnila aj štátna tajomníčka ministerstva obrany Maďarskej republiky Ágnes Vadaiová. „Služba v armáde znamená predovšetkým záchrana hodnôt a životov. Táto strašná udalosť pripravila však o život 42 ľudí. Aj s tým ale musí vojak počítať,“ poznamenala.

Ani štyri roky po nešťastí sa nedokáže vyrovnáť so stratou kolegov a priateľov Martin Farkaš, ktorý ako jediný prežil pád lietadla. „Hovorí sa, že čas je najlepší lekár. Pre mňa to však v tomto prípade neplatí. So smrťou kolegov a priateľov sa nedá vyrovnáť. Je mi veľmi ľúto toho, čo sa stalo,“ poznamenal Farkaš. Vojenský špeciál An-24 so 43 príslušníkmi armády SR havaroval pred štyrmi rokmi na kopci Borsó, pri maďarskej obci Hejce, asi 50 km pred cieľom svojej cesty v Košiciach. Haváriu prežil len jeden člen kontingentu, ktorý sa vracal z mierovej misie v Kosove.

Nový pápežský kaplán – slovenský kňaz Jozef Krištof

Vatikán (RV) - Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. vymenoval kňaza Košickej arcidiecézy HE-Lic. Jozefa Krištofa za pápežského kaplána. Menovací dekrét s dátumom 22. 12. 2009 bol zverejnený v týchto dňoch (22. januára). Novému pápežskému kaplánovi ho odovzdal osobne Substitút vaticánskeho Štátneho sekretariátu arcibiskup Mons. Fernando Filoni.

Mons. Jozef Krištof sa narodil v Prešove. Filozofickú a teologickú štúdiu začal na Cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulte v Bratislave a po páde komunistického režimu ich ukončil na Teologickom inštitúte v Spišskom Podhradí – Spišskej Kapitule. Za kňaza bol vysvätený v Katedrále sv. Alžbety v Košiciach v roku 1992. Následne pôsobil na viacerých miestach Košickej arcidiecézy: ako kaplán vo farnosti Kráľovnej pokoja v Košiciach – Juhu (1992 – 1994) a ako administrátor farností Obišovce a Veľká Lodina (1994). V rokoch 1995 – 1998 absolvoval postgraduálne štúdiá cirkevných dejín na Pápežskej Gregorovej univerzite v Ríme. Po návrate na Slovensko bol administrátorom farností v Hýľove a Vyšnom Klatove a vyučoval cirkevné dejiny na Teologickom inštitúte v Košiciach. Od roku 1999 pôsobil v Pápežskom slovenskom ústave a Kolégiu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. V decembri roku 2002 bol prijatý do služieb Štátneho sekretariátu vo Vatikáne (Prvá sekcia – pre všeobecné záležitosti), kde pôsobí dodnes ako oficiál



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 119

STREDA, 3. FEBRUÁR, 2010

Číslo 5814

Zomrel bývalý hlavný predseda IKSJ Tomáš M. Hricík

V utorok 5. januára 2010 v Greensburg, Pennsylvánia ticho usnul vo veku 79 rokov, bývalý predseda Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Tomáš M. Hricík. Zosnulý sa narodil 22. septembra 1930 v Pleasant Unity nebohým Michaelovi a Cecilii Takáčovej Hricíkovej. Hricík vychodil základnú školu v Pleasant Unity a strednú školu v Hurst High School, Norvelt. Bol vyslúžilým vojacom Americkéj armády. V Obchodnej škole Westmoreland/ Greensburg Business School získal certifikát v účtovníctve a v štúdiách pokračoval na Pittsburgh a Duquesne University. Ako zamestnanec Teledyne Vasco v priebehu 34. rokov zaujímal pozíciu riaditeľa plánovania a za tým riaditeľa nákupu. Bol dlhoročným tajomníkom a pokladníkom Spolku č. 181 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v United a za tým vo funkcii predsedu Okresu George Onda IKSJ.

