



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 123

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

NUMBER 5895

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK – HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014



Andrew M. Rajec

Blessings and best wishes to you and your family for 2014. I would like to express on behalf of myself and the First Catholic Slovak Union sincere condolences to all of you who have experienced loss of a loved one in 2013.

We look forward to 2014 and our Convention in August in Philadelphia. Much planning and preparation has already been done with more to follow.

In 2013 the Society has again reached records in assets and even more importantly surplus. We will report on that in the future.

We thank all Members for showing confidence in the stability, management and future of our Society. Why not spread the word to other family members and friends that the F.C.S.U., Jednota, is successfully working for its Members for their financial benefit and for the Catholic Faith?

New Year Resolutions have been talked about for years. Lose weight, don't forget your wife's or husband's birthday and other special events, don't procrastinate etc., are resolutions we all have made, probably more than once. Some people have been very successful in fulfilling one or more. Others not.

How about making another 2014 Resolution: getting your financial life in order?

Have you started a plan for the future, whatever your age?

Do you take advantage of a 401 (K) plan at your place of employment?

Do you have an IRA and make annual contributions? The FCSU offers a variety of both ROTH and regular IRA plans. Get into the habit of saving. See our notices in the Jednota. Have you ordered a copy of the FCSU Estate Planning Booklet – Your Personal Record Keeper? (See page 24.) Just give a call, write or e-mail us a request. There is no charge. It is an invaluable tool.

In addition, plan for you and your family's future and financial security by investigating our insurance and annuity products. Why wait? Encourage your kids, family and friends.

New Year Resolution time can also apply to our spiritual life. We all can improve. Maybe we can help a son or daughter or other family member in finding Christ either directly or through good example. It can work with gentle, loving persistence.

Happy New Year to you and may 2014 bring you peace and love.

Fraternally,
Andrew M. Rajec, President



If you are a Branch or District qualified to send delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention

of the First Catholic Slovak Union: Please make sure to review your **DELEGATE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVENTION**, included on page 3 of this issue.

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Third Annual Bowling Tournament
April 25—26, 2014
Pittsburgh, PA

Susan Ondrejco, National Fraternal
Activities Director

Join us for the Third Annual Bowling Tournament with the United Slovak Fraternal. AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes, the home of the Third Annual Bowling Tournament, offers traditional bowling on 52 lanes, featuring new flat screen monitors and a new Kegel lane machine. Relax in their bar area and watch your favorite sports on TV or challenge your friends to a game of pool. Smoking is allowed in the bar area only.

You no longer bowl in a Sanctioned league or have a league available? No problem! If you have participated in 3 tournaments within the last 6 years, we can use your tournament average to determine a handicap. If not, we will still give you a handicap based on an average of 175 (men) or 150 (women). So come on out and join us for weekend full of fun and excitement.

The Team Event will be held Friday evening. Doubles and Singles events will be held Saturday. Registration forms can be found inside this issue on page 5.

continued on page 5

WHAT?!... HELLOOOO....
You forgot your IRA?!

What are you waitin' for?
Start your New Year off right.

Open or add to your IRA account by 4/15/2014.

8 Year Flexible Premium IRA	3.60%
6 Year Flexible Premium IRA	3.20%
6 Year Fixed Rate IRA	3.10%

Contact your branch officer or the Home Office at 1.800.533.6682 for more info.
annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com

Inside this edition:
• 2013 National Photo Contest Winners, Part I
See pages 14-15

Insights and Viewpoints



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

January 26, 2014

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Matthew 4: 12-23

Gospel Summary

When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been arrested, he left Nazareth and went to Capernaum. Herod Antipas was ruler of this territory, Galilee of the Gentiles, regarded as a region of God-

forsaken pagan ways. It is here that Jesus goes to take up what is now the dangerous mission of John, to proclaim the coming of God's kingdom.

Jesus then proceeds to call Peter, Andrew, James and his brother John to follow him as disciples. Through Jesus, what has been spoken through the prophet Isaiah is at last fulfilled: "... the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, and on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has risen."

Life Implications

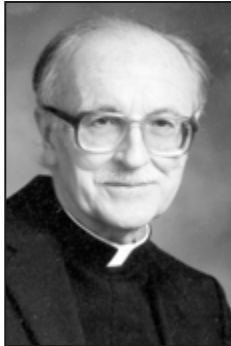
Matthew graphically portrays the unredeemed human condition: John, victim of the injustice of arrest and subsequent execution; people sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. Hearers of Matthew's gospel already know that Jesus and many who became his disciples soon would meet the same kind of injustice and violent death as John.

Graham Greene, in his novel *The Power and the Glory*, portrays the hopelessly fallen human condition in a similarly graphic way through the thoughts of the main character: "The knowledge of the world lay in her like the dark explicable spot in an x-ray photograph; he longed -- with a breathless feeling in the beast -- to save her, but he knew the surgeon's decision -- the ill was incurable."

The good news of Christian faith is that no experience of our human condition, however "incurable" it may seem, even death, is hopeless. The mission of Jesus is to proclaim that God loves us and wants to give himself to us if we but turn to accept him. Jesus, "God with us," is the incarnation of this supreme love -- light for people who sit in darkness, life in a land overshadowed by death.

The gospel today also reminds us that Jesus calls each of us by name to follow him: our ultimate happiness depends upon our response. No human project or love, however great, may be preferred ("They left their boat and their father and followed him").

In this Sunday's liturgy we might pray for the gift of faith to follow Jesus into the life of God's love. This is the faith that overcomes the world of violence, darkness and death. And with the gift of sharing Christ's faith comes a peace that surpasses understanding.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Tim Conway's Hilarious (and Spiritual) Life

You should always follow your mother's advice. Well, almost always. Consider this story that comedian Tim Conway shared in his recent "Christopher Closeup" interview about his new memoir, "What's So Funny? My Hilarious Life."

During his third year starring in the 1960's sitcom "McHale's Navy," Conway got a call from his mother Sophia in Ohio. She told him, "Ken Shutts down at the hardware store is taking on new help. You know him rather well, so you should apply."

Surprised, Conway responded, "Ma, have you been watching television in the last couple of years?"

Sophia answered, "I saw it, but that junk isn't going to last. You've got a chance to get a good steady job. You should take it."

Thankfully, Conway didn't pursue that job, which freed him up to make it onto "The Carol Burnett Show," where he cemented his comedic legacy. Surprisingly, show business was not his first career choice. He told me, "I wanted to be a jockey. But at this weight, even the horses ask you to get off. Plus, I fell off a lot, and people betting on you would like to see you on the horse when it comes across the finish line."

A pivotal spiritual moment in Conway's life came in high school. He was playing in a football game when he got hit hard in the back. He writes in his book that he was unable to talk or "feel anything below my neck let alone move." His team members grabbed his arms and legs and carried him off the field. A doctor took an X-ray, found nothing broken, and put him in a neck brace for a few weeks.

Many years later, Conway visited a doctor due to back spasms. The doctor told him his "spasms were a residual effect stemming from a broken vertebra." Conway insisted he'd never broken a vertebra, so the doctor asked if he'd ever had a sports injury. Conway told him about the high school football incident.

The doctor replied, "Here's what I think. Your vertebra probably was broken when you were hit, but when they picked you up and carried you to the locker room, your back got stretched out. I'd guess that the vertebra went back into place. The X-ray may not have shown anything at the time but, I assure you, you came very close to being permanently disabled. If they hadn't moved you, it might have been a different story."

Conway writes, "Ever since that incident on the football field, which might have altered the course of my life, Jesus and I have stayed in constant touch. I never stop saying thank you."

Though Conway, who converted to Catholicism in college, doesn't wear his faith on his sleeve, his relationship with God remains important to him. He admits that his journey of faith hasn't always been a straight line, but adds, "All straight lines get a little crooked from time to time, but I tried to maintain a decent life."

When I asked Conway what he hopes readers learn from his book, he said, "I hope it helps them better know what my outlook on life was—to see life as humorous and enjoyable. I think God has placed me in several positions, which I have found humorous. I find humor in life itself, and I can hardly wait to thank Him in person."

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

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, FEB 5	MONDAY, JAN 27
WEDNESDAY, FEB 19	MONDAY, FEB 10
WEDNESDAY, MAR 5	MONDAY, FEB 24

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

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

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

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 22 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries - \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

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

DELEGATE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVENTION

Please note the special sections highlighted so your branch will qualify to send delegates to the Convention:

SECTION 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES

Bylaw Section 14.01 GENERAL RULES

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

SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP

Bylaw Section 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

By the end of March of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$4.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

- a) Published, announced, and conducted two (2) semi-annual meetings, one of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance (sign in) sheets or copies shall accompany the Reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.
- b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted or attended at least one fraternal activity in the past year.
- e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred-fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.
- f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.
- g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.**

1) Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. No later than February 15th the District shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above.

2) The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than May 1 in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.

- h) Maintained good standing within its district by paying current fiscal year dues and any dues that may be outstanding from the previous years.
- i) The requirements of this Section must be met by the branch to receive payment of any other compensation.

SECTION 11. CONVENTION

Bylaw Section 11.03 QUALIFICATIONS OF DELEGATES:

- a) A member in good standing shall be eligible for election to serve as a delegate if he/she is 18 years of age or older as of February 1st of the Convention year, holds active membership in the branch or district one year prior to the Convention, and had abided by regulations of the branch or district.
- b) A member who has misappropriated the funds of the FCSU or of a local branch of the FCSU or caused it to sustain any loss cannot be a delegate.
- c) Election of delegates must be completed no later than ninety (90) calendar days before the opening date of the Convention. Credentials must be forwarded to the Office of the Executive Secretary and postmarked, not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the election of the delegate. Names of those elected delegates not received by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the above requirements will not be seated as delegates at the Convention.**
- d) Every local branch may elect an alternate delegate subject to the same conditions as that of regular elected delegates. Such alternate delegate(s) shall be empowered to substitute for regularly elected delegates who for some valid reason are unable to attend the Convention. The Executive Secretary shall prepare proper "Alternate Delegate" forms, which shall be of a different color than that of regular delegates.
- e) The Convention shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its members and may award or deny the right of any person to sit as a delegate in the Convention and shall determine the remuneration of the delegates.
- f) Any complaint or protest against any delegate must be sent to the President at least fifteen (15) days before the opening of the Convention. To prevent a hardship, the President is directed to act on said complaint or protest and notify the delegate.

Bylaw Section 11.04 BRANCH REPRESENTATION AND DISTRICT (Okres) REPRESENTATION:

a) Every local branch having fifty (50) or more members and current good standing financially in its district (i.e., up to date with dues payments), may send at its own expense, one of its members as a delegate to the Convention. Said delegate shall have the right to vote, but in no case shall any delegate have more than one vote. Local branches, at their

own expense, which have more than 150 members, are entitled to two (2) delegates and one additional delegate for each additional 100 members, according to the number of their members on the 1st day of February of the Convention year. Each District (Okres) shall be entitled to only one district delegate.

b) Any two branches in the same district having less than 50 members can combine if they total 50 members or more. They can send one delegate representing both branches at their own expense with one delegate vote.

c) The delegate count shall be based on members as of February 1st in the Convention year. The maximum amount of delegates per branch will be 20.

d) A local branch that has no delegate elected may request that a delegate already elected from another branch represent it. A delegate shall not represent more than two branches, but has only one vote. No National Officer shall represent any local branch.

e) Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next Convention shall be published at least twice in the Official Organ prior to the date of the branch or district meeting.

f) Any branch or district, which fails to comply with article 4.05 in two (2) of the four (4) years preceding a Convention, will not be permitted to send any delegates to that Convention, excluding Canada.

EXAMPLE OF BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENT

BRANCH # – City:....., State:.....

Branch # will hold its next meeting on (date) at (time)

at (place – full address)

The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items.

Any questions please call (name & number)

Fraternally,

.....
Branch Officer's name, Title, Branch number

Please note: The meeting must be held at least 30 days after the first publication in the Jednota. For example: If a meeting for announced election of delegates is published in the February 19, 2014 issue of Jednota, the election meeting must be held at least 30 days later, ie. on or after March 21, 2014.

The meeting notice must be published twice.

Reflections on Christmas 2013

Dear Friends,

"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." Pope Francis began his apostolic exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, with these words. The document was promulgated on November 24, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, which also happened to be the concluding day of the Year of Faith.

The main theme Francis conveys in The Joy of the Gospel is that the work of evangelization, of proclaiming and spreading the message of salvation, is a joyous work that really never ends. The Gospel is not just good news, it is joyful news intended for every person to hear, without exception. Even those who have already heard the message are to hear it again and again so to stir up within themselves hearts that are eager and motivated to share this joy.

The pope points out that the angel who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds in the field proclaimed a message of joy. "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Jesus Christ is born.

The angel's message of joy was repeated in churches all throughout the world on December 25. As the Christmas season comes to a conclusion, what a blessing it would be if all Christians carry over the joy of Christmas Day to our homes, our places of work, our schools, our endeavors, our dealings with others throughout the coming year. A willingness to observe the Holy Father's call to us in an introductory paragraph to The Joy of the Gospel is the foundation of that joy.

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ. I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day" (Evangelii gaudium, 3).

We are currently celebrating the birth of Jesus, He who is our life, our hope, our love. Having and maintaining a personal relationship with Him, and renewing it daily, we come to know and believe in Him also as our joy.

God bless you and your families. You are remembered in my Christmas Masses.

Fraternally,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

Christ the Lord Is Born

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS.C.M.

A truly original, scriptural Slovak Christmas carol, *Narodil sa Kristus Pán*, is undoubtedly one of our most beloved carols. I fondly recall my mother telling me how her mother or other family member would intone this hymn after a Christmas Mass or the Christmas Eve meal. The menu is unique for this customary meal—from the shared *oplatky* with honey, the mushroom/sauerkraut soup, *opekance*/*bobalky* with poppy seed, dried and stewed fruit, homemade *kolace*, dates, figs and nuts. The types of food may vary, depending on local availability and custom. This festive supper is significant because of the generous evening (*Štedrý večer*) when it is held. The time is a celebration of renewed anticipation and acceptance of God's own generous gift of love—his Son. We too, could always expect numerous relatives and even a friend/neighbor, who needed a family with whom to share and celebrate Christmas Eve.

For me, Christmas always began with this delicious, traditional meal. Following the supper, the Slovak carols would continue around the tree and with brief visits to neighbors, before we left for midnight Mass. The carols were well-memorized since we had sung them from our youth. It is so true that: "Where there is a Slovak, there is singing." – "Kde Slovák, tam spev."

This carol is an excellent review of our salvation history as it recounts the prophetic birth of Christ. We are overjoyed with the promise of a Savior being fulfilled. As Slovaks, we express this best by singing, which overflows with joy and grateful happiness. The need for our salvation is emphasized and climaxed by the great gift of God's love—his own Son. He was sent to redeem and bless us with eternal life. Yet, knowing our weakness, God continues with his ever-present daily support, to provide the strength and guidance we need. Now as liturgically, we come to the close of our celebration of Jesus' birth and the Christmas season, let us continue to come to him daily, with simple love and trust, as his beloved daughters and sons. How dearly he wants to keep blessing us until our personal day of new birth, when we are called to come home to Him.



Narodil sa Kristus Pán

1. Narodil sa Kristus Pán, veselme sa!
Z ruže kvietok skvitol nám, radujme sa!

SBOR:
Z života čistého, z rodu kráľovského,
Kristus Pán narodil sa.

2. Prorokmi nám hlásaný, veselme sa!
Na svet nám je poslaný, radujme sa!

3. Človek je učený, veselme sa!
By bol večne spasený, radujme sa!

4. Božia milosť nebeská, buď vždy s nami!
Daj nech závisť diabolská nás nemá!

5. Daj šťastlivé skončenie, Jezu Kriste!
Tyš duše potešenie nám zaiste.
Daj nám spomôženia, zbav nás zatratenia
Pre Tvoje narodenie.

Christ the Lord Is Born

1. Christ the Lord is born, rejoice,
Sing a glad song!
Rose so lovely flower'd for us.
Joyful our song!

CHORUS:
Born of mother's purity,
With a King's nobility,
Christ is born for us this day.

2. Prophecies have long foretold,
Sing a glad song!
Christ is come to earth for us.
Joyful our song!

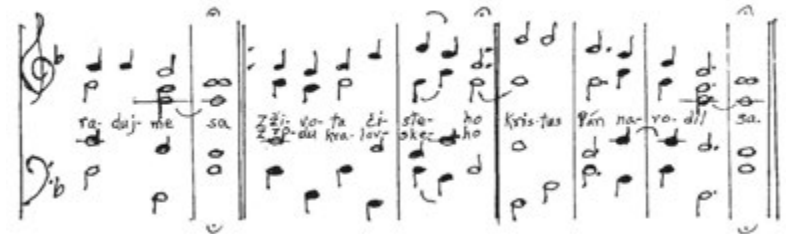
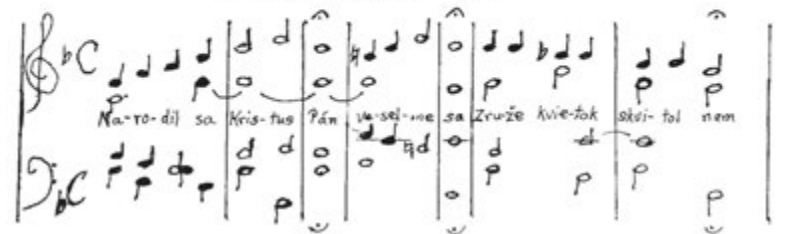
3. Now we all are reassured,

Sing a glad song!
Our salvation is secured.
Joyful our song!

4. Blest by God's great gift of love,
- Ours forever;
Shield us from attacks which come
- From the tempter.

5. Bless us Lord, with your great gift
- Life eternal;
Face to face to be with you
- Joy celestial.
Guide us Lord, along the way,
Keep us, that we may not stray.
Filled with faith, joy in your birth.

Narodil sa Kristus Pán



From the desk of the Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt



ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program.

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Single Premium Policy or \$25,000.00 or more of Annual Premium JEP Policy with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2010 to be eligible under the rules of this period.

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

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2014 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college acceptance must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained

from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com/scholarships.

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2014.

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

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

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

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2014.

