



Jednota

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NUMBER 5835



The High Tatras and Spiš Castle blend together to dominate the breathtaking skyline of Spiš

The Spiš Region: A Land Rich in History

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

The area popularly known as Spiš has one of the richest histories of all regions of Slovakia. Situated on the trade route between Hungary and Poland during the Middle Ages, Spiš became a place where many cultures interacted and boasted a vibrant economy until the advent of industrialization in the 19th century. This article aims to provide some general information and mainly historical background about this most interesting region of the country.

Geography

The Spiš region lies in the northeast central part of Slovakia, just to the east and south of the High Tatra Mountains. The Spiš region today is bordered by the Dunajec River to the north, the Váh River's springs to the west, and to the south by the Slovak Ore Mountains (*Slovenské rudohorie*), the Slovak Paradise National Park (*Slovenský Raj Národný Park*) and Hnilec River. To the east, its boundary runs from the historic town of Stará Ľubovňa to the Branisko mountain range, which today has a 4,822 meters long tunnel that leads to the Šariš region in the direction of Prešov. To the southeast, Spiš extends as far as the town of Margecany, a major railroad interchange.

The Hornád River and Poprad River basin form the core of the Spiš region. Throughout its history, the territory has been characterized by a large percentage of forests - in the

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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 2011 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 sent to the Home Office**, each recipient will be issued a \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2007 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**

continued on page 4

The 2010 IRA Contribution Deadline Is April 15

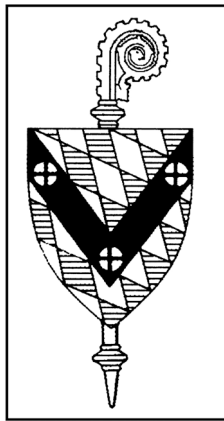
Act now with any of the following FCSU products:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2010

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred IRA	3.65% (3.585% apr)
With the "Cash Interest" Option	3.40% (3.344% apr)
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred IRA:	3.90% (3.826% apr)
New Park Free Plus IRA - first year guarantee Maximum deposit is \$25,000.00	3.00% (2.956% apr)
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred IRA	3.40% (3.344% apr)

If you have any questions about our Annuities or IRA's,
please contact the Home Office at
1-800-533-6682 or your local Branch Officer.

Insights and Viewpoints



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

January 30, 2011

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 5:1-12

Gospel Summary

The eight Beatitudes of Matthew's gospel open his lengthy Sermon on the Mount. They are especially noteworthy because they strike the keynote for all that follows in that Sermon. Moreover, the first Beatitude strikes the keynote also for

the seven Beatitudes that follow.

The decisive word in this first Beatitude is the word, "poor." Its meaning is derived from a Hebrew word meaning "an afflicted one." It was first applied, therefore, to those Jews of the immediate pre-Christian era who were economically and politically powerless but who continued to hope in God even though he seemed to have abandoned them. They were often poor in an economic sense but their more basic poverty was in terms of power and control.

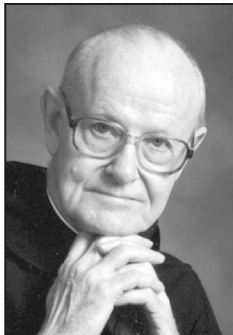
Jesus makes the daring statement that these downtrodden ones should in fact be declared blessed, i.e. fortunate. What could possibly justify such a radical and apparently nonsensical conclusion? Jesus certainly does not intend to bless powerlessness as such. However, he does affirm the blessedness of those who, because they are powerless, are saved from the illusion that worldly power can in fact give them (and us) us the only truly important and lasting gifts, such as, love, happiness and life itself. Being delivered from that disastrous illusion, they are called blessed or fortunate because they are then free to turn to God, who is ready and willing to give them the Kingdom. Matthew specifies this as poverty "in spirit" because it is essentially an attitude of humility and trust in the presence of God.

Life Implications

The ideal presented here must not be mistaken for an unhappy passivity or timidity in the presence of the challenges of this life. Rather, it liberates us from self-centered and self-serving efforts, which will ultimately prove unproductive, so that we may be present to others in a loving, caring and helpful way. This is summed up neatly in the seemingly paradoxical but very true statement, "The only gift we can keep is the one we give away!" Or, in gospel language, "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life" (Mark 8:36)?

The remaining seven Beatitudes are really echoes of this primary one. Those who "mourn" are those who dare to become vulnerable through loving...and thereby find the secret of happiness. The "meek" renounce power and violence as a means of acquiring happiness...and thus are candidates for true happiness. Those who "hunger for justice" have a passion for the reforms that will enable everyone to live and dream. Those who are "merciful" renounce anger and vengeance as they offer forgiveness. The "clean of heart" are the sincere and truthful ones who reject all that is mere sham and pretense in life.

The "peacemakers" promote forgiveness and reconciliation as the only sure way to peace. And those who are "persecuted" are those who persevere in the pursuit of these



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

ideals in spite of ridicule from others who seem to be the wise and prudent ones. Thus, the Beatitudes represent a program for true holiness and happiness through the wisdom of the gospel rather than through the misguided wisdom of purely secular philosophy.



February 6, 2011

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 5: 13-16

Gospel Summary

Jesus tells his disciples that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He adds, "... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly father."

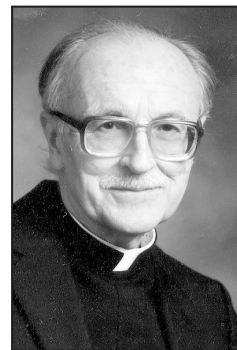
Life Implications

If we were to witness the events of this passage being acted on stage, I think we would find them humorous: Jesus telling a motley group of puzzled followers, many illiterate, that they are the light of the world. The scene reminds me of an experience in a freshman religion class when I suggested that it was they who would determine how our postmodern world ultimately would be defined. We all laughed upon hearing a clearly audible whisper, "O God." These freshmen were not quite sure they were up to the task. And when we hear the gospel passage in church on Sunday, we assume that Jesus is talking to those first disciples, surely not to us. Deep down, like my freshman class, we know we are not capable of being the light of the world.

The passage becomes good news, and not a cause for discouragement, only if we hear it in the context of the gospel that Jesus proclaims. Jesus himself is the light of the world. He is so empty of self and so transparent to the divine action in his humanity that he will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." It is only because we, through the gift of the Spirit, become one with Christ, that we can be the light of the world, never by our own light alone.