Hricík bol zvolený v roku 1994 za hlavného predsedu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a v tejto pozícii reprezentoval organizáciu 12 rokov. Následne bol menovaný za emeritného predsedu IKSJ. Zároveň bol doživotným členom spevokolu kostola St. Florian Catholic Church. Hricík prechovával hlboké ctenie voči byzantskej katolíckej cirkvi a každoročne sa zúčastňoval spolu s rodinou púti v Mt. St. Macrina v Uniontown, Pa. Za jeho humanitárne snahy a mimoriadne zásluhy fraternalistu v slovenskej komunite v Amerike dostal v roku 1997 prestížne ocenenie Ellis Island Medal of Honor. V roku 2006 ho biskup Lawrence E. Brandt menoval na najvyššie pápežské vyznamenanie Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Zúčastnil sa slávnostnej ceremónie investitúry, ktorá sa konala v katedrále Svätého Patrika v New York City. Hricík bol členom Zboru riaditeľov Slovenského katolíckeho združenia, Slovenskej lígy v Amerike, Jankolovej knižnice sestier sv. Cyrila a Metoda a ich Slovenského múzea. Bol členom nespočetných slovenských organizácií ako sú napríklad: Národný fraternalistický kongres, Slovenský katolícky Sokol, Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Ženská Jednota, Slovenský Národný Spolok, Zemplínsky klub v Clevelande, Ohio a v Košiciach na Slovensku, Západná Pennsylvánska Slovenská Kultúrna Asociácia, Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota v USA a Kanade, a bývalým členom Slovenského svetového kongresu. Tomáš Hricík bol pyšný na svoj slovenský pôvod a vedel komunikovať slovenčinou východného nárečia. Často navštevoval Slovensko a precestoval mnohé miesta Európy. Rád čítaval knihy na historickú tému. Miloval svoju rodinu a bol šťastný keď sa všetci jeho najbližší stretli na sviatočné dni.



Archívna snímka: Geraldine a Tomáš M. Hricík

Tomáš Hricík zanecháva za sebou milovanú manželku, Geraldine Firmant Hricik, 5 detí Mary Borde s manželom Arthurom, z St. Augustine, Florida; Michael Hricik s manželkou, Victoriou z Mt. Pleasant; Beth Ann Silva s manželom Rubenom z Greensburg; Thomas Hricik s manželkou Brandi z Sewickley; Stephen Hricik s manželkou Lori z Nemecka; 10 vnúčat; sestry Katherine Keim a Elizabeth Felice; netere a synovcov. Do večnosti ho predišli jeho súrodenci Stephen Hricik, Michael Hricik, Mary Selis, Patricia Hricik, Cecilia Debacco a Joanne Hricik.

S nebohým Hricíkom sa u pohrebničky Jay A. Hoffer Funeral Home, Norvelt prišlo rozlúčiť okrem rodiny množstvo priateľov, bývalých spolupracovníkov, členov hlavného Zboru riaditeľov IKSJ ako aj súčasný hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrej M. Rajec. Pohrebná svätá omša sa konala v kostole St. Florian Church v United, ktorej hlavným celebrantom bol Rev. William C. McGuirk. Hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrej M. Rajec na pohrebnej omši v mene Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty predniesol nekrológ. Pozostatky nebohého boli so všetkými vojenskými poctami uložené na cintoríne v St. Florian Cemetery, Trauger. Na želanie blízkej rodiny dary na pamiatku Thomas M. Hricika môžu byť posielané na Štipendijný fond Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131.

Nech náš dobrotivý Pán dá ľahké odpočinutie jeho nesmrteľnej duši a nech mu večné svetlo svieti. Nech odpočíva v pokoji. Česť jeho pamiatke!

