



# Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly

# Jednota

## THE UNION

USPS #273500 ISSN #1087-3392



Fr. Stephen Furdik  
Our Founder

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

Volume 117

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008

Number 5772

## FCSU Reintroduces Senior Promotion Program

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

### Initial Program (Current Members)

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

### Application

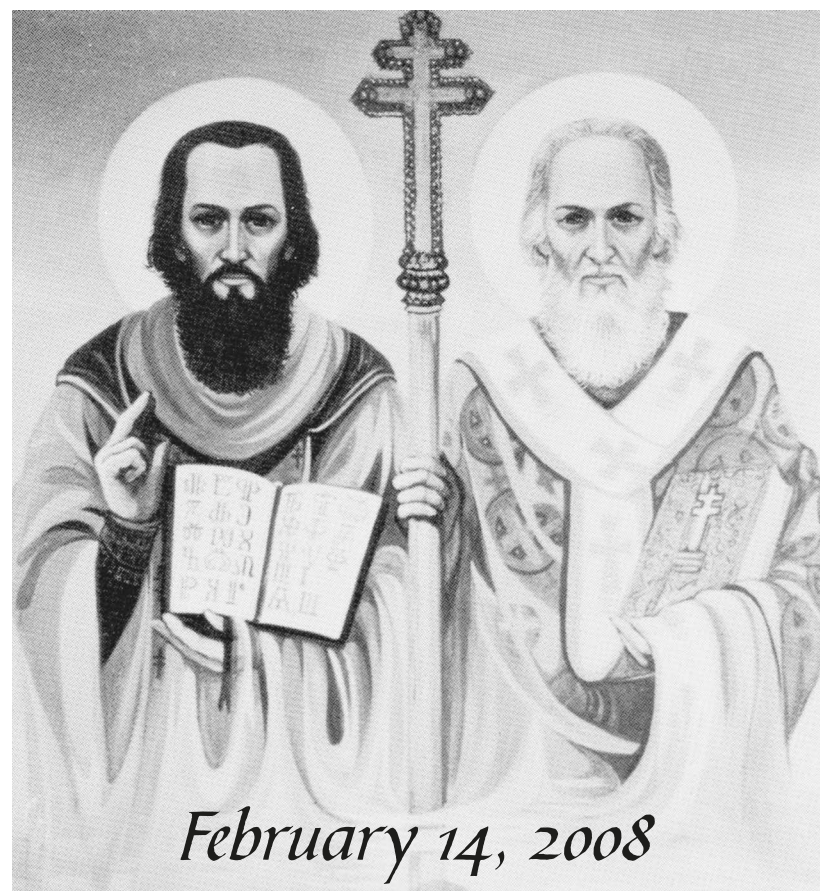
As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting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

### New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year al-

*continued on page 3*

## Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### RE: 2008 JEDNOTA ISSUE DATES & DEADLINE DATES

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

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

We want to communicate with our members.

However, since the newspaper is now on the internet at [www. FCSU.com](http://www.FCSU.com), if you

*continued on page 3*

## Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2, 5
Branch/District Announcements.....	7, 10
Obituaries .....	13
Youth .....	14
FCSU Financial/Minutes.....	5, 6
Slovak.....	17-20

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

HOME OFFICE • 6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

PHONE: 216-642-9406 • FAX: 216-642-4310

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AND 15, 2008

The Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15, 2008.

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

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

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

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

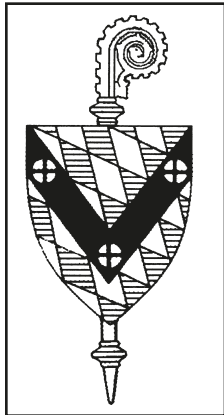
By invitation of the President, Andrew M. Rajec, Society Members who wish to attend the morning session of the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada on Friday, March 14, 2008 may do so. Members interested in attending this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

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

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
National President

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Executive Secretary

# Insights and Viewpoints



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

February 17, 2008

### Second Sunday of Lent

#### Gospel Summary

The fact that Jesus takes his more intimate disciples to the top of this nameless mountain alerts us to the deeply personal nature of the episode to follow. When they arrive there, the appearance of Jesus suddenly changes and he is radiant with a light whose source is not identified. When Matthew notes that the face of Jesus "shone like the sun," he wants us to recall how Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with luminous face after having spoken with God (Exodus 34:29). For Matthew

considers Jesus to be the new Moses who brings a new and definitive revelation of Torah from God.

It has been customary to attribute the illumination of Jesus to a beam of light from heaven intended to reassure the disciples who have just heard that the Messiah must suffer and die (Matthew 16:21). However, most of the disciples are not present, nor do those few present seem to have been reassured. Nor is there any mention of a light from heaven. It is far more likely that this illumination derived from within Jesus who, for the first time, came to a full realization that God wanted him to save the world, not by feats of power or by killing Roman soldiers (too frequently the human way), but by loving and therefore suffering and dying (the divine way). This would be then an ecstatic moment of discovery as Jesus became fully aware of the true nature of his messianic mission.

If that is so, it is entirely appropriate that Moses and Elijah should join him there, for they too had met God on a mountaintop and received a revelation that illumined their futures. The face of Moses glistened from the divine encounter on Mt. Sinai (as noted above) and Elijah outran the chariot of Ahab after meeting God on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:46). Finally, when the voice of God is heard, the baptismal affirmation is repeated and significant new words are added: "Listen to him." This tells us that Jesus is now ready to teach the ultimate divine wisdom of salvation through loving and self-giving.

#### Life Implications

We Christians are asked to follow Jesus, not only by listening to his words, but also by sharing in his experience of human life as an opportunity for ultimate victory and freedom. We have heard with Jesus the liberating baptismal words, "You are my beloved child," and as we have grown in confidence we have learned to be a beneficent presence in our world, just as Jesus was in Galilee.

However, the time will inevitably come when we begin to wonder whether building monuments or achieving status is really the purpose of life. Then, in middle age (sometime between 30 and 80!), we are invited to the mountaintop for a transfiguring experience which will hopefully enable us to discover that brain-power and money-power, though very useful, are not nearly as important as love-power. Suddenly it becomes clear that being kind and gentle in an often-violent world is the ultimate wisdom for us humans. Moreover, we discover to our relief that age is not an obstacle to being a loving, caring presence. Indeed, the touch of an octogenarian is probably more tender even than that of a 20-year-old.

We also learn that true loving is always a kind of dying. And after we died in countless small ways, we discover that our final dying is just the last and best opportunity to trust a gracious God who has illumined all our days. In this way, bright promise and luminous hope can conquer dark and frightening fear and despair.

Matthew 17:1-9

### Third Sunday of Lent

#### Gospel Summary

It is high noon when Jesus stops to rest by the well of Jacob. His revelation about life-giving water will provide a light that challenges the sun. When he asks the Samaritan woman for a drink, she is amazed that he seems so unaware of how things really are. Does he not know about the human conventions that have condemned her to social invisibility? After all, women were supposed to be ignored in public and she was also a despised Samaritan. How can Jesus be so out of touch?

When Jesus answers her, we discover that it is she who is out of touch. For she does not know about the "gift of God" that Jesus offers--a gift that is as refreshing and enlivening as bubbling, cool spring water, and thus so much better than the stale, stagnant well water on which she has been trying to survive. The woman's eyes must have sparkled as Jesus awakened in her the dream of a life of freedom and dignity. "Sir, give me this water."

We learn about the nature of this "living water" a bit later when the woman asks Jesus whether it is better to worship in Jerusalem or on the Samaritan Mt. Gerizim. Jesus defers to Jerusalem but adds immediately that such considerations

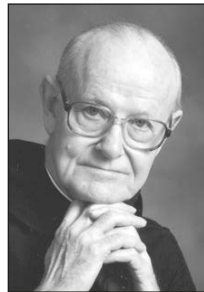
are no longer relevant. What counts now is to welcome the Spirit who can transform the hearts of people by enabling them to experience the ultimate truth of God's love for them. Religious places and rituals remain important but only insofar as they lead to this experience of God's love made manifest in one's personal union with Christ.

#### Life Implications

It is all too easy for most of us to identify with the Samaritan woman when she experienced life as often unfair and unjust, that is, as stale well water. Many powerful human institutions conceal systemic injustice in the sense that opportunities and rewards are too often provided on the basis of connections rather than of ability or merit. Even those who benefit from such arrangements will sense the lack of that joy that comes from a life where love is more important than security. To shrug off injustice as simply "the way things are" is to be condemned to the half-life of stagnant well water.

Today's gospel invites us to dream about the possibility of a world where opportunity and hope replace the bondage of fear and despair. God really does not want us to live a life of quiet desperation. Jesus has come to reveal the Father's love and the Spirit is ready to convince us of that fact. The Spirit of Jesus whispers constantly to us: "If you only knew the gift of God..." Our eyes too can sparkle as we dare to imagine a world, at least within our hearts, where the experience of God's invincible love becomes a source of refreshing, life-giving water to quench our thirst for goodness and justice.

In order to avoid a cynical attitude toward life, we need to realize that the Holy Spirit wants us to redeem our own little corner of the world. We do not need to be a Messiah, but we do need to inject some messianic hope into the area of life that we can influence. The conversion of the world begins with the conversion of a kitchen or a dining room or a workplace. If each one of us would do that, the larger world would soon become what God intended it to be--a place where justice blossoms and where love bears wonderful fruit.



Demetrius R. Dumm,  
O.S.B.

February 24, 2008

John 4:5-42

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19	MONDAY, MARCH 10

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:  
Anthony Sutherland, Editor  
"JEDNOTA"  
1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835  
FAX: (717) 944-3107

## REMINDERS

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

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

## JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 26 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road

Independence OH 44131-2398

ANTHONY X. SUTHERLAND, Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: United States—\$25.00 All other countries—\$30.00

PRINTED AT: PRESS AND JOURNAL, 20 S. Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057

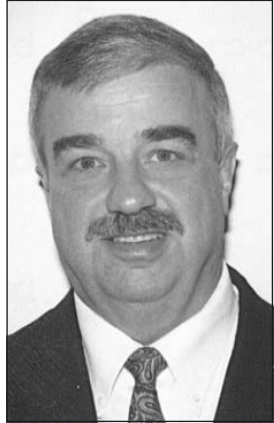
Telephone: (717) 944-0461 FAX: (717) 944-3107

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices.

*From the Desk of the Executive Secretary . . .*



**Kenneth A. Arendt**

**IRA MARKETING BULLETIN**  
**Traditional and Roth IRA**  
**Contribution Limits Increase**  
**Effective January 1, 2008**

The Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 made some significant changes with regard to IRA Annuities. Effective January 1, 2008, the maximum contribution to a Traditional and Roth IRA is increased to \$5,000.

- (a) Traditional IRA - provides for contributions that are tax deductible (for qualified taxpayers) and distributions which are taxable;
- (b) Roth IRA provides for after tax contributions (for qualified taxpayers) and distributions which are non-taxable.

1. The increase is effective on amounts credited for the year 2008 and after. The maximum contributions for the year 2007 remain at \$4,000 even if the actual contribution is made in 2008.
2. As in the past, persons age 50 and over can make annual extra \$1,000 catch-up contributions and their maximum is \$6,000 beginning in 2008. This limit is applicable to each individual who reaches age 50 or greater by the end of the taxable year.
3. A regular contribution may be made each year up to the maximum contribution limit or 100% of compensation, whichever is less. This means that if actual compensation earned is less than \$5,000, or \$6,000 for person age 50 to 70, in a year, then the IRA maximum contribution allowed, is actual compensation.

These maximum contribution limits apply through 2008 and will automatically increase beginning in January 1, 2009.

There is no change in 401(k) or 403(b) contribution caps which remain at \$15,500 and \$20,500 for persons age 50 and over. SIMPLE remains at \$10,500 and \$13,000.

Eligibility to make contributions to the traditional and Roth IRA's remain the same as in the past. The excise tax penalties also remain the same as in the past. Briefly, some of the basic rules are:

**Traditional IRA**

1. A portion or all of the contribution can be deducted from income, depending on whether the contributors participate in an employer sponsored retirement plan or earned less than \$53,000 for individuals beginning in 2008. Deduction is prorated if income is between \$53,000 and \$63,000.
2. For married tax payers filing a joint return, the contribution can be deducted from income if the contributors earned less than \$85,000. Deduction is prorated if income is between \$85,000 and \$105,000.
3. Contributions cannot continue the year the owner turns age 70 1/2 or in subsequent years.

4. Income tax on the contribution amounts and interest earnings are deferred until the benefits are paid.
5. At age 70 1/2, distributions must begin.
  - a. Failure to take required distributions can result in very large penalties.
  - b. The 2001 tax law changes have reduced the Required Minimum Distribution amounts.

**Roth IRA**

1. A non-income-deductible contribution can be made if earnings are less than \$159,000 jointly; even if either spouse is a member of an employer sponsored retirement plan (for single persons the amount is \$101,000); contributions are allowed after age 70 1/2 if contribution is made from earned income.
2. All interest earnings are accumulated tax deferred.
3. All qualified distributions are 100% tax free.
4. Contributions can continue as long as one spouse works.
5. No required minimum distributions at any age.

**Very Important** - IRA Trustees will have to report required distributions to the IRS. This report will be on the form used to notify IRA owners of their year end balances.

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**Kent-Dudince Sister City**  
**Association Announces Events**

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

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

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

**FCSU Reintroduces**  
**Senior Promotion Program**

*continued from page 1*

lowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

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

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

**FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION**  
**AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM**  
**WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE**  
**2007**

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

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**Important Notice**

*continued from page 1*

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

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

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

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

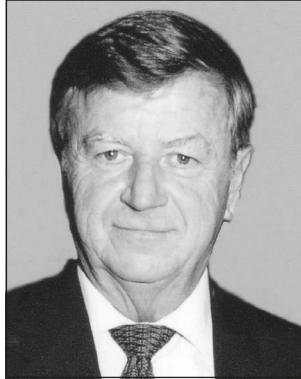
# The Best of the Best!