The life implications of this gospel are practical and profound. The optimism of the great song "We Shall Overcome" is too easily shattered when racism or the violence of any injustice, in fact, seems to overcome the light. An invincible hope is possible only when we realize that it is through divine action that the kingdom of God is established in this world. "We Shall Overcome" is a song of unconquerable hope when the "we" includes "God is with us."

The conclusion of the eucharistic prayer of the Mass is an expression of the deepest truth of Christian faith: "Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever." Jesus is saying to you and me: "... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY FEB 2	MONDAY, JAN 24
WEDNESDAY FEB 16	MONDAY, FEB 7
WEDNESDAY MAR 2	MONDAY FEB 21

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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 E-Mail Address for the 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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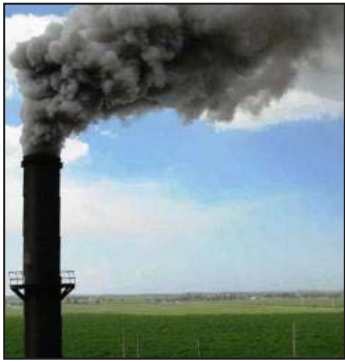
REFLECTIONS ON POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

January 2011

Editor's Note: Apostleship of Prayer receives monthly prayer intentions from Pope Benedict XVI and urges Christians throughout the world to unite in prayer for those intentions. The reflections below seek to illuminate the Holy Father's concerns.

General Intention

Care for Creation. *That the riches of the created world may be preserved, valued, and made available as God's precious gift to all.*



In the first few pages of the Bible, we learn how the Lord created the universe out of nothing. "God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good" (Genesis 1:31). Then God created people "to cultivate and care for" this good creation (Genesis 2:15). It is our God-given dignity to take responsibility for the earth, our home.

At World Youth Day 2008, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the beauty of the earth he saw below him as he flew from Rome to Sydney, Australia. Then he added, "There are also scars which mark the surface of our earth: erosion, deforestation, the squandering of the world's mineral and ocean resources in order to fuel an insatiable consumption."

Unfortunately, we are trashing our home.

Human greed would be destructive enough, but we are also susceptible to an error that weakens our sense of responsibility to the earth. In a 2010 message entitled, "If you Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation," Pope Benedict said, "I have observed that whenever nature, and human beings in particular, are seen merely as products of chance or an evolutionary determinism, our overall sense of responsibility wanes." The solution, he said, is to see creation as God's gift to all humanity.

Rejecting selfishness, we must learn to use resources wisely and to share them fairly. We need to reject the secular view of a world created, not by God, but by chance. We seek a conversion of heart to embrace our duty to care for our home. We have a responsibility to all human beings to share the resources of the earth. We owe it to our children's children to protect our world.

Despite the public controversies, our care for creation is much more than a liberal or a conservative cause; it lies at the heart of what it means to be Christian. It is an awesome privilege and a moral requirement.

Once again the Pope leads us, as Apostles of Prayer, to put our prayers into action and to let them inspire our choices.

Reflection:

As Christians, how do we make others aware of the grave consequences for everyone of failing to take care of the planet?

Reading:

Psalm 8:5-7 What are humans that you are mindful of them, mere mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them little less than a god, crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them rule over the works of your hands, put all things at their feet.

Mission Intention

Unity of Christians. *That Christians may attain full unity, witnessing to all the universal fatherhood of God.*



A good father wants his children to get along. He wants harmony in the family. This month Pope Benedict asks us to join him in praying for harmony in the Christian family. Jesus taught us the prayer that all Christians have in common - the Our Father. We begin that beautiful prayer by calling upon our Father, and we end it by forgiving one another as our Father has forgiven each of us.

The lack of Christian unity contradicts our witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself prayed

that we would all be one so the world will know that we have a common Father (John 17:21). Last Holy Thursday, Pope Benedict pointed out that "Twice the Lord says that this unity should make the world believe in the mission of Jesus...a unity which so transcends ordinary human possibilities as to become a sign."

How the divisions of Christians must wound the Heart of Jesus!

Last year on January 25, feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, the Pope reminded us how essential prayer is to bringing about Christian unity. He said, "The commitment to unity among Christians is not the work of a few only, nor is it an incidental undertaking for the life of the Church. Each one of us is called to make his or her contribution towards the completion of those steps that lead to full communion among the disciples of Christ, without ever forgetting that this unity is above all a gift from God to be constantly invoked. In fact, the force that supports both unity and the mission flows from the fruitful encounter with the Risen One, just as was the case for St. Paul on the road to Damascus, and for the Eleven and the other disciples gathered at Jerusalem."

Every year there is a different theme for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25. This year's theme comes from the Christians in Jerusalem: One in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (cf. Acts 2:42).

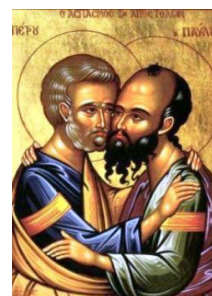
Reflection:

How will you pray and act to advance the unity of separated Christians in your community?

Reading:

Ephesians 4:1-6 I...urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received... bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Prayer of the Month



Father, we rejoice that in all times, places, and cultures people reach out to you in prayer. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to long in prayer for the coming of your Kingdom. Teach us to pray together as Christians, so we may work in unity to proclaim the Gospel in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

-From Resources for the 2011 Octave of Prayer for Christian

Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk
www.travelguide.sk
kosice.region.sk
www.slovakia.org
www.vtaty.sk
www.tatry.net
www.hotel-net.sk
www.skonline.sk
www.kultura.sk
www.snm.sk
www.savba.sk
www.government.gov.sk
www.snd.sk
www.stv.sk
www.nbs.sk

Slovakia Travel Guide
 Hotel and Spa Guide
 Kosice-City Travel Guide
 Bratislava-Information about the City
 Useful Information about the High Tatras
 Complete Information on Tatra Region
 Tourist Accommodation
 Slovakia On-Line (general information)
 Slovak cultural calendar
 Slovak National Museum
 Slovak Academy of Sciences
 Government of the Slovak Republic
 Slovak National Theater
 Slovak Television
 National Bank of Slovakia

Scholarship Applicants

continued from page 1

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 2011 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

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

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: **Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2011.**

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

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

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2012).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2011. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.



Exciting new features for the 2011 Jednota Bowling Tournament.