Nový veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku nominovaný

Bratislava/Washington (TASR) - Americký prezident Barack Obama sa rozhodol nominovať za nového veľvyslanca USA na Slovensku Theodora Sedgwicka. Potvrdil to 21. januára tlačový atašé veľvyslanectva USA na Slovensku Chase Beamer. Prezident Obama oznámil svoje rozhodnutie v stredu (20.1. 2010) a príslušnú nomináciu plánuje predložiť členom amerického Senátu. Senátori po vypočutí Sedgwicka rozhodnú o jeho prípadnom potvrdení vo funkcii. Po následnom zložení prísahy pricestuje na Slovensko, kde predloží poverovacie listiny prezidentovi SR Ivanovi Gašparovičovi.

Tlačový atašé nevedel odhadnúť, ako dlho môže trvať proces schvaľovania nominácie. Vypočúvanie v Senáte by podľa jeho vyjadrenia mohlo prebehnúť vo februári. O Sedgwickovej nominácii informoval americký spravodajský portál politico.com.

Theodore Sedgwick v súčasnosti pôsobí ako vydavateľ odborných publikácií a v podnikaní s úžitkovým drevom. Pochádza z Virgínie a v roku 2008 venoval 28,000 dolárov (19,800 eur) pre demokratických kandidátov. Zbieral aj peniaze na Obamovu kampaň a daroval zhruba 10,000 dolárov (7,100 eur) na jeho inauguráciu, uviedla americká webstránka.

V minulosti založil vydavateľstvo Pasha Publications, zamerané na energetiku, obranu a životné prostredie, a informačnú spoločnosť pre oblasť energetiky Io Energy.

Veľvyslanec USA v Bratislave je jedným z posledných v Európe, ktorý je stále neobsadený. Americký veľvyslanec chýba aj v Prahe. V minulosti sa ako kandidát pre ČR spomínal mediálny magnát Marc Nathanson, bývalý šéf Rady guvernérov pre rozhlasové vysielanie, ktorá dozerá aj na Hlas Ameriky a Rádio Slobodná Európa.



Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda si 14. februára v USA a 5. júla na Slovensku pripomíname s rovnakou úctou pre jeho obsah, hĺbku i význam. Svedčia o tom slávnosti na mnohých miestach, ktoré sa konali na Slovensku v Terchovej i Nitre.

XX. ročník osláv patrónov Žilinskej diecézy v Terchovej

Od 2. júla až do 5. júla 2009 žila Terchová jubilejným XX. ročníkom Cyrilometodských dní Organizátori pre desaťtisíc návštevníkov pripravili bohatý program plný duchovných i kultúrnych podujatí. Vyvrcholením osláv patrónov Žilinskej diecézy bola procesia veriacich na vrch Oravcove a slávnostná sv. omša, ktorú celebroval žilinský biskup Mons. Tomáš Galis. V homílii sa prihovril k rodičom a kňazom, aby vo vernosti odkazu sv. Cyrila a Metoda boli silní vo viere a v radosti slúžili Pánovi. Zdôraznil ideál solúnskych bratov, spájať veriacich v Kristovi a rodičov povzbudil, aby boli silní vo viere a slúžili Pánovi s radosťou a „aby pokojným spôsobom budovali malé, rodinné spoločenstvá pokoja, lásky a dobrého príkladu ...“

Nedeľné popoludnie spojila veriacich Cyrilometodská ekumenická bohoslužba a galakoncert „Krása hudby“ v najväčšom kostole zasvätenom sv. Cyrilovi a Metodovi na Slovensku. Oslavy slovenských vierozvestov zvýraznila aj liturgia sv. Jána Zlatoústeho, ktorú celebroval vладыka Peter Rusnák. Súčasťou programu bolo stretnutie mládeže Žilinskej diecézy, ktoré vyplnili modlitby chvál, adorácia, workshopy, krížová cesta, koncerty či svätá omša na úsvite na vrchu Oravcove. Pri príležitosti jubilejného ročníka vydali organizátori knižnú publikáciu Petra Cabadaja „20. rokov CMD“ a predstavili dokumentárny film Milana Kosca „Verní odkazu sv. Cyrila a Metoda“.

Terchová bola v roku 1990 prvým miestom na území vtedajšej Českej a Slovenskej



Sv. Cyril a Metod

Pokračovanie na str. 21