Check List

PLEASE COMPLETE:

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

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

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

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

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

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

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

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

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

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

Banquet Fees
 Member\$25.00

Total Included\$_____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

*FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
 COMPLETE INFORMATION*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

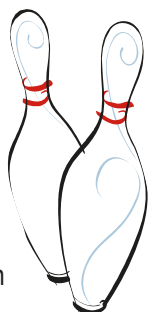
Third Annual Bowling Tournament

continued from page 1

We'll be spending the weekend at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pittsburgh. The Crowne Plaza Hotel offers complimentary parking, an outdoor pool, a fitness center, and a business center all at a convenient location, just seven miles from Downtown Pittsburgh.

Enjoy shopping in over 130 stores at the South Hills Village mall across the street from the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It's just a short ride from several area attractions including: the Rivers Casino, the Meadows Casino, the Tanger Outlets, and Downtown Pittsburgh.

Bowling tends to bring out the performer in all of us. Watch what happens when real bowlers come out and play. Come and join in the fun.



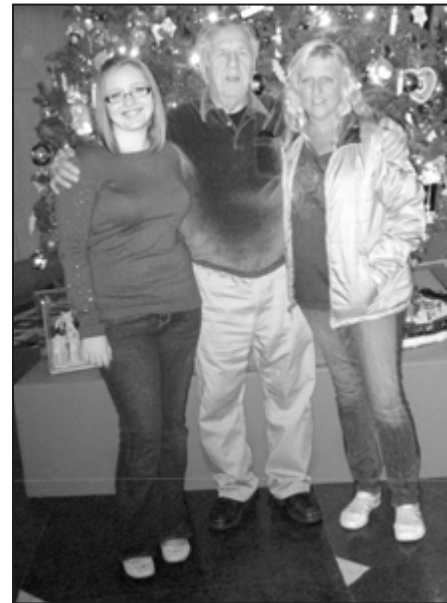
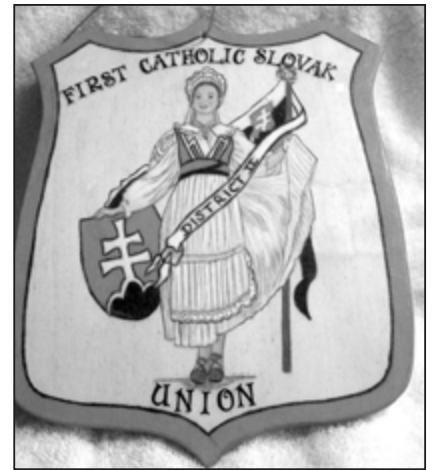
District 2 Helped Celebrate Christmas Around the World with Slovak Tree

Members of District 2 once again helped celebrate "Christmas Around the World with the Magic of Disney" which was held November 14, 2013 through January 5, 2014 at the Museum of Science and Industry, in Chicago, IL.

Among the 55 Christmas trees decorated by ethnic groups was the "Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree" sponsored by the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. This was the eighteenth year of participation by our committee members. The tree was decorated with imported Slovak ornaments and many handmade ornaments, candle lights, a handmade tree skirt and Slovak Village train set made by the committee and family members. Placed under the 12-foot tall tree was a traditional handmade "Crèche" from Slovakia.

Pictured are Committee Members and their families: Mark, Judy & Ayden Fayta, Noreen & Amber Miller, Art & Barbara Fayta, Ed Uram, Andy & Maria Harcar, Matthew & Jennifer Manzella, and Emma Graves, Lynda Tanis, Larry, Lori, & Julian Seida.

- Submitted by Mark Fayta, Republic of Slovakia Christmas Tree Chairman





The fifteen inductees to the 2013 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, including Branch 1's Ron Seman, seated, sixth from left.



Ronald J. Seman (C) as he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame, flanked by Ohio Governor John Kasich (R) and Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans' Services Timothy Gorrell (L).

Branch 1's Ronald Seman Elected to Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame

In the presence of Ohio Governor John R. Kasich and Director of the Ohio Department of Veteran Services Timothy C. Gorrell, 15 Veterans from the state of Ohio were inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Among these was Branch 1's Ronald J. Seman of Parma Heights, OH.

The celebration was held on Thursday, November 7, 2013, in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in the state capital in Columbus, OH. The Hall is dedicated to recognizing Ohio veterans who, after their military service, put their skills and abilities to work in their local communities. Ron Seman launched a long career in media after his service, originating The Cleveland Veteran radio program which promoted veteran activities and later wrote a weekly veterans' newspaper column while at the (now defunct) Cleveland Press. For over 26 years, he developed a strong readership from his popular Twinsburg Bulletin and Veterans' Beat column for Record Publishing Company's weekly division.

Ron is US Air Force veteran who served in the Korean War. He served in communications for the Air Force from 1952 to 1956, including the last ten months of the Korean War where he was stationed in Pusan. Upon redeployment back to the States, he finished his service at Shepard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX, where he worked for the base's radio station as an announcer as well as doing play-by-play sports announcements on the base. He served as station manager before he left the service.

He also worked with the late Chester J. Koch, Cleveland Coordinator of Patriotic Activities. When Koch died, Ron assumed his duties, serving as chairman and master of ceremonies for Cleveland's annual Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Veterans' Day programs.

He has a passion for veterans, especially those whose many years of service have gone largely unrecognized. Even in his senior years, he continues to reach out to them and various veteran organizations wherever and however he can.

Ron is a lifetime member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota).

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN



Paula and Peter Regal Celebrated 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2013

Paula and Peter Regal of Brownsville, PA, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 19, 2013. They have three daughters, five grandsons, and three granddaughters. They were married at St. Mary's Church in Uniontown, PA, and attend St. Peter's Church in Brownsville. Both Peter and Paula are members of Branch 162.

A party was held at the Sons of Italy Hall in Brownsville for family and friends, with music by a polka band, the Vibrations.

- Submitted by Peter Regal

Branch 450 Triplets Turned Four in 2013



On September 25, 2013, Jacob, Jessica and John Chuba – all members of Branch 450 in Cleveland, OH, celebrated their fourth birthday with friends and family, especially parents Joe and Jana Chuba and grandparents John and Monica Chuba.

(L – R) Mr. Ken Halliday, the Camping Chairman and Environmental Director for the Boy Scouts of America Laurel Highlands Council, presenting John Edward Barczynski with the William T. Hornaday Silver Medal National Conservation Award and Plaque on Saturday, December 14, 2013.



Branch 567's John Edward Barczynski Wins Prestigious National Conservation Award

On December 14, 2013, Branch 567's John Edward Barczynski was presented with the prestigious William T. Hornaday Silver Medal National Conservation Award and plaque at the Laurel Highlands Council Board of Directors Meeting at the McGinnis Education Center, O'Hara Township, PA.

The William T. Hornaday Silver Medal is a national level award that can be earned by completing certain advancement requirements and performing at least four silver substantial projects. According to the approval letter from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to John Edward, congratulating him on his selection, a Hornaday Medal is the most distinguished conservation award in the Boy Scouts of America and the standards are rigorous. In John Edward's case, he sent materials to the National Council which included 250 pages describing and detailing the four environmental projects he had planned and led others to complete – a submission weighing almost eight pounds. The activities required over 1,550 hours of effort and have been valued at almost \$23,500 for the benefit of the North Park Latodami Environmental Nature Center in Wexford, PA.

John Edward and his sisters, Heather Lynn and Kristen Marie, are all triplet fourth-generation members of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, located in Allentown, PA.

- Submitted by John and Lisa Kay Barczynski

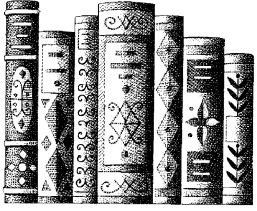
Jednota Member Marian Hunt Celebrated 90th Birthday in 2013

Marian Hunt of Clarksburg, WVA, celebrated her 90th birthday on Sunday, November 10, 2013, at the local Knights of Columbus Hall. It was hosted by her daughter Dianne Law, and Mary Hunt and her sons Tom and Jim.



The catered meal consisted of traditional Slovak food, halubky, pirohy, and birthday cake. Marian is the daughter of Magdeline (Karoska) Husousky and Andy Husousky. Her parents emigrated from Slovakia. She visited Slovakia a few years ago. Marian is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). She has attended several of the Society's conventions, and is a past officer of Branch 348.

- Submitted by Marian Hunt



Book Corner

Book Lauds Slovak Persistence in Canada and The United States

by Jan George Frajkor

A monumental work (392 pages) on the Slovak communities in Canada and the USA from the late 1800s until today tells us how they lived through hard times, through persecution, and finally through triumph because of their persistence and their talents. And how, despite being influenced and changed by foreign life, they are still closely connected to their social, religious, political and historical culture. This is an important book for Slovaks overseas and here. And for academics, politicians, and researchers everywhere.

The book is "Where is my Home? Slovak immigration to North America (1870-2010)"

Its author gives his name on the title page as M.Mark Stolarik. See the connection? His baptismal Roman Catholic Slovak name is "Marian" Stolarik. That, in the Americas, is a female name. It is changed to Mark because of the English situation here. But his soul still connects his brains and talent to Slovakia.

Prof. Stolarik heads the Chair of Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa, the only such institution in Canada and the USA. He is the first historian who ties together what happened with our ancestors and relatives over there and over here; how much Slovaks did for Slovakia and America; and often how little this was appreciated. It is the only complete history of why and how Slovaks came to North America, how they lived – mostly through poverty and hard labor – and how they helped each other by setting up religious, social and political associations that exist to this day. More than that, how they fought from the 1870s to today for the rights of Slovaks in Europe to live their own democratic lives, free from what was deliberate persecution by Hungarian, Czech, Soviet and some of their own internal institutions. Over which Slovakia and they have now triumphed.

They used their own resources. Today, ironically, the Slovak-oriented institutions in the Americas may depend heavily on support from the free Slovakia they helped create, and which that Slovakia sometimes did not appreciate. The book covers in detail just about every important institution in the Americas, such as the Slovak League of America, the Canadian Slovak League, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the National Slovak Society and the Slovak World Congress.

As well, it outlines the history of still-existing, still-important churches and fraternal-benefit societies that Slovaks stubbornly set up and supported over here, even against opposition. Struggles between the Catholic and Lutheran factions are explained well, and without bias. Political oppositions are brought up with just plain facts and not comment.

Included are the disruptions by Slovak Communist-oriented societies and media. These were not large until the Soviet domination of East Europe, after which the Czechoslovak government actively gave them financial and political support.

The book follows how the Communist systems and media in Slovak America and Canada have disappeared. Slovak religious institutions sometimes are weaker today, but they are still alive and important.

All of the things Prof. Stolarik writes about are checkable for academics, historians and researchers. He is meticulously careful to document his sources, using footnotes on almost every page. Some sources are his own interviews done during his academic research.

The book follows a modern trend to use the stories of real people in a general history. Readers will learn about many Stolarik family members. They fit. They were immigrants to the USA in the 19th centuries. Thento Canada AND the USA in later years. And returns and visits to Slovakia in the past and present.

This reviewer, and most other Slovaks, will almost immediately recognize how much Slovaks worked, advanced, thought, and helped each other in much the same way, because their own relatives did much the same.

The book should, and no doubt will, meet rigorous reviews. Many may not agree with the conclusions. But they will finally respond to something clearly Slovak, instead of the Czech, Austro-Hungarian political diatribes and other works still too common in libraries and stores.

This was a necessary book. Prof. Stolarik is to be congratulated.

Cost, however, is quite high (\$98.95 from the publisher, \$95.50 on Amazon.com).

It is written in English, but should be translated into other languages. For example, in Canada French. And in Slovakia, Slovak.

To learn more about this book or to order, go to amazon.com>Books>History>Europe>Slovakia: "Where is my Home? Slovak Immigration to North American



back edition, entitled The A to Z of Slovakia, in 2010.

On the stroke of midnight on 1 January 2013, the inhabitants of Slovakia celebrated a major milestone in their history: two decades of democratic government and personal freedom. This is so far the longest period of such rule in their history. This anniversary surpasses by a few months their only previous, generation-long, experience, namely in the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918–1938). The difference, of course, is that the Slovaks no longer share a state with another nation but run their own affairs.

Few expected that the eastern half that separated in 1993 from what was Czecho-Slovakia would make it successfully on its own; indeed many feared that this new state on the European political map would not be able to create a stable democracy or develop a modern economy. For a short period of time, in the early years, these fears did not seem unfounded. However, twenty years later, it is clear that Slovakia has laid to rest all political and economic uncertainties, successfully negotiated membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, and taken its place among the stable states in the international community. The historical survey explains how this happened and the entries identify the actors involved.

This updated third edition of the Historical Dictionary of Slovakia offers additional cross-referenced dictionary entries on the political, social, and economic development of the second Slovak Republic. It adds to the information found in the two previous editions by focusing on the political and economic transformations that have taken place and by describing the successes of the personalities in the arts, science, and sports that have attained international recognition. It has also retained the historical information necessary to understand the trajectory that brought the Slovak nation and other inhabitants of Slovakia to independence and the creation of the second Slovak Republic. It contains an expanded bibliography, identifying the most recent works in Western languages and the seminal publications in the Slovak language on various aspects of Slovakia's history and culture. It enables the scholar and the researcher access to the background and the role of most of the institutions and figures of contemporary Slovakia.

This third edition also retains the historical information that is found in the first and second editions. Despite being no longer a "new" state on the international scene, Slovakia still suffers misconceptions about its history. As a work of reference, this volume can indeed be a very effective tool to clear up misunderstandings.

Published by: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2014, ISBN: 978-0-8108-8029-0. To read more about this book or to order, go to amazon.com>Books>Education>Reference>Historical Dictionary of Slovakia by Stanislav J. Kirschbaum.



(L – R) Ryan Peters receiving his scholarship grant from Branch 493 with the Recording Secretary Val Vesely, mother Sherrie Peters, Ryan, and branch Financial Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder.



(L – R) Ryan Peters receiving his District 2 scholarship from President John Jurcenko.

District 2 Annual Meeting Includes Scholarship Award

At the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 Annual Meeting on October 27, 2013, FCSU Scholarship winner Ryan Peters of Branch 493 received a \$200 scholarship grant from District 2's Bishop Stephen Moyzes Scholarship Fund. He also received a \$50 college grant from Branch #493, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society in Chicago, IL. Ryan attends Purdue Calumet College in Hammond, IN, where he earned straight A's his first semester.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, Historical Dictionary of Slovakia, 3d edition, Lanham, MD

Scarecrow Press of The Rowan & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc., which publishes the series Historical Dictionaries, is pleased to announce the publication of the 3d edition of the Historical Dictionary of Slovakia by Stanislav J. Kirschbaum in the series Historical Dictionaries of Europe. The first edition was published in 1999 and the second in 2007 with a paper-



The twins held by great-grandparents Cecelia and Branch 553 President Joseph Petrasek. Overlooking the holiday joy are grandparents Roberta and District 10 President and Branch 553 Vice President Greg Petrasek.



Great Grandma Cecelia Petrasek with Georgia "the Peach" Victory



Great Grandpa Joe Petrasek, current Branch 553 President, holds "future branch president" William Victory

Branch 553 & District 10 Celebrate Twin Victories at Christmas

Akron, Ohio's Branch 553 and District 10 members welcomed their newest members William Robert Joseph and Georgia Jacqueline Cecelia Victory into our Society. The "Twin Victories" were born July 9, 2013 and soon after continued on their Slovak heritage journey as FCSU members – just in time for the Christmas holiday season!

- Submitted by Greg Petrasek



Sv. Mikulas Party Celebrated in Illinois

Four members of Branch 493 and one member of Branch 313 attended the Sv. Mikulas Party sponsored by the Czech & Slovak Genealogical Society of Illinois at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in suburban Westmont, IL on December 2, 2013. After a delicious family-style dinner, St. Nick, an angel and čert (the devil) visited to distribute gifts and lumps of coal to attendees.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493

Christmas Eve Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas eve "feast" of oplatky, mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppyseed and nutrolls. Food was prepared by members of the Radio Club, of which Henry Horvath is president. The first course (mushroom soup) was served by the monks. After the meal, entertainment was provided by Harmonia, with Branch 24's Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk as the featured singer. All members of the Abbey are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 24. Appropriately, many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Vilija, included an entire reserved table (40 places) for Branch 24 members, under the direction of Branch 24 President Bob Kopco.



Fr. Michael Brunovsky, Branch 24, helps serve the first course of soup.



This year's Vilija included an awesome raffle with plenty of fantastic baskets donated by various organizations, including the FCSU

Branch 45 Annual Meeting & Christmas Eve Dinner

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, held its annual meeting on December 1, 2013 - and then its Vigilia, or Christmas Eve Dinner on December 15, 2013. Both events took place at St. John Neopmucene Church in New York City.

- Submitted by Maria Jurasi, Branch 45 Financial Secretary



At the Christmas Eve Dinner on December 15, 2013, in St. John Nepomucene Church (L – R): Vladimir Pcolinsky, Bibiana Pcolinsky, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Anton Kucharovic, Helen Hlinka, Helen Brchnel, Milan Zakovic, Maria Zakovic, Jozef Korcak, Anna Korcak, Maria Jurasi, and Joseph Jurasi



Newly elected officers of the St. Matthew the Evangelist Society Branch 45 for 2014: (L – R) Antonia Krajkovic, Maria Zakovic, Anna Korcak, Jozef Korcak, Anton Kucharovic, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Father Stefan Chana, Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Helen Brchnel, Joseph Jurasi, Maria Jurasi, and Jan Zeman.

The Hamlet of Harichovce

Professor Michael Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.
University of Maryland University College

Over the last couple decades, many towns and villages in Slovakia have endeavored to record their history with the publication of a booklet. Often times this is done in conjunction with an anniversary associated with a settlement's founding date. Such was the case with Harichovce, a small village of about 1725 inhabitants, just a mile north of Spišská Nová Ves, in the Košice Region of central-eastern Slovakia. On the occasion of Harichovce's 745th anniversary, the village published a memory book, *Harichovce 745: 1268-2013*. Historian Doc. Ivan Chalupecký wrote much of the background material, with Viera Augustiňáková contributing some more recent information. I assisted in writing an English summary because of my ancestral ties to the village.

Family Background

My paternal grandmother (Julia Kovalčíková) was born in 1884 in Harichovce, and in 1903, she married my paternal grandfather (Anton Kopaničák) in the village church. Though born in Ruskinovce, he had moved to Harichovce after he found work as a shepherd through an advertisement in a newspaper, according to my Aunt Mary Malley (died 1990), who was born in Harichovce in 1904.