Mixed Events

Bowlers can enter in Mixed Teams and Mixed Doubles.

Multiple Entries

Bowlers are eligible to enter twice in any event (Teams, Doubles, Singles).

Single Women

Women that are interested in competing for a larger prize in singles are invited to bowl in men's singles. Women will receive the same handicap as the men. To compete in women's singles and men's singles you must bowl singles twice.

The Particulars

You may compete with the same team or double partner twice or with a new team or doubles partner. Mixed teams consist of 2 men & 2 women. You can only cash once with the same team or double partner or in singles (women that bowl in both divisions can cash in each division in singles).

To be considered a new team, two members of the team must be different. In doubles your partner must be different.

All events will consist of the highest series in each event.

There will only be a separate prize fund for mixed events if there are at least 21 teams / doubles participating. Otherwise mixed competition will be in the men's division.



WPSCA Offers summer Scholarship

For the sixth consecutive year, WPSCA is offering a scholarship to attend the three week Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. This year's award is \$3,000

Applicants must meet the following requirements.

- Must be a full time student in the U.S.
- Must be of Slovak heritage
- Must not have previously attended the program
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program.

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and extend their Slovak language competency as well as increasing their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture. Every year more than 150 participants from more than 25 countries study at the academic institution, taking advantage of its Slovak Studies courses. Those leading Slovak as a foreign language and experienced in teaching both in Slovakia and abroad.

For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at (415) 531-2990. All completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before May 1, 2010 at its office at Manor Oak Two Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective December 1, 2010, the "Park Free Plus" Annuity is earning 3.00% (2.956% APR) for the first year and is limited to \$25,000.00 per individual.

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

The "Park Free Plus" offers a first year interest rate of 3.00% (2.956% APR) This initial interest rate is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low Minimum Deposit. Initial deposit may be as low as \$1,000 for the "Park Free Plus" Annuity. Maximum deposit for this program is 25,000.00 per individual. No additional deposits are permitted during the first year.

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

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

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

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

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence OH 44131-8013
1-800-JEDNOTA - Website: www.fcsu.com - E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

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

Please Read Carefully
ENTRY BLANK
57th Annual Men's and 48th Annual Women's
International Jednota Handicap Tenpin
BOWLING TOURNAMENT
 Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union
 Moral support certified by the United States Bowling Congress

Entry Fees
 Prize Fee\$6.85
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$9.75
 Tournament Fee.....\$2.40
Total Each Event.....\$19.00

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

2011 April 29 - May 1
 Entries Close
 March 11, 2011

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

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

Brunswick Zone Carolier
US Route 1 North Brunswick, NJ

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

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

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

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

- Schedule -

TEAM EVENT
 Friday, April 29 6 PM & 9 PM
 Saturday, April 30..... 9 AM (or as needed)

DOUBLES AND SINGLES
 Saturday and Sunday
 April 30 & May 1 9 AM & 1 PM

PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES

BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK
FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION
INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED
SEE RULES 8-10 ON BACK REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION
SEE RULE 6 ON BACK REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP



Hotel Information
 For
Bowling Tournament
 April 29 - May 1, 2011

Tournament Headquarters 50 rooms blocked

Hampton Inn
 841 Georges Road
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902

To make reservations, you must indicate you are with the FCSU
 Phone: 732-246-3555 Rate: \$99 + tax

Reservation cutoff date is March 30, 2011

Other Area Accommodations

Howard Johnson	26 Route 1 N	732-828-8000
Ramada Inn	1 South St. Milltown, NJ	732-246-3737
Farrington Inn	1609 US 130	732-297-2100



57th Men's & 48th Women's
International Bowling
Tournament
Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 29, 2011

4:30 PM Registration
 Carolier Lanes
 790 US Route 1
 N. Brunswick, NJ

4:30 - 6 PM Hospitality Reception
 Carolier Lanes

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

7:30 - 9 PM Hospitality Reception
 Carolier Lanes

Saturday, April 30, 2011

9 AM - 3 PM..... Doubles and Singles Events
 Carolier Lanes

5:30 PM Mass
 To Be Determined

6:30 PM Tournament Banquet
 To Be Determined

Sunday, May 1, 2011

9 AM - 3 PM..... Doubles and Singles Events
 Carolier Lanes

2011 Bowling

April 29th - May 1st

Carolier lanes N Brunswick, NJ.

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

1. The 57th Annual Men's and the 48th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Brunswick Zone Carolier, 790 US Route 1, North Brunswick, New Jersey. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 29, April 30, and May 1, 2011.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 11, 2011. OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 29, AT 5:30 PM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2009-2010 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2009-2010 season and with at least 21 games in the 2010-2011 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 Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN- The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2009-2010 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2009-2010 season and with at least 21 games in the 2010-2011 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. will bowl 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2011, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the ENTRY FORM AT TIME OF ENTRY.

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

6-C. MEN AND WOMEN- 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 U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Secretary at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. U.S.B.C. Rule NO. 13

7. In submitting this entry, THE CAPTAIN AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE TO FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO PRIZE MONEY AS WELL AS THE TOTAL ENTRY FEES IN THE EVENT THAT ANY INFORMATION LISTED HEREIN SHOULD BE FOUND TO BE FALSE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN AVERAGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16. Up to two entries per person are allowed for the team, doubles, and singles events.

(a) Teams

i. A new team is defined when 2 members have been changed.

ii. Each team is eligible to win once.

iii. Mixed teams comprising of 2 men and 2 women are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see Rule 9), 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.

(b) Doubles

i. The doubles entry is a new entry when the partners have changed.

57TH ANNUAL MEN'S AND 48TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S

JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

AT THE BRUNSWICK ZONE-CAROLIER LANES, NORTH BRUNSWICK, N.J.

APRIL 29,30, MAY 1ST, 2011

CONTRACT FOR ADVERTISING IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK

RATE SCHEDULE (Please Check Appropriate Box)

FULL PAGE	5" X 8"	\$100.00	REMIT PAYMENT WITH AD MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MON VALLEY JEDNOTA
HALF PAGE	5" X 4"	\$50.00	
THIRD PAGE	5" X 2 2/3"	\$40.00	
QUARTER PAGE	5" X 2"	\$25.00	
PATRON		\$5.00	

MAIL TO:

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CHARLEROI, PA 15022

As Per Copy Below In Consideration Thereof We Are Enclosing \$ _____
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DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AD MARCH 25, 2011

TOURNAMENT AD BOOK : LARRY A. HEALEY
PHONE: 724-483-4941

ii. Each doubles entry is eligible to win once.

iii. Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see Rule 9), 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.