## Top Guns For the Year 2007

### TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS



**Florence K. Matta**  
First Place



**Andrew R. Harcar**  
Second Place



**Dorothy J. Petrus**  
Third Place

### TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

	Branch	Total Points
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	692
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	549
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	540
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	352
Joseph E. Rura, Coral, Pennsylvania	484	218
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	213
Mary J. Kapitan, Edison, New Jersey	746	205
Lisa Ann Trifiletti-Palos, Lorain, Ohio	228	174
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	163
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	151

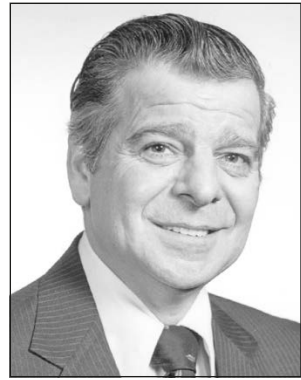
### TOP PROPOSERS BY INSURANCE SOLD



**Dorothy J. Petrus**  
First Place



**Frances Tarquinio**  
Second Place



**George A. Sprock**  
Third Place

### TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$720,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$463,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$410,000
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$386,560
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$350,000
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$336,000
James Robert Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	\$230,000
Regis P. Brekosky, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania	738	\$200,000
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$195,000
Mary Ann Eckard, Cumberland, Maryland	333	\$190,000



*From the desk of the Executive Secretary –*  
**Visit our web site! [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**

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

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

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

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

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

WEB SITE – [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD



**Roger T. Soltis**  
First Place



**Thomas M. Hricik**  
Second Place



**Mary Lou Krna**  
Third Place

### TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD

	Branch	Annuities
Roger T. Soltis, Massilon, Ohio	410	\$100,800.00
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$80,903.59
Mary Lou Krna, Binghamton, New York	166	\$65,000.00
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$45,451.43
Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$45,000.00
Michael F. Mihalko, Clairton, Pennsylvania	454	\$41,924.60
Steven G. Luca, Lorain, Ohio	228	\$31,781.43
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$29,413.33
Edward Fibbi, Monongahela, Pennsylvania	587	\$28,810.10
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$25,978.77



## Spring Session Begins Feb. 16 At The Cleveland Slovak School

The Cleveland Slovak School for Children will begin its 2008 13-week spring session on February 16th. All classes are held at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church located at 8111 Brecksville Road in Brecksville, Ohio. The tuition is \$100 for the first child of a family and \$50 for each subsequent family member. The classes are divided into 3 groups. Group I will consist of students age 3 to 7 and early language learners including youngsters who may not yet know how to read or write. Group II is designed for students age 8 to 12 or for students who may already be able to converse in the Slovak language. Group III is designed for students age 13 through adults. The classes will be held on Saturday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m. for Group I and at 10:00 a.m. for Group II and 11:00 a.m. for Group III. Classes are approximately 45 minutes in duration for Groups I and II and 1 hour and 30 minutes for Group III.

For more information or to obtain an application or to contact the Slovak School, visit us on the web at [www.slovakschool.com](http://www.slovakschool.com). You may also call Mrs. Mary Ann Dzurec at 440-930-2197 or Mrs. Mary Ann Johaneck at the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association at 216-464-8015, ext. 111. Enroll early, as class size is limited.

### From the Office of the Vice President

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

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

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

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

# Insights and Viewpoints

## Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for February 2008

### General Intention

**Mentally Handicapped.** That the mentally handicapped may not be marginalized, but respected and lovingly helped.

This month the Holy Father affirms the worth of people who are mentally handicapped. The developmentally disabled, as they are usually termed in the U.S., tend to be marginalized by society—that is, they are pushed aside, put away, and ignored. Their crime is that they happen to exhibit weakness of intellect. Sometimes the mental handicap is accompanied by delays in speech, social skills, and physical abilities. Some of the developmentally disabled lead independent lives in their communities. But many need help to live up to their potential. Some need constant care.

In 1964 French layman Jean Vanier noticed the plight of thousands institutionalized with developmental disabilities. Vanier invited two men to come live with him in his home. He named the home L'Arche, French for The Ark. Now there are 130 L'Arche households throughout the world.

Just what is the value of the mentally handicapped? Jean Vanier puts it this way: "The mentally handicapped... have time to look and think and marvel and love.... They are a sign, but their very being, that peace and joy... are not gained by work alone, and do not depend on wealth. Therefore, they utter a terrible warning; a warning that if men do not use their knowledge and ability to make the world more just, more brotherly, and to bridge the ever-widening gap between rich and poor, then this world will end in agony, strife, and fire."

May we join the Holy Father in praying that the mentally handicapped not be ignored or rejected, but that we might learn to respect the dignity of every human being.

**Reflection.** Do you know a person who is mentally handicapped? What might you do to affirm his or her dignity?

### Mission Intention

**Institutes of Consecrated Life.** That the Institutes of Consecrated Life in mission countries may rediscover the missionary dimension and generously proclaim Christ to the ends of the earth.

On February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the Church also celebrates World Day of Consecrated Life. This month the Holy Father asks us to pray that all priests, brothers, and sisters may generously proclaim Christ to the ends of the earth.

Speaking last year to the bishops of Latin America, Pope Benedict XVI said this: "Not a political ideology, not a social movement, not an economic system, but faith in the God who is Love— who took flesh, died and rose in Jesus Christ— is the authentic basis for this hope which has brought forth such a magnificent harvest from the time of the first evangelization until today."

The Pope constantly exhorts religious orders of the Church to remain true to the mission of their founders, particularly in their devotion to the Gospel of Christ. "The disciple, founded on the rock of God's word, feels driven to bring the Good News of salvation to his brothers and sisters," the Pope told the bishops of Latin America. "When the disciple is in love with Christ, he cannot stop proclaiming to the world that only in him do we find salvation (Acts 4:12). In effect, the disciple knows that without Christ there is no light, no hope, no love, no future."

But nowhere does our Holy Father express this dynamic of personal faith and social service as beautifully as he does in his encyclical, *God is Love*: "Love of God and love of neighbor have become one; in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God."

May all religious congregations, especially in mission lands, fearlessly witness to the Gospel.

**Reflection.** How does the Gospel contain the answers to the problems of developing mission countries?

## Coming Events

### FEBRUARY

19 – A Meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

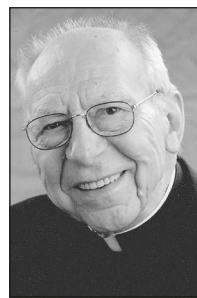
### MARCH

16 – A Meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meeting and lunch.

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

## Reflections on Our Christianity

Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

### Sorrow

Saint Paul refers to two kinds of sorrow which is mental distress caused by loss or disappointment.

We have all known sorrow in our lives. It results from the loss of something or someone precious, from disappointment when plans do not come to fruition, when a friendship is broken for whatever reason.

These are human sorrows, affecting our worldly lives, and they may not go away.

Paul focuses upon another kind of sorrow. "Indeed, sorrow for God's sake produces a repentance without regrets, leading to salvation, whereas worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Reflecting upon this passage, sorrow that is limited to human regret has no value in the eyes of God. "We were friends for a long time but we disagreed on a subject and I told him off! I'm sorry about that but he was dead wrong and he's on his own now."

There are two sides to every controversy, and in many cases, both sides contribute to it. In this case, prudence would dictate that discussion could have resulted in a conciliatory agreement or a conclusion that the parties agreed to disagree and preserve the friendship. In this instance, "He's on his own" is a rupture that is final and likely to last, causing each other to avoid the other perhaps forever. God has no role here and the sorrow is one of defiance, not repentance.

We need to examine our relationship with others and with the happenings in our lives with reference to God. Our plans for our lives are not realized perfectly in accordance with our dreams. If you wish to bring a smile to the face of the Lord, lay out your plans for tomorrow.

Sorrow should include a reflection of our behavior. What role was ours in bringing it? If we had a role, we need to acknowledge it. Was it carelessness or neglect? Was our planning awry? Did our emotions run past our common sense? If so, then we are obliged to repentance and in this way our sorrow will cleanse our consciences, lead us to salvation and bring us peace. We will then know repentance without regrets.

Worldly sorrow is a festering kind of sorrow for it does not go away. It gnaws at our consciences and we alternately defend and condemn ourselves.

We are not exempt from accusing others for causing our sorrow. "Worldly sorrow brings death."

If we are narcissistic, burdened with an excessive interest in ourselves, we are sure to know sorrow because we live in the communities of our families, our co-workers, our parish families and our neighbors. This demands of us a duty to be respectful of others' personalities, views and ways of doing things just as they have the same responsibility towards us.

"It's my way or the highway" is the very antithesis of the biblical teaching. "Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)

"Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect." (Colossians 3:12-14)

Whenever you know sorrow, reach not out to censure but rather survey first your mind, your will and your heart. This is sorrow for God's sake.

## Slovak Garden to Observe Anniversary

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

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

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

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

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

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2007

### HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN**

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Attending:

Andrew M. Rajec, President

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President – via teleconference

George F. Matta, Treasurer

Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – per invitation by the President

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the November 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**CANADA BUSINESS**

The General Counsel updated the Executive Committee about the options as to how Canadian residents can become members of the FCSU. The General Counsel will contact other fraternal organizations with Canadian members for further information. The General Counsel will provide the Executive Committee with a detailed plan as more information becomes available.

**BRANCH MERGERS**

The President gave a lengthy report about the condition of our Branches. He stated that since 1989, 140 Branches either closed or merged. We now have 240 Branches, out of which only 87 qualified for the 2006 Branch stipend. We also have approximately 49 Branches with non-active officers.

The President also stated that he and the Executive Secretary will make it their highest priority to find officers for these Branches and to merge inactive Branches with active Branches where possible and where it is in the best interests of the Society and the Branches.

**TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT**

Treasurer George Matta gave a detailed report (see attached) summarizing the investments for the month of November 2007 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer updated the Executive Committee on two foreign bonds that were recently purchased and answered their questions.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the Quarterly Statement presented by our custodian Merrill Lynch.

The Executive Secretary stated that he received a letter from Merrill Lynch stating that we have no bonds that are directly exposed to the sub-prime mortgage crisis.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer led a discussion regarding Annuity and IRA interest rates. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to keep the same interest rates for the 4th quarter of 2007. Motion carried.

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity		5.00%	(4.879%APR)
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity	IRA	5.00%	(4.879%APR)
Cash Interest Option		4.75%	(4.641%APR)
Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity		4.50%	(4.402%APR)
Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity	IRA	4.50%	(4.402%APR)
Single Premium Immediate Annuity		4.50%	(4.402%APR)
Single Premium Immediate Annuity	IRA	4.50%	(4.402%APR)
Park 2 Annuity		4.75%	(4.641%APR)

**NOVEMBER 2007 TREASURER'S REPORT****SMITH BARNEY INC.****AUSTRALIAN BONDS**

AAA/AAA	TOYOTA MTR CR	5.50	01-27-09	98.75	6.564	200K
			NON CALL			
AAA/AAA	NESTLE HOLDING	5.50	11-18-09	98.60	6.28	200K
			NON CALL			

BOTH OF THESE AUSTRALIAN BOND PURCHASES MATURING IN THE YEAR 2009 WOULD BE LIKE A TWO YEAR CALL

THE EXCHANGE RATE ON THE DAY OF PURCHASE WAS 0.8879. FOR A TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE IN US DOLLARS OF \$175,360.25.

**WACHOVIA SECURITIES****US BONDS**

A1/A	AMERICAN GENERAL	6.00	12-15-14	100.00	6.00	300K
			NON CALL			

WE HAVE ACCEPTED A TENDER OFFER ON THE FOLLOWING BONDS:

	RATE	MATURITY	PRICE	YLD	AMT	DATE PURCH
UNUMPROVIDENT	7.375	06-15-32	97.50	7.56	200K	10-10-02
UNUMPROVIDENT	7.375	06-15-32	96.25	7.66	200K	02-07-03

THE TENDER OFFER WAS 107.10 PER \$1000 BOND

400 X 107.10 = \$428,400.00

ORIGINAL COST = 387,500.00

PROFIT ON TENDER = 40,900.00

IN ADDITION WE RECEIVED INTEREST PAYMENTS OF APPROXIMATELY \$144,500 ON THIS INVESTMENT OVER THE LAST 4.5 YEARS.

THE DECISION TO ACCEPT THE TENDER OFFER WERE;

THE BONDS WERE NOW RATED BELOW INVESTABLE GRADE BA1/BB+

THE MATURITY WAS 6-15-32. THE ATTRACTIVE TENDER DOLLAR \$107.10.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT****MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

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

**MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

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

**DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2007**

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$187,381.61
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 35,399.07
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	\$ 1,357.30

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

**SALES**

The Vice President led a discussion regarding the Monthly Sales Report and reviewed the District Sales Production Report and Individual Agents Sales Report from January 1, 2007 thru October 31, 2007 and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President also updated the Executive Committee on the progress of our new Senior Promotion Program.

The Vice President led a discussion regarding review of our Educational Plan. He also stated that he is working with Ed DePersis regarding the Spring Promotion. The Vice President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

The Vice President also informed the Executive Committee that he conducted 9 seminars in 2007. He stated that he is contact with Districts about conducting seminars in 2008 and that he is planning to hold at least 6.

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee about current methods we use for advertising our products and about advertisement in Jednota.

**RECESS OF SESSION**

At this time the Executive Committee adjourned for lunch.

**AFTERNOON SESSION****MIDDLETOWN, PA**

The President led a discussion regarding our property in Middletown, PA.

He stated that we signed a new Listing Contract for 8 months with Landmark, Inc., our new leasing agent. The President will update the Executive Committee with the progress of this new listing.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Jednota publishing dates in 2008. He stated that this information will be sent to Branch Officers and will be placed on our website.

The President led a discussion that he and the Executive Secretary were getting clarification on current billing from our actuaries.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES**

The President stated that our Fraternal Activities Director had a meeting with a Fraternal Activities Director of another Slovak fraternal organization regarding joint events in 2008 or 2009. Another meeting is planned to discuss the possibilities. He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

**REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS**

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN**

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

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
President

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Executive Secretary

## Allentown Parish Meat Bingo

St. John the Baptist Church will also sponsor a "Meat Bingo" on Sunday, February 17, 2008, at the church Social Hall. Doors open at 12:00 noon, bingo starts at 1:00 p.m. Donation is \$5.00 plus specials. Refreshments will be available. For information call Bill Drost at 610/432-3505 or Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614.

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Branch 3 — MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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

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

**Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman**

### Branch 40 — STREATOR, ILLINOIS

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

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

**Andrew R. Harcar Sr.**

### Branch 89 — MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The Knights of St. Mary and St. Joseph Society, Branch 89, will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, February 10, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. at The Grecian Inn, 14375 West Capitol Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin. A complimentary luncheon will be served. Guests will pay for their own lunch. On the agenda will be the election of officers. All members are urged to attend. Please call Michael Novak at 414/445-5382 by February 6, 2008 if you plan to attend.

**Michael Novak, President**

### Branch 89 — Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Knights of St. Mary and St. Joseph Society, Branch 89, will hold an Easter Duty Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 16, 2008. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Immediately after the liturgy, breakfast will be held at The Grecian Inn, 14375 West Capitol Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin. The breakfast is complimentary for members. Guests will pay for their own breakfast. Please contact Mike Novak at 414/445-5382 by March 12, 2008, with the number of people attending.

**Michael Novak, President**

### Branch 162 — Uniontown, Pennsylvania

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

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

### Branch 228 — LORAIN, OHIO

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

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

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

### Branch 254 — PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Eat' N Park Restaurant, Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the 2008 agenda and elect new officers. All members are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

**Albina Senko, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 322 — SYKESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. George Society, Branch 322, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 17, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Dorothy A. Torretti, 2998 Kramer Road, Stump Creek, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

**Dorothy A. Torretti, President**

### Branch 367 — FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its next regular meeting on Friday, February 8, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Melonies Restaurant, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place at that time. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Jane Kish, Secretary**

### Branch 382 — SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

### Branch 450 — CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Annual Meeting

on Sunday, February 10, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Jozef Valencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio. The election of officers will be held at this time.

**Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 510 — KENOSHA, MICHIGAN

The St. Anthony Society, Branch 510, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 24, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at Bomb Bay Louie's, Kenosha, Wisconsin. On the agenda will be the officers' reports, a discussion of future events, and updates on insurance and annuity programs. The FCSU has good rates to invest into to protect your personal programs. The election of officers will take place after the business meeting. There will also be an open discussion on the new rules regarding the \$4.00 stipend per member. Since we lacked sufficient funds this stipend really kept us going. The last few years our share was cut off due to lack of new members. This hurts our future to be punished in this way. There will be a serious discussion on funds that belong to each branch that help it to continue to exist.

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

**Joseph Scuglik, President**

### Branch 580 — West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

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

**Mary Perun, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 731 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Members of Branch 731 elected officers for the year 2008. Officers were administered the oath of office by Msgr. Peter M. Polando. The following officers will serve in 2008: Millie Leskovyansky, President; Grace Kavulic, Vice President; James Bobby, Secretary; Jackie Bobby, Financial Secretary; and Ed Walko and John Kavulic, Auditors.

**James Bobby, Recording Secretary**

### Branch 743 — DETROIT AND STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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

All members and their families are invited

to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and enjoy fellowship with other members. Any member who has recently moved or requires branch services should contact the branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586/254-0225.

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

### Branch 764 — WARREN, OHIO

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

**Joanne Odom, Secretary**

### Branch 844 — LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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

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

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

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**



## Uniontown Church to Hold Dinner Dance

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

**SIGN UP  
A NEW  
MEMBER  
TODAY!**

# 2007 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

## REGION 1

Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

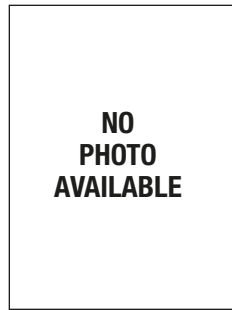
Age Group 10-12



Lia Mercure  
Seymour, CT  
First



Erich Diehl  
Long Valley, NJ  
Second



Obadiah Rogers  
Buffalo, NY  
Third



Katie Figura  
Warren, NJ  
First



Kayla Mercure  
Seymour, CT  
Second



Johanna Diehl  
Long Valley, NJ  
Third



Julie Figura  
Warren, NJ  
First

## REGION 1

Age Group 10-12

## REGION 2

Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Michael Redlich, Jr.  
Flemington  
Second



Enoch Rogers  
Buffalo, NY  
Third



Joshua Ruzas  
Northampton, PA  
First



Carissa Rohrbach  
Whitehall, PA  
Second



Lucy Tartal  
Baltimore, MD  
Third



Maura Vrabel  
Boiling Springs, PA  
First



Kristen Barczynski  
Wexford, PA  
Second

## REGION 2 REGION 3

Age Group 10-12

Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

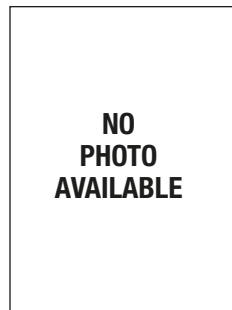
Age Group 10-12



Roseann Vrabel  
Boiling Springs, PA  
Third



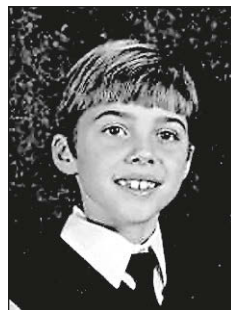
Becky Pechmann  
Cullowhee, NC  
First



Karlie Heinz  
Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Second



Leah Covaleski  
Elizabethtown, PA  
Third



Alexander Covaleski  
Elizabethtown, PA  
First



Amanda Covaleski  
Elizabethtown, PA  
Second



Michael Beierle  
Hanover Twp, PA  
First

## REGION 4

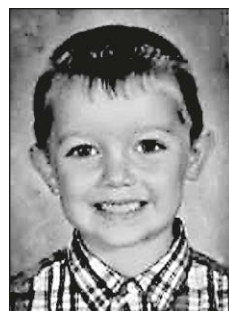
Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

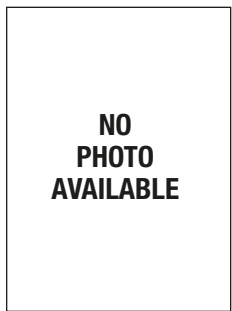
Age Group 10-12



Camille Hanzely  
DuBois, PA  
First



George W. Sprock  
Latrobe, PA 15650  
Second



Casey Elder  
Latrobe, PA  
Third



Olivia Rose Stroble  
Williamsport, PA  
First



Sara Bankovich  
Elizabeth, PA  
Second



Margaret Baker  
Danville, PA  
Third



Rachel Agnes Stroble  
Williamsport, PA  
First

# 2007 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

## REGION 4

••••• Age Group 10-12 •••••



Tristin Hanzely  
DuBois, PA  
Second



Stephanie Smith  
Latrobe, PA  
Third



Jenna Meinert  
Aliquippa, PA  
First



Rachel Katekovich  
Aliquippa, PA  
Second



Andrew Wilhelm  
Amarillo, TX  
Third



Madison Kovach  
Danville, PA  
First



Caitlyn M. Urban  
Somerset, PA  
Second

## REGION 5

•••••••••• Age Group 4-6 ••••••••••

••••• Age Group 7-9 •••••

## REGION 5

Age Group 7-9

•••••••••• Age Group 10-12 ••••••~



Anna E. Walkowiak  
New Kensington, PA  
Third



Emily Columbus  
Pgh. PA  
First



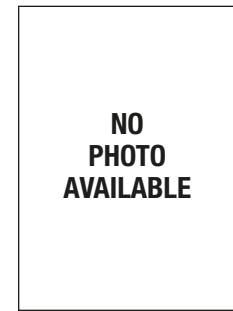
Joshua Huseman  
Amarillo, TX  
Second



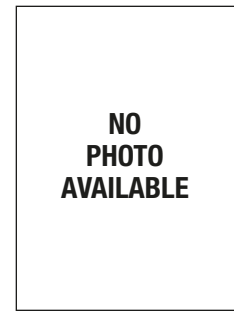
Andrew Kotlar  
Monongahela, PA  
Third



Zoe Marinik  
Lutz, FL  
First



Ryan Kolesar  
Olmsted Twp, OH  
Second



Anna Leah Taylor  
Brunswick, OH  
Third

## REGION 6

••••••~ Age Group 4-6 •••••~

## REGION 6

••••• Age Group 7-9 •••••

Age Group 10-12

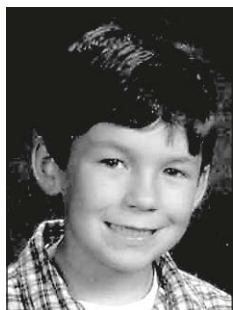
## REGION 7

•••••~ Age Group 4-6 ••~

Age Group 7-9



Paul Spencer  
Brunswick, OH  
First



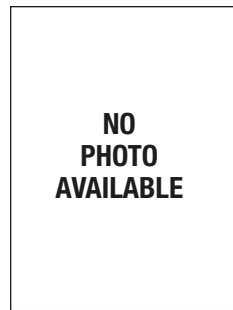
David Kucek  
Parma, OH  
Second



Shelby Spencer  
Brunswick, OH  
First



Patrick Glogovsky  
Elkhorn, WI  
First



Grace Colby  
Frankfort, IL  
Second



Sarah Peters  
Highland, IN  
Third



Ashley O'Shea  
Menomonee Falls, WI  
First

## REGION 7

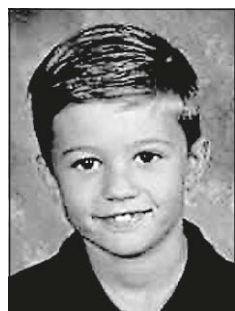
••••• Age Group 7-9 •••••

••••~ Age Group 10-12 ••~

## REGION 9

Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9



Matthew Manzella  
Normal, IL  
Second



Ian Glogovsky  
Longmont, CO  
Third



Todd Peters  
Highland, IN  
First



Logan Chismar  
Streator, IL  
Second



Alyssa Dordan  
Anchorage, AK  
Third



Ethan Joiner  
Aurora, Ontario  
First

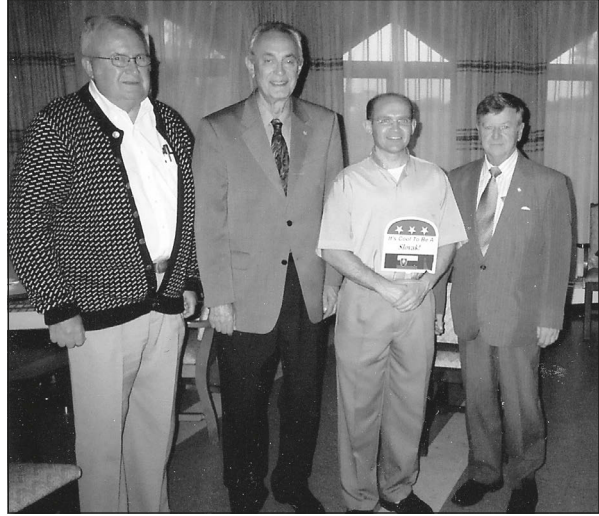


Jason Chadwick  
Mississauga, Ontario  
First

# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

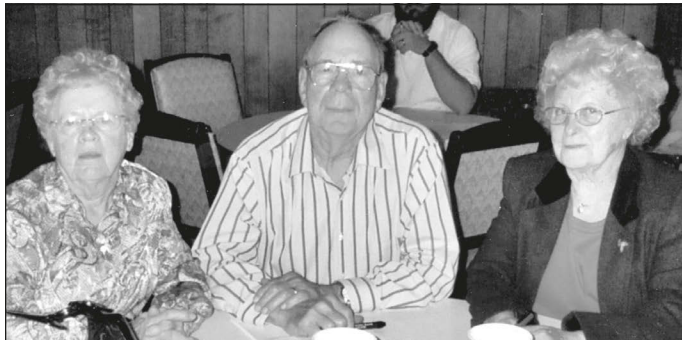
The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory in Oak Forest, Illinois. President John Jurcenko called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. District 2 Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurcenko led the opening prayer. District 2 Sergeant At Arms Mark Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance. Eight of 23 district branches were represented, with a total of 27 officers and branch delegates in attendance.



L-R Regional Director Rudy Glogovsky, District President John Jurcenko, Father Eugene Rybansky, and National Vice President Andrew Harcar

President Jurcenko read his appointments and communiqués. Financial Secretary/Treasurer Art Fayta gave the Financial Report. Chairman of Auditors Joe Bugel gave the Auditors' report. Region 7 Director Glogovsky gave the Regional Director's Report, and National Vice President Andrew Harcar gave a presentation on the marketing of FCSU Fraternal Life Insurance and Annuities. Various Committee reports were also given. President Jurcenko and Financial Secretary/Treasurer Fayta presented \$100 college grants to college freshmen Andrea Coutu and Jerry Ourada, winners of 2007 FCSU scholarships. The grant money came from the district's Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Fund. Attendees voted for the top 3 ornaments submitted by District 2 teenagers for the District's first annual Slovak Christmas Tree Ornament Contest. All ornaments submitted were displayed on the Slovak Christmas Tree at the 2007 Christmas Around the World exhibit at the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago.

Slovak activist George Michuda introduced Father Eugene Rybansky, a Slovak priest from Topol'cany, who is serving at a parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago.



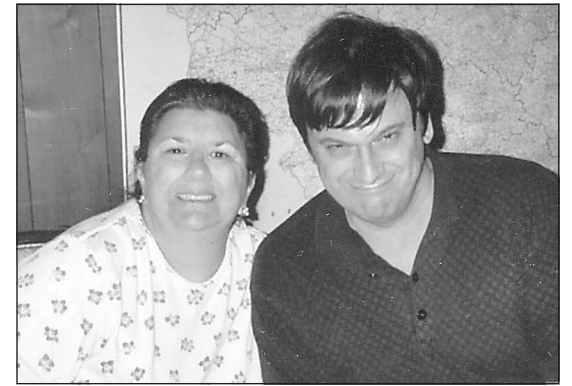
Branch 6 delegates Stella Elias, Bob Elias and Catherine Michlik.

Andrew Harcar as Election Chair conducted the nominations and election of officers for 2008. The following were elected: Dorothy Jurcenko, Spiritual Advisor; John Jurcenko, President; Barbara Fayta, Vice President; Art Fayta, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary; Joe

Bugel Chairman of Auditors; John Vriik and Shirley Uram, Auditors; Mark Davis, Sergeant At Arms; and George Kelchak, Director of Fraternal Activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00p. m., after which attendees enjoyed a delicious catered dinner arranged by Dorothy Jurcenko. Father Rybansky and Ed Uram led the closing prayers in Slovak.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary



Branch 493 delegates Valerie Vesely and Pete Turner.



National Vice President Andrew Harcar administers the oath of office to officers elected for 2008.



Members enjoy the catered dinner.



## REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT — Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio. On the agenda will be a discussion of activities.

Carlie Peshek, President

## PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT — Los Angeles, California

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

Paul Skuben, President

# 2007 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

## REGION 9

Age Group 7-9 ..... Age Group 10-12 .....



Ryan Cartwright  
Mississauga, Ontario  
Second



Liam Joiner  
Aurora, Ontario  
First



Rachel Chadwick  
Mississauga, Ontario  
Second



Danielle Cartwright  
Mississauga, Ontario  
Third

**IT'S TIME YOU GET INVOLVED — ATTEND LODGE MEETINGS!**

## SCF Seeks Contributors for GOOD SHEPHERD Annual

DOBRY PASTIER (THE GOOD SHEPHERD), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, compiles articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is currently accepting articles for inclusion in the 2008 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is May 1, 2008. The annual will be available in the Fall.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of THE GOOD SHEPHERD, the following guidelines are established for authors who would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the annual:

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

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

\*If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, a "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

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

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

tally, save as separate JPGs to accompany the article. Please indicate where photos are to be placed within the body of the article. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s).

\*In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs should be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M. for inclusion into the article. (If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD which the printer can then link up with the article.) Once again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted.

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

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

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

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

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



## St. Thomas A' Becket Fish Fry

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

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

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

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



## Mr. and Mrs. Emerick Kravec Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

On January 25, 2008, Mr. and Mrs. Emerick Kravec of Charleroi, Pennsylvania celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a family dinner. They received a congratulatory certificate

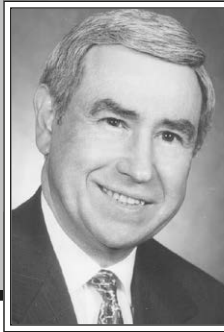


Mr. and Mrs. Emerick Kravec

from Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. For their 50th anniversary, they were enrolled in the Memorial Registry of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

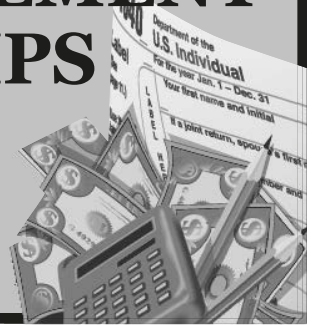
Mr. and Mrs. Kravec have three children, Fran, Emrick, and Emil; and two grandchildren, Brian and Matt. They are a 100 percent Jednota Family.

## MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



### What Working Retirees Need to Know About Taxes

More retirees are working and, according to the media, many soon-to-retire baby boomers plan to do the same. Working during retirement can bring financial, physical, and psychological benefits, say experts. There are, however, also tax-related implications. Below are some pointers that you need to know if you are, or plan to be, a working retiree.

#### Impact on Tax Bracket

One of the most obvious implications of paid employment during retirement is the combination of post-retirement employment earnings, Social Security benefits, and income from retirement plans and other sources, could put you in an even higher tax bracket than you were before you retired.

#### Social Security Benefits

Employment income also increases the likelihood that Social Security benefits may be taxed. To get a better idea of whether benefits may be affected, add up one half of your Social Security payments plus your income from all other sources (pensions, investments, etc.), including tax-exempt interest such as interest from municipal bonds.

If you are filing single, and the total amount is less than \$25,000 (\$32,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly), your Social Security benefits are not taxed. If the total falls between \$25,000 and \$34,000 (between \$32,000 and \$44,000 for joint filers), expect to see up to 50 percent of Social Security subject to income tax. For single filers with income over \$34,000 and joint filers with income over \$44,000, up to 85 percent of Social Security benefits may be taxable.

Although not tax-related, working retirees should take into account how working will affect their actual Social Security benefits. Under current law, those retirees who begin collecting Social Security before their normal retirement age (which is gradually increasing from 65 to 67) will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 they earn above \$12,960.

Once full retirement age is reached, however, working retirees may collect full Social Security benefits, regardless of how much is earned from employment

#### Required Minimum Distributions

Older retirees who are still working need to be aware of how minimum distribution requirements on IRAs and qualified retirement plans, such as 401 (k)s and simplified pension plans, may affect their tax situation.

Under current law, one must begin taking minimum withdrawals from retirement plans no later than April 1 of the year following the year in which the plan holder turns age 70 ½, even if still working. The required distribution could have the unintended consequence of pushing the retiree into a higher tax bracket or affecting the taxation of Social Security benefits.

A minimum distribution rule exception applies to the retirement plan of your current employer. If a retiree continues to work beyond age 70 ½, and does not own more than 5 percent of the business for which he or she works, taking distributions from a retirement plan sponsored by the current employer can be deferred until April 1 the year in which the worker retires. Another exception applies to Roth IRAs. With Roth IRA, there is no minimum distribution requirement at any age.

2008 International  
Tournaments

Bowling

April 25-27

Wedgewood Lanes ~ Youngstown, Ohio

Golf

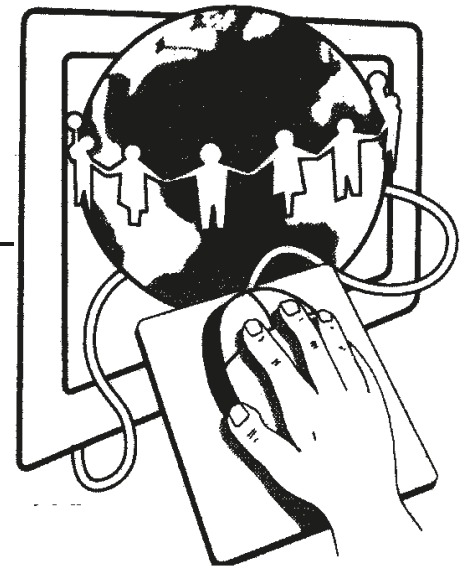
July 12-13

Tam O'Shanter ~ Canton, Ohio



# UR\_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



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February 2008

## Culture Space

### Saints Cyril and Methodius

Cyril and Methodius were two Byzantine Greek brothers born in Thessaloniki in the 9th century, who became missionaries of Christianity in Khazaria and Great Moravia.

They are credited with devising and spreading the Glagolitic alphabet, which was used for Slavonic manuscripts before the development of the Cyrillic, the alphabet derived from Glagolitic, that, with small modifications, is still used in a number of Slavic languages. Both brothers were glorified in Eastern Orthodoxy as "equal-to-apostles" and were canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. They became the patron saints of Europe in 1980.

The saints' feast day is celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church on February 14 as Saints Cyril and Methodius Day. In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the two brothers were originally commemorated on March 9, but Pope Pius IX changed this date to July 5. Today, St. Cyril and Methodius Day is celebrated on the date believed to be the arrival of the two brothers to Great Moravia in 863 and is a national holiday both in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



Statue of Cyril and Methodius at the foot of Nitra castle.



## Events Space

### The Original "American Idol"



Historic dates, like stepping stones, create a footpath through our heritage. Experienced by one generation and recalled by those to come, it is through these annual recollections that our heritage is honored. In 1879 the Forty-fifth Congress deemed George Washington's birth date, February 22, a historic date worthy of holiday recognition.

Washington was a man of his time: a farmer, a soldier, and an owner of slaves. Named commander-in-chief of the American Continental army, he led the colonies to victory over England, securing independence for an infant nation. His political leadership led to his election as president of the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Once the states ratified the Constitution, he was elected the first President of the United States, completing two terms.

Everything about George Washington was entwined with the evolution of a young nation. His name was associated with virtue, honesty, strength, courage, and patriarchal leadership. Schools, bridges, towns, the national capital, and even a state were named in his honor.

His likeness graced currency, stamps, sculptures, and paintings. Manufacturers deemed his image as public property. Historian William Ayres has stated that Washington must "surely hold the record for the number of times the image of a historical figure appeared on goods made for the American home."

At six-feet, two and a half inches tall, Washington's presence enhanced his political stature. Succeeding generations found significant ways to periodically resurrect his memory, including the centennial birthday celebration of 1832 and the laying of the Washington Monument's cornerstone sixteen years later (1848). Close on the heels of the national centennial celebration of 1876, a patriotic colonial revival followed and, before the end of the century, a centennial observance of his death in 1899. With the 1930s carving of his likeness in stone on Mount Rushmore and the posthumous promotion to the rank of six-star General of the Armies in 1976, the numerous tributes continued to reaffirm George Washington's place as the original "American Idol."

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

## Activity Space



### Growing Hearts

These pretty posies make great valentines! Cut a narrow piece of green construction paper about 10" to 12" long. Fold it lengthwise in accordion pleats and glue one end near the bottom of a piece of construction paper. Gently pull up the end and glue the other end to the paper. Cut a heart shape from red or pink construction paper. Glue the heart to the top of the stem. Cut two leaves from green construction paper. Write a simple valentine message on each leaf and glue to each side of the stem.



## Challenge Space

		9		2	4			
	2	7				6		
6	8	1		4	2	3		
7	1		8	3	6	9		
	4			2	5	3		
	6			4	7			
	9	4	6			7	5	
8		3					9	2
	7					4	8	



# Early Lenten Traditions in Slovakia

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

In the traditions of Slovakia, the holy season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, known as Popolcová streda in Slovak. This marked the solemn beginning of an extended period of fasting, prayer, and abstinence. The lively celebrations of fašiangy (Slovak Mardi Gras) had ended on Fat Tuesday night. Ash Wednesday began an extended period of spiritual reflection.

The original ancient Slavic pagan customs celebrated their New Year around the time of Lent's beginnings. Thus it was easier for Slovaks to later adopt Christian customs to these former practices, as it marked the beginning of a new life of faith.

Ash Wednesday, known in Latin as Dies Cinerum (Day of Ashes), became a regular custom in Christian Europe as early as the 8th century. Even though attendance at Holy Mass was not obligatory, it was indeed one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. After the Gospel and homily, the priest

distributed ashes to the congregation after sprinkling the faithful with holy water that was purified with incense. The receiving of ashes recognized that one is a sinner in dire need of Christ's redemptive powers.

Like other Christians, people in Slovakia flocked to the churches to receive blessed ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday (Kvetná Nedeľa). A priest would recite the well-known words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" ("Prach si a na prach sa obratiš").

Lent was a very sacred and holy time in Slovakia. In Slovak and Christian culture, Lent (pôst – pronounced "pwošt") represented a time which commemorated Christ's forty days of fasting and contemplation in the desert. In imitation of Christ's example, Slovaks denied themselves all animal products during this holy season, including all meats and any dairy products such as milk, cheese, eggs, etc., and refused to use animal fats in cooking. Slovaks also abstained from eating any very large meals for the entire period of Lent. Parties, weddings, and loud music were forbidden. Any music played had to be sacred and somber, stressing one's sinfulness.

In previous centuries, after attending Holy Mass, the people marched in a procession of penance. But that custom has since disappeared. Lent was a time of prayer and self-examination. Denying the body physical pleasures was supposed to liberate the flesh so that people could contemplate the real meaning of life and their relationship with God. Slovak devotions became far more zealous than that of most European peoples, and some historians cite the Counter-Reformation spirit as embedding this religious temperament among the Slovaks.

The Slovak interpretation of Lent was most solemn and very somber. Until Easter arrived, a household remained in virtually a continual state of mourning for their own sins, and for the terrible price Jesus Christ had to pay for redeeming man's sins. As a sign of this grieving, women dressed in black for the entire Lenten season. Ash Wednesday marked a prolonged period of mourning for Christ.

Although some of these customs have modified over the years, Lent remains an intensely spiritual time for practicing Catholics throughout Slovakia. When one visits, one has a sense of the sacredness that has diminished American parishes in recent history since Vatican II.

But there is one very real result of the intense Lenten period sacrifice – the joy of Easter is that much greater.



## Allentown Branch 567 to Hold Bake Sale

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

## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Sister M. Gertrude (Anna) Mastilak, OSF

Sister M. Gertrude Mastilak, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis of the U.S. Province for 72 years, died on Friday, January 11, 2008, at Monocacy Manor in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She was 93 years old.

Sister Gertrude entered the community from St. Joseph Church in Bayonne, New Jersey in 1933 and professed her first vows in 1935 at Mount Assisi Convent in Pittsburgh and her final vows on August 8, 1941. She spent many years cooking, sewing and as a laundress for the sisters in Charleroi, PA; Tarentum, PA; McKees Rocks, PA; Northampton, PA; Mount Assisi Convent in Pittsburgh, PA; Boonton, N.J.; St. Gabriel Convent in North Side Pittsburgh, and Erie, PA. In 1957 Sister Gertrude was transferred to the former Bethlehem Province and taught kindergarten in Boonton, NJ; Guttenberg, NJ, Clifton, NJ; and Hellertown, PA. In 1981 she was transferred to Monocacy Manor where she had various duties helping in the Renewal Center, the laundry and the kitchen. She also helped in St. Francis Day Care Center preparing the meals for the children. From 1994 until 2003 Sister Gertrude used her time as a crafts artist, making gifts for the sisters. During the last four years of her life, with her eyes failing, she spent her time in the ministry of prayer.

Sister Gertrude was the daughter of the late Andrew Mastilak and Mary Nadzam. She is survived by her religious community, her only sister, Mrs. Mary Bazevicz in Saddle Brook, NJ, and one niece. Viewing was at Monocacy Manor on Monday, January 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem. Arrangements were made by Connell Funeral Home in Bethlehem.

## COLLEGE CORNER

### Avoid Common Mistakes When Applying To College

(NAPSA)—Applying to a college or university can be one of life's most important and stressful times. To help smooth the application process for students and their families, J. Leon Washington, dean of admissions and financial aid at Lehigh University, offers the following advice:

• **Start Early** – Give yourself ample time to get through the college selection and application process. A great time to begin is spring of your junior year of high school, although some students start sooner. Make a short list of colleges where you plan to apply and take time to visit each college to determine the right fit for you. Ideally, start early enough to allow yourself time to reflect on the application and put your best foot forward.

• **Check Application for Accuracy and Completeness** – Common errors such as typos or incomplete information can make or break your opportunity. Before you submit your application, be sure to review it carefully. Don't depend solely on spell-check—be sure you proofread the application to avoid careless mistakes. Many colleges offer an online checklist for students to check the status of their application and ensure that all required items have been submitted. Take charge of the process and actively keep track of your application.

• **Keep Copies of What You Submit** – Even in this technologically connected world, items can get misplaced. If you apply to eight schools, you should have copies of all eight applications. In addition, with the



**Don't let an avoidable mistake, such as missing a deadline, keep you from getting into the college of your dreams.**

increase of online applications, be sure you get a confirmation of your submission. This way, if a college or university says that they did not receive your application, you can resend proof.

• **Be Aware of Deadlines** – What are the deadlines for early decision vs. regular decision? What are the deadlines for applying for financial aid? Meeting deadlines is so critical that you should consider submitting your application days or even weeks before the due date. Ultimately, being organized can make the difference between your application being seriously considered or not.

Most importantly, be sure to take time to enjoy the process. "Amidst all the hype, drama and angst of today's world of college admissions, it's critical to remember to take a deep breath and have fun," said Washington.

## FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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

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

### Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

## Scenes from the Michigan District Picnic

### Michigan District Picnic

The Michigan District held a picnic on Sunday, September 9, 2007, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The 12:00 noon Mass was offered for the living and deceased members of the Michigan District.

It was a beautiful sunny day and there was a good turnout for the event. Everyone had great time. The Sarisan Dance Ensemble provided the entertainment. There were games and plenty of delicious kolbasy, crepes, ice cream and refreshments.

We wish to thank all who attended and all those who helped in any way. Also, a sincere thank you goes to Father Ben Kosnac and all the priests for their support and prayers.