Dzedeo (grandfather) decided to make the trek to a new life in America, because according to Aunt Mary, "too many were dying and life was hard." Harichovce experienced a steady stream of emigration in this era and its population declined from 750 in 1900 to 677 in 1910. It appears from the documents that he left in a chain migration, for his sister had gone to America. Another relative Mária Kopaničáková from Harichovce came to America in 1903, and another possible relative, Jacob Kopanicsek (sp), had arrived at age 17. Dzedeo left the port of Fiume on the ship Slavonia on September 20, 1906, and reached the shores of Ellis Island on October 10; his wife and child followed him the next year.

Dzedeo died when I was just a six years old child and Baba died when I was just two years old, so I never could ask them about their former village. I first visited Harichovce in 1990 and met some long-lost relatives, and I have been going there regularly ever since then. So this summary of Harichovce's history is an attempt to explain more about one of my ancestral places of origin.

History of Harichovce

The village of Harichovce is located in the heart of the historic Spiš region of east-central Slovakia, in the present-day Košice administrative region.. It is just 4.4 km (2.73 miles) from Spišská Nová Ves away) and 9.6 km (5.96 miles) south of Levoča. Geographically, Harichovce lies in the valley of the Levoča Creek (Levočský potok), where the Ilišovce Creek (Ilišovský potok) empties into it. Situated at the junction of the Bearback Hills (Medvedie chrbty) with the central part of the Hornád River basin (Hornádska kotlina), the village lay along important historic trading routes connecting Levoča with other parts of Spiš and south to the Gemer region.

The first documented evidence of a settlement with a parish church dates from the year 1268. But the discovery of four archaeological objects shows that people settled the area as long ago as the early Roman era. With the establishment of a significant 9th century Great Moravian settlement in nearby Čingov, Harichovce undoubtedly was home to some of the early Slavs. But written sources point to a certain Waldemar as the founder of the first permanent settlement. As the founder of new settlements (šoltýs), Waldemar, moved German colonists to this territory, for King Bela IV of Hungary was attempting to repopulate the area after the devastating Mongol invasion had wreaked havoc in the region. By 1271, Harichovce was counted among the royal Spiš towns with certain rights, including special privileges such as mining rights. As a royal town, Harichovce could run itself independently of the Spiš district administrator (župan) and elect its own mayor and town council.

At the time of its founding, the town was called Baldmar, named after its founder, Waldemar. But like many places in Slovakia, Harichovce would have many other names during the Middle Ages, including Baldinazi (1313), the corrupted form of Baltzmary, as well as Paldmarii (1317), the German name, Palmesdorf (1328), and the Latin name, Villa Palmarum (1520). Harichovce lost its special position as a town after 1465, when the crown granted it to the estate of Spiš castle.

During the turbulent years of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries, Harichovce suffered from frequent attacks, looting and was burned down many times.

Adding to its troubles, a plague then devastated the village. Many of the original German inhabitants simply left, and many Slovaks and some Magyars moved into the area.

The spelling of Harichovce continued to change over the centuries. The Polish spelling of Harykocz appeared in the 17th century, and in 1786, it became Háríkowce, more similar to the current spelling. The Magyars called the village Harikóc or Pálmafalu. (Pálmafalu was



Church of the Immaculate Conception in Harichovce



(L - R) Dr. Mike Kopanic and daughters Milenka and Erika with Grondzak family



Harichovan performing in Rudnany, August 18, 2009

used in most official documents at the time of the mass migration to America.) By 1920, after Czechoslovak independence, the village name Harikowce was used. Not until 1927, did the current name of Harichovce stick. But it is useful to know these name changes for historical purposes, and if one is doing genealogical research.

Today Harichovce is a small village of around 1,813 inhabitants (2011). It has just a few small grocery stores, a grammar school, a sports stadium for soccer, and teams for both youth and adults. As early as 1913, the Magyars had put on theater performance at Christmas time in Hungarian, and after independence, the youth regularly staged plays in their native Slovak. The school principal, Juraj Stolz, assumed the lead in preserving folk culture. As a musician, he collected folk songs and put them to music. He organized a choir (spevácky krúžok) whose reputation led to a broadcast on Czechoslovak radio. Some of these traditions continued after the Second World War and a newly opened theater provided a venue for youth performances.

The village has tried to keep its rich folk traditions alive with the help of the local Matica slovenská branch and stages in the local dialect various performances and celebrations around themes such as Krstiny (Baptisms), Dožinky (Harvest festival), Fašengy (Mardi gras), Stavanie májov (Raising the maypole), Regrúti (Recruiting customs), Priadky (Spinning customs), Vianoce na dedine (Christmas in the village), and other customs. Leading the way in enacting these customs is a folklore group which originated in 1994, Harihovčan, founded by Anna Krompigelová with the assistance of Tibor Hrušovský and Štefan Glovičko. Interestingly, my distant cousin, Mária Grondžaková, belonged to the ensemble in these early years. The members have helped preserve and perform traditional village songs and I have enjoyed the privilege of seeing two of their performances: the Raising of the maypole in 1997, and Harihovčan's singing at the festival in Rudňany in August 2009. Harihovčan even recorded its own CD in 2013, entitled HARIHOVSKE DZIEFČATEČKA (Harichovce's Girls). One of the groups' biggest problems has been attracting the young, since high youth unemployment has sent many young people from eastern Slovakia to other towns and abroad in search of work.

Historically, the oldest and most treasured building in the village is the Church of the Immaculate Conception (kostol Nepoškvrneného počatia Panny Márie), which is also a National Historic Landmark and the church where my grandparents married. Although originally a 13th century Gothic style, it was rebuilt after a flood during 1763 - 1764 in the Baroque style. Colorful frescoes by artist Jozef Hanula adorn the ceiling and are pictured in the attached photos.

Today Harichovce is a small and charming village in the heart of the Spiš region, which many consider to be one of the most beautiful areas of Slovakia. For me, going there is like coming home.

Harichovce 745: 1268-2013. Doc. PhDr. Ivan Chalupecký, Mgr. Viera Augustiňáková, collaborator Prof. Michael Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D., *Harichovce 745: 1268-2013* (Harichovce, 2013), 68pp.

Interviews with Mary Malley, 1984-89.

Wikipedia contributors, "Harichovce," Wikipédia, slobodná encyklopédia. <http://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harichovce> (accessed January 5, 2014).

Ellis Island Ship Manifest, October 10, 1906: p. 69.

The website puts the population as having 1,815 inhabitants in 2010. Obec Harichovce. <http://www.harichovce.sk/> (Accessed January 6, 2014).

Feb Fraternal Event For Branch 24, 450, 553 & 855 Members!



Saturday, February 22, 2014
7:00pm

Monsters vs. Iowa Wild
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH



Special Offer Includes:

- **Discounted End Zone Tickets!!**
(\$24 game day value)
 - Non-members: \$18 per ticket
 - Members: deeper discount through your branch
- **Football Night Free Giveaway!**
(Joe Haden Bobblehead)

To get your branch discount and order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 216-668-7797
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Greg Petrusek, 330-398-1888
- Branch 855: Linda Kolesar, 440-886-0206



*Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch.
Contact your branch officer for details!!*

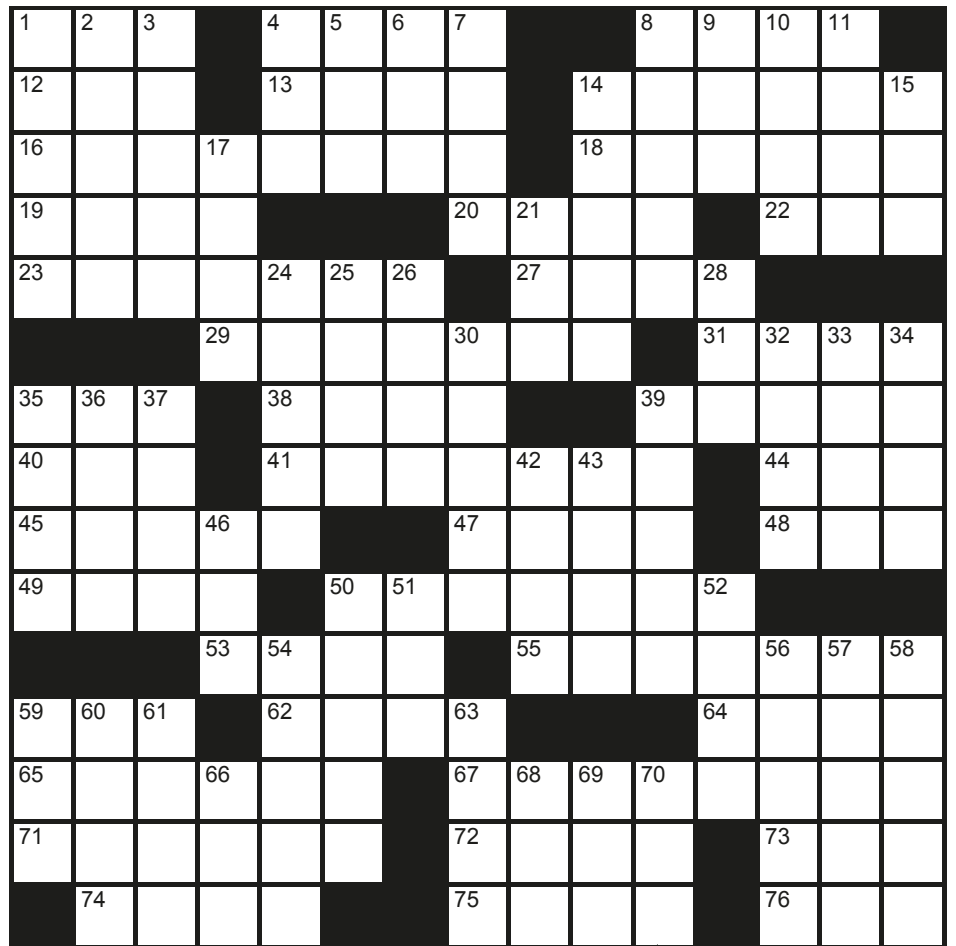
Deadline to order: Monday, January 27, 2014

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or by pick up at the Q's will call (located near box office), if arrangements are made in advance through your branch.

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Combat
- 4 Like some vases
- 8 Prompted
- 12 In the past
- 13 Venezuela copper center
- 14 Foray
- 16 Morning planets
- 18 Use a key
- 19 And others, for short
- 20 Desire
- 22 Maiden name
- 23 Brush up on a subject
- 27 Direction
- 29 Wishful thinker
- 31 Coarse file
- 35 "___ show time!"
- 38 Sicilian city
- 39 ___-upper
- 40 "Alley ___!"
- 41 Child of another, at times
- 44 Compass heading
- 45 Plays a horn
- 47 Town in Calif. or Italy
- 48 Hog haven
- 49 Choir part
- 50 Make believe
- 53 Scarlett's home
- 55 Contestant
- 59 Stomach muscles, briefly
- 62 Camping gear
- 64 Food thickener
- 65 Venue
- 67 Headquarters
- 71 Clodhopper
- 72 Retired
- 73 Human race
- 74 Farm females

Down

- 75 It can be barbed
- 76 Cockpit reading (Abbr.)
- 42 Carry
- 43 Paradise
- 46 Youngster
- 50 Primp
- 51 Dashed
- 52 Ho-hum
- 54 Book of maps
- 56 Terrestrial lizard
- 57 Twangy, as a voice
- 58 1545 council site
- 59 Priestly garb
- 60 Dullard
- 61 Harbor vessel
- 63 Defrost
- 66 Grow old
- 68 ___-Wan Kenobi
- 69 Sea (Fr.)
- 70 Dutch city

See Solution on Page 19

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 will hold a meeting on Tuesday January 21, 2014, at Kretzlers at 7pm to elect the delegates for the 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held in August 2014 in Philadelphia, PA. Anyone wishing to be a delegate for the convention should attend the meeting. To make reservations please call Joanne Lako 412 766 3222.

Fraternally,

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Marion Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, KJ, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, PA, held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 8 at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River St., Olyphant.

Officers for 2014 were elected as follows: President, Daniel Spegar; Vice-President, Gaza Mika; Secretary-Treasurer, William Spegar, Recording Secretary, William A. Nalevanko, and Auditors, Donna Mrocicka, Carol Spegar, Mary Ann Spegar and Florence M. Nalevanko.

Donations in the amount of \$6,500 were approved for distribution in 2013 to the following: La Salle Academy, Jessup, Pa.; Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, and the Mid Valley Senior Center, Olyphant, Pa.; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund, Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, Pa.; Valley Community Library, Peckville, Pa.; and, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., South Side Senior Center, and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, Pa.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast, to follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, Pa., on Sunday, June 23, 2014. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Finally, the officers and members of Branch 10 wish to extend best wishes to everyone for a joyful New Year!

William Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

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

vention to be held in August 2014.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 - DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Florence K, Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its Annual Meeting at 2PM on Sunday, January 19, 2014. The meeting will be held at Chippers Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St., Streator, IL.

At this meeting we will have election of branch officers for 2014 and election of delegates to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia in August 2014. There will be refreshments and a buffet after the meeting. All members are asked to attend.

Please make your reservations by calling Maria at (815) 672-6682 before January 16, 2014.

Maria Harcar, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

The December 27th meeting of the Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41KJ, has been postponed to Saturday, February 15, 2014. It will be held at 40 Dalton Rd, Yonkers, NY at 6:00PM.

At this meeting we will have the election of new officers. We also will be electing delegates for the upcoming 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Financial reports will be presented and suggested will be discussed, as well. We urge all members to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

Joanne Fialkovic, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

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

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

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

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

Lunch for members is complimentary. Guest cost is \$20.00. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br 89. Mail

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

Fraternally,

Michael P. Novak, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold a meeting on March 1, 2014, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian's. The meeting will be held at the St. Florian Formation Building, 4261 Rt. 981, P.O. Box 187, United, PA 15689. On the agenda: planning branch activities for 2014 and nomination and election of delegates to attend the 50th Quadrennial Convention in August 2014. All delegates must be present.

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

Fraternally,

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200, Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Officers and Board of Directors would like to wish ALL Officers, Employees, members, families, and friends a blessed, healthy, prosperous, happy New Year

We are looking forward to seeing you at the next scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 6th following the officers meeting which begins at 7:00 pm.

Blessings,

**Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary/
Treasurer**

BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 254 will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2014, at noon at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria Mall located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 16, 2014, at 10:00AM at the Church Hall of Christ Our Savior Parish (Holy Trinity). At this meeting, we will have our annual audit and also select a delegate for the upcoming Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in August. All members are urged to attend so we can plan our activities for the upcoming year.

We would like to extend our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all our members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Branch 290 will its next meeting at 7:30PM. Please try to attend, and call Joe for the location of the meeting at 732-469-5256.

Fraternally,

Joseph Minarovich, President

BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union

on Monday, February 17, 2014, at 6PM at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232. Anyone having questions or needing service or more insurance call the financial secretary at 570-645-4872, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312 - BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2014, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr, Latrobe, PA. On the agenda: election of branch officers and election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Aug 2014. We wish all FCSU members a very blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313 will be holding its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, February 15, 2014, at 11:00AM. The meeting will take place at the Mother of Sorrows Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. Delegates will be elected at this meeting for the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA in August 2014.

Joseph Bugel, President

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 382 is updating their files and looking for the following members:

Stephen Bonick, Nanette Contardi, Paul Crambo Sr., Ronald Crambo Jr., Tara M. Crambo, Christopher Czankner, Sarah M. Czankner, Jami Lyn Dougherty, Ryan J. Dougherty, Cheryl A. Glinsky, Thomas Hannis, Michael Kapacs, Mark Kosko, James T. Legg Jr., Michelene Malosh, Nicholas August McDonald, Henry Moeller, Bevin Monaghan, Colleen Monaghan, Todd Morgan, Dianne Parsons, Ann Polovitch, Joanne Rovon, Lynn M Schultz, Sarah Ann Scotchlas, Darlene M. Skrip, Charlene Strodoski, Erin Walsh.

If you are, or know any of these members, please contact:

John J. Slovenkai Sr.

Financial Secretary

FCSU Branch 382KJ

318 Fourteenth Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

18504-2512

John J. Slovenkai, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 425 - BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, Barberton, OH, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 16, 2014, at 1:00PM at the Slovak Society of Barberton, 887 West Tuscarawas, Barberton, OH. On the agenda: election of delegates to the FCSU 50th Quadrennial Convention being held in Philadelphia, PA, in August 2014. All members are invited to attend.

Fraternally,

**Jeannette Willis, Recording
Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 450 will be holding a meeting on Saturday February 15, 2014 at noon at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

West 54th Street, Parma Ohio 44129. (between Snow and Brookpark Roads).

We will be holding elections of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention held August of 2014 in Philadelphia, as well as election of branch officers at this meeting.

Lori Valencik, Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 will hold the first Lodge meeting of 2014 on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm.

The Branch will be discussing the upcoming convention and we will hold election of delegates to the convention. All bonafide members are urged to attend. Take an active roll in your branch attend the meeting and learn all the FCSU has to offer you and your family.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko
Recording/Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 581 - GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

Due to inclement weather, the December 8, 2013 meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, has been rescheduled to Sunday, March 2, 2014, at the Lake Park

Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Road, Hobart, IN, at 1:00PM. The agenda will include: Election of officers and the Election of Delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held August 23 - 27, 2014, in Philadelphia, PA. Anyone interested in being a delegate should call Ann at 219-947-2793 or George at 219-926-2410, or come to the meeting.

Fraternally,

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On January 19, 2014 at 2:30PM, Branch 682 will hold its first meeting of the new year. It will be held at MRL, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH. This is the former school building behind Holy Trinity Church. There will be discussion of the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention, including delegates. Please try to attend.

Thank you,

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 706 - ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Branch #706 will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, January 24, 2014, at 3:00pm at the home of Vice President, Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN. If you plan on attending, please call Barbara at 219-864-8251, so arrangements for refreshments can be made. Dinner will follow the meeting. On the agenda discussion

on insurance sales and new business will be discussed. If you have moved or know of a member that has moved; please send us their address so we may update our files.

At the meeting a discussion will be held about the upcoming FCSU Convention in August of 2014.