(c) Singles

i. Women may bowl in the Men's single division. However, women must bowl in Women's singles as well as the men's singles.

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

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

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

21. 319-a-3 It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

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

In case of teams of two or more bowlers, the average shall be combined to determine whether the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.

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

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

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

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2010

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, 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 – present via telephone
Fr. Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain, by the invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the October 2010 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the visit of the US Ambassador to Slovakia, his Excellency Theodor Sedgewick, at the Home Office. The President stated that it was a pleasure to have Ambassador Sedgewick at the Home Office.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

No report was presented and the Treasurer stated that he will submit one at the December meeting.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Executive Committee meeting continued with the Vice President's report. The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in different Regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents, noting that we are continuing to add agents.

Vice President Harcar led a discussion regarding seminars for 2011 and encouraged Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region.

The Vice President also stated that the Executive Committee decided to hire MT Software, Inc., represented by Roger Gertz and Myron Thomas, for their software illustration for our insurance and annuity products.

The Vice President also led a discussion concerning the production on our Park Free Annuity Program and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President stated that as of December 1, 2010, the "New Park 2" Annuity will pay 3% and there will be a limit on deposits at \$25,000.00 per person.

The Executive Secretary stated there will be a direct mailing on offering JEP Policies.

FHLB – VICTORY ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments with Key Bank Corporation and updated the Executive Committee on transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

The President updated the Executive Committee on current interest rates offered by the FHLB.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

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 2010:		
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	182,687.34
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	36,667.86
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Sec-

retary answered all questions.

The President reviewed the regulations proposed by Ohio Department of Insurance concerning replacement and suitability of our insurance and annuity products.

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the IT audit conducted by the Ohio Department of Insurance and stated that we received an excellent review.

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation via Web-ex and telephone. After his review Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions and discussed current annuity rates.

After lunch the Executive Committee continued with a presentation by Jon Willhite, Senior Vice President of Willhite Institutional Consulting Group, who joined the Executive Committee Meeting. He made a presentation on investing process, strategic asset allocation, choices of money managers, etc. After the presentation he answered the questions from the Executive Committee.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the presentation by Chris Welker, Chief Operating Officer of MPAM Credit Trading Partners, L.P., and Craig Ruch, Partner and Chief Executive Officer of MPAM Credit Trading Partners, L.P., regarding a new Fund.

Due to the new Federal Regulations for Banks, the ARC Fund, where Chris Welker and Craig Ruch were the Chief Executives, had to disassociate with Key Bank and be cashed out. We have received back all what we invested plus all our accumulated earnings. We will consider investing a nominal amount with these proven managers. This fund will have the same investment parameters managed by the same personnel as the ARC Fund. They stated this new fund they will be managing is in partnership with Matlin Patterson.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

The President stated that the requests for donations have been reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

Fr. Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



10th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul and his wife, Albina, have arranged their 10th tour to Slovakia including a visit to Vienna. The 14-day trip will begin on July 31, and return to the USA on August 13. It will include visits to Bratislava, Pietany, Martin, Tatras, Presov, Kosice and other historical sites. The activities will include two wine tours, a wedding performance, rafting, visit of a cave, sightseeing, castles and shopping.

The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, all admission fees, air-conditioned bus and English speaking guide. It doesn't include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from Pittsburgh is \$3,450. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990 or jtsenko@aol.com, or Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.



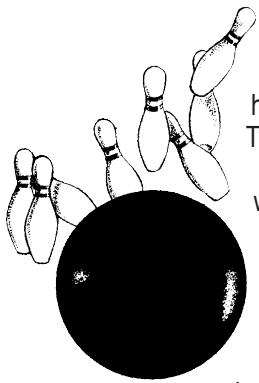
Reminder...

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

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

Slovak Bowling Congress celebrates its 69th annual national tournament at Echo Lanes in Warren, Ohio

Come Join America's Foremost Slovak Sports Event



In 1939 two Slovak brothers – Steve “Doc” and Peter Hletko – formed the Slovak Bowling Congress, and organized the first Slovak National Bowling Tournament. The first tournament was held in 1939 at St. Francis recreation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two teams, ten bowlers participated in that first tournament.

Since that time, the tournament has grown to almost 200 teams, with 815 bowlers participating in the tournament still known as the Slovak Bowling Congress of America Slovak National Bowling Tournament. The tournament is held in the month of April. The 2011 tournament will cover the weekends of April 2nd through the weekend of May 1st in Warren, Ohio at Echo Lanes.

Past Slovak National Tournaments have been held in Milwaukee, Chicago, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lakewood, McKee's Rocks, Warren, Cicero, Sharon, Hermitage, Struthers, Oak Forest, Natrona Heights, Farrel, Erie, Akron, and this year back to Warren Ohio. Past tournaments have enjoyed entry of 13,131 teams, 32,042 doubles teams, and 74,983 singles and 52,024 all-events bowlers. All time payouts total over \$811,891.01!

This year, entry of over 700 bowlers from some 160 cities throughout the United States and Canada is expected. Bowlers will be competing for a prize fund in excess of \$20,000.00.

As a special incentive to Slovak Bowlers, the following Slovak organizations are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the tournament. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, “Zenska Jednota;” The First Catholic Slovak Union, “Jednota;” The National Slovak Society “N.S.S.,” and the Slovak Catholic Sokol, “Sokol.”

Any questions, or for more information on the tournament or the SBC please contact John M Golias: 440 526 3657, 440 526 3445, or Joe Harkulich: 330 448 8630. Hoping to see all Slovak Bowlers at Echo Lanes in Warren, Ohio.