### Egg Eggstravaganza

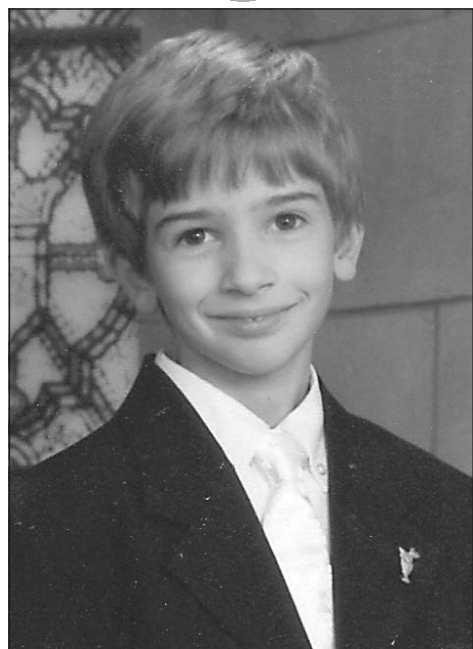
The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Egg Eggstravaganza will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2008, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall, 185 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. This year, the Egg Eggstravaganza is being sponsored by local egg artists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

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

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

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

### YOUTH ROUND-UP



**Andrew Studna, a member of Branch 290 in Raritan, New Jersey, had his essay on the meaning of Christmas, "The Real Reason", published in the local newspaper. Andy attends Christ the King Grammar School in Manville, New Jersey. He is a lifetime member of the Jednota, an altar server at St. Joseph Slovak Catholic Church in Raritan, an avid baseball player, and an aspiring writer. He is the son of Victor Studna, Vice President of St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, in Raritan.**

### Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Annual Coloring Contest

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

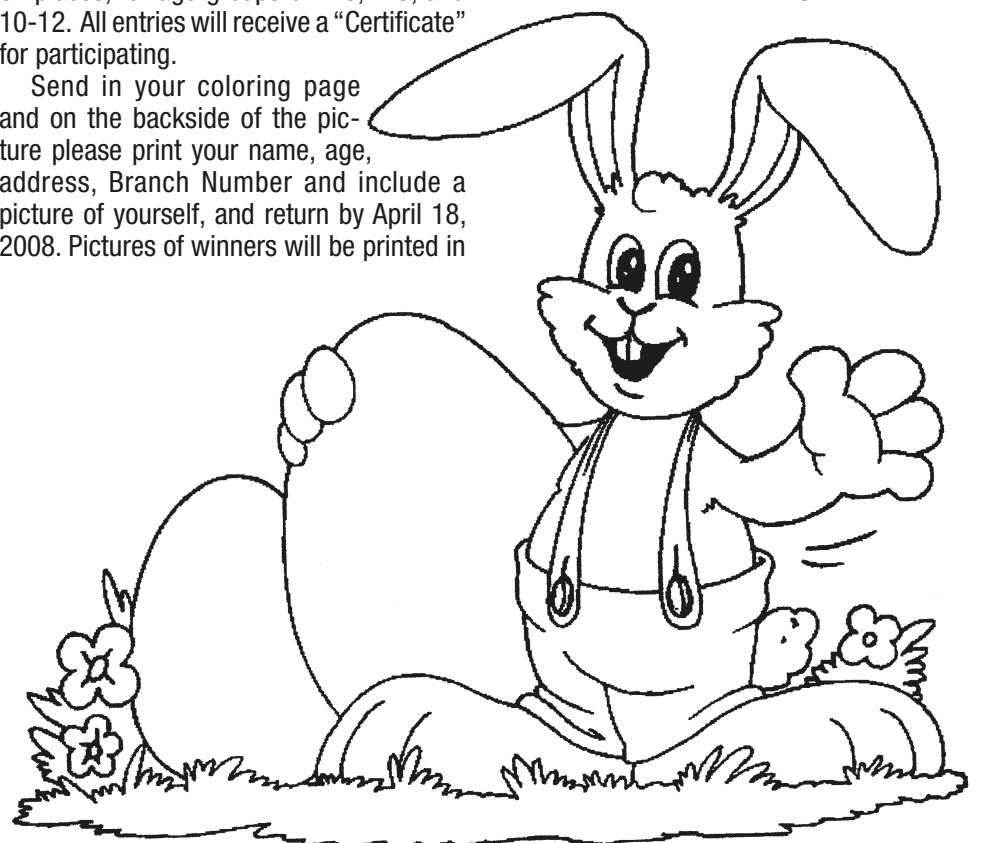
Send in your coloring page and on the backside of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself, and return by April 18, 2008. Pictures of winners will be printed in

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

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

Good luck to all.

**Barbara Fayta, Chairperson  
Easter Coloring Contest**



# Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik Living The American Dream III

By John Karch

The first and second articles on Vincent Obsitnik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Slovak Republic (JEDNOTA, December 26, 2007 and January 23, 2008) covered his background and family, and his appearance at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing. This, the last of the trilogy, deals with his Swearing-in Ceremony at the State Department, his arrival in Bratislava, the Credentials Ceremony at the Presidential Palace, and his visit to eastern Slovakia during Christmas.

## Swearing-in Ceremony

The Swearing-in ceremony was conducted November 9, 2007 by Deputy Secretary John Negroponte, Department of State, in the presence of family members and friends, including the first U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic (SR) Theodore Russell and the current Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. Rastislav Kacer.

After the oath, Mr. Negroponte complimented Ambassador Obsitnik on his Naval and business experiences, then said "It is wonderfully fitting that Vincent is returning to the place of his birth to serve his country once again. Vincent returns to Slovakia with a lifetime of experience, credentials, wisdom, as well as fluency in the Slovak language.

Vincent will take up his post at a time

when our nation's relationship with Slovakia is strong and growing stronger every year. Slovakia is a member of the European Union and a vital NATO ally. The United States supported Slovakia's transition to democracy, and we are proud to continue our support for a nation that today is booming economically and culturally, and that reaches out to others to share the fruits of its experience.

Vincent: I know that you will bring your unique background and capacities to bear as we work to expand and enhance our relationship with Slovakia. President Bush, Secretary Rice, and I are all confident that you will represent the United States of America, and all of our citizens, with great honor and ability."

## Ambassador Obsitnik

The new Ambassador thanked various participants involved in his appointment: the Deputy Secretary, President, Secretary Rice, U.S. Senators, those present, the Slovak Ambassador, and personnel at State and other agencies who helped prepare him for this responsibility.

He thanked his wife Annemarie "for her love, support and encouragement throughout our forty-six years of marriage and the raising of our four sons," present with their families, citing pride in them, mentioning the presence of his brother and sister, their fami-



Ambassador Obsitnik visits H.E. Mons. Jan Babjak, Diocesan Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Presov.

lies, and Annemarie's brother. He credited his parents with the wisdom to emigrate and to "imparting to their children the principles of Faith in God, Education and Hard Work." He continued his remarks as follows.

"The Academy was a tremendously powerful and positive influence on my life. Here is where I truly learned the meaning of duty, honor and country and where I learned to serve this country of ours... I was... honored by President Bush by being appointed to the U.S. Commission for Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad where I served from 2001 to 2006. During that time I involved myself with the 17th century wooden log churches in Slovakia and helped restore two of those churches... I have been privileged to live the American Dream and am greatly honored that I can once again serve this country and give back for all it has given to me and my family.

Annemarie and I are very much looking forward to going to Slovakia and I look forward to serving there as the U.S. Ambassador. On a personal note, my father's sister in Slovakia, who is 88 years old, and other relatives are really excited about our coming. We look forward to seeing them all in Slo-

vakia. We are very familiar with the country, its people and its development.

As U.S. Ambassador, my number one priority will be to sustain and strengthen further this relationship. I will reach out personally to the Slovak government and people to explain the U.S. perspective, to promote U.S. policy interests, to remind young people of our common history, and to ensure that American good will is understood." In closing he thanked again all those who helped prepare him for his new responsibility.

## Arrival in Bratislava

The Ambassador and Annemarie left the U.S. on December 5, arriving in Bratislava the following morning. At the Austrian-Slovak border, where he was welcomed by Slovak Foreign Ministry State Secretary (Deputy Minister) Diana Strofova and a U.S. Embassy officer, he said, in Slovak, that "I am very honored... to be U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia and very much look forward to representing our President and the United States to the people and the government of Slovakia. I was born in Slovakia and... you can call me a "Rodak." Having traveled often to eastern Slovakia—on business

*continued on page 16*



Back row Board Members L-R Brian Petruska, John Pavlansky, Bob Petruska, Treasurer; and Bernie Demechko, Secretary. Seated L-R are Ray Novotny, Jim Bench, Steve Bacon, President Emeritus; Thomas Faix, a student from Spisska Nova Ves, being hosted by June and Fred Drotleff of Salem, Ohio; and Ed Wrask of Salem, who studied in Banska Bystrica in 2007. Ed is currently a student at Youngstown State University pursuing an education in International Studies.

## Youngstown Sister Cities Hosts Exchange Students

Youngstown Sister Cities hosted its high school exchange students at the recent Vilija Dinner at St. Matthias Slovak Catholic Church, sponsored by the American Slovak Cultural Association, Youngstown, Ohio. The students addressed the attendees and recounted their experiences in Slovakia and the United States. A monetary gift was presented to each student.

Unable to attend the event was seminarian Michael Zabrecky of Kosice, Slovakia. Jim Bench accepted Michael's gift and agreed to deliver it to him at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, where he is studying for the priesthood under the auspices of the Diocese of Youngstown. Jim Bench is a member of the Supreme Court of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Youngstown Sister Cities is grateful to the FCSU for its donation last year. The donation is being used to pay for shipping costs of a used dental x-ray unit shipped to Lucenec, Slovakia, and for airfare and high school student expenses.

Bernadette Demechko

*From the desk of the ...*

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# Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik

*continued from page 15*

and to visit his relatives—has given him “close association” with the Slovak people to “strengthen relations between our two countries.”

## Credentials

On December 12th, Ambassador Obsitnik visited the Presidential Palace to meet with Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic for the presentation of his credentials, the last required Ceremony. His credentials were accepted and he signed the official register. On this occasion, the Ambassador also spoke with the media in both English and Slovak.

During their conversation, the President expressed his pleasure with the USA's quick action to fill the post of Ambassador. President Gasparovic was certain that the Ambassador would continue “the successful work of Ambassador Rodophe Vallee (who departed Bratislava December 5) and “even enhance the bilateral cooperation between the U.S. and the Slovak Republic.” He said Slovakia is a “highly developed democratic country and respected abroad.” Knowing the Ambassador's Slovak birth, he added “You are not coming to a foreign country, you are coming home.”

The Ambassador emphasized his “great honor to be Ambassador of the USA in Slovakia.” He continued: “As an Ambassador, I am representing all Americans, including citizens of Slovak descent, same as I am.” He believes that Slovakia has made “extraordinary progress” since independence and belongs among the most dynamic countries in the region.

The Ambassador's top priorities are to include Slovakia on the list of countries whose citizens would not need a visa in their relations with the US, and to intensify economic, political and cultural relations with Slovakia.

President Gasparovic appreciated the high level of mutual relationship of both countries. According to him, Slovak foreign policy is closely related to the policy of the US. Despite some differences, he said, the Slovak-American alliance in Euroatlantic relations is not weakened. The President stressed that Slovakia, as an ally of the US in NATO and as a member of the EU, should not have visa requirements for its citizens to travel to the US. He pointed out that in the area of economic cooperation the US is in 9th place in volume of investments in Slovakia. He added that in addition to industrial production, commerce and finances he can also envision investments in travel and the spa industry.

## Premier Robert Fico

On December 17, Ambassador Obsitnik met with Prime Minister Robert Fico. According to the Slovak Press Agency TASR, both “shared the hope that mutual relations would continue to develop during Obsitnik's appointment. ... Obsitnik, the first U.S. Ambassador to be born in Slovakia, considers canceling the visa regime for Slovaks traveling to the USA possible in 2008. He says that it will take a great deal of effort from both the American and Slovak officials. He adds that seeing the decrease of refused America visa applications for Slovaks go under ten percent remains one of the pre-conditions for a visa-free regime.”

TASR quoted the Ambassador as saying “If everything goes well, if both Slovakia

and the USA do everything that's needed, then I think it's possible. There is still a lot of work to be done, so I can't say when its going to happen. I can say one thing, however, that I'll personally work very hard with Slovak and American authorities to help Slovaks qualify.”

## Visit to Eastern Slovakia

The Ambassador and Annemarie left Bratislava December 18 for an eight-day personally meaningful visit to eastern Slovakia, his place of birth and of relatives and friends. With them were Embassy's Control Officer Jim Potts and Public Affairs' Jana Illesova (hereafter Jim and Jana). “They” refers to the Ambassador and Annemarie.

Leaving Bratislava early morning by air, they arrived in Kosice in less than an hour, and made their first courtesy calls (hereafter Call) on Mayor Frantisek Knapik. City Hall provided an Interpreter. Next, they visited Prof. Anton Cizmar, Rector of the Technical University, their discussion conducted in English.

Then they were driven to Presov for a call on the Mayor, Dr. Pavel Hagyar. An interpreter was ordered to include the press briefing later and the luncheon, hosted by the Ambassador, at the restaurant Ludwig for the Mayor and City Hall representatives. The Ambassador then called on Retired Bishop H.E. Mons. Jan Hirka, Byzantine Catholic Archdiocese of Presov, with Fr. Marek Petrov present. They then attended a liturgy at the Cathedral.

In the evening, they met with Dr. Peter Chudik, Zupan, Presov Self-Governing Region, at the Residence of H.E. Mons. Jan Babjak, S.J., Diocesan Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Church, who hosted a dinner. The Guests were Ambassador and Ms. Obsitnik, Jim and Jana, Dr. & Ms. Chudik and his Protocol Officer. Overnight was at the Hotel Dukla.

## Birthplace Moravany

On Wednesday, December 19th, they drove to Moravany, the Ambassador's birth place. They made a Call on the Mayor, Jan Zofcak, with Jana interpreting. There was media presence here but no press when they visited the home in which the Ambassador was born, nor during their visit to the cemetery with the Mayor. A luncheon was next, with the Mayor and his wife, granddaughter of Ambassador's cousin Anna Sisakova. Jim and Jana were invited.

They continued with a Call on the Mayor of Michalovce, Viliam Zahorcak. An Interpreter was provided by City Hall and media were present. Then, a visit was made to CHEMKO Strazske “to review their business plans and how the U.S. could get involved.”

The meeting was in English. In the evening, they attended a Mass in Rakovec n/On-davou. Overnight, they stayed at a cousin's in Luckovce, with Jim and Jana at the Hotel Jalta in Michalovce.

The next morning, December 20, they drove to Humenne for a Call on the Mayor,



**Ambassador Obsitnik receiving a kiss from his cousin Anna Sisakova in his home town.**

*Photo courtesy of: Vanda Jakubova-Rusnakova, Novy Cas*

Dr. Vladimir Kostilnik. There was media presence; a City Hall employee and Jana were Interpreters. Then they drove to Adidovce, “Obsitnik village” for a call on Mayor Milan Koromhaz, Jana serving as Interpreter. Lunch was with Eva Obsitnikova Michalicova, with Jana and Jim as guests.

Later that afternoon, they drove back to Luckovce, with dinner and overnight stay at cousin's home. Jim, Jana, and detail were at the Hotel Jalta in Michalovce.

## Back to Kosice

In the morning of the 21st, they were driven to Kosice, first a Call on Dr. Zdenko Trebura, Zupan, Kosice Self-Governing Region. Media were present and an Interpreter was provided. This was followed by a call on H.E. Mons. Alojz Tkac, Roman Catholic Archbishop; an Interpreter was provided. A luncheon followed with David Lohr, President of U.S. Steel Kosice, then an hour-long plant tour of the Galvanizing Line.

In the afternoon, they made a Call on

Kosice Byzantine Catholic Bishop, H.E.

Mons. Milan Chautur, C.S.S.R.; Mr. Jager, the Bishop's Assistant, was the Interpreter. Their last event was a visit to InfoUSA Center in Kosice and a discussion with Director Mr Jozef Fabrici. At 5:00 P.M. Jim and Jana departed for Kosice Airport. Supper was to be arranged that evening with the Ambassador's aunt, Paula Grochova.

The rest of their visit to eastern Slovakia—i.e. Saturday, December 22—Tuesday, December 25—was private, a stay for Christmas. They were driven to Bratislava on Wednesday, December 26, 2007.

## Slovak Media Coverage

From the beginning of his appointment as Ambassador,

the Slovak mass media carried the unique story of the Slovak-born Vincent Obsitnik who made himself available, beginning with his arrival at the Austrian-Slovak border.