Barbara Fayta, Vice-President

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sun-

day, March 16, 2014, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday February 23 @ 1pm at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Egypt, PA. Election of delegates for the spring district meeting will take place. All are welcome to attend. God Bless and Happy New Year.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary



(L - R) Monsignor Peter Sturak, Honorary Consul Joseph Senko, and Bishop Milan Lach

Clergy From Sister City Visit Pittsburgh

Bishop Milan Lach from Presov and Monsignor Peter Sturak, Dean of the Catholic Theological Faculty at the University of Presov recently visited Pittsburgh, which has been the official sister city of Presov since 2001. Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul and Branch 254 Member, welcomed them both.

Young Jednotars Celebrate at Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club Christmas Party

The Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club is an organization founded by and for Slovak and Slovak-Americans in the greater Cleveland area to keep alive the cultural and artistic traditions of Slovakia. The current president is Johanna Oros, Branch 1 Member. The Dramatic Club held its annual Christmas Party at the banquet hall of Holy Spirit Church in Parma Heights, OH, this year on December 15, 2013. Many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union were in attendance including these young members (L - R) Jacob Chuba, Branch 450; Lily Halley, Branch 24; Emma Halley, Branch 24; (standing) Elias Strekal, Branch 24; Henry Strekal, Branch 24; Jessica Chuba, Branch 450; Lukas Scally, Branch 450; (kneeling) Victoria Oros, Branch 1; and John Chuba, Branch 450. Photo courtesy of Jana Chuba



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

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

Part 1 of the 2013

Part II to be published in

People



First Place – Elizabeth Debich
Leechburg, PA, Branch 823

“Mirror Photo”



Second Place – Sarah Garris
Matawan, NJ, Branch 746

“Underwater
Gymnastics”



Second Place – Melissa Garris
Matawan, NJ, Branch 746

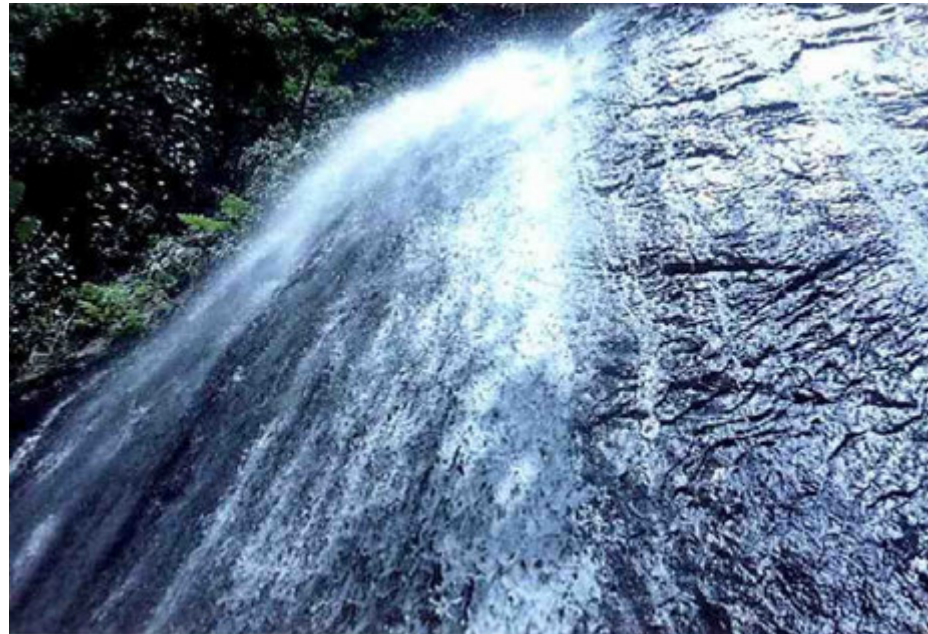
“Bella”

Nature or Environment



First Place – Rachel Chadwick
Mississauga, Ontario, Branch 785

“Calm before the Storm”



Second Place – Melissa Garris
Matawan, NJ, Branch 746

“Waterfall”



Third Place – Lindsay Tocik
Chilmark, MA, Branch 313

“Crab”

Photo Contest Results

the February 5 issue of Jednota

Travel or Destinations



First Place – Liam Joiner
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“Eiffel Tower”



Second Place – John Dzurec
Avon Lake, OH, Branch 374

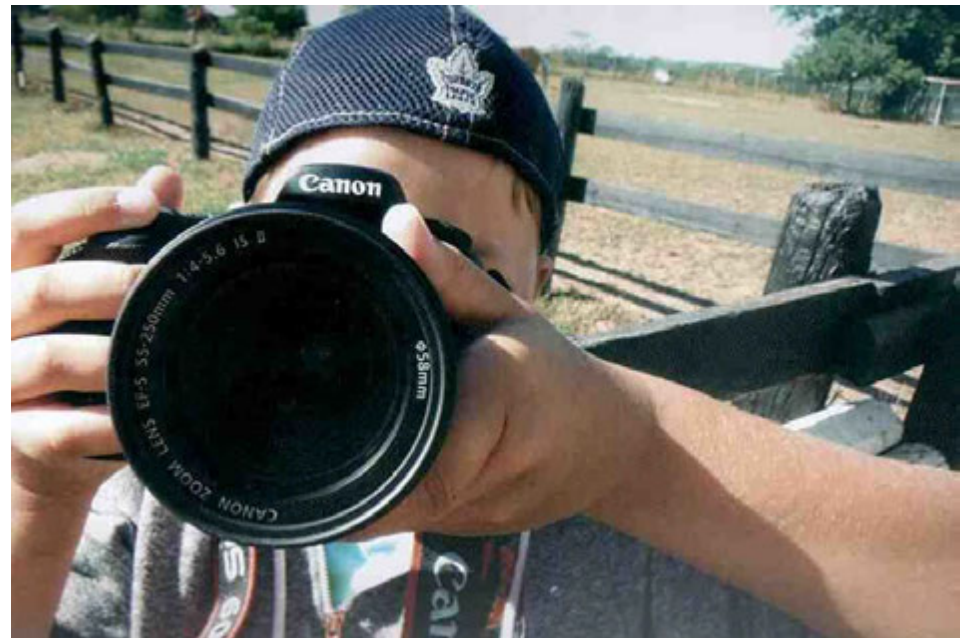
“Washington, D.C.”



Third Place – Sarah Garris
Matawan, NJ, Branch 746

“Magical Fireworks”

Overall Winner – Ages 12 - 18



Liam Joiner
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“Picture of the Photographer”

Overall Winner – Over 18



Maribeth Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

“Poison Dart Frog”

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Please note that this notice will be updated with additional information about district meeting dates. Branch 2 hosted the annual Fall/Winter meeting of the FCSU/Pittsburgh District on Sunday, December 15, 2013 at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. A Slovak Vilija dinner and Christmas Pageant followed.

District Officers for 2014 were elected at the business meeting, retaining the slate from 2013. Branch 38 will host the spring meeting at a date to be determined. Branch 254 will host the Fathers Day brunch on June 15. There was discussion of topics related to the 50th FCSU convention, to be held next August in Philadelphia. The district president was elected as the district delegate. The district will schedule a meeting for delegates in early summer. (The Call for Convention can be found at www.fcsu.com.)

The Christmas Eve Vilija (or Vigil) followed the meeting. The Vilija was open both to members and to the general public. The traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner included oplatky, mushroom soup, baked fish, pirohy, bobalky, and homemade nut and poppyseed rolls. Following dinner, the Pittsburgh Slovaks performed a typical Christmas pageant. There were songs and dances depicting winter traditions as practiced in the Slovakia of our ancestors. Jaslickari retold the story of the coming of the Christ Child from the viewpoint of the shepherds. Books on Slovak Christmas customs were for sale as well as hand-made straw ornaments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR DISTRICT

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

Fraternally,

Barbara Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District #10 will be holding the first meeting for 2014 on January 19, 2014 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 2:00 pm. All District 10 members are urged to attend this meeting.

We will be holding our election for the one delegate and one alternate to the FCSU 2014 Quadrennial Convention. We will also be discussing other issues concerning the upcoming convention. Your District Officers are interested in your ideas and concerns for district activities and convention issues. Please take an active role in Your District Organization and attend the meeting.

If you plan on attending this meeting please contact Linda Hanko at lhanko@neo.rr.com or call 330-706-0151. We need a headcount for refreshment.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

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

Carla Peshek, President



St. Nicolas gives gifts to all the children at the CBSC Christmas party, as the devil and an angel.



(L – R) Beata Beginova Fedoriuk (Branch 24), John Allen, Thomas Ivanec (Branch 24), Artem Fedoriuk (Branch 24), Angela Sedlack, and Sophia Fedoriuk (Branch 24) help with Christmas caroling.

Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities Celebrates Christmas 2013

Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities (CBSC), held their annual Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 7, 2013. The event was in the Activities Center of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Brecksville, OH. Marie Goliás is currently CBSC president and Branch 1 Member. Members, guests and friends – including many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) enjoyed an afternoon and evening of American and Slovak Christmas music and song, courtesy of the popular folk band Harmonia. Beata Begeniova-Fedoriuk, Branch 24, was the featured soloist. Along with tasty homemade delights such as sauerkraut and sausage soup, stuffed cabbage, pierogis, party goers enjoyed assorted party trays and a full array of delicious desserts. A very special appearance was made by St. Nicolas, along with the devil (čert) and an angel. In keeping with the tradition from Slovakia, all the children were invited to perform – say a poem or sing a song – for St. Nick and then each received a present of fruit and candies.

Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour

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

July 7 - 21, 2014



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THINK ABOUT IT!



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.



Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
002K	William A Hogan	089K	Susanne T Kebis	260K	Margaret Rita Lammens	484K	Rose M Vilcek
002K	Catherine Stone	102K	Eleanor B Salay	293K	Thomas C Stianche	581K	Christine A Whittaker
003K	Sharon C Weselenak	112K	Mary Ann F Oldham	326K	Mary Louise Clark	584K	John Robert Scerbak
003P	Joseph J Bozosi	153K	Mary E Massura	367K	Joan K Darcangelo	636K	Joseph J Cincala Jr
005P	Irene Horne	162K	Mary Ann Polink	380K	Robert E Pecharka	706K	Annette K Paprocki
016P	Veronica H Snopkowski	165K	Matilda D Marince	381K	George M Makely	731K	Charles Edward Wilson
019K	Joan M Somick	198P	Joseph E Fedorko	417K	John A Zakutney	735K	Anna A Mitchell
023K	Vivienne Marie Cotchen	199K	Louis A Smith	419K	Mary Ellen Adams	738K	John M Bolombi
024K	Andrew C Borsz	200K	Marianna M Lhote	456K	Bertha Lockey	743K	John M Novak
024K	Jeanne M Kozlowski	240P	John Olexovitch	456K	Gerald G Pollock	746K	George J Kowalski
055K	Mary M Gavalier	254K	Helen A Husava	456K	Pauline F Verost	857K	Rudolph S Cislak
060K	Richard Stephan	259K	Joseph M Repasky	484K	Ann M Solnosky		

*Processed through the month of December 2013

OBITUARIES

Michael G. Jacko, Ph D BRANCH 789 – Windsor, Ontario

It is with great sadness that Branch 789 Windsor, Ontario, announces the passing of its Vice President, Michael G. Jacko on October 11, 2013 at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI. His loving family was at his bedside.

Michael George Jacko was born on October 11, 1938, in Windsor, Ontario, to Juraj Jacko (Vranovske Dlhe) and Anna Murin (Sedliske) from villages in the Vranov District in Eastern Slovakia. Juraj had immigrated to Canada in 1927 and Anna and their daughter, Mary, followed him to Canada in 1937.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife Mary (nee Boldizar). They had celebrated their 50th Anniversary on June 8. He is also survived by his dearest daughter Marcy and husband Tim Namespetra and loving grandchildren Andrew, Adam and Sara. Sister, Mary Opsatnik passed away in 2005. Michael will be missed by his sister-in-law, Irene, and her husband Nestor Chyz and nephews Bradley and Mark Chyz. Michael was a special "ujo" to Pavol and Katka Tkac and their children. Michael was Krsny to Frank Varga, Jr. Cousins in Canada, the USA, and Slovakia are also grieving his loss.

Michael George Jacko graduated from Assumption College High School in 1956. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics and Chemistry (with Distinction) from Assumption University in 1961, and then PhD in Chemistry from the University of Windsor in 1964. After graduation, Dr. Jacko accepted a position as a research chemist with Imperial Oil in Sarnia, Ontario, specializing in gas chromatography. He then accepted an offer from Bendix Research Laboratories in Southfield, MI, to join their Research and Development team as a principal chemist in the area of friction materials. During his professional career, he secured 9 patents and authored many publications. His research led to his greatest achievement which was the formulation of "asbestos free brakes." Michael retired from Bendix Research/Honeywell after a 30 year career in 1997, leaving a valuable legacy to the scientific study of friction materials. His knowledge and expertise have been acknowledged throughout the scientific world. Upon retirement, Michael joined the Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Foundation (RETAF), an organization which provides small businesses (500 employees or fewer) in Michigan with free pollution prevention and energy efficiency assessments.

Michael was a 45-year member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and a member of the Chemical Society of America. During his studies, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy and attained the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in 1966 after serving eight years.

Dr. Jacko was a lifelong member of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, Windsor. As a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 789, he served as vice president for more than 20 years. He also was a frequent guest host of the Slovak Radio Hour (99.1FM) for 19 years, and a strong supporter and promoter of Slovak functions, volunteering his services over the past 40 years.

An avid photographer, Michael and his camera were busy at every social event, Slovak and non-Slovak, and also while traveling extensively with his wife Mary after his retirement, visiting many historic landmarks in the US, Europe, the Holy Land, and Egypt. They had many trips to Slovakia to visit family and friends.

Visitation was held at the Windsor Chapel Funeral Home in Windsor, Ontario, on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. Anna Bagin offered a farewell on behalf of Branch 789, and the Slovak Radio Hour was in Slovak. Fr. Christopher Bordeaux and Cyril Bagin offered a Memorial Prayer Service that same evening at the funeral home. These acts were most appreciated by the family. The entire staff of Windsor Chapel offered guidance, support, and careful attention to detail and the family is most grateful.

The funeral Mass took place on October 17, 2013 at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church in Windsor. Fr. Christopher Bordeaux offered the Mass of Resurrection and Father Benja-



min Kosnac of Sts Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, Sterling Hts, MI, concelebrated. The family expresses thanks to readers who recited Psalms and Scripture: Sara NamesPetra (granddaughter), Katarina Tkac (cousin). Thanks go out to the pallbearers, Andrew and Adam NamesPetra (grandsons), Brad and Mark Chyz (nephews), Pavol Tkac (cousin), Frank Varga, Jr. (godson) and to the organist-soloist Henrietta Cambala Hulay, the community of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, and the entire congregation for their participation during the Mass. Daughter Marcy delivered a eulogy of her father's legacy prior to the closing services.

Interment followed at St. Alphonsus Cemetery. Graveside prayers in English were offered by Fr. Chris. Fr. Kosnac offered Farewell prayers in Slovak.

Mary Jacko and her family also take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to their relatives and friends for all of the loving support and acts of kindness shown to them during their darkest days following the passing of a beloved husband, dear father, and proud dzedo. The beautiful floral tributes, mass offerings, memorial donations, sympathy cards, and gifts of food and pastries were very much appreciated. They thank the many people from near and far who paid their respects during the prayer service and visitation at Windsor Chapel. To everyone who came to Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church for the Mass of Resurrection, they again give thanks.

A memorial luncheon was prepared by and served at the Caboto Club of Windsor.

Michael G. Jacko was an honorable gentleman and scholar. He will be missed by all who knew him. Thanks, Mike, for the memories! Rest in peace!

Branch 670 Accepting Application for its 2014 Scholarship Program



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

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

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

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 28, 2014

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

OBITUARIES

ETHEL K. FEDORCZAK BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

Ethel K. Fedorczak, 84, of Shrub Oak, NY, died peacefully on April 22, 2013. She was born and raised in Yonkers, NY and graduated from Commerce High School. She is preceded in death by her husband, Wallace Fedorczak and her parents, George and Anna Kolesar. She is survived by her loving daughters Ann Marie DeMaria and husband, George and Carol Sasso and husband Joseph. She was the beloved grandmother of Anthony, Jennifer, Carina, and Joseph, Jr. Dear sister of the late Mary, George, John, Anna, Edward, William and Eleanor. She is survived by her sister, Lucy. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Visiting hours were Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 2-4 and 7-9pm at Clark Funeral Home, Yorktown Heights, NY. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday April 25, 2013, at 11:15am, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Shrub Oak, NY. Interment followed at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Putnam Valley, NY.

DONALD A. LAKATOSH BRANCH 175 – READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Donald A. Lakatos, born in Reading, PA, passed away at his Arlington, VA, home on Sunday, November 17, 2013, at the age of 78.

Born May 25th 1935, he was predeceased by his parents Andrew and Sophia (Check) Lakatos and a brother, Lawrence.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marie Lakatos; a son, Donald (Kara) Lakatos, Knoxville, TN; and a daughter, Laurie Ann Lakatos, of Arlington, VA. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Andrew, William, Emma and Robert, Knoxville, TN; and his siblings: Joan Magee, Woodbury, NJ; Irene Lakatos, Reading; Thomas Lakatos, Indianapolis, IN; and Rita (Steve) Lukes, Douglassville, PA. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

After graduating in 1953 from the former Reading Catholic High School, Donald served in the Air Force for nine years. He was stationed at various facilities in the United States and included tours of duty in France and Germany. After the military, he was a civil servant in the US Army headquarters at The Pentagon for twenty years, retiring in 1990.

Donald was member of The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) Branch 175, and the Catholic War Veterans, Post 1652. He also worked as a realtor for Cardinal and Weichert Realty Companies in Arlington.

A visitation was held at The Murphy Funeral Home, 4510 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA, on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, from 5-7 p.m. Donald served as an usher at Saint Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington, Virginia, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, November 21, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

An additional visitation and prayer service was held in the chapel at Gethsemane Cemetery, Chapel of the Resurrection, Laurel Dale, PA on Friday, November 22, 2013,



at 10:00 a.m. followed by burial at the cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to The Murphy Funeral Home, Arlington, VA, and Denger Funeral Home, Birdsboro, PA.