Thank You,

John “Jack” M Golias (National Tournament Committee)

American Slovak Trivia Word Search Puzzle

By Roman Lipiansky

Instructions: Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forwards, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

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

Janosik
Devin
Missouri
Tnava
Valaska
slivovica
Bella
halusky

McKinley
St. Augustine
Vah
Armstrong
tomahawk
Levoca
Twain

Pressburg
bryndza
Gerlach
Tatra
Cernan
Bardejov
Strbske Pleso

See Solution on Page 10

SCF Seeks Contributors for ‘Good Shepherd’ Annual

Dobry Pastier (The Good Shepherd), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, compiles articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is currently accepting articles for inclusion in the 2011 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is May 1, 2011. Due to the publication schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual. The annual will be available for distribution in the Fall.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

USE OF PHOTOS

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

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

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

ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

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

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

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

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

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

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

Scenes from the George Onda District Stedry Vecer

The George Onda District held its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 5, 2010. This popular festive event was held at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, Pa. Among the 110 in attendance were: National Treasurer George Matta and Mrs. Matta; Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka and mother, Florence Sprock; Supreme Court members: Dr. Stephen Wisdosh and James Bench with Mrs. Bench; newly elected Region 4 Director, James Marmol and Mrs. Marmol; and Chaplain, Reverend Larry Kulick. The District officers attending were: Clarence Pfeifer, President; Randy Opsitnik, Vice President; Linda Gonta, Secretary; and Stephen Gonta, Treasurer.



Father Larry Kulick, serving as Master of Ceremonies



(L - R) Father Larry Kulick, Clarence Pfeifer and Helen Homulka



George and Florence Matta



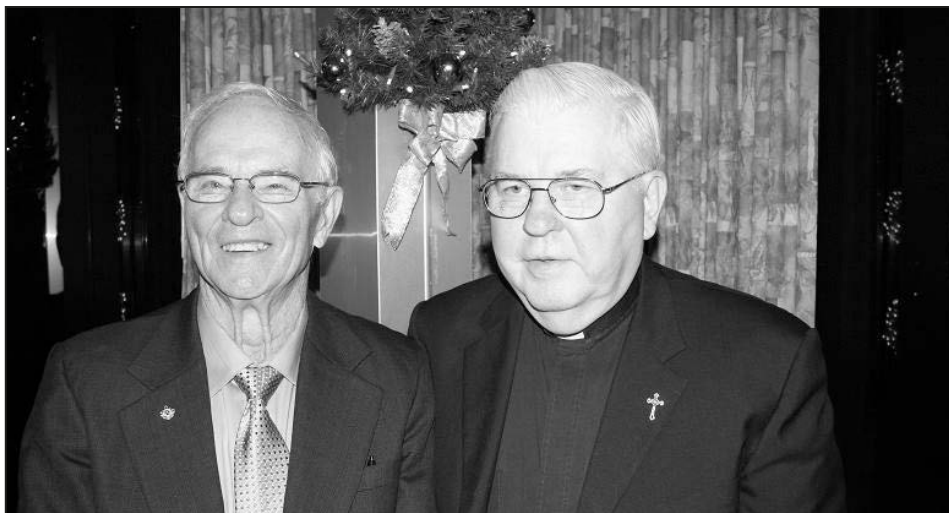
Stephen and Linda Gonta



James and Patricia Marmol



Kay and James Bench



Clarence Pfeifer and Monsignor William Charnoki

See additional photos on page 10

Scenes from the George Onda District Stedry Vecer

continued from page 9



(L - R) Barbara Mizikar and Anna Rich



(L- R) Craig Huska and Karen Hunka



Stephen LaPay, who sighted the first evening star

John's Tours Sets Yearly Slovakia Tour – Slovakia and Poland

12-Day Tour, June 25 – July 7, 2011

17-Day Tour, September 4 – 20, 2011

This year, John's Tours will set two tours to Slovakia and surrounding countries.

The 12-day tour, from June 25 – July 7 will include: visits to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Čičmany; Rajecká Lesná, the village of a unique wooden Bethlehem wooden carving, 15 years in the making; Levoča, Spania Poprod, Nitra, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, a "castle" which actually consists of three castles –upper, central, and middle. This tour also will include rafting on the Dunajec River which runs between the Slovak and Polish border, and then two days in Krakow, Poland, with visits to Auschiwitz, the WWII Nazi Concentration Camp; the Old Town Marketplace; the Royal Castle of Wawel, with time at Czestochowa, the Shrine of the Black Madonna in the Jasna Gora Monestary, and one of the most precious Polish relics.

The September 4 – 20, 2011 tour will cover: Slovakia; Vienna, Austria; Krakow, Poland; and Prague, the Czech Republic. Visits in Slovakia will include: Bratislava, Levoča, Sponia Dolina, Prešov, Banská Štiavnica, Stará L'ubovňa, Poprod, Nitra, Košice, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, the Dunajec raft trip, and Rajecká Lesna. We will have two folklore programs – one in Krakovany and one in Ticky Potok, a Rusyn Village. The Mayor will show us the village, with a folklore program to follow dinner. We will then see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz. In the Czech Republic, you can look forward to seeing Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, plus many other sights.

Tours include: two (2) meals daily; an English-speaking guide; bus transportation with restroom and air conditioning; admittance to all scheduled sights; accommodations in three- or four-star hotels, all with private baths; and group air transportation, for your convenience and the best possible price.

If you are interested, please call or write for a complete day-to-day itinerary and price:

John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA, 15690
1-724-567-7341 OR 1-724-568-3215 OR toll free at 1-800-260-8687

Answer to Word Search Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 8

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

Mount McKinley or Denali (Athabaskan for "The High One") in Alaska is the highest mountain peak in North America and the United States, with a summit elevation of 20,320 feet (6,194 m).

Tatra Mts (Tatry in Slovak) - The tallest range in the Carpathian Mountains. They form part of the border between Slovakia and Poland. The Tatras are easily accessible and provide some of the best skiing in Central Europe.

Gerlach is the highest peak in the Tatras usually listed at 8,711 ft (2,655 metres)

Strbske Pleso is the most popular of many small mountain lakes found in the Tatras.

Missouri This is the longest river in the USA at over 2,340 miles (3,770 km). Its sources lie in the Centennial Mountains of southern Montana and it flows through such state capitals as Bismarck, Pierre, Jefferson City, Omaha before joining the Mississippi just above St. Louis.

Vah This is the longest river entirely within the borders of Slovakia. A left tributary of the Danube river, the Váh is 242 miles long, (406 km) long, including its Čierny Váh branch. It has two sources, the Biely Váh (White Váh) in the High Tatras and the Čierny Váh (Black Váh), in the Low Tatra mountains. It flows through northern and western Slovakia and finally feeds into the Danube near Komárno. Some of Slovakia's best known towns are on the Vah, including Liptovský Mikuláš, Ružomberok, Žilina, Trenčín, Piešťany, and Komárno.