The news media has given him extensive coverage, including television (STV1, STV2 Regional news, TA3 channel, and Markiza). He was interviewed by PRAVDA, HOSPODARSKE NOVINY, TASR, SITA, and (Czech) CTK. Stories were filed, with photos, by TASR and SITA. Articles, with examples of headlines cited here, appeared in, among others, in HOSPODARSKE NOVINY daily (“Doma v USA sme ‘hutorili vyhodnarsky’”; PRAVDA daily (“Do USA bez viz? Možno uz na buduci rok?”); NOVY CAS daily (“Do USA bez viz uz buduci rok?” and “Velvyslanec USA Vincent Obsitnik je vychodniar”); SME daily (“Velvyslamec USA Vincent Obsitnik navstivil rodnu obec”); and KORZAR daily (“Americky velvyslanec pomoze Presovu ziskat investicie” and “Americkeho velvyslancu privitali v rodnej obci.”)

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*Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary*

# Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

No ani tu ich nenechali na pokoji. Keď sa veci utíšili a cisár vysielal posolstvo k Chazarom, ktorých dŕžava sa rozprestierala medzi Čiernym a Kaspickým morom, zavolať si Konštantína a Metoda a zaradili ich do tohto posolstva. Cestou k Chazarom sa posolstvo zastavilo na polostrove Kryme, kde Konštantín našiel pozostatky sv. Klementa, štvrtého pápeža, ktorý tam zahynul mučeníckou smrťou. Neskoršie priniesol tieto pozostatky do Ríma, kde ich uložili v bazilike zasvätenej tomuto svätcovi. Po návrate z chazarskej misie sa obidvaja bratia utiahli do kláštora na hore Olymp v Malej Ázii. No nie nadsť. Roku 862 prišlo do Carihradu posolstvo, vyslané moravským kniežaťom Rastislavom. Okrem iných záležitostí politického charakteru poslovia žiadali, aby cisár Michal III. určil pre slovienske kraje "učiteľa a biskupa" a s ním aj iných misionárov, ktorí by v národnom jazyku ohlasovali Slovienom kresťanské náboženstvo. Cisár Michal určil na túto misiu svätých bratov Konštantína a Metoda. Tí si vybrali niekoľkých mladších spolupracovníkov. Prv než sa vydali na cestu, Konštantín zostavil slovienske písmo, hlaholiku (glagolica), a začal prekladať do staroslovienskej reči najpotrebnejšie sväté knihy, začínajúc evanjeliom sv. Jána: "Na počiatku bolo Slovo a Slovo bolo u Boha a Bohom bolo Slovo." Toto sú prvé slová napísané v staroslovienskej reči. Touto činnosťou sa svätí bratia stali zakladateľmi našej a vôbec slovanskej kultúry.

Roku 863 prišli Konštantín a Metod so svojou družinou na Veľkú Moravu k našim predkom. Knieža Rastislav ich privítal s veľkou radosťou. Žiaľbohu, nevieme, kde to bolo, lebo doteraz nepoznáme, kde bolo ústredie dŕžavy a sídlo moravských kniežať. Dnes sa zdajú najpravdepodobnejšími miestami Staré Mesto v povodí rieky Moravy a hradisko pri Mikulčiciach. Svätí bratia so svojimi pomocníkmi sa hneď dali do práce. Jedni ohlasovali evanjelium, kým druhí vyučovali mládež, najmä kandidátov na kňazstvo. Rastislavovi totiž išlo o to, aby mu vychovali čím skôr domácných kňazov. Po troch rokoch intenzívnej činnosti sa veci vyvinuli natoľko, že bolo potrebné riešiť niektoré vážne cirkevnoprávne otázky. Preto sa svätí bratia rozhodli ísť do Ríma k pápežskej stolici, ktorá jediná mohla riešiť tieto otázky. Koncom roku 866 alebo začiatkom roku 867 sa vydali na cestu, pričom viedli so sebou početnú skupinu učeníkov. V Panónii pri Blatnom jazere sa zastavili na dvore kniežaťa Kocela (Pribinovo syna), ktorý si obľúbil "slovienske písmená" a tým celý cirkevnoprávny program kniežaťa Rastislava. Aj on hneď zhromaždil asi 50 mladíkov a poprosil Konštantína, aby ich hneď pripravil a najlepších vzal so sebou do Ríma. Rímskym pápežom bol vtedy Hadrián II. Keď sa dozvedel, že svätí bratia nesú so sebou pozostatky sv. Klementa, vyšiel im v ústrety osobne v slávnostnej procesii. Pozostatky uložili v bazilike, zasvätenej sv. Klementovi, a tam sa nachádzajú dodnes.

**V Ríme mali svätí bratia vybaviť predovšetkým tri záležitosti:**

1. potvrdenie staroslovienskej reči v liturgii západného, čiže rímskeho obradu;
2. vysviacku učeníkov na diakonov a kňazov (lebo ich nechceli dať vysvätiť nemeckým biskupom);
3. zriadenie samostatnej hierarchie pre Veľkú Moravu, ktorá by bola závislá priamo od pápeža.

Bolo to pravdepodobne na Vianoce roku 867, keď pápež v bazilike Sv. Márie (dnes Santa Maria Maggiore) pri jasličkách položil staroslovienske evanjelium na oltár (a tým ten preklad schválil) a Konštantín hneď slúžil starosloviensku bohoslužbu. O krátky čas potom pápež prikázal niektorým biskupom, čo sa nachádzali v Ríme, aby slovienskych učeníkov vysvätil za diakonov a kňazov. Otázka samostatnej hierarchie bola veľmi chůlostivá, lebo na to územie si nárokovali právo nemeckí biskupi, a preto sa pápež rozhodol obnoviť starobylé sriemske arcibiskupstvo (Sirmium, dnes Sriemska Mitrovica) a rozšíriť ho aj na územie Panónie a Moravy.

Kým sa tieto veci vybavovali, Konštantín v Ríme ochorel. Cítiac blížiacu sa smrť, prijal vyšší stupeň mníšskeho stavu, a zároveň aj meno Cyril, pod ktorým je všeobecne známy. Zomrel v Ríme 14. februára 869. Pochovali ho slávnostne v

bazilike sv. Klementa. Po jeho smrti neostávalo nič iné, ako ustanoviť sv. Metoda za arcibiskupa pre novozriadenú veľkomoravskú cirkevnú provinciu. A skutočne ho vysvätil pápež Hadrián II. Keď odchádzal, pápež mu dal list adresovaný veľkomoravským kniežaťom Rastislavovi, Svätoplukovi a Kocelovi. V ňom oznamuje, že im posielal Metoda ako arcibiskupa a pápežského legáta aj pre ostatné slovanské národy, že potvrdil staroslovienskú reč v bohoslužbe a hrozí cirkevnými trestami tým, čo by sa opovážili protiviť týmto rozhodnutiam.

Cestou z Ríma na Veľkú Moravu sa však stala nepredvídaná udalosť. Nemeckí biskupi dali zajať sv. Metoda a jeho sprievodcov a odviekli ich do Bavorska. Tu ich postavili pred súd ako votrelcov, účinkujúcich na území, na ktoré si nárokojú právo nemeckí biskupi. Metod im odpovedal: "Keby bolo vaše, hneď by som ho zanechal, ale je sv. Petra, "teda patrí Apoštolskej rímskej stolici. Napriek tomu ho biskupi odsúdili a uväznili v niektorom kláštore vo Švábsku. Tam strávil tri roky, kým ho na zákrok nového pápeža Jána VIII. neprepustili. Konečne sa roku 873 vrátil na Veľkú Moravu. Tu však už nebol knieža Rastislav, ale vládol kráľ Svätopluk. Sprvu ho aj on prijal s poctami a "odovzdal mu všetky hradiská a všetkých kňazov a božie učenie sa začalo šíriť". Ale čím ďalej tým viac sa začali títo mužovi a jeden druhému odcudzovať. Metodovi učeníci neskoršie zaznamenali, že to bolo preto, lebo Metod vyčítal Svätoplukovi jeho mravné poklesky. A tak sa stalo, že Svätopluk dovolil znova návrat nemeckých kňazov. Medzi nimi najznámejší je Viching, ktorý bol asi Svätoplukovým poradcom. Roku 879 spoločne obžalovali Metoda u pápeža, že nepodáva správne učenie a že bohoslužby koná v staroslovienskom jazyku. Na pápežov rozkaz sa Metod roku 880 znovu vydal na cestu do Ríma. Tu bol z obžalôb ospravedlnený a pápež Ján VIII. mu dal významnú bulu "Industriae tuae". V nej znova potvrdil Metoda za arcibiskupa, potvrdil aj používanie staroslovienskej reči v bohoslužbe, ale na Svätoplukovu žiadosť ustanovil a vysvätil za biskupa do Nitry práve Metodovho odporcu Vichinga.

Metod sa síce vrátil na Veľkú Moravu, ale mal veľké ťažkosti. Napriek tomu tu účinkoval až do smrti, ba začal šíriť kresťanstvo aj u Čechov a u Poliakov. V posledných rokoch života ešte pokračoval v prekladoch Sv. písma a bohoslužobných kníh. Zomrel 6. apríla 885. Pochovali ho slávnostne "v hlavnom moravskom chráme z ľavej strany oltára presvätej Bohorodičky Márie". Hlavný alebo veľký chrám znamená biskupskú katedrálu. Dodnes nevieme, kde sa spomínaný chrám nachádzal. Podľa nedávnych vykopávkov najpravdepodobnejším miestom je lokalita Sady pri Uhorskom Hradišti, kde sa našiel celý komplex sakrálnych budov. Po smrti sv. Metoda Viching dosiahol, že ho pápež Štefan V. ustanovil za administrátora Veľkomoravského biskupstva. Tým bol osud cyrilometodskej misie spečatený. Učeníci sv. Cyrila a Metoda boli vyhnaní z krajiny. Niektorí sa uchýlili do Čiech, iní do Poľska, ale najviac ich odišlo do Bulharska. Tam pokračovali v cyrilometodskom diele. Po čase sa odtiaľ byzantsko-slovanské kresťanstvo rozšírilo do Kyjevského Ruska, k predkom dnešných Bielorusov, Rusov a Ukrajincov. A tak sa nepriamo stali sv. Cyril a Metod apoštolmi a učiteľmi všetkých Slovanov.

TK KBS M. Lacko

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Členská schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

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

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

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

**Získajte ešte dnes nového člena  
do Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej  
Jednoty**

## Nadutým sa treba vyhnúť

Keď sa dobrí ľudia stretnú,  
vystúpia si z cesty,  
preto sa ich všade ľahko  
veľmi mnoho zmesť.

Neuznajú, že aj iní  
ľudia vedia čosi,  
nad všetkým, čo iní spravia,  
ohŕňajú nosy.

Lež nadutým rozdrapencom  
treba miesta veľa,  
nestačí im veru ani  
Amerika celá.

A keď sú tam, kde sa na nich  
trochu slávy svieta,  
iným jazyk vyplazujú  
ako malé deti.

Chcú aby pri každej kaši,  
oni prví boli,  
aj keď do nej nekúpili  
ani štipku soli.

Ale keď je všade pokoj,  
dobrá vôľa, zhoda,  
zádrapkárom ukrytá zlosť  
až tak srdce hľodá.

Ak im ju však miešať nedáš,  
dotknúť sa čujú  
a zaraz ti spoza chrbta  
zlostne do nej pľujú.

Tu nič, tam nič, začnú sa vám  
aj o ničom vadiť,  
lebo oni musia všade  
samý nesvár sadiť.

Pri hostinách usalašia  
sa hneď za vrch stola,  
aj keby hneď táto pocta  
pre iného bola.

Ale kto sa začne brániť,  
s takým veru zle je,  
bo zádrapkár vraví, že sa  
jemu krivda deje.

Iným ľudom dovoľia mať  
iba veľké uši,  
lebo keď vraj oni vravia,  
tak nech každý čuší.

Nuž a proti takým ľudom  
len jednu zbraň máte –  
keď si s nimi celý život  
svätý pokoj dáte.

Oni sú vždy najmúdrejší,  
oni všetko vedia,  
oni múdrosť každodenne  
aj lyžicou jedia.

Na svete si treba všímať  
iba dobrých ľudí  
a ten kto by inak robil,  
sám seba len šudí.

Ján Okál

Veľký kalendár kocúra

## Posolstvo Benedikta XVI. k obdobiu pôstu

### “Kristus sa stal pre vás chudobným”

Vatikán (TK KBS, RV) – Pápež Benedikt XVI. vydal pri príležitosti blížiaceho sa začiatku pôstu posolstvo. Jednou zo základných tém jeho magistéria je, že kresťanstvo nie je teória. Je to realita, spásanosná a účinná. V tomto uhle pohľadu vníma pápež proces vnútornej obnovy, ku ktorej sú kresťania pozývaní v období pôstu, v čase modlitby, postenia sa a vykonávania skutkov kresťanskej lásky. Svätý Otec zaradil jednotlivé časti posolstva do šiestich bodov:

Pôst je obdobím, v ktorom sa prehľbuje zmysel a hodnota nášho kresťanského bytia pre znovuoobjavenie Božieho milosrdenstva. Znovuoobjavenie, ktoré nás posúva k tomu, aby sme sa stali ešte milosrdnejšími voči svojim bratom. Konkrétne kroky na dosiahnutie tohto cieľa sú modlitba, pôst a skutky kresťanskej lásky. Pápež sa v tomto bode pozastavuje nad vykonávaním skutkov kresťanskej lásky, ako jedným z konkrétnych spôsobov pomoci tým, ktorí ju potrebujú. Skutky kresťanskej lásky nás viac odpútavajú od materiálnych vecí. Takto je možné posilniť našu schopnosť zdieľať s blížnymi to, čo vďaka Božej добрote vlastníme.

Materiálne dobrá, ktoré vlastníme, nie sú považované za výlučné vlastníctvo, majú predovšetkým spoločenskú hodnotu, podľa princípu ich všeobecného zaradenia (Katechizmus Katolíckej cirkvi, č. 2404). “Ak má niekto pozemský majetok a vidí brata v núdzi a srdce si pred ním zatvorí, ako v ňom môže ostávať Božia láska?” (1 Jn, 3,17) V krajinách, v ktorých je väčšina populácie kresťanská, má táto prosba o zdieľanie dobier - s tými, ktorí trpia chudobou a opustením - zvláštny význam. Skôr ako skutok lásky je to spravodlivá povinnosť.

Skutky lásky nie sú podľa evanjelia len altruizmus, ani nemajú byť zásterkou pre hľadanie osobného prospechu či ocenenia zo strany druhých, alebo prostriedkom na to, aby sme sa stali stredobodom pozornosti. Úprimné rozhodnutie pomáhať prichádza v skrytosti, nasledujúc tak Ježiša Krista, ktorý tým, že zomrel na kríži, sa nám celý daroval.

Skutky lásky, tým, že nás približujú k ostatným, nás približujú aj k Bohu a môžu sa stať nástrojmi skutočnej premeny a zmierenia s Ním a s našimi bratmi. Presahujú tak “materiálnu dimenziu” a vyjadrujú pravdu o našom bytí: boli sme stvorení nie pre nás samých, ale pre Boha a pre našich blížnych (por. 2 Kor 5, 15). Skutky lásky sú zakúsením plnosti života, ktorá je v láske, a vedie k zmiereniu s Bohom, lebo “láska zakrýva množstvo hriechov” (1 Pt, 4,8).