- Submitted by Mrs. Marie Lakatos

JOHN A. ZAKUTNEY BRANCH 417 – PHILIPSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

John A. "Jack" Zakutney, 82, of Philipsburg, PA, died Monday, Oct. 21, 2013 at his residence.

Born Feb. 5, 1931 in Punxsutawney, he was the son of the late Stephen and Elizabeth (Susko) Zakutney.

He attended the Houtzdale High School and graduated in 1948. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Cannon University and his Master's degree from Penn State University.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War.

Mr. Zakutney was a teacher at the Philipsburg Osceola High School and retired in 1992 after 39 years of service.

He was a parishioner of the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Philipsburg. He was a church organist for 60 years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 8701, Morrisdale, and Pope John Paul II 4th Degree Assembly No. 952, Clearfield. He was also a member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. He enjoyed playing golf and was an avid reader.

On June 8, 1963 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Osceola Mills, he married Carol A. (Visnofsky) Zakutney. She survives of Philipsburg.

He's survived by a daughter, Stephanie A. Showers of Philipsburg; a daughter-in-law, Christine Zakutney of Wall Township, NJ; three grandchildren, Ryan Showers, Abby Showers and Emma Zakutney; and one step-grandson, Matt Ford. He's also survived by a sister, Sister Barbara Ann Zakutney of Erie.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Steven J. Zakutney, on July 1, 2008; a granddaughter, Dana Zakutney, on July 1, 2013; two brothers, Edward and Bernard Zakutney; and one infant sister, Elizabeth Ann Zakutney.

Friends were received from 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Thursday, October 24, 2013, at the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. that same Thursday at the church with Fr. Robert J. Kelly as celebrant. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Brisbin.

- Submitted by Rosemary Deliman,
Branch 417 Secretary/Treasurer

MARIE ANN GRYCZKO BRANCH 419 - WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Marie Ann Gryczko, of Wilkes-Barre passed away peacefully Tuesday, December 10, 2013, while in the care of the Celtic Hospice Facility, Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, she was a daughter of the late Stephen and Anna Molitoris Gasper. She attended Sacred Heart Slovak School and James M. Coughlin High School.



After leaving school, Marie was employed by the Penn Metal Co. and Prestige Shoe Co., both of Wilkes-Barre. While holding her job, Maria attended Bradford Beauty School. She graduated and opened Marie's Beauty Salon. She was in business for 40-plus years.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Slovak Parish, until the closure of the church. She was currently a member of St. Andre Bessette Parish, Wilkes-Barre. She was the president of the St. Stephen the Martyr, First Slovak Catholic Union (Jednota), and a past volunteer at John Heinz Rehabilitation Center.

Marie loved to dance, especially to polka music. She enjoyed going to local bingo and most recently the casino with her friends.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 26 years, Andrew Gryczko, who passed unexpectedly in 1974; and her sister, Theresa Firda.

She is survived by her son, David and his wife, Bella, Wilkes-Barre; sister, Ann Altavilla, Plains Township; brother, John Gasper and his wife, Christine, Indiana; and a granddaughter, Lisa Benkowski, Kingston; along with several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Marie's funeral will be held at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, December 14, 2014, from Yanaitis Funeral Home Inc., 55 Stark St., Plains Township.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 666 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre. The Mass will be officiated by her nephew, the Rev. Philip Altavilla.

Interment will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Dallas.

AGNES GHILINO BRANCH 514 – PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY

Agnes Helen Ghilino (nee Bilanski), 86 of Perth Amboy, passed away on Saturday, November 30, 2013 at her residence with her family by her side. Agnes was born in Hopelawn and lived all her life in Perth Amboy. She was employed by the Perth Amboy Board of Education as a Cafeteria worker at the High School for over 10 years. She retired in 1994. Agnes was a parishioner of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish at Holy Trinity Church. Her enjoyment was taking trips to Atlantic City and being with her grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her loving parents John and Anna (nee Telep) and dear sister of Stephen Bilanski. She is survived by her devoted husband of 65 years Victor Ghilino; beloved mother of Diane and her husband Herman Rozing and Ronald and his wife Mary Ghilino; sister of Dolores Woolley; adored grandmother of Jessica, Andrew, John and Katherine "Katie".

Friends and family were received on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at the Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home, Perth Amboy, NJ. A Funeral Mass was held at the Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish at Holy Trinity Church at 10 am, on Wednesday, Decem-

ber 4, 2013. Burial followed at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

JOHN S. NISKY BRANCH 754 – ELYRIA, OHIO

John S. Nisky, 96, long-time resident of Wickliffe, OH, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky surrounded by his family. Most recently, he resided at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky.

Mr. Nisky was born April 14, 1917, in Monessen, PA. He served as a Corporal in World War II in the U.S. Army's Alaskan Communications Corps. He was also part of the Civilian Conservation Corps prior to the war. After the military, he worked as a miner in the coal fields near his home town of Lore City, OH. Later, he relocated to Cleveland, working at TRW for a number of years before joining the US Postal Service, from which he retired after 25 years of service. (He was well known for his train whistle and bird calls). John lived in Wickliffe for 56 years. He was an avid gardener and craftsman known for his many wood-working, weaving and other projects, the fruits of which he generously shared with family and friends. He was also an active member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and proud of his Slovak heritage.

He was the loving father of John (Nancy) of Mentor (now North Ridgeville) and Monica (Mike) Kelley of Concord; devoted grandfather of John (Brooke) and Sarah Nisky and Nick (Joanna), Jessica and Ryan Kelley; and great-grandfather of Sylvia, Nick, Clementine, Beatrice and Alyssa; brother of Paul, Margaret Schuetz, Eleanor Gluvna and Steve. He was also a cherished uncle to numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Nisky was preceded in death by his beloved wife Sue (nee Kavulich), parents Stephen and Mary (nee Petro), and siblings Anna Reese, Mary Rocker and Pauline Czaplicki.

Friends called on Friday, December 13, 2013, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m at Orlando-Donsante Funeral Home, Wickliffe, OH. The funeral Mass was held on Saturday, December 14, 2013, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Wickliffe, OH. A Christian burial immediately followed at Sts. Peter & Paul Cemetery in Lore City, OH.



HELEN MARY (GASPAROVIC) HORKY BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Helen Mary (Gasparovic) Horky, age 88, of Carmel, IN, formerly of Lennon, Flint, and Burton, MI, passed away at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and

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

OBITUARIES

Tim Eldon, in Carmel, IN, after a long, brave battle with Alzheimer's. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at 12 Noon, Monday, November 11, 2013, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Davison, MI, Rev. Fr. Carl Simon celebrant. Burial at St. John Catholic Cemetery. Visitation was 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 2013, at Allen Funeral Home, Davison, MI. A Rosary was prayed at 7:00 p.m., Sunday at the funeral home.

Helen was born on September 13, 1925, with identical twin sister, Catherine Hodges (who preceded her in death), in Akron, OH. The family moved to Lennon, MI. Helen graduated from Owosso High School in 1944. She and her twin then moved to Washington, D.C. to work at the Pentagon from 1944 through 1946. Helen married Stanley J. Horky on November 29, 1949, and stayed at home to raise her children. She returned to work, working first at the City of Flint Treasurer's Office, and then culminating her employment at the Social Work Department at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, MI, where she retired after 20 years of dedicated service. She was so well-loved and well-known that even the hospital's CEO attended her retirement tea. Helen also actively participated/ volunteered throughout the years as a homeroom mother at Lewis Elementary School, where her children attended, contributed numerous hours volunteering at the following organizations: Parent-Teacher Association of Flint, MI, Cub Scouts of America (Cub Scout Leader), United Way of Genesee & Lapeer Counties,

American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, and the Genesee County Democratic Party. Helen was the proud mother of five children, 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. In addition, numerous neighborhood children from the Arizona Avenue area, to whom she provided food, kindness, a listening ear, a warm heart and a warm place to stay in time of need, will always consider her "Mom Horky". Helen was also an excellent cook and baker, teaching her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren wonderful recipes to hand down from generation to generation, especially the Annual "Apple Strudel Weekend", where all participated, no matter how small. We will all miss her warm smile, kind heart, and hugs. Helen was also an avid shuffleboard player, loved dancing and especially singing.

Preceding her in death are her husband, Stanley; her parents, Emerick and Rosalia Gasparovic; her twin sister, Catherine Hodges; sister, Mary Gasparovic, who died in childhood; brothers, Emerick, Joseph, Stephen, Anthony and Michael Gasparovic; father and mother-in-law, Frank and Antonia Horky. Surviving children are Susan (Tim) Eldon of Carmel, IN, Stan (Cindy) Horky of Oxford, MI, Richard Horky (and partner Lucille Woodard) of Flint, MI, Reginald Horky (and partner Carla Carrado) of Scottsdale, AZ, and Patricia (Mark) Scott of Flint, MI. Surviving grandchildren are: Erik (Melanie) Bond, James L. Bond, Karim Eldon, Elisa (Dwayne) Noaker, Reginald Horky II, Kimberly Lutze, Stan (Jaime) Harper, Phillip Horky, Andrea (Justin) Timm, Caitlan Scott,

Richard Horky, and Frank (Dana) Horky. Surviving great-grandchildren are Selena Johnson, Maximus Bond, Julian Noaker, Aria Helen Noaker, Lydia Inge Noaker, Jackson and Sarah Harper, Miranda Rose Pray, Ryan Horky, Rebecca Helen Horky, Angelus Horky, Xander Horky, Janessa Horky, Frank Jason Nichols, and Sarah Lutze. Surviving siblings are: Frances Joseph of Los Angeles, CA, Amelia Winemiller of Columbus, OH, and Clara Gasparovic of Bronx, NY. Also surviving is long-time special friend to Helen and family members, Gerald Carlson; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Helen had a beautiful soul and everyone that met her, loved her. She will be sorely missed by all the lives she has touched throughout the years. The family would like to especially thank the "angels" from St. Vincent Hospice of Indianapolis, IN who so lovingly cared for Helen during her illness, especially Sister Cathy Robinson, R.N., Kathy Spears, R.N., Worth Hartman, Chaplain, Carol Stout, Social Worker, Dr. Emily Giesel, volunteer Dottie Davis, and assistants Ashian Hicks and Fonda Robinson, both of whom had a gentle, magical touch to calm her. Also a special thanks to Barbara Greer, CNA; Senior Home Companion; and SarahCare of Indianapolis, all of whom provided wonderful care for Helen.

**IRENE STANCIK
BRANCH 701 -
VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA**

Irene Martha Filo Stancik, 92, of Parks Twp, PA, passed away Friday, Nov 22, 2013, at Concordia Good Samaritan Hospice, Cabot PA. Born December 10, 1920, in Parks Twp, she was the daughter of Thomas Matthias Filo, Sr. and Anna Mura Filo. Her mother died on her 1st birthday and she was raised by her stepmother, Maria (Dinga) Filo. She graduated from Vandergrift High School in 1938 and worked in her father's



grocery business (Filo's Market) as a bookkeeper and clerk and at Myer's Print Shop as a typesetter and press operator. She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), serving as an insurance policy recommender and representing the organization as an officer in the Monsignor Tiso District and as a delegate at several national conventions.

Irene spoke and wrote the Slovak language fluently and loved the traditions of polka music, kolace, and Christmas Eve "Vilia". She played the piano and enjoyed classical music, crocheting, embroidering, flower and vegetable gardening, and traveling. Though she had many hobbies and interests the core of her life consisted of family, church, and her great faith. She will be most remembered as a caring, generous, and loving mother with a special devotion to the Mass and the Rosary.

Irene was pre-deceased by her husband, Julius Michael Stancik in May 2002 and six sisters and two brothers: Stephanie (Joseph) Kocis, Mary (George) Firek, Helen (James) Rimel, Margaret (Edward) Pacuch, Eleanor (Arthur) Stemplinski, Amelia (Daniel) Shaw, Thomas Matthias Filo, Jr. (Myrtle) and Augustine John Filo. She is survived by daughter Juliana Stancik (Gilpin Twp), sons John Stancik (Parks Twp) and Kevin (Kathleen) Stancik of New Braunfels, Texas and three grandchildren Sarah, Kyle, and Brian Stancik, all of Texas, sister-in-law Joan (Andring) Filo of Virginia Beach, sister-in-law Mary Ann (Stancik) Steffanina of Kepple Hill and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was at Brady-Curran Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., Vandergrift, PA on Monday, November 25, 2013, from 2-4 and 6-8 pm, with the Rosary at 7pm. A Tridentine (Latin) Requiem High Mass was celebrated at 11 am Tuesday, November 26, 2013, at St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church (Holy Wisdom Parish), Pittsburgh (North Side), PA, celebrated by Rev. James W. Dolan, Pittsburgh Diocese. Burial followed at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery in Lower Burrell.

- Submitted by Kevin Stancik



(L - R) Front row: (L - R) Carol LaDue, Nelson LaDue, Merton House Cook Lorraine Kelley, Make a Difference Day Coordinator Eileen Wilson, and John Golias. Back row: (L - R) Joseph Goda, Judith Salamon, and John Tkacik.

FCSU Honors National 2013 You Can Make a Difference Day

Once again, the following "stepped up to the plate" and through their generous donations were able to "Make a Difference" in the lives of the Thomas Merton Center guests. The Center serves men, women, and children of Greater Bridgeport, CT. Its mission is to provide a loving, safe, and hope-filled community which responds to the needs of its guests and respects the dignity of each person.

In honor of National Make A Difference Day in October 2013, members of the First Catholic Slovak Union - together with other fraternal organizations including the Slovak Catholic Sokols, the National Slovak Society, the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, and the 1st Plavecky Society of the Holy Trinity - in the Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, assisted with the preparation and serving of the luncheon menu at the Center. Eileen Wilson, Coordinator, also presented Center Director Mark Grasso, with checks amounting to \$600.00 which will be used toward future breakfasts and luncheons for the guests. Mark, in turn, thanked all of the Slovak societies, including the First Catholic Slovak Union, on behalf of the Thomas Merton Center for their continued help and donations.

- Submitted by Eileen Wilson, FCSU Branch 19

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

W	A	R		M	I	N	G		C	U	E	D				
A	G	O		A	R	O	A		S	O	R	T	I	E		
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(L-R)
Andrew
Li, Jacob
Marks,
Jefferson
Morris,
Quentin
Bergey,
Johnny
Rishel



The Kings and their Camel Boys Sing "Gloria" with the host of angels. First Row, (L-R) Camel Boy, Ben Crane; King, Jack Marks; Camel Boy, Parth Tiwari; King, Ben Friscia; Camel Boy, Jack Friedenber



Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak-American community turn out to support George as he receives his honor, including: (L – R) Branch 450 President and President of the Zemplin Club of Cleveland George Carny, Ken Javor, Christine Javor, Branch 24 Member Alex Fedoriouk, Branch 24 Member Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, honoree George Terbrack, Cleveland-Bratislava Recording Secretary Eileen Sotak, Cleveland-Bratislava Member Ed Ference, Branch 1 and Cleveland-Bratislava Member Joseph Hornak, Dolores Hornak, First Catholic Slovak Union National President Andrew M. Rajec, and Cleveland-Bratislava Member Denise Ivan

George Terbrack Honored by American Nationalities Movement of Ohio

On the afternoon of November 30, 2013, local Slovak activist George Terbrack was honored at the annual Christmas party luncheon of the American Nationalities Movement of Ohio. The organization was founded by the Hon. Ralph J. Perk, former Mayor of Cleveland (1971-77). The current President is Judge Ralph J. Perk, Jr. Honorary President, the Hon. George V. Voinovich, former Mayor of Cleveland (1980-88), Governor of Ohio (1990-98), and U.S. Senator (1999- 2011) introduced the honoree, George Terbrack, who was applauded for his contributions and dedication to his Slovak heritage and preserving and sharing the cultural history of Slovakia throughout the Greater Cleveland area. George was particularly lauded for his extensive work with the Slovak Gardens, serving as President of the Slovak Garden Association and Executive Board Trustee of the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation from 2002 – 2013 and most recently successfully relocating the monument of Milan Ratislav Stefanki to the Gardens in September of 2013. George also has been active in many local organizations, including Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities, where he is a current member and served as Vice President from 1998 – 2003. George also helps curate the First Catholic Slovak Union's Home Office Museum.

Christmas Pageant at SS Cyril & Methodius in Danville, PA

Saint Cyril Academy Preschool and Kindergarten in Danville recently presented their annual Christmas Pageant in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius this past December. Shepherds, Kings and a host of angels aged three to five years old celebrated the birth of Christ. The pageant was followed by a reception in the cafeteria. Saint Cyril Academy Preschool and Kindergarten is sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.

11th Consular Tour to Slovakia Planned for 2014



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

The tour will include visits to the three largest cities in Slovakia: Bratislava, the capital city; Kosice, named the EU's 2013 Culture Capital; and Presov, the sister city of Pittsburgh. The tour also will include visits to Vienna, castles, churches, shrines, and two wine tastings. An overnight stay at the famous spa, Trenčianske

Teplice, where you can relax with some health treatments, is included. We also will have meetings with several dignitaries. Our tour is the best dollar value of all the

Slovak tours from the U.S. at \$3,599.

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



(L - R) Robert Kristofik, President of the Michigan District, administers the oath of office to the newly re-elected officers of Branch 743: Joseph Rimarcik - President and Secretary; Milan Straka - Chairman Auditors; Daniela Grisak - Auditor; Jozef Kovac - Auditor; and Anna Magusin - Treasurer.

Young members of Branch 743 provide entertainment during the meeting.



Dec Meeting of Branch 743

Branch 743 held a meeting at the St. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan on 12-1-13, during which officers for the branch were elected.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, FCSU Director Region 7

Address Changes?

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

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING FRIDAY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2013 RENASSIANCE CLEVELAND HOTEL, CLEVELAND, OHIO

FIRST SESSION:

Friday, September 20, 2013

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the National Chaplain, Father Thomas Nasta, to offer the opening prayer.

ANTHEMS:

The President led the singing of the national anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:

Rev. Thomas Nasta	National Chaplain
Andrew Rajec	President
Andrew Harcar, Sr.	Vice President
Kenneth Arendt	Executive Secretary
George Matta	Treasurer
Karen Hunka	Chairman of Auditors
Susan Ondrejco	Fraternal Activities Director (Excused)
Gary Matta	General Counsel
Joseph Minarovich	Regional Director, Region 1
Damian Nasta	Regional Director, Region 2 (Excused)
Carl Ungvarsky	Regional Director, Region 3
James Marmol	Regional Director, Region 4
Regis Brekosky	Regional Director, Region 5
Henry Hassay	Regional Director, Region 6
Rudolph Bernath	Regional Director, Region 7
Milos Mitro	Regional Director, Region 8

All present and accounted.