Pressburg is only one of many names that Bratislava was given over the years. There are even Slovak variations of this old Austrian name like "Presporok" as in the folk song "Pri Presporoku na Dunaji". Some other former names are Anductium, Pozsony.

Devin A suburb of Bratislava where Devin Castle is found at the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers. Site of settlements from Neolithic, Celtic, Roman, and Slavic eras. Some parts of the castle have been reconstructed in the 20th century and the castle hosts an interesting museum.

Trnava is located 30 miles to the north-east of Bratislava, on the Trnávka river. Because of the many churches within its city walls, Trnava has often been called "parva Roma", i.e. "Little Rome", or more recently, the "Slovak Rome".

Levoča a town in the Spiš region of eastern Slovakia with a population of 14,600. The most significant pilgrimage site in Slovakia. Its 14th century Roman Catholic Church of St. James (in Slovak: Chrám svätého Jakuba, often mistakenly referred to in English as St. Jacob's) houses a magnificently carved and painted wooden Gothic altar, the largest in Europe, (18.62 m - 61.09 ft in height), created by Master Paul around 1520. The late Pope John Paul II was welcomed by 650,000 pilgrims when he visited in 1995. On June 28, 2009, Levoča was added by UNESCO to its World Heritage List.

Bardejov A spa town of about 33,000 situated in the Šariš region of Slovakia It has numerous cultural monuments in its completely intact medieval town center. The town is one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

St. Augustine not as old as Trnava, was founded in 1565 by Spanish explorer and admiral, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. It is the oldest continuously occupied European-established city in the continental USA.

Armstrong, Neil Amer. astronaut, first human to set foot on the moon, July 20th 1969.

Cernan, Eugene Amer. astronaut of Slovak descent, last human to set foot on the moon, in December 1972.

Bella, Ivan Slovak Air Force officer who became the first Slovak citizen to fly in space. He participated in an eight-day joint Russian-French-Slovak mission to the Mir space station in 1999.

Twain, Mark is the pen name of Samuel Longhorn Clemens. He depicted life in the American Midwest and on the Mississippi with great humor and wit. His characters Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn are known around the world.

Janosik, Juraj the main character of many Slovak legends, novels, poems, and films. According to the legend, he robbed nobles and gave the loot to the poor.

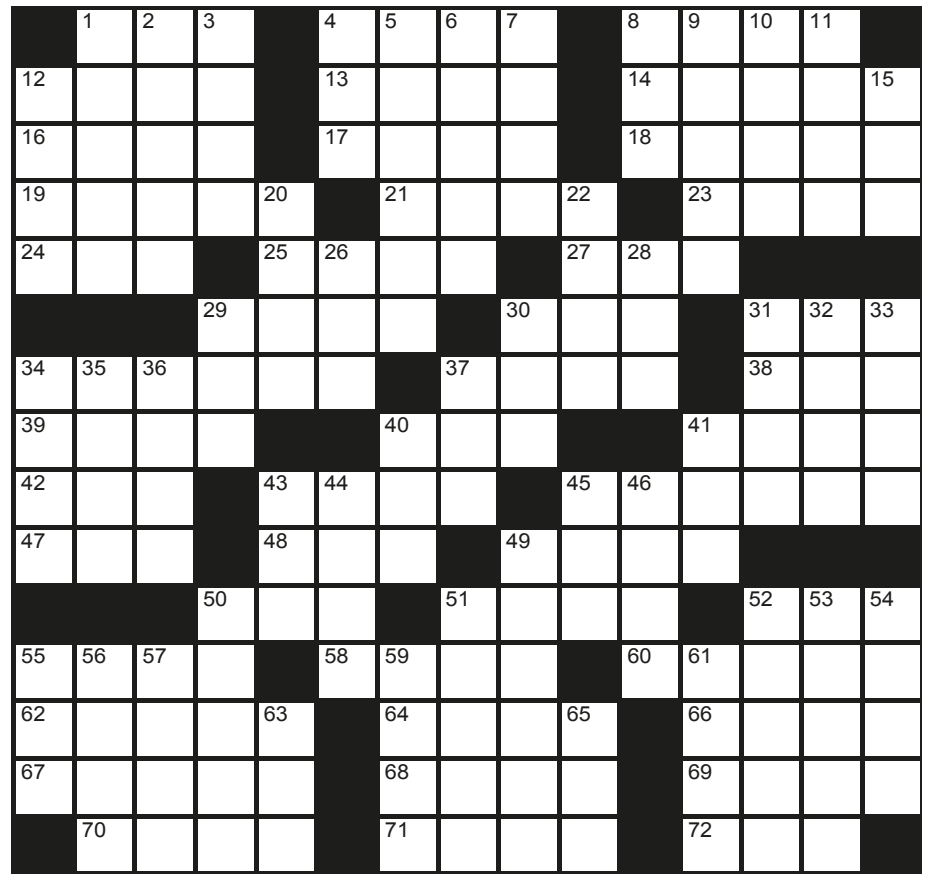
Valaska The Valaska axe was a combination of a tool with a walking stick, which could also be used as a light weapon. It has symbolic historical and cultural connotations and is still used as a prop in many traditional dances, for example the odzemok

Halusky Made from potato dough, this dish is popular throughout all of Slovakia. It is often served with bryndza cheese as "bryndzove halusky".

Bryndza is a soft crumbly cheese made from sheeps' milk. Bryndza was first recorded in the Slovak counties in 1470 and in the adjacent Polish Podhale in 1527.

Slivovica from "sliva" meaning plum. It is a plum brandy popular in Slovakia, often homemade.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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(L – R): Dan Tanzone, Branch 41 Member and x; Eileen Wilson, Branch 19 member, Robert Ľapák Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary; and Slovak Catholic Federation President Father Phillip Altavilla stand in front of the house in Trstená, Slovakia where Fr. Stephen Furdek, founder of the FCSU was born.



Sister Carol Marie Walsh organized and led the pilgrimage

Jednota Members Participated in Historic Pilgrimage in 2010

FCSU members were among the 48 pilgrims who took part in the Sisters of Ss. Cyril & Methodius' Centennial Pilgrimage to Slovakia, Poland, and Moravia from October 4 – 13, 2010. The pilgrimage capped the centennial celebration of the Sisters' founding in 1909, to serve the Slovak immigrant community in the USA.