Pôst v praktizovaní skutkov lásky je teda prostriedkom na prehĺbenie nášho kresťanského povolania. Láska inšpiruje k rôznym formám darovania sa, podľa možnosti a podmienok každého z nás a tak robí z nášho života úplný dar.

Pôst pozýva všetkých, aby rástli v láske, v spoznávaní samého Krista v chudobných, v osobnom a spoločnom úsilí o zblíženie sa s Kristom, v mene ktorého máme skutočný život a sme svedkami Jeho lásky.

## Lemešany si pripomenuli svojho rodáka

Obec Lemešany v prešovskom okrese si v dňoch 18. a 19. januára pripomenula rodáka, pátra Gregora Vaniščáka OSB. (\* 24. júla 1884, Lemešany + 15. januára 1938, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, ktorý položil základy prvého slovenského benediktínskeho opátstva v Amerike (Cleveland, Ohio, USA.) Pri príležitosti 70. výročia jeho úmrtia, miestny farár Jozef Maňko spolu s veriacimi privítali medzi sebou benediktína, pátra Jozefa Brodňanského. Práve on, po viac ako roku získavania hodnotných skúseností v Kláštore sv. Andreja-Svorada v Clevelande, založenom slávnym lemešianskym rodákom, mohol všetkým najlepšie referovať o neúnavnej práci a charaktere pátra Vaniščáka, prvého priora tohto kláštora, ktorého odkaz a úmysel je ešte aj po toľkých rokoch stále aktuálny. Páter Jozef sa myšlienkou, že aj malí ľudia dokážu veľké veci, snažil priblížiť nielen dielo, ale aj špiritualitu benediktínov, ktorí na Slovensku začínajú svoje nové pôsobenie v Bacúrove a stavajú nový kláštor nad obcou Sampor pri Zvolene, tak ako kedysi aj páter Gregor obnovoval tradíciu slovenských benediktínov na americkej pôde.

Druhý deň spomienky slávnostnú atmosféru umocnil svojou prítomnosťou na večernej sv. omši pomocný biskup Mons. Stanislav Stolárik. V homílii povzbudil rodiny aby naplňali svoje poslanie v spoločnosti a cirkvi. Tie len cez rodinu môžu získať také osobnosti, akou bol páter Gregor Vaniščák. Po spomienkovej bohoslužbe nasledovala faktografická prezentácia o živote a diele benediktínov. Svoje otázky mohli veriaci adresovať pátrovi Jozefovi a aj diecéznemu kňazovi Dušanovi Škurlovi, ktorý v Clevelande strávil skoro dva roky ako seminarista. Veľkú pozornosť rodákovi venoval aj starosta obce a s miestnymi poslancami sa postarali aj o posedenie pri bielom stole. V Lemešanoch sa chcú pričiniť aj o to, aby sa trvalá pamiatka na pátra Gregora Vaniščáka OSB, zachovala na pamätnej tabuli, ktorá bude inštalovaná v práve rozostavanom novom kostole. Do opátstva a Kláštora sv. Andreja-Svorada v Clevelande (USA), touto formou zasielajú dobrú správu o tom, že na ich húževnatého zakladateľa a svojho veľkého rodáka nezabudli.

TK KBS informoval Jozef Kmec

## Obce žijú pripravami na oslavy

### 320. výročia narodenia zbojníka Juraja Jánošíka

Klenovec/Kokava nad Rimavicou (TASR) – Aj keď je s menom slávneho slovenského zbojníka Juraja Jánošíka spojená najmä Terchová, kde sa pred 320 rokmi narodil zviazané s ním sú aj ďalšie dve dediny na juhu stredného Slovenska - Klenovec a Kokava nad Rimavicou. Sú to miesta, kde sa vraj rád vracal a pred svojím dolapením asi aj skrýval. Jánošíka chytili pred 295 rokmi v Klenovci asi tridsiati drábi. Lapili ho spolu s Martinom Mravcom, známejším tiež pod pôvodným, zbojníckym menom Tomáš Uhorčík. Kúsok za dedinou je aj miesto, ktoré Klenovčania dodnes spájajú s touto udalosťou - Mravcov vršok. “Stál tam kedysi Uhorčíkov dom, ktorý tu po skončení zbojníčenia trvalo býval,” hovorí Jaroslav Zvara, miestny folklorista, ktorý sa zaujíma o históriu obce. Na mieste aj dnes vidieť základy domu, na ktorom je však už len hĺba skál. Miestni to volajú Mracova izba. Aj keď legenda hovorí, že Jánošíka chytili v krčme po tom, ako mu starana pohodila pod nohy hrach, nikto dosiaľ nepotvrdil, či to bolo na mieste Mravcovho domu, ktorý slúžil aj ako krčma pre povesných, alebo v inej krčme v dedine. Zvara priznáva, že na túto udalosť neboli Klenovčania nikdy príliš pyšní. “Naopak, skôr sa za to hanbili. Vždy boli skôr zástancovia Jánošíka ako zbojníka,” podotýka. Dokonca hovoria o tom, že Mravca počas súdu v Mikuláši sa zastal aj samotný richtár Klenovca. “Mravec bol pravdepodobne uznávaný obyvateľ Klenovca,” hovorí ďalej Zvara. Spomína sa, že vyrábala súkno, mal stádo oviec a bol tiež muzikant. Skončil však rovnako ako Jánošík - súd ho odsúdil na smrť. Až pri jeho vypočúvaní sa totiž prišlo na to, že ide o zbojníka. Jediné, čo sa dnes v Klenovci spája s Jánošíkovým menom, je asi 80 metrov vysoká skala, ktorá vraj mení farbu podľa počasia. “Naši starí rodičia sa ráno pozreli na Jánošíkovú skalú a vedeli, či bude slnko, alebo či bude pršať, pripomína Zvara. Jánošík sa pri svojich návštevách Klenovca zastavoval aj v neďalekej Kokave nad Rimavicou. Na mieste, kde stojí dnes dom rodiny Sodomíkovcov, bol kedysi drevený dom, kde vraj Jánošík ako dieťa rok slúžil. “Bolo tam do hrady vysekané meno Jánošík s rokom, kedy tam bol,” povedala suseda, pani Mária Moncolová. Aspoň tak jej cez vojnu rozprával vtedajší majiteľ domu Ján Vician - Drnovka. Podľa ústneho podania ho tam valaškou vysekal sám Jánošík. Ulica sa dnes volá Jánošíkova. Podľa jedného zo susedov keby dom s takýmto vzácnym dedičstvom dnes v Kokave stál, bol by doslova zlatou baňou.



FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

S menom slávneho slovenského zbojníka Juraja Jánošíka je spojená najmä Terchová, kde sa pred 320 rokmi narodil. Terchová v týchto dňoch žije pripravami na oslavy. Priamo pod sochou chystajú pracovníci obecného úradu vatru. Socha Juraja Jánošíka (na snímke) stojí nad Terchovou na kopci Vršky, jej autorom je Ján Kulich, je z antikorového plechu a odhalená bola v roku 1988.

## Na projekty Slovákov v zahraničí išlo 36 miliónov korún

Bratislava (TASR) – Na podporu projektov Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí išlo v roku 2007 celkovo 36 miliónov korún. Ide o doposiaľ najvyššiu sumu, akú kedy vláda SR schválila. Rekordný bol aj počet žiadostí o udelenie grantov. Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) ich zaznamenal 739.

“Z tohto počtu bolo schválených 475 projektov. Celková požadovaná suma však bola oveľa vyššia, viac ako 177 miliónov korún,” povedala predsedníčka ÚSZZ Vilma Prívarová. Tri milióny sa vyčlenili na výkon medzivládnej dohody medzi vládou SR a Maďarska o vzájomnej podpore národnostných menšín. Účelovo bol vyčlenený jeden milión korún na podporu

ľudových novín.

“O udelení grantov rozhoduje medzirezortná komisia, kde nominujú svojich zástupcov jednotlivé rezorty. Táto komisia zasadala v roku 2007 dvakrát,” ozrejmila predsedníčka. Podľa vyjadrenia Prívarovej v roku 2007 ÚSZZ pripravil množstvo podujatí a odprezentoval veľa osobností a tvorivých počínov.

“Zorganizovali sme dve veľké podujatia konferenčného typu - stálu konferenciu Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí, ktoré je tradičným podujatím,” informovala predsedníčka. Na ňom sa stretávajú delegovaní zástupcovia slovenských spolkov a organizácií z celého sveta.

# Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Na 14. medzinárodnom veľtrhu cestovného ruchu ITF Slovakiatour, ktorý sa uskutočnil od 17.-20. januára v bratislavskej Inchebe, sa návštevníci tešili aj na premietanie dokumentárnych filmov o vinných cestách na Slovensku, v Česku a Rakúsku. Tieto cesty si medzi ľuďmi na území Slovenska v poslednej dobe získali veľkú obľubu. Najznámejšia je Malokarpatská vinná cesta (MVC), ktorá bola prvou na Slovensku, no zároveň najmladšou v Európe. MVC má v súčasnosti 260 členov, medzi ktorých patria mestá, obce, vinárne či fyzické osoby. Finančnú podporu čerpá aj z fondu Európskej únie z prostriedkov Fare CBC. V súčasnosti je podľa zákonnej klasifikácie na Slovensku šesť vinohradníckych oblastí situovaných pozdĺž jeho južnej hranice - Malokarpatská, Juhoslovenská, Nitrianska, Stredoslovenská, Východoslovenská a Tokajská.

Pri čerpaní prostriedkov z eurofondov určených na rok 2005, ktoré bolo nutné minúť do 31. decembra 2007, výrazne chýbal čas. Ten bol použitý na čerpanie najnižšieho záväzku roku 2004, ktoré bolo natiahnuté až na neúnosné obdobie troch rokov. Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR taktovo reagovalo na tvrdenia poslanca Národnej rady SR za SDKÚ-DS Štefana Kuzmu o tom, že Slovensko nenávratne príde v programe, za ktorý zodpovedá ministerstvo práce, o 6.8 milióna eur, čo je takmer 200 miliónov Sk. Išlo o prostriedky na podporu projektov štátnych i súkromných subjektov zameraných na vzdelávanie a zvyšovanie kvalifikačnej úrovne.

Na 14. priečke najbohatších bankárov v Rusku sa prvýkrát umiestnil Slovák, Roman Korbačka. Bankársky rebríček zostavil ruský denník Kommersant. Roman Korbačka bol doteraz známy ako riaditeľ bývalých rádiokomunikácií, ktoré sa pretransformovali do firmy TBDS. Tento podnik bol ako jediný počas súčasnej vlády privatizovaný. Bankár Korbačka je brat spolujateľa investičnej skupiny J&T, Petra Korbačku. Zároveň členom dozornej rady developera J&T Real Estate, informoval denník Hospodárske noviny na titulnej strane pod názvom "Medzi ruskými superboháčmi je Slovák".

Jedna z najväčších investičných bánk sveta, Morgan Stanley, bude investovať na východnom Slovensku. Skupina Multi Development, ktorá patrí pod realitný investičný fond americkej banky, postaví v Prešove a Poprade veľké nákupné a zábavné centrá za dve miliardy korún. Stavať sa začne na jar a do konca budúceho roku by mali byť nové centrá hotové. Kým v Prešove investor od mesta kúpil prázdne stavebné pozemky, v Poprade ráta s prestavbou starého Prioru.

Slovensko je už takmer štyri týždne v schengenskom priestore, ale prechádzať do susedného štátu nemožno kdekoľvek. Na rozsiahlych územiach za prekročenie hranice hrozí pokuta. Ide o chránené územia, kde platí tretí, štvrtý a najvyšší piaty stupeň ochrany prírody, teda častí chránených krajinných oblastí a celé územia národných parkov. Turisti môžu štátnu hranicu prekračovať na ktoromkoľvek mieste iba v prvom a druhom stupni ochrany.

Legendu o Jánošíkovi, ktorý bojoval proti sociálnemu útlaku, môžu národu vziať len duchovní bezdomovci alebo národní ignoranti, povedal 25. januára na slávnostnom zasadnutí Obecného zastupiteľstva v Terchovej pri príležitosti 320. výročia narodenia Juraja Jánošíka slovenský premiér Robert Fico. Národ bez legendy podľa neho nie je národom a on sa bude k jánošíkovej vždy hrdo hlásiť. Každý národ si podľa neho takéto legendy stráži a udržiava a bola by veľká chyba, keby Slováci o ne stratili záujem.

Talianska spoločnosť Magneti Marelli, zameraná na výrobu elektroniky pre automobilový priemysel, buduje v Priemyselnom parku Kechnec v okrese Košice-okolie nový výrobný závod. Na celkovej ploche 29,000 štvorcových metrov bude okrem výroby aj centrum výskumu a vývoja. Spoločnosť začala výstavbu vlni v septembri a začiatok produkcie automobilových prístrojových dosiek pre celú Európu sa predpokladá v júni tohto roka. "V Kechneci bude najmodernejší závod Magneti Marelli v Európe," uviedol starosta obce Kechnec Jozef Konkoly, ktorý spolu s delegáciou z Ministerstva hospodárstva navštívil prevádzky spoločnosti Magneti Marelli v talianskom Miláne. Pri plnej prevádzke bude mať taliansky investor v Kechneci v roku 2011 približne 400 zamestnancov, v tomto roku plánuje začať s 50 pracovníkmi.

Po rozhovore s predsedom vlády Robertom Ficom 25. januára 2008 minister obrany František Kašický podal demisiu. Premiér jeho rozhodnutie akceptoval. Informoval o tom na spoločnej tlačovej konferencii František Kašický. "Necítim subjektívnu zodpovednosť za chybu úradníkov. Nesiem však objektívnu zodpovednosť za vývoj v rezorte," vysvetlil Kašický. Dôvodom sú tendre na upratovacie práce a odpratávanie snehu na ministerstve obrany, ktoré boli v rozpore so schválenými pravidlami vypísané vo výške takmer 4 miliardy korún. Novým ministrom obrany po Františkovi Kašickom bude 32-ročný štátny tajomník ministerstva obrany Jaroslav Baška. Kašického nástupca vyštudoval Žilinskú univerzitu, až do roka 2002 pracoval v Matadore Púchov. V minulom období bol poslancom parlamentu za Smer.

Evanjelická cirkev augsburského vyznania na Slovensku (ECAV) si v tomto roku pripomenie výročia mnohých významných osobností z radov evanjelikov - kňazov, národovcov, politikov a umelcov. Evanjelický farár a superintendent (biskup) Jozef Miloslav Hurban sa významne zaslúžil tak o cirkev, ako aj o národ. Viaceré podujatia venované tejto osobnosti, napríklad sympóziom s medzinárodnou účasťou v Bratislave, sa uskutočnili v uplynulom roku vyhlásenom za Rok Jozefa

Miloslava Hurbana, ale už 21. februára 2008 bude v Hlbokom stretnutie k 120. výročiu jeho smrti. "Na rok 2008 pripadá 120. výročie narodenia nášho politika, vedca a generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika, ako aj 130. výročie narodenia politika a predsedu vlády ČSR Dr. Milana Hodžu, obaja boli synovia evanjelickej fary," konštatoval generálny biskup ECAV Miloš Klátik. Ako ďalej uviedol, v tomto roku si pripomenieme aj 120. výročie narodenia evanjelického farára, básnika, spisovateľa, politika, slovenského národovca Martina Rázusa nazývaného svedomím národa. Tento rok uplynie 180 rokov od narodenia evanjelického kňaza, pedagóga, prekladateľa, zberateľa slovenskej ľudovej slovesnosti Pavla Dobšinského.