READING THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary read the Call to the Quarterly September 20-21, 2013 Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 2013:

A motion was made by Father Thomas Nasta and seconded by James Marmol to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of June 22, 2013, as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by James Marmol to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, at the invitation of the President, presented his report to the Board of Directors. A copy of his report was distributed to each Board Member. During and after his presentation, Mr. White answered the Board of Directors' questions.

The President led an extensive review of our current annuity rates and with the recommendation of the Executive Committee, it was decided to have the rates remain the same.

The President ask Edward DePersis, our Financial Consultant from Bruce and DePersis, to review the guarantee rate of our old and current annuity policies and report back to the Board.

The President reviewed the interest rates paid on our Branch Agreements and stated there would be an adjustment in interest paid to non-branches.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President read his report to the Board of Directors. The report will be printed in the Jednota newspaper.

Scholarships

The Executive Secretary stated the applications for the Jednota Benevolent Foundation Scholarship have been mailed to the branch officers and are available on our website, at the home office, and printed in the newspaper. The deadline this year is October 28, 2013.

Fraternal

The President announced there would not be any joint events with the Slovak Catholic Sokol, but we will continue pursuing dates for 2014.

The President stated the National Picnic held at Frogbridge, New Jersey was very successful and an excellent venue for our members. Everyone had a great time; the food was good and there was a wide variety of activities to enjoy.

2014 Convention

The President, the Executive Secretary, and the Administrative Assistant went to Philadelphia to make the convention arrangements with the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel. While in Philadelphia, they met Father Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, and Damian Nasta, Regional Director. The contract with the hotel was signed, meeting rooms were assigned, and meals were discussed. The President, Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant met with the hotel staff. They also had a meeting with the Convention Bureau to obtain information on sites and tours for the delegates. Arrangements were also made for a river cruise for our delegates. The President, Executive Secretary, and Administrative Assistant were able to visit the Cathedral-Basilica, which is across the street from the hotel. They also visited St. Agnes-St. John Nepomocene Church, the only remaining Slovak parish in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and met with the pastor.

The Executive Secretary stated the first letter is ready to be sent to the branches that qualify stating their estimated delegate count and the final letter which will be based on membership as of February 1, 2014 will be sent the first week in February 2014.

HOME OFFICE REPAIRS:

The President updated the Board of Directors on the problem with the windows leaking on all three floors of the Home Office in Independence, Ohio, causing interior damage. The President stated an expert has been hired to examine the problem and make recommendations on solving the issue. The President further stated we are in the process of receiving a second opinion on the project. The Board will be kept informed of the progress. The initial estimate was over \$200,000.00.

The President stated he visited Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania, and reported that the Printery building is in need of caulking repair.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned to celebrate Mass with Father Thomas Nasta and to have lunch.

SECOND SESSION:

Friday, September 20, 2013

The President introduced Michael Vary, Jr., our representative for UBS Financial Services, Inc., and he gave a very extensive report. Mr. Vary answered all the Board's questions.

JEDNOTA ESTATES MONUMENT PROJECT:

The President, along with Regional Director, James Marmol, led a review on the Monument Project located on Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania. They presented a review of the preliminary plans and stated they are ready to hire a Contractor. The initial quote was too expensive and changes are being made.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 2013:

Secretary Arendt presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2013. After his report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2013 second quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper. Thus far, 2013 has shown records in assets and surplus.

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors for its review of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

continued on page 22

Board of Director Minutes

continued from page 21

Portfolio Custodian

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. Everything was found to be in order and the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The Treasurer, George Matta, presented his report and answered all the Board's questions.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed the sales production by Districts and also by General Agents and Independent Agents and answered all the Board's questions.

The Vice President updated the Board on the recruiting process for Independent Agents to sell our products. He informed the Board we already have 170 Independent and General Agents.

The Vice President further led a discussion regarding seminars for 2013 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their regions. He also stated he is beginning to schedule seminars for 2014.

The Vice President stated all the final arrangements have been made for the Membership Meet to be held in November 9-16, 2013 on the cruise ship the Crown Princess. He said 83 members have signed up.

The Vice President reviewed the "final expense policy" to be offered to our members. The Executive Secretary stated this would not be a guarantee issue, but would be handled with expedited underwriting. The Program should be in place by the end of the year.

INVESTMENT UPDATE:

The President introduced Christopher Welker, Chief Operating Officer, and Craig Ruch, Chief Executive Officer, with Matlin Patterson. They gave an extensive report on our portfolio and answered the Board's questions.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka, presented the 2013 Second Quarter Auditors' Report and answered the Board's questions. The Chairman stated that the internal auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything in order.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the directives adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, comprised of professional educators, and stated we are preparing the scholarship applications for 2014. The applications will be available on the website, through branch officers, or by calling the home office. The Jednota newspaper will also publish the scholarship information.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:

Jednota, Inc.

The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions.

Jednota Properties, Inc.

The President of Jednota Properties, Inc., Regis Brekosky, presented his report to the Board of Directors and answered all the Board's questions.

The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President also mentioned that the new LED Digital sign we want added to the Home Office property is still on hold. The President stated he is still waiting for the City of Independence to agree and issue a permit to install the new sign. The President stated he has attended 2 city meetings and each time the subject has been tabled.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct for the day, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Andrew Harcar. Motion carried.

The President asked Father Thomas Nasta to end the meeting with a prayer.

THIRD SESSION:

Saturday, September 21, 2013

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Father Thomas Nasta led the Board in prayer.

ROLL CALL:

The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call. He stated that Damian Nasta was excused and Susan Ondrejco was to be present via teleconference.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITY DIRECTORS' REPORT:

Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activity Director, presented her report on the events of the year. She announced the Golf Tournament was held on July 20-21, 2013, in Canton, Ohio and there were 78 participants. The Fraternal Director also announced the Bowling Tournament will be held April 25-27, 2014 in the Pittsburgh area.

The Fraternal Director stated the National Picnic was a success and everyone had a great time. The weather was beautiful, there was good food, and many activities were available for all. She said there were 288 members registered for the day.

The President stated the Fraternal Director should continue to pursue future joint events with the other Slovak Fraternals.

PAYMENTS OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Rudolph Bernath to pay all the bills associated with the meeting and to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

DONATIONS:

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Rudolph Bernath to adjourn. Motion was carried.

Father Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

FCSU LIFE Single Premium Insurance Winter Special!

Newborn Male \$5000 for \$290 \$10000 for \$580	Newborn Female \$5000 for \$250 \$10000 for \$500
Male - age 5 \$5000 for \$340 \$10000 for \$680	Female - age 5 \$5000 for \$290 \$10000 for \$580
Male - age 10 \$5000 for \$400 \$10000 for \$800	Female - age 10 \$5000 for \$340 \$10000 for \$680
Male - age 15 \$5000 for \$480 \$10000 for \$960	Female - age 15 \$5000 for \$405 \$10000 for \$810
Male - age 20 \$5000 for \$545.00 \$10000 for \$1090.00	Female - age 20 \$5000 for \$470.00 \$10000 for \$940.00

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a **FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD** to present with the certificate!

Features:

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



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2013

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors
(rotating Director via telephone)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the October 2013 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

INVESTMENT UPDATES:

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee for their review of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Executive Secretary gave a third quarter review on the Quarterly Financial Statement and answered the Executive Committee member's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President summarized the sales production report given to the Board of Directors on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated he will continue to work with the Regional Directors and schedule seminars for 2014.

The Vice President reported the 2013 Membership Meet on the Crown Princess 7 day Cruise on November 9 to 16, 2013 was very successful. The Award Presentation was very nice and the top producers were recognized. Everyone was very pleased with the ship, schedule, and activities.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his extensive Investment Portfolio transaction report. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President notified Mr. White that while we are satisfied with his performance the FCSU may consider contracting with an additional money manager as our assets continue to grow. We have no intention on reducing the amount of assets AQS manages at this time. Mr. White understood this decision and expressed his full commitment to continue his current efforts.

After extensive review of the current annuity rates the Executive Committee decided to extend the present rates. These rates will be reviewed at the next meeting.

ADVERTISING:

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that we have received excellent response from our members on the personal Estate Planning Booklets. The booklet is a fraternal benefit and is still available to all members upon request.

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

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of October 2013:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 141,624.17
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 60,764.56
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 5,170.00

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

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Committee's questions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated the convention plans and event details are being finalized for the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia. The President said he is in the process of researching keynote speakers and forming a plan for the convention.

The Executive Secretary stated the first letter has gone out to all branches stating the estimated delegate count for those branches that qualify and the final letter which will be based on membership as of February 1, 2014 will be sent the first week in February.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of the new roof Centimark Corporation is contracted to do. The Centimark workers have brought in their equipment and materials and have begun the work. The President stated he is hoping the new roof will help eliminate the windows leaking. This will be reviewed in the spring.

The President reported Reverend Andrew Hvozdovic is interested in a joint pilgrimage between First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Federation in Washington DC to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Mother of Sorrows Chapel in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. More on this later.

The Executive Secretary reported one of the current tenets has expanded their office to include all the vacant space on the first floor. The remaining small vacant office space on the second floor is the only vacant space available to lease.

The Executive Secretary stated some of our tenets requested to have their company names listed on a small sign as part of our large sign in front of our building. The tenets felt this was needed to help locate their business. However, the City of Independence sent FCSU a letter stating we were in violation of their city ordinance and we were requested to remove the extra sign. We have appealed to the City and the President and Executive Secretary attended a meeting to plead our case; but at this point the City has tabled any decision on our appeal. The Executive Secretary said the Executive Committee will be informed as new information becomes available.

The President informed the Executive Committee that he received a letter from Branch 595 in Michigan concerning some issues they were having with their club and it was decided that a special meeting needed to be called. The members of Branch 595 will be notified and the meeting will be advertised in the Jednota newspaper. President Rajec and Vice President Harcar will attend the meeting and attempt to resolve the problem on December 22, 2013. The results of the meeting will be reported to the Executive Committee.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

NEW**FREE**

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

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

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

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

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF
THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- information you provide to us in an application or other form;
- information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public Information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

Reminder...

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

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Aj zvony hovoria ...

(Pokračovanie z minulého čísla Jednoty zo dňa 4. decembra 2013)

Možno práve touto filozofiou života sa riadilo veľké množstvo krajanov, ktorí v cudzom svete nezabudli na svoju starú vlasť, dedinu, na svoju rodinu. Ako som sa presvedčil na podujatí „Zvony Turca“ na zvony, ale aj na iné súčasť kostolov prispievali zo svojich ťažko zarobných peňazí naši krajanovia zo zahraničia. Som presvedčený, že tak, ako to bolo v regióne Turiec, tak to bolo aj na Kysuciach, Orave, Liptove a Spiši, skrátka na celom Slovensku. A som presvedčený aj o tom, že to tak nebolo len v minulosti, ale je tomu tak i súčasnosti. Už pri prvom podujatí v rímsko-katolíckom kostole Povýšenia sv. Kríža vo Valči som sa dozvedel, že za prvej svetovej vojny sa rekvirovali zvony v roku 1915 a 1917. Za kilogram zvonoviny boli vyplatené štyri koruny. Bolo nariadené vziať všetky zvony okrem pamätných a najstarších spred roku 1700. Tak aj na základe žiadostí farára z Vlačce, Stanislava Kianičku, bol ponechaný len zvon z r. 1591. Z odobraných zvonov získala Valča 461 korún 86 halierov.



Po skončení vojny sa valčianski veriaci zozbierali na štyri nové zvony, ktoré sú vo Valči dodnes. Na zvony prispeli: Ján Ďurovčík z Ameriky 8.190 korún a Jozef Chajník, 5.000 korún. Z darov amerických Slovákov z Valče získali po výmene dolárov (1 dolár bol 80 korún) 22 940 korún. Najväčší zvon sv. Cyrila a Metoda z roku 1922 má na plášti dvadsať centimetrový reliéf sv. Cyrila a Metoda.

Nápis na zvone je: „Svätí Cyrille a Metode, apoštolovia obrodenej Slovenska, orodujte za nás. Pre valčiansky boží chrám obetovali veriaci farnosť a americkí Slováci roku pána 1922“, zvon odliala zvonolejárska firma Adalberta Hillera, vdova a syn v Brne. Keď sa Ľudovít Tomčány z manželkou vrátili do rodnej obce na dôchodok z Clevelandu v USA, na dokúpenie zvonov pre valčiansky kostol darovali 16 676 korún. Zostávajúci vyše 900 korún doložili veriaci a boli zakúpené dva zvony (stredne veľký a najmenší zvon – Umieračik). Na stredne veľkom zvone bol nápis: „Svätý Ľudovít Kráľ, oroduj za darcu tohto zvona, 1923.“ Panovníčka Mária Terézia v tzv. Ohňovom patente z 21. augusta 1751 nariadila varovanie pred požiariami zvonien na obecnom zvone. Jozef II. nariadenie v roku 1787 ešte sprísnil. Každá zvonica mala umieračik.

Na najmenšom zvone je nápis: „Obetoval Ľudovik Tomčány roku pána 1923“. Štvrtý zvon z roku 1923 má na sebe nápis: „Dakujeme ti Ježišu, že si nás vykúpil svojím svätým krížom.“ Všetky štyri zvony odliala tá istá firma Adalberta Hillera v Brne.

Historicky vzácny 422-ročný zvon bez reliéfu a mena zvonolejára nesie nápis: „Verbum domini manet in aeternum anno domini 1591“, v preklade, „Slovo pánovo buď zachované naveky. Roku pána 1591.“ V tom čase, keď ho odliali a vytiahli na vežu, sa začala aj tzv. 15 ročná vojna. Turci plienili a drancovali Uhorsko. Bolo to storočie mocenských a náboženských vojen. Keby tento historický zvon vedel rozprávať, čo by sme sa od neho dozvedeli? Čo všetko videl? Biedu, hlad, obdobie vzrastu, ale aj úpadku? Keď po I. svetovej vojne Valča aj vďaka krajanom získala štyri nové zvony, historicky najväčší zvon bol premiestnený do rímsko-katolíckeho kostola sv. Šimona a Júdu v Příbovcach. Dozvedel som sa, že aj na zvony v rodisku Ďurka Langsfelda a Michala Hodžu, v Sučanoch, prispeli krajanovia z Ameriky.

V roku 1922 firmou R. Maňoušek a spol. v Brne boli odliate tri zvony. Na stredne veľkom je nápis: „Dnes uslyšíte-li hlasu mého, nezezatvrdzuje srdce svého.“ Na venci je nápis: Z dobrovolných obetí nadobudla matkocirkev ev. a. v. Sučany v r. 1922. Na najväčšom zvone je nápis: „Nadobudla z milodarov obetí cirkev ev. a. v. v. Sučiansku, 1922“.

Tiež som sa dozvedel, že krajanovia darovali peniaze na zakúpenie krištáľových lustrov do evanjelického kostola v Necpaloch. Projektom „Zvony Turca“ sa podarilo zdokumentovať 26 zvonov v obciach Valča, Dražkovce, Veľký Čepčín, Necpaly, Příbovce, Sučany, ako aj v samotnom meste Martin, v kostole evanjelickej cirkvi a. v. na Memorandovom námestí. Každý z týchto zvonov má svoj zaujímavý príbeh.

Napríklad aj vzácny 326-ročný historický zvon v Dražkovciach. Tento zvon zvonil už v dobe vládnutia uhorského panovníka cisára Leopolda I. (1657 – 1705). Rok 1686 uvedený na zvone nám pripomína definitívnu porážku tureckej bašty v Budíne. Turecké dobovačné vojny a divoká turecká expanzia trvali na území Uhorska a okolia takmer 150 rokov. Za uhorskú korunu bojovalo, krv vylievalo a zomieralo státisíce Slovákov. Koľko vojakov a ich životov si vyžiadali kruté vojny, koľko peňazí, koľko slovenských, materinských, detských a rodičovských slz bolo vyplakaných? Dozvieme sa niekedy, ako je možné, že tento starý historický zvon s latinským nápisom, v preklade „prebud' sa ty, ktorý spiš a vstaň z mŕtvych a zasvieti sa Tebe Kristus“, prežil v čase, keď mnoho zvonov bolo odvlečených a pretavených na kanóny, bojové gule, zbrane. Aký príbeh má zvon svätého Cyrila a Metoda z r. 1985? V roku 1985 si kresťanský svet pripomínal 1.110 výročie od smrti arcibiskupa Metoda. V Maticie slovenskej v Martine sa k tomuto výročiu uskutočnila významná odborná konferencia. Veriaci, ktorí navštevovali kostol sv. Heleny v Dražkovciach navrhli vykonať dobrovoľnú zbierku na nový zvon, s pomenovaním zvon sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Keďže politické zriadenie nebolo veriacim naklonené, zvon do Dražkoviec bol privezený v roku 1985 počas hviezdnej noci. Krátko pred polnocou nákladné auto s vypnutými svetlami nehlučne zaparkovalo pri zadnej časti kostola, aby najmocnejší chlapi 260 kilogramový zvon vytiahli tvrdými drevenými schodmi do veže. Všetko sa dialo po rúskom tmy, bez hlasného hovorú tak, aby bola akcia do štvrtj hodiny ranej ukončená. Zvon bol potajme vysvätený a odvtedy zvoní a zvoláva veriacich na bohoslužby. Na zvone je nápis: „Ku cti sv. Cyrila a Metoda, dedičstvo otcov, zachovaj nám, ó, pane“. Ulil Jozef Tkadlec Helenkov, 1985.“

Zaujímavé zvony sú aj v rímskokatolíckom kostole sv. Ladislava v Necpaloch z roku 1935. Na jednom je nápis: „Dedičstvo otcov, zachovaj nám, ó, pane.“ Nachádza sa tam aj zvon váženého a zámožného pána Dionýza Franklina. Na zvone sa nachádza odliatok jeho podobizne. Takto by sa dalo ešte dlho písať o každom zvlášť. Každý zvon má svoj rodný list, technické dáta a hlavne svoju históriu. Ľudia zvonom rozumeli a zvony by zo svojej duše určite radi hlaholili aj známú melódiu piesne: „Keď sa Slováč preč do sveta poberal.“

„Ach ty naša mať slovenská, biedna si,
sužujú ťa odjakživa zlé časy,
tvoje deti po svete sa túľajú,
bo už doma výživy viac nemajú.“

Zanechali otec, mat, sestru, brat,
za pár groši idú sveta skusovať,
pre pár groši, štyri sveta končiny.
Na výžive svojej drahej rodiny.