Sixteen nuns, three priests, and one deacon ensured that the other 28 participants kept their focus on the pilgrimage aspect of this enjoyable trip. Among the highlights of the pilgrimage were visits to the Shrine of the Black Madonna and St. Faustina's Divine Mercy Shrine in southern Poland; Velehrad in the Czech Republic, where St. Methodius served as bishop; and Levoča, Šaštín, and Nitra in Slovakia. Participants also visited Košice, Prešov, Trnava, Martin, and Bratislava.

Robert Ľapák Magruder, Branch 493

Across

- 1 Disfigure
- 4 Uncertain
- 8 Highlander
- 12 Dutch East Indies island
- 13 On the ____
- 14 Harmonium
- 16 Leave
- 17 Voiced
- 18 Indochinese peninsula
- 19 It. river
- 21 Balmy
- 23 Ooze
- 24 Fr. bud
- 25 ____ Khayyam
- 27 Astern
- 29 Twosome
- 30 Brazilian port
- 31 Beverage
- 34 Redo a lawn
- 37 Take the count
- 38 Possess
- 39 Pain
- 40 Saltwater fish
- 41 Elderly
- 42 Haggard novel
- 43 After spark or fire
- 45 Signature witness
- 47 Mortar box
- 48 Decompose
- 49 Sand feature
- 50 Costello, for one
- 51 Shame
- 52 Circulars
- 55 Indifferent
- 58 Work hard
- 60 Small three-masted vessel
- 62 Love (It.)
- 64 Regrettably
- 66 Titaness

- 67 More expansive
- 68 Carryall
- 69 Lacerated
- 70 Zest
- 71 Let it stand!
- 72 Before (Poet.)

Down

- 1 Saying
- 2 Excuse
- 3 Ritual
- 4 Wedding words
- 5 Arrange
- 6 Panache
- 7 Scream
- 8 Cry
- 9 Impudence
- 10 Fiend
- 11 Docile
- 12 Gr. letter
- 15 Snooze
- 20 Debauchee
- 22 Pulpit
- 26 Club ____
- 28 Enemy
- 29 Scot. river
- 30 Fishing gear
- 31 Robe
- 32 Pitcher
- 33 Rooney or Gibb
- 34 Reckless
- 35 Reverberation
- 36 Outbuilding
- 37 Record
- 40 Write out
- 41 Consumed
- 43 Affirmative
- 44 Oaf
- 45 Brazil, for one
- 46 Cameo stone
- 49 Distend
- 50 Actress Sophia
- 51 Aviator
- 52 Loathe
- 53 Tractor name
- 54 Glance over
- 55 Power tool
- 56 Leave out
- 57 Soft drink
- 59 Grains
- 61 Fem. suffix
- 63 Energy unit
- 65 Congeal

See Solution on Page 19

Part 11 of the 2010 Photo Contest Re

Category: 18 and Older

People



First Place - Michelle Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35



Second Place – Maribeth Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35



Third Place – Michele MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290

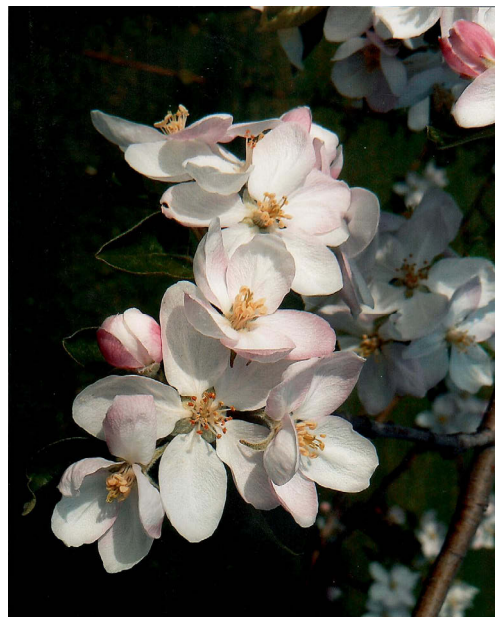
Nature or Environment



First Place – Paul Tomanek
Harveys Lake, PA, Branch 381



Second Place – Maribeth Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

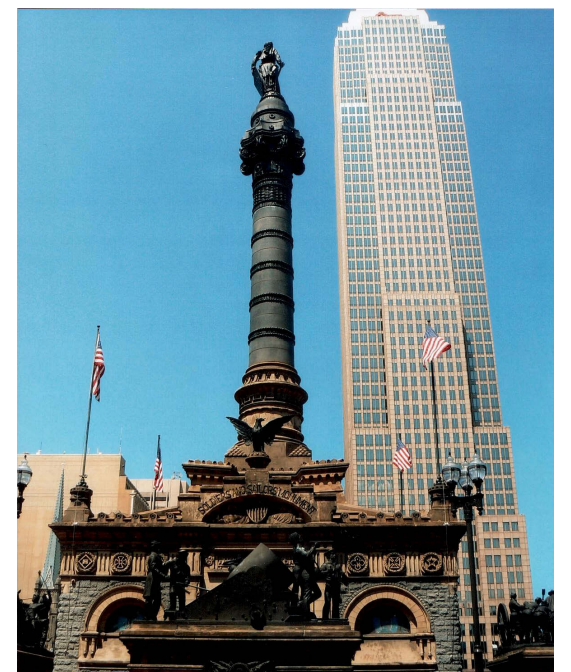


Third Place – James Marmol
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162

FCSU Fraternal Activity



First Place – Charles Micek
Ranchos Palos Verdes, CA, Branch 567



Second Place - James Marmol
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162



Third Place – Maribeth Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

Results

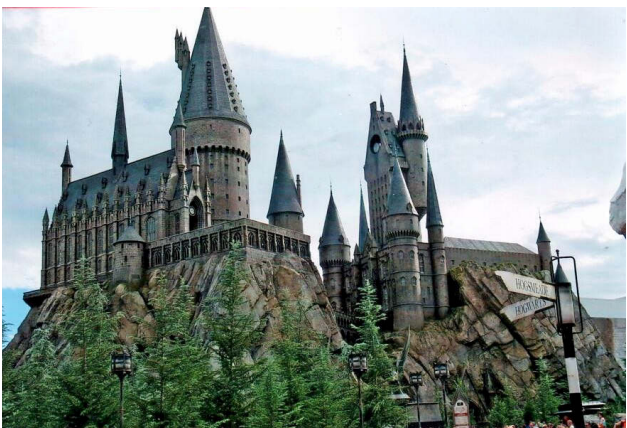
Travel or Destinations



First Place –
Rachel Popovich
University Park, PA,
Branch 276



Second Place –
Jeannie Blake
Uniontown, PA,
Branch 162



Third Place –
Michele MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ,
Branch 290

Overall Winner



Michelle Colbaugh
Trafford, PA,
Branch 35

WANTED

The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada is seeking agents or licensed Recommenders who are fluent in the Slovak language to represent the Society and market our

Life Insurance and Annuity products, especially in the New York and New Jersey area.