Slovenská tenistka Daniela Hantuchová sa na grandslamovom turnaji prvýkrát v kariére prebojovala do semifinále dvojhry. Vo štvrtfinále Australian Open ako nasadená deviatka po výbornom výkone zdolala Poľku Agnieszkę Radwanską (29) za 87 minút hladko v dvoch setoch 6:2, 6:2 a dosiahla životný singlový úspech na podujatiach veľkej štvorky. Hantuchová sa v melbournskej aréne Roda Laverá stala historicky prvou slovenskou grandslamovou semifinalistkou v ženskej dvojhre.

Najobľúbenejšou destináciou cestujúcich, ktorých v roku 2007 vybavilo Letisko M. R. Štefánika - Airport Bratislava (BTS), a.s., naďalej zostal Londýn. Letecké spoločnosti, prevádzkujúce lety z Bratislavy do metropoly Veľkej Británie, prepravili za uplynulý rok 358,000 pasažierov. Letecké linky do Londýna prevádzkujú dve najvýznamnejšie letecké spoločnosti, a to SkyEurope Airlines a Ryanair. Druhá priečka patrí domácej leteckému spojeniu do Košíc, ktorú v minulom roku využilo takmer 175,000 cestujúcich. Práve spojenie Bratislava a Košíc zaznamenalo vlni najväčší medziročný percentuálny nárast, a to o 51%.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## Americký veľvyslanec v SR sa zameria na vzdelávanie a nezamestnanosť

Bratislava (TASR) – Americký veľvyslanec v Slovenskej republike Vincent Obsitnik by sa chcel počas svojho pôsobenia na Slovensku zamerať na vzdelávanie, podporu spoločenskej zodpovednosti firiem a problémy východného Slovenska, akými sú najmä dlhodobá vysoká nezamestnanosť, zamestnateľnosť rómskej komunity či nedostatočné dopravné prepojenie so západnejšou časťou krajiny. Povedal to 17. januára na recepcii, ktorú zorganizovala Americká obchodná komora v SR (AmCham). "Narastajúci nedostatok kvalifikovanej pracovnej sily na Slovensku by podľa veľvyslanca pomohlo zmierniť lepšie prepojenie školstva so súkromnou sférou a efektívnejšia aplikácia vedomostí z teórie do praxe," informovala Veronika Slováková z AmCham. Podľa nej veľvyslanec plánuje úzko spolupracovať s členskými firmami Americkej obchodnej komory v SR. "Veľvyslanec vysoko ocenil mnohé aktivity komory. Vyzdvihol najmä prácu jej výborov a pracovných skupín, ktoré poskytujú odborné pripomienky k legislatíve ovplyvňujúcej podnikateľské prostredie na Slovensku a prinášajú know-how a cenné skúsenosti z iných vyspelých krajín Európskej únie a USA," uviedla Slováková.

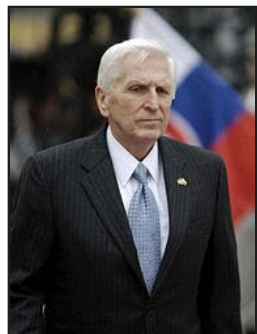


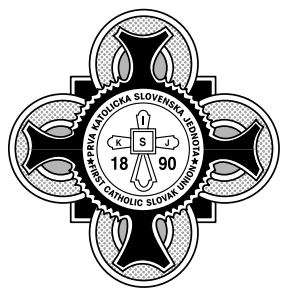
FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer  
Veľvyslanec Vincent Obsitnik

## Pápež poďakoval za Solejovu knihu apoštolským požehnaním

Medzilaborce (TASR) – Knihu najmladšieho autora odbornej literatúry na Slovensku Petra Soleja Krása zakliata v kove, ktorá je venovaná pamiatke troch pastoračných návštev pápeža Jána Pavla II., prijal v týchto dňoch ako dar pápež Benedikt XVI. V liste adresovanom 20-ročnému autorovi, študentovi 2. ročníka Ekonomickej fakulty Univerzity Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici a prezidentovi Občianskeho združenia NAPS sa uvádza, že pápež venovanie knihy považuje za gesto úcty a oddanosti voči nástupcovi Svätého Apoštola Petra a zahŕňa ho do svojich modlitieb. Zároveň mu na Slovensko posielala osobitné apoštolské požehnanie. Mladému rodákovi z Medzilaboriec sa v týchto dňoch ušlo aj ocenenia od člena Európskej komisie Jána Figela. "Oceňujem Vašu literárnu aktivitu, ako aj snahu o zblížovanie konfesiónálnych odlišností prostredníctvom ekumenických stretnutí. Som presvedčený, že aj ony môžu byť konkrétnym príspevkom do práve prebiehajúceho Roku dialógu medzi kultúrami, ktorý bol na môj podnet

vyhlásený inštitúciami Európskej únie," uvádza Figel' v liste adresovanom Solejovi.

"Som veľmi vďačný, že exempláre mojej najnovšej knihy prijali do daru viaceré významné osobnosti. Je pre mňa čťou a radosťou, že som týmto gestom mohol v malom reprezentovať Slovensko aj v zahraničí," uviedol koncom januára Solej. Kniha Krása zakliata v kove je jeho piatou knihou. Pod záštitou ministra hospodárstva SR Ľubomíra Jahnátka sa využíva na reprezentáciu Slovenska v zahraničí. Od jej autora ju prijali viacerí slovenskí štátnici, diplomati akreditovaní v SR a predstavitelia cirkvi. Prostredníctvom diplomatickej pošty dostala knihu aj holandská kráľovná Beatrix, belgický kráľ Albert II., americký prezident George Bush a ďalšie významné osobnosti. Dovedna 192-stránová publikácia dokumentuje novodobé medailérske dielo celosvetovo jedinečnej, najstaršej a nepretržite pracujúcej mincovne v Kremnici. Na jej obálke sa nachádza pozlátená medaila s portrétom Jána Pavla II., ktorú vyrazili v Kremnici.



# Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Volume 117

STREDA, 6. FEBRUÁR 2008

Číslo 5772

## Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Misia sv. Cyrila a Metoda patrí k najvýznamnejším v ranokresťanskej Európe. Ich vplyv na celú strednú a východnú Európu je viditeľný dodnes a ich liturgia sa používa v takmer nezmenenej forme v mnohých krajinách tejto oblasti. Hlaholika bola ich žiakmi upravená na cyriliku a možno ju vidieť ešte dnes v Bulharsku, Srbsku, Rusku i v ďalších krajinách. Právom sa k ich odkazu hlásia všetky slovanské národy. Význam ich misie a ich prínos k rozmachu kresťanstva v Európe vyzdvihol v roku 1980 pápež Ján Pavol II., keď ich vyhlásil za spolupatroňov Európy.

Na začiatku cesty jedných z najvýznamnejších osobností európskej kultúry bol Solún. Toto mesto (po grécky Thessaloniké) leží v terajšom severnom Grécku, vtedajšej Byzantskej ríši. Tam sa otcovi Levovi, významnému a zámožnému hodnostárovi a bohabojnému mužovi, a jeho manželke Márii, narodilo sedem detí, medzi ktorými Metod bol jeden z najstarších (narodil sa okolo roku 815), kým Konštantín bol najmladší (narodil sa roku 827). Svätí bratia boli charakterové a nadaním veľmi odlišní. Metod mal vyvinutý zmysel pre praktické veci, študoval právo a stal sa náčelníkom jednej byzantskej župy, kde bolo slovanské obyvateľstvo. V tom úrade prežil 10 rokov. Jeho životopisec neskôr poznamenal, že to tak zariadila Božia prozreteľnosť, aby sa cvičil slovanskej reči, lebo sa mal stať arcibiskupom Slovanov. Konštantín mal mimoriadne nadanie na filozofiu a iné humanistické náuky. Po otcovej smrti ho vysoký cisársky úradník Theoktis povolal do Carihradu, aby tam na cisárskej škole študoval spolu s budúci cisárom Michalom III. V učení tak vynikal, že mu dali prídomek "filozof". Okrem toho však napredoval aj v duchovných veciach a v svätosti, lebo sa zriekol pozemských vecí a za životný štýl si vyvolil vynikať v poznaní Božej múdrosti.

Keď teda videli jeho životné zameranie, dali ho vysvätiť najprv za diakona a potom za kňaza a ustanovili ho za tajomníka carihradského patriarchu. Cisár ho vymenoval za profesora na cisárskej škole. Profesor tejto školy mali byť okrem vyučovania k dispozícii cisárovi vo vážnych veciach. Tak roku 851 Konštantína, keď mal 24 rokov, zaradili do byzantského posolstva k Arabom v Mezopotámii, kde mal teologické dišputy s tamojšími mohamedánmi. Po návrate pokračoval vo vyučovaní v Carihrade. No rok 855 priniesol veľkú zmenu v živote obidvoch bratov. Takzvaná "palácova revolúcia" odstránila cisárovnú Theodoru a dosadila na trón mladého Michala III. Spomenutý Theoktistos, ochranca oboch bratov, bol zabitý. Vládu prevzal cisárov strýko Bardas. Konštantín a Metod sa nechceli zaplietť do politických rozbrojov, a preto sa zriekli svojho postavenia, zanechali verejný život a utiahli sa do samoty. O krátky čas ich oboch vidíme v jednom z kláštorov na hore Olymp v Malej Ázii. Tu sa venovali duchovnému životu. Metod, ako skúsený administrátor, sa stal v kláštore predstaveným (igumenom).

*Pokračovanie na str. 17*

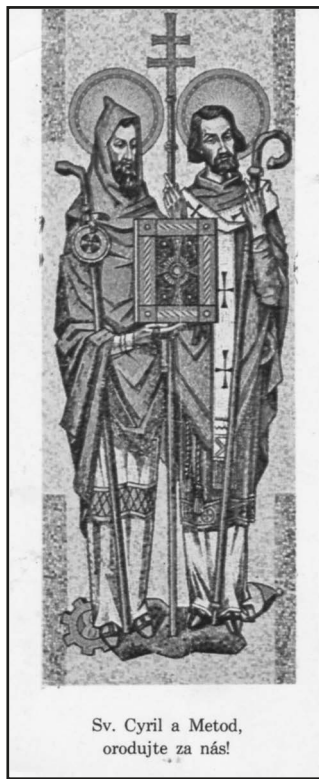
## Dôležité oznámenie

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

Veľkosť a kvalita časopisu Jednota zostane nezmenená.

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

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



Sv. Cyril a Metod,  
orodujte za nás!

Sv. Cyril a Metod

## Spomienka na najväčšie letecké nešťastie v dejinách SR

Hejce (TASR) – Od najväčšej tragickej udalosti v histórii Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR, havárie lietadla AN-24, uplynulo 19. januára dva roky. Pri pamätníku leteckého nešťastia v maďarskej obci Hejce sa na pietnom spomienkovom stretnutí zišli príbuzní 42 obetí, minister obrany SR František Kašický a predstavitelia rezortu obrany SR a Maďarska. Pietnej spomienky sa zúčastnil aj jediný vojak, ktorý prežil pád lietadla, Martin Farkaš. K udalosti sa však odmietol vyjadriť. "Rezort obrany nikdy nesmie zabudnúť na 42 vojakov a pozostalých. K dnešnému dňu je celý proces vyšetrovania a odškodnenia pozostalých, súvisiaci s touto tragédiou, ukončený," uviedol krátko po skončení pietnej spomienky Kašický.

Rok 2007 bol podľa ministra rokom, keď piloti nalietali najviac hodín za rok - až 7,500 "V tomto roku sa tento limit zvýši o ďalších 1,000 hodín. To prispieva k 'vylietanosti' pilotov a k bezpečnosti letov. Na pilota dopravného

lietadla sa zvýšil nálet na 140 hodín, čo ešte nebolo v histórii Ozbrojených síl Slovenskej republiky," ubezpečil Kašický. Leteckú techniku OS by malo k 1. februáru obohatiť 12 modernizovaných strojov typu MiG. Minulý rok rezort obrany pokračoval v prácach na akvizícii nových dopravných lietadiel pre armádu. "Pracovali sme na tom, aby koncom roku vláda schválila zásady ofsetov, ktoré by pomohli byť pri tejto akvizícii použité. V priebehu niekoľkých týždňoch bude na rokovanie vlády SR predložený materiál, kde navrhujeme celý proces akvizície. Ukončenie procesu akvizície na dopravné lietadlá predpokladáme v polovici tohto roku. Prvá dodávka by mala dôjsť v roku 2008," dodal Kašický, ktorý nechcel špecifikovať počet a cenu lietadiel.

Po skončení sa v miestnom rímskokatolíckom kostole konala zádušná omša za obeť tragickej leteckej nehody, ktorú celebroid vojenský ordinár František Rábek.

## Socha Štefánika je opäť v Bratislave

Bratislava (TASR) – Sochu spoluzakladateľa československého štátu, slovenského diplomata a vedca Milana Rastislava Štefánika priviezli 23. januára z Českej republiky do Bratislavy.

Socha z cínového bronzu je vysoká 7.4 metra a má hmotnosť 5.3 tony. Odliali

ju v zlievarni DSB Euro v Blansku. Štefánikova socha je v súčasnosti umiestnená v strážených priestoroch Doprastavu, a.s. v Bratislave. Nadácia Milana Rastislava Štefánika ako investor vypísala na vyhotovenie skulptúry výberové konanie. Podľa uznesenia mestského zastupiteľstva Bratislavy dielo bude súčasťou pamätníka na námestí pred novostavbou Slovenského národného divadla pri Dunaji, informoval správca Nadácie Milana Rastislava Štefánika Pavol Šesták. Pamätník predstavuje socha Štefánika na pylóne a socha leva - symbolu československej štátnosti - na pylóne.

Náklady na vyhotovenie sochy dosiahli 6.9 milióna korún, prispeli na ňu hlavné mesto Bratislava, Úrad vlády SR, Ministerstvo kultúry SR, sponzori, občania a organizácie a Nadácia M. R. Štefánika, uzavrel Šesták. Podľa neho je príchod repliky Štefánikovej sochy na Slovensko ukončením jednej etapy projektu opätovného umiestnenia pamätníka Milan Rastislava Štefánika na dunajskom nábreží v Bratislave. Socha je v súčasnosti zakrytá obalom a navyše ju umiestnia v debení, kde vyčká na ukončenie stavebných a kamenárskych prác na pamätníku. Až potom ju môžu inštalovať, vysvetlil. Sochu Milana Rastislava Štefánika zlikvidovali v rokoch 1953-1954, uzavrel Šesták.



Socha počas prevozu.

FOTO TASR - Miroslav Košířer