Povedz že nám, ty náš Turiec široký,
či ťa vidím aspoň za dva – tri roky?
Za dva roky tohto môjho slúženia,
či sa a snáď naše roky premenia.

Daniel Zemančík

Konferencia k 50. výročiu založenia Slovenského ústavu v Ríme

Vedecká konferencia venovaná 50. výročiu založenia Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme sa uskutočnila 5. decembra v Bratislave na pôde Rímskokatolíckej cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulty (RKCMBF) UK. Vystúpili na nej viacerí hostia, ktorí stáli pri zrode ústavu alebo tam pôsobia v súčasnosti, informovala Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska v Bratislave. Jedným z kľúčových hostí konferencie bol kardinál Jozef Tomko, jeden z pôvodných zakladateľov ústavu, ktorý priblížil účastníkom okolnosti predchádzajúce jeho založeniu. Odznali viaceré príspevky o histórii i súčasných aktivitách tejto ustanovizne.



FOTO: TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Zľava: Profesorka Emília Hrabovec, kardinál Jozef Tomko a Jozef Rydlo.

A conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Slovak Institute was held in Bratislava in December 2013.

„Slávenie polstoročnej existencie dnes už Pápežského kolégia svätých Cyrila a Metoda je výbornou príležitosťou nielen rekapitulovať dejiny tejto inštitúcie, ale spoločne konštatovať, že tieto dejiny dnes, tu a teraz, pokračujú v podobe aktuálneho diania s nádherným výhľadom do budúcnosti,“ povedal predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS), bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský.

Na konferencii sa zúčastnili predstavitelia duchovného a politického života, viacerí slovenskí biskupi a ďalší hostia. Boli medzi nimi aj podpredseda Národnej rady SR Ján Figel', profesorka Emília Hrabovec z RKCMBF UK a iní.

Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda bol založený z iniciatívy kňazov, ktorí prišli do Ríma študovať po skončení druhej svetovej vojny a po udalostiach vo februári 1948 sa nemohli slobodne vrátiť do vlasti, ako aj z generácie kňazov, ktorí po apríli 1950 boli donútení odísť z vlasti, pretože boli doma prenasledovaní pre svoje náboženské aktivity. V roku 1981 ústav navštívil pápež Ján Pavol II., ktorý ho v roku 1998 povýšil na Pápežský slovenský ústav a zriadil v ňom Pápežské slovenské kolégium sv. Cyrila a Metoda, čím ocenil jeho dovtedajšiu prácu. K 50. výročiu založenia ústavu vznikol v tomto roku aj 30-minútový film Srdce Slovákov v Ríme, ktorý vyrobil tím štúdia LUX communication.

TASR

Terchovská muzika zapísaná do UNESCO

Terchovská muzika je už súčasťou zoznamu svetového kultúrneho dedičstva. Medzivládny výbor UNESCO na ochranu nehmotného kultúrneho dedičstva o tom rozhodol na svojom zasadnutí v azerbajdžanskom Baku.



Terchovskú muziku predstavujú rôzne hudobné zoskupenia z Terchovej a z okolitých obcí. Muziky vystupujú pri rôznych príležitostiach. Takto spoločne hrali viaceré muziky počas výstupu na vrch Oravcovia, ktorý sa nachádza nad Terchovou a vedie sem križova cesta.

Musicians from Terchova were added to the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO

FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo, 11. decembra 2013

Novodobé prenasledovanie kresťanov

Pokračovanie zo str. 28

ovládanej komunistickým režimom, sa počet kresťanov rôzneho vierovyznania odhaduje na štyristo tisíc. Asi štvrtina z nich žije v táborech nútenej práce, pretože odopreli uctievať si zakladateľa národného kultu Kim Il-sunga. Od roku rozdelenia kórejského polostrova na dva štáty (1953), v severnej Kórei zmizlo skoro tristo tisíc kresťanov. V Sýrii hrozí kresťanom vymretie; v mestečku Maalula, kde sa ešte používa aramejská reč Ježiša Krista, podľa správ mohamedáni zabili Sarkisa el Zachma a iných dvoch mladých kresťanov, keď odmietli obrátiť sa na islamskú vieru. Podobné prípady sa opakujú v Iraku, kde americká organizácia „Open Doors“ predvída koniec kresťanskej prítomnosti okolo roku 2020. V Egypte prenasledujú kresťanských koptov, ktorí tam žijú od nepamätí. Tlač sa nerada zmieňuje o tom, čo sa deje s kresťanmi na území Gazy, vykrojenom z Izraelu.

Svetová verejná mienka sa ťažko dostáva k správam o prenasledovaní kresťanov v rôznych krajinách, kde musí zakročiť aj verejná moc. Vlády radšej zamlčia také udalosti, niekedy sa kresťanská menšina nedovolá ani spravodlivosti ani ochrany. V západnej tlači prevláda skôr naoko „neutrálny“, ale v podstate ateistický protináboženský duch, ktorý sleduje viac politické a obchodné záujmy. Laicizmus sa stáva akoby novým náboženstvom. Ako píše Allen, „liberálni voľnomyšlienkarí oslavujú mučeníkov pravcových režimov v Latinskej Amerike, ale nie sú ochotní pripustiť skutočnosť protikresťanskej nenávisti v Gaze, ktorú kontroluje Hamas, ani spôsoby, akými ľavicové režimy často napadajú kresťanov“.

Allen vidí príčinu prenasledovania vo fanatizme, a to najviac v prehnanom laicizme, a vo fanatizme islamských skupín, ktoré spôsobili útoky na kresťanov a na kostoly napríklad v Nigérii a v Egypte, ale aj inde, ako je to zo strany hinduistov v severovýchodnej Indii. Aj západné sekulárne obrazoborectvo, ktoré sa niekedy oblieka do rúcha kultúrneho boja, má už svoje obete.

Novodobé prenasledovanie kresťanov má teda rôzne formy, nie je vždy krvavé, ani vždy fyzicky agresívne. Veriaci majú len jednu odpoveď: upevniť si kresťanskú vieru a lásku k blížnemu, aj k nepriateľovi.

Kardinál Jozef Tomko

Úspešné vianočné podujatia

v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Vianočné podujatia Farskej rady Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC sa konali za aktívnej spolupráce spolku sv. Štefana, sv. Matúša IKSJ a Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola.



Spoločná fotografia prítomných detí s organizátormi podujatia.

Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou

Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou sa konalo v nedeľu dňa 8. decembra 2013 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia. Mikulášskemu odopoludniu predchádzala o 11.00 hodine doobeda svätá omša, pri ktorej deti zo Slovenskej školy v Astórii, NYC pod vedením pani učiteľky Ingrid Kuzma zaspievali niekoľko vianočných piesní. Za tým vo farskej hale pokračovalo podujatie, ktoré modlitbou zahájil otec Štefan Chanas. Kultúrna referentka Farskej rady, Henrieta H. Daitová privítala prítomných, rodičov a starých rodičov, ktoré doprevádzali deti. Svätému Mikulášovi deti zaspievali:

„Mikulášku dobrý strýčku, modlím sa Ti modlitbičku, zlož tu svoju plnú nôžku, daj nám z darov Tvojich trošku, či konička medového, či koláčka makového, veď Ty strýčku Mikuláš, mnoho dobrých vecí máš.“

Mikulášske odopoludnia sa zúčastnilo približne 100 detí, ktorým Svätý Mikuláš rozdával darčeky, pripravené členmi Farskej rady. O veľmi dobré občerstvenie sa postaral otec Štefan Chanas v spolupráci ochotných členov Farskej rady a ostatných Slovenských spolkov pod vedením Márie Božekovej. Program odopoludnia spestril známy slovenský spevák Rado Lesay.

Na záver je potrebné sa poďakovať otcovi Štefanovi Chanasovi, Lackovi Korčekovi, Radovi Lesaymu, Marienke Božekovej a všetkým ostatným, ktorí sa akýmkoľvek spôsobom pricinili o zdarný priebeh tohto krásneho odopoludnia.



Postavu Sv. Mikuláša predstavil syn Lacka Korčeka.



Sestra H. Daitová prednáša rozlúčkovú báseň.

Štedrá večera – Vigília

Ďalšie tradičné podujatie v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého bola Štedrá večera – Vigília, ktorá sa uskutočnila 15. decembra 2013 o 1.00 hodine odopoludnia. Ako aj po iné roky večera sa začala modlitbou otca Štefana Chanas a požehnaním jedál. „Dnes sme oslávili Vianoce v kruhu našej Farskej rodiny a prosili sme nášho Pána Ježiša Krista, aby v túto chvíľu zavítal aj on k nám – k nášmu spoločnému štedrovečernému stolu.“

Za tým sestra Henrieta H. Daitová v tento sviatočný deň, keď kresťanský svet oslavuje pamiatku Narodenia Ježiša Krista, privítala prítomných, ktorí zasadli k stolu, aby podľa starej slovenskej obyčaje konzumovali slávnostné jedlá. Zároveň ako to bolo v našich domácnostiach zvykom si zaspievať slovenské koledy, tak i prítomní spievali za doprovodu Rada Lesaya a zaspomínali si na svojich blízkych a vzdialených príbuzných a priateľov. Túto hudobnú vložku programu prítomní ukončili krásnou vianočnou piesňou „Tichá noc, svätá noc ...“

Na záver podujatia sestra Daitová poďakovala všetkým týmto veršom:

„Na krásne pokoja sviatky, prijmite ešte pozdrav môj krátky: Prežité chvíle Vianočné v radosť, pokoji a láske spoločne. Tiež sa zvitajte s Novým rokom v dobrej vôli, pohode, starosti nech idú bokom, odplavia sa po vode. S úprimnosťou svoje čaše zdvíhajte tiež vo zvyšok nech je pevné zdravie Vaše, nech je šťastný Nový rok.“ Dúfame, že všetci sa takto o rok znovu stretne v zdraví pri našom Štedrovečernom stole. „Pochválený buď Ježiš Kristus“

Henrieta H. Daitová
kultúrna referentka Farskej rady



V strede otec Štefan Chanas počas otváraciej modlitby. Zľava Henrieta Daitová a sprava v pozadí spevák Rado Lesay.



Vianočná atmosféra na premietacom plátne.

Nádherné slová Sv. otca Františka o svätosti pre tento svet a túto dobu

Určite tieto slová mnohým z Vás nebudú konvenovať, hoci ich povedal terajší Sv. otec František a odporúča ich celému katolíckemu spoločenstvu na svete. Možno mnohým sa tieto slová páčiť veľmi nebudú a budú mať isté výhrady, hoci je v nich pretavená pravda radostnej zvesti Evanjelia. K tomu nás vyzýva i posledný pápežský dokument, ktorý tiež hovorí o Evanjeliu radosť, nakoľko iba také Evanjelium dokáže oslovit' tento svet. Skúsme sa nad tými slovami zamyslieť a patričným spôsobom ich uviesť i do svojho života. N.s.! Ignác



Nádherné slová Sv. otca Františka o svätosti...

- Potrebujeme svätcov bez sután a závojov. Potrebujeme džínsových a teniskových svätcov.
- Potrebujeme svätcov, ktorí idú do kina, počúvajú hudbu a prechádzajú sa so svojimi priateľmi a kamarátmi.
- Potrebujeme svätcov, ktorí Boha dávajú na prvé miesto, ale vynikajú aj na vysokej škole.
- Potrebujeme svätcov, ktorí si nájdu čas na každodennú modlitbu a sú schopní čistej lásky, alebo posväcujú čistotu.
- Potrebujeme svätcov moderných, svätcov 21. storočia, ktorí vytvárajú svoju duchovnosť pre túto dobu.
- Potrebujeme svätcov takých, ktorí sú zviazaní a odhodlaní pre potreby chudobných a nutné sociálne zmeny.
- Potrebujeme svätcov vo svete žijúcich, vo svete sa posväcujúcich svätcov, ktorí sa neboja žiť vo svete.
- Potrebujeme svätcov, ktorí pijú Colu, jedia hot-dogy, používajú internet a iPad.
- Potrebujeme svätcov takých, ktorí milujú Eucharistiu a nehanbia sa cez víkend piť pivo, alebo jesť pizzu so svojimi priateľmi.
- Potrebujeme svätcov takých, ktorí majú radi kino, divadlo, muziku, tanec a šport.
- Potrebujeme svätcov spoločenských, ktorí sú otvorení, normálni, priateľskí, veselí a sú dobrými priateľmi.
- Potrebujeme svätcov takých, ktorí žijú v tomto svete a vedia si vychutnať dobré a čisté veci tohoto sveta, ale predsa sa nestanú svetskými...

10 krokov od Sv. otca Františka ako sa stať svätým:

1. Spoznaj Božiu lásku a nasleduj Boha celým srdcom
2. Venuj svoj život službe iným
3. Utrpenie a protivtenstvá znášaj bez nenávisti
4. Maj radosť v srdci a odovzdávaj ju aj ostatným
5. Modli sa
6. Ži podľa blahoslavenstiev (Mt 5,3-12)
7. Maj jednoduché a pokorné srdce
8. Buď milosrdný, nie násilnícky
9. Trp s trpiacimi, raduj sa s radujúcimi
10. Buď tvorcom zmierenia a pokoja

Vianočné párty slovenských detí v Shelton, CT

Tradične už ako každý rok v sobotu 21. decembra sa stretli slovenské deti na Vianočnom párty v Shelton, Connecticut, kde s radosťou privítali Svätého Mikuláša a zaspievali mu slovenské a anglické vianočné pesničky. Vianočné párty už po ôsmykrát organizuje mamička a babička Agata Slivková, ktorá je aktívna na príprave viacerých podujatí pre slovenské deti. Medzi ich vianočnými projektami nechýbali domáce, pečené perníky, voňacky z mandarínok a voňavého korenia ako aj tradičné ikebany z magnoliových a borovicových konárikov, ktoré zdobili vianočnými ozdobami.



Ó, Ježišu, buď k pomoci

Ó, Ježišu, buď k pomoci, každému z nás v tento rok, zostaň s nami vo dne v noci, požehnaj náš každý krok!

S novým rokom nech zasvitne nová zora šťastia nám, lebo blaho len tam kvitne, kde ho ráčiš žehnať sám.

Všetko, čo si myslým, činím, v tebe nech sa započne;

daj, nech sa viac neprevním proti tebe, ó, Pane!

Bedli na mňa neustále, keď ma stíha hriech a zlosť, nech je vo mne k tvojej chvále pevná viera, krásna čnosť.

Daj, aby sme zas prežili šťastne tento nový rok a len k tebe vždy riadili za života každý krok.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Kríza** priniesla významné spomalenie výdavkov na zdravotníctvo, ktoré dovtedy rástli prudkým tempom. To sa týka aj Slovenska. Ukazuje sa však, že vysoké výdavky na obyvateľa, nie sú zárukou dobrého zdravotného stavu populácie. Výdavky na zdravotníctvo z reciek ľudí rástli na Slovensku najrýchlejšie. Vyplýva to z najnovšej publikácie OECD Health at a Glance 2013, v ktorej sa porovnáva stav a trendy v zdravotníctve členských štátov OECD, ako aj niektorých nečlenov. Podľa hlavného stratéga Sberbank Slovensko Martina Barta aj slovenský príklad ukazuje, že nalievanie peňazí do systému nemusí viesť k zlepšeniu kvality zdravotníctva. Slovensko dalo na zdravotníctvo v roku 2011 1,915 USD na obyvateľa, čo bolo 7.9 % HDP, pod priemerom OECD 9.3 %. Spojené štáty míňajú na zdravotníctvo najviac 8,508 USD na hlavu, pričom priemer OECD je 3,322 USD.

• **Novú** budovu výskumno-vývojového centra otvorili koncom roka vo zvolenskom závode nemeckej spoločnosti Continental. V novej budove, postavenej za šesť mesiacov, sa uplatní 61 pracovníkov, ktorých spoločnosť prijala len nedávno. Celkovo tak toto pracovisko zamestnáva už 135 inžinierov. Závod Continental Automotive Systems Slovakia vo Zvolene dáva prácu dnes už viac ako 1,000 ľuďom a patrí k najväčším zamestnávateľom v Banskobystrickom kraji. Kým pri svojich začiatkoch, v roku 2007 vyrobil 1.5 milióna brzdoých strmeňov, vlani to bolo už viac ako 9 miliónov. Výrobky sú dodávané výrobcom automobilov do celého sveta.

• **Na Slovensku** sa v tomto roku vyrobí približne 930,000 automobilov, čo predstavuje oproti roku 2012 nárast takmer o 3,500 vozidiel. Vyplýva to zo štúdie, ktorú pre Zväz automobilového priemyslu (ZAP) SR vyrobila Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave (EUBA). V automobilovom priemysle je na Slovensku zamestnaných viac ako 60,000 ľudí, pričom ďalších 140,000 pracovných pozícií vytvorili dodávateľské spoločnosti nepriamo. Na odvetvie je tak celkovo naviazaných vyše 200,000 pracovných miest, čo predstavuje 9 % z celkovej zamestnanosti v SR.

• **Dánsko** a Nový Zéland sa umiestnili na prvej priečke v tohtoročnom rebríčku vnímania korupcie, ktorý nedávno v Berlíne zverejnila mimovládna organizácia Transparency International. Najhoršie skončili spoločne Somálsko, Severná Kórea a Afganistan. Z internetovej stránky Transparency International, ktorá hodnotila 177 krajín, vyplýva, že Slovensko si polepšilo o jednu priečku. Spolu s Ománom skončilo na 61. mieste. Horšie ako Slovensko z krajín Európskej únie sa umiestnili len Taliansko, Rumunsko, Bulharsko a Grécko. Svet podľa Transparency International nutne potrebuje zakročiť proti praniu špinavých peňazí a musí sa snažiť aj o navrátenie ukradnutého majetku.