Please call or e-mail:

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Andrew M. Rajec –

1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) or

Vice-President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. –

1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)

E-mail: president@fcsu.com



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

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 12:30 PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will organize a Ping Pong Tournament on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 1:00 PM in St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We hope to see you all there, and we thank you in advance for your attendance.

Jozef Jurasi, Sports Director

BRANCH 55- BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A Special Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the home of President Helena T. Gaydos, 137 Cypress Drive, Philadelphia, PA. A short business meeting will be conducted to review the highlights of the past year and discuss plans for the 2011; and any other business that will come up. Refreshments will be served. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please call the President at (610) 356-7956 for directions.

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Please join us for our meeting and election of officers, with a luncheon to follow. Social time: 12:30PM to 1:00PM; meeting from 1:00PM to 2:00PM (approximate); lunch to be served at 2:00PM. Some topics of discussion will be: election of officers, donations, 2011 activities.

The meeting location is Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20.00.

Reservations with the number attending must be made by January 29, 2011 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is a requirement in order to reserve seating at the restaurant.

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Branch 89 will hold an Easter Duty Mass at the 9:00AM Mass on April 10m 2011 at St. Margaret Mary, 3970 N. 92nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222. Breakfast will immediately follow the Mass, being served at 10:30AM at the Grecian Inn, 14375 W. Capitol Dr, Brookfield, WI. Breakfast for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$15.00, and kids under age 6 are free.

Reservations with the number attending must be made by April 4, 2011 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is a requirement in order to reserve seating at the restaurant.

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Thank you,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 96 - CARROLLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

St John The Baptist Society, Branch 96, Carrolltown, PA, will hold a regular meeting with the election of officers on Sunday January 23rd at 2:00pm at the residence of Stella Papson, Financial Secretary, 138 Sunset Rd, Carrolltown, 814-344-8964.

Albert M Penksa, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will have our first meeting of the new year on February 12, 2011, immediately following the 5:00PM Mass at St. Florian in the St. Florian Formation Building. On the agenda: planning activities for 2011. For more information, contact: Gerry Kovacina, P.O. Box 24, Mammoth, PA 15664, (412) 216-5527.

Gerry Kovacina

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 13, 2011, at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Struthers, OH, at 9:30AM. We will conduct an audit at this meeting, along with a discussion of current year activities. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting and become more active in our fraternal functions. The Officers of Branch 259 wish all members a Happy, Healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 313 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, January 22, 2011, at 2:00PM. The place will be at the Mother of Sorrows Convent in Oak Forest, IL, 5600 West 147th Street. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2011, and we will have a discussion about new membership for our society.

Joseph M. Bugel, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 in Muskegon Heights, MI would like to announce our monthly pork and kraut dinners being served at the club. They will be held on the second Sunday of each month. This is a complete traditional dinner including dessert. Only \$6 for adults and children under 12 pay only \$4. We will be serving from noon until 3 p.m.

Our monthly breakfast is held the fourth Sunday of each month. We serve from 8:30 a.m. until noon. We serve a wide variety of breakfast items. The cost remains at \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

We are located at the corner of Sixth Street and Sherman Boulevard in Muskegon Heights. Our phone number is 231 733 7525. Please contact us if you have any other questions.

Thank you,

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682 - BOARDMAN, OHIO

Branch 682 will have an audit meeting on January 28, 2011, at Material Research Laboratories, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH 44471, at 7:00 PM. All members are invited.

Andrew J. Hirt

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday March 20, 2011 with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members. The Mass is at 11:30 a.m. At SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall fol-

lowing 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 in the Slovak Heritage Room at 1p.m.

Members who have moved or require Branch services including beneficiary change should contact the Financial Secretary, Joseph C Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone @ 586-254-0225.

Joseph C Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Okres meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Reservations are being accepted for our April 2nd bus trip to Lancaster, PA to see JOSEPH at the Sight and Sound Theater. Dinner Buffet at the Eden Resort Inn will follow the show. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 for more information.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 764 To Sponsor "Night at the Races" in February

SS Cyril & Methodius Branch 764, Warren, OH, will participate in a "Night at the Races" on Saturday February 26, 2011 at 6:30PM. A spaghetti dinner will be held prior to the festivities at 5:30 PM at Sts Cyril & Methodius Social Hall, 185 Laird Ave. NE, Warren, OH.



The admission cost for the dinner will be \$5.00 which includes pasta & meatballs, salad, bread and cake. Beer and pop will be available or BYOB. All members of the previous Branch 759K Newton Falls and Branch 342 Warren are also invited to attend.

For tickets or further information contact Bill Hrusovsky at 330-372-1948 or Ron Zelenak at 330-856-7088.

Joy Brunetti Recording Secretary

Search Is On For Miss Czech Slovak of 2011

The Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant is on the search for the 2011 Miss Czech Slovak US. For over 24 years the Miss Czech Slovak US has been producing heritage ambassadors for all Czechs and Slovaks across the United States. Now, we are looking for more. The national website www.missczechslovakus.com has been updated with the 2011 Rules and Pageant Entry Form. The Miss Czech Slovak US organization is proud to preserve the Czech and Slovak heritage through young representatives. You may know the 2011 Miss Czech Slovak US right now! Miss Czech Slovak US is a queen knowledgeable and passionate about her heritage. Our queen wears kroj (traditional costume) to all heritage events to proudly display her heritage. She is willing to promote and support heritage events across the United States.

The Miss Czech Slovak US pageant awards over \$10,000 in cash and prizes to contestants across the United States. The 2011 Miss Czech Slovak US will win \$1500 cash and \$2500 towards a trip to the Czech or Slovak Republic. 1st Runner Up receives a \$1000 Cash Prize and 2nd Runner Up receives a \$600 Prize. We also awards the Best Americanized and Authentic Kroj, Grand and Runner Up Talent, Best Oratory Skills, Lois Fiala Spirit Award, Miss