• **Ročne** na Slovensku potrebuje na záchranu svojho života transplantáciu pečene približne 100 pacientov. V minulosti museli pacienti za liečbou buď vycestovať do zahraničia, alebo zomierali na terminálne zlyhanie pečene. Momentálne je Banská Bystrica jedinou nemocnicou na Slovensku, kde sa tento druh transplantácií vykonáva. Transplantačný program je výsledkom slovensko-českej spolupráce Fakultnej nemocnice s poliklinikou F. D. Roosevelta Banská Bystrica a pražského Inštitútu klinickej a experimentálnej medicíny (IKEM), ktorá má vyše 20-ročnú tradíciu. Začala sa v období založenia Transplantačného centra v Banskej Bystrici. Vrchol spolupráce predstavuje práve program transplantácií pečene, ktorý bol na základe zmluvy o vzájomnej spolupráci spustený v nemocnici v roku 2008.

• **Výstavný** projekt s názvom Putovanie s ovečkou sa konal počas vianočných sviatkov v bratislavskej Bibiane, medzinárodnom dome umenia pre deti. Výstava, na ktorej mohli deti putovať za tajomstvom Vianoc, za poznaním, za hviezdou, za láskou a nádejou, vznikla voľne na motívy knihy Josteina Gaardera Vianočné mystérium, ktorú ilustroval Vladimír Král. Výstava ponúkala deťom možnosť putovať spolu s dievčatkou Alžbetkou časom a priestorom po stopách ovečky. Vďaka Alžbetke a ovečke sa vrátia v čase o viac ako 2000 rokov späť, dostanú sa do zázračného sveta plného anjelov, mudrcov, pastierov a iných bytostí, ktoré postupne približia pútnikom čaro vianočných sviatkov. Ich vrcholom je príbeh o narodení Ježiška v Betleheme.

• **Zapísanie** Terchovskej muziky do zoznamu UNESCO je vyvrcholením vyše 120-ročnej snahy celých generácií terchovských muzikantov. Je dôkazom, že tá cesta a robota pocitových terchovských hudcov mala hlboký zmysel a význam. Je to ocenenie nielen pre Terchovú a Slovensko, ale aj pre ľudovú tradíciu. Pretože práve na príklade muziky možno presne demonštrovať, že neexistujú hranice. Existuje iba dobrá vôľa ponúkať ľuďom svoj kumšt, majstrovstvo a takto posúvať prirodzenú komunikáciu medzi ľuďmi, krajinami, národmi a štátmi. Toto ocenenie najkrajší možný atribút, aký mohla Terchová ponúknuť Slovensku aj svetu.

• **Na zápis** do zoznamov UNESCO sú na Slovensku pripravené aj gemerské a abovské kostoly so stredovekými nástennými maľbami. Patrí medzi ne aj ranogotický kostol Zvestovania Panny Márie z druhej polovice 13. storočia v obci Chyžné v okrese Revúca, ktorý je v súčasnosti vyhľadávanou turistickou atrakciou. Momentálne je pred kostolom tabuľa s telefónnym číslom, kde sa záujemcovia o prehliadku môžu objednať. Kostol v Chyžnom je vyzdobený vzácnymi freskami z konca 14. storočia. V interiéri sa nachádza aj neskorogotický oltár z dielne Majstra Pavla z Levoče. Pri kostole stojí drevená zvonica z 18. storočia.

• **V regióne** Starej Ľubovne chcú pre turistov vytvoriť originálnu trasu po minerálnych prameňoch. Má ísť o nový produkt v oblasti turistiky, aký doposiaľ na Slovensku neexistuje. Pamiatky – ale aj prírodu ako takú, s jej minerálnymi prameňmi – považujú v regióne za hlavné lákadlo pre turistov. Myšlienku začína rozvíjať miestna organizácia cestovného ruchu Severný Spiš – Pieniny v spolupráci so Švajčiarmi.

• **Posledné** slovenské aerolinky Danube Wings ukončili svoju činnosť. Po tom, ako minulý mesiac zrušili pravidelnú linku z Bratislavy do Košíc, prepustili aj všetkých svojich zamestnancov. Regionálne linky sú veľmi rizikový projekt a môžu byť náchylné na ekonomické cykly, konštatoval analytik Cyrusu Tomáš Menčík. Danube Wings doplatili na to, že chceli "rozlietať" Slovensko, ktoré neakceptovalo ich ceny.

• **Nová** 15-miestna kabínková lanovka v polovici decembra zo stanice Štart v Tatranskej Lomnici vyviezla prvých ľudí na Skalnaté pleso. Lanovka je najväčšou novinkou tejto zimnej sezóny vo Vysokých Tatrách, náklady na jej výstavbu sa vyšplhali na približne desať miliónov eur. Vystriedala starú pôvodnú štvormiestnu kabínku, ktorá bola v stredisku od roku 1995. Jej časť však bude vozit' turistov naďalej, a to z Tatranskej Lomnice na medzistanicu Štart.

• **Prezident** SR Ivan Gašparovič so zármutkom prijal správu o úmrtí dvoch slovenských vojakov v Afganistane, ktorí zahynuli pri útoku na vojenský konvoj v Kábule. Tragická udalosť sa stala mimo vojenskej základne spojeneckých síl pri Kábule, pri bežnom konvoji vojenských vozidiel. Pozostatky dvoch slovenských vojakov, ktorí zahynuli v piatok 27. decembra 2013, priviezli na Slovensko. Premiér Robert Fico a minister obrany Martin Glváč boli pre telá vojakov vládny špeciálom na americkej základni v nemeckom Ramsteine. Ešte pred odletom sa tam uskutočnil pietny obrad.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Svätý Otec osobnosťou roka

Americký magazín Time zvolil za Osobnosť roka 2013 pápeža Františka. Toto ocenenie je od roku 1927 udeľované osobnosti, páru či skupine, ktorá výrazným spôsobom ovplyvnila udalosti daného roka.

Hovorca Svätej stolice Federico Lombardi v reakcii na správu o udelení tohto titulu uviedol, že vzhľadom na rozsiahlu pozornosť venovanú pontifikátu pápeža Františka nejde o prekvapivú informáciu. „Je pozitívnym znamením, že jedno z najprestížnejších ocenení v oblasti medzinárodnej tlače je venované tomu, kto vo svete hlása duchovné, náboženské a morálne hodnoty a účinným spôsobom sa zasadzuje v prospech pokoja a väčšej spravodlivosti.“

Lombardi ďalej pripomenul, že pápež sa nesnaží o slávu a úspech, pretože ohlasovať Božiu lásku všetkým považuje za povinnosť. „Pápež je spokojný, ak to priťahuje ľudí a dáva im to nádej. Ak táto voľba za osobnosť roka znamená, že mnohí aspoň implicitne porozumeli tomuto posolstvu, prirodzene sa tomu teší,“ dodal hovorca Svätej stolice.

Svätý Otec František nie je prvý pápež, ktorého magazín Time zvolil za osobnosť roka. V roku 1962 takto ocenil pápeža Jána XXIII. a v roku 1994 Jána Pavla II.

KN



FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke sochári vyrezávajú klenbu do ľadového oltára počas stavby Tatranského ľadového dómu na Hrebienku vo Vysokých Tatrách 13. decembra 2013.

Sculptors work to complete the altar in the ice Church in Hrebienok in the High Tatras. Over 1,500 people have visited the unique structure.

Ľadový dóm na Hrebienku lákal denne stovky turistov

Počasia na celom Slovensku sa nepodobalo na tradičný a mrazivý koniec roka, ale aspoň v ľadovej bazilike Tatranskom ľadovom dome na Hrebienku vo Vysokých Tatrách, zažívali turisti ozajstnú zimu.

TASR

V SR založili Ekumenickú radu Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí

Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ) v rámci Roka sv. Konštantína-Cyrila a Metoda 2013 založilo 11. decembra 2013 v Bratislave Ekumenickú duchovnú radu SZSZ ako svoj poradný orgán. Bude pomáhať pri riešení duchovných a náboženských otázok Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ich centrálnej registrácii, vo vedeckom výskume, dokumentácii, v oblasti prezentácie pre Slovákov doma i v zahraničí.

Funkciu ustanovujúceho predsedu rady prijal Samuel Vrbovský, biskup Slovenskej evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania Slovákov v Srbsku. SZSZ pozýva všetkých predstaviteľov kresťanských stredísk v slovenskom svete na spoluprácu s týmto orgánom Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí. Naplnia tak kooperáciu medzi Slovákami na celom svete na ekumenickom, duchovnom a národnom princípe, informoval predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí Vladimír Skalský.

◆◆◆ Kľúčovým problémom sa stáva polarizácia spoločnosti

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slovenskej spoločnosti. O rodine, ktorá prináša do nášho života pokoj, šťastné rodičovstvo, dôveru, porozumenie i schopnosť tešiť sa z maličkostí života. To najvzácnejšie, čo nám život dáva, je samotný život. Vážme si ho,“ vyzval Gašparovič.

Na margo politiky poznamenal, že tá sa nesmie riadiť mediálne pokriveným marketingom, ale musí vychádzať z pôvodnej myšlienky správy vecí verejných za širokej účasti občanov. „Veľmi sme si želali demokraciu, keď sme ju nemali. Dnes, keď ju máme, ju nevieme zodpovedne využívať,“ prízvukoval aj v súvislosti s tromi voľbami, ktoré sa tento rok uskutočnia na Slovensku. Ako dodal, je potrebné naplno využiť základné právo voliť. „Nedopuťme, aby za nás rozhodovala tzv. mlčiaca väčšina,“ adresoval občanom.

Za dobré považuje to, že v štáte pretrvávajú kritický duch, pričom je podľa neho správne, keď občania kriticky hodnotia rozhodnutia politikov na úrovni únie, alebo na domácej scéne. „Ale niekedy sa mi vidí, že priveľmi podliehame akémusi sebačičovaniu. Nevidíme, a nechceme vidieť dnešný okolitý svet, v ktorom nemáme najhoršie postavenie,“ podčiarkol.

Zároveň poďakoval za podporu počas celého jeho 10-ročného prezidentského mandátu. Jeho druhé, a zároveň posledné funkčné obdobie, končí tento rok. „Cítil som vašu dôveru v častom osobnom kontakte s vami. Veľmi mi pomohla pri výkone tohto neľahkého úradu. Pomáhali ste mi aj v situáciách, keď sa niektorí pokúšali pošliapať ľudskú dôstojnosť prezidenta, kedy ignorovali alebo úmyselne nepravdivo informovali o práci prezidenta,“ konštatoval. Rovnako vyzval na objektívne posúdenie toho, ako sa v priebehu týchto desiatich rokov darilo naplňovať strategické ciele Slovenskej republiky.

TASR

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Privítanie Nového roku 2014

Vyššie štvrt hodinu trvajúci ohňostroj nad Bratislavou privítal prvé minúty roka 2014 v hlavnom meste Slovenska. Z námestia a ulíc bratislavského Starého Mesta, Rázusovho nábrežia, Mostu SNP ale aj z petržalského brehu Dunaja ho sledovalo asi 35,000 ľudí. Ani tentoraz nechýbalo množstvo zahraničných návštevníkov. Košičania sa v tom čase rozlúčili so starým rokom a titulom EHMK počas silvestrovských osláv pyromuzikálnym ohňostrojom a hudobno-tanečnými vystúpeniami na Hlavnej ulici.



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

People across Slovakia welcomed the year 2014. In Bratislava about 35,000 people came out into streets to watch the fireworks, while the celebrations in Košice, which said goodbye to its European Capital of Culture title, were attended by thousands of people.

Kľúčovým problémom sa stáva polarizácia spoločnosti

Kľúčovým problémom spoločnosti sa stáva jej polarizácia. Vo svojom novoročnom príhovore to uviedol prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič. "Rozdeľuje nás na chudobných a bohatých, vytvára skupinu ľudí bez pracovných príjmov, ale aj bez prístupu ku vzdelaniu, zamestnaniu, k informáciám a reálnym možnostiam života," poznamenal.

V tejto súvislosti poukázal na nevyhnutnosť spolupatričnosti, vzájomného počúvania sa a rešpektovania. To sa podľa neho týka všetkých činiteľov verejnej politiky, podnikateľských kruhov, cirkví, rodín, ale aj jednotlivcov. "Nesmieme zabúdať, že ak sú sociálne rozdiely dôsledkom nerovnakých príležitostí, nespravodlivého oceňovania za prácu či nedostatku pracovných príležitostí, znižuje to šancu na systémové udržiavanie spoločnosti ako vzdelaného, mravne sceleného rozvoja schopného celku," upozornila hlava štátu.

Nachádzanie ponaučenia a inšpirácie vidí v návrate k osvedčeným hodnotám, ktoré Slovákom vždy pomohli prežiť, a tými sú tradičná rodina, pôda, viera, vzdelanosť a zmysluplná práca. "Nie prvýkrát hovorím o význame tradičnej rodiny pre zdravý vývoj

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FOTO TASR - Marián Garaj/KP SR

Novoročný prejav prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave v stredu 1. januára 2014.

President Ivan Gasparovic delivered his New Year's Speech from the Presidential Palace in Bratislava on January 1, 2014.

Novodobé prenasledovanie kresťanov

Kardinál Jozef Tomko:

V mesiaci októbri sa udiali dve udalosti, ktoré si aj my Slováci musíme povšimnúť. Od 3. do 5. októbra sa zišla v Bratislave Rada európskych biskupských konferencií. Jej účastníci dostali ako dar nedávno razenú európsku mincu, ktorú razí Slovenská republika ako člen Európskej únie s právom navrhnuť jednu stranu kovového platidla. Hodnota tohto platidla je bezvýznamná: iba dve eurá, ale symbolický význam je veľký, lebo obraz na tejto „národnej“ strane mince ide do celého sveta. Taliansko si navrhlo obraz medzinárodne známeho básnika Danteho. Slovensko predložilo umelecky vypracovaný obraz bratov Cyrila a Metoda, ktorí spoločne držia v rukách uprostred kríža. Bruselskí úradníci považovali tento návrh za „konfesionálny“ a v mene laicizmu odmietali ho prijať. Vo vedení Európskej únie prevládajú aj dnes ľudia, ktorí nedovolili, aby sa do európskej ústavy dostala čo len zmienka o kresťanských koreňoch nášho sveta. Dlho im trvalo, kým prijali slovenský návrh ako symbolický výraz našej národnej histórie. Dnes nemôžeme zabudnúť, že aj „Organizácia pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe“, v skratke OSCE, vydala roku 2011 v Belehrade rezolúciu, v ktorej odsudzuje netoleranciu a diskrimináciu proti kresťanom v Európe. Bratislava tak vyhrala nad Bruselom a umelecky vypracovaná minca vzbudzuje obdiv v Európe aj inde.

Taliansky katolícky denník Avvenire priniesol správu o tomto slovenskom prípade dňa 25. októbra 2013 pod titulom: „Dve (prekrásne) eurá a obrana náboženskej slobody v Európe“. Pri tom poukázal, že v roku 2012 vo Francúzsku bolo 84% všetkých vandalských útokov namierených na katolícke kostoly. A kardinál Tauran upozornil 16. októbra 2013 pri otvorení Konferencie na tému „Náboženstvo, sloboda, moc“ na Katolíckej univerzite v Miláne, že v Európe sa azda menej vyskytuje krvavé a násilné prenasledovanie, ale jestvuje menej viditeľné, zákerné prenasledovanie. Pritom Európa by nemala zabudnúť na nedávne roky prenasledovania v komunistických režimoch, lebo niektoré ich obeť ešte žijú s bolestnými následkami na svete, alebo aspoň v čerstvej pamäti.

V mesiaci septembri a októbri 2013 sa odohrali v Srbsku dôležité slávnosti z príležitosti 1700-ročného jubilea od vydania milánskeho ediktu v roku 313 cisárom Konštantínom Veľkým. Konštantín sa narodil v srbskom meste Niš. Katolícka Cirkev oslávila toto jubileum koncom septembra, pravoslávna Cirkev v októbri. Svätý Otec, pápež František poslal na obidve slávnosti svojich zvláštnych vyslancov. Viedol som katolícku delegáciu na pravoslávne oslavy, ktorým predsedal ekumenický patriarcha z Konštantinopolu Bartolomej, za účasti iných pravoslávnych patriarchov a metropolitov (z Jeruzalema, z Antiochie, z Alexandrie, z Moskvy, z Cypru, atď), ako aj niekoľko desaťtisícov veriacich. Všetci sme pripomenuli starý dokument, edikt, ktorý v Miláne vydal Konštantín Veľký, ktorého pravoslávni uctievať ako svätého. Rímsky cisár v ňom dovolil náboženskú slobodu pre všetkých a ukončil prenasledovanie kresťanov. Ako to vyzvihol patriarcha Bartolomej, bol to ozajstný „zvrät“ v histórii ľudstva“ a výzva k náboženskej tolerancii a znášanlivosti. Krásna liturgická slávnosť v Niši, ako aj iné prejavy, sa stali verejným protestom proti prenasledovaniu a vyhánaniu kresťanov z blízkeho východu, čiže z Malej (Prednej) Ázie. V niektorých krajinách hrozí, že kresťania odtiaľ zmiznú. To bol ďalší výkrik o pomoc prenasledovaným.

Teraz však vydal v Spojených štátoch amerických uznávaný novinár a dopisovateľ z Vatikánu, John Allen knihu Global war on Christians (ed. Random), čiže: „Globálna vojna proti kresťanom“. V nej tvrdí, že kresťania sú v súčasnosti bez pochyby najviac prenasledované náboženské zoskupenie: „svet je svedkom zrodu novej generácie kresťanských mučeníkov“. Demografický vedec Todd Johnson, ktorého cituje Allen, prehlásil, že od roku 2000 po dnes zomrelo každý rok priemerne sto tisíc kresťanov. Podľa odhadu amerického „Centra pre výskum kresťanstva“ pri Teologickom seminári Gordon-Conwell v Massachusetts, každú hodinu sú na svete zabíjajúce svoju vieru jedenásti kresťania.

Allen uvádza len niekoľko príkladov dnešného prenasledovania kresťanov. V severnej Kórei, Pokračovanie na str.25



Pred oltárom Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC deti zo Slovenskej školy v Astórii, NY spievajú slovenské koledy v rámci Mikulášskeho odpoľudnia dňa 8. decembra 2013.

(Viac na strane 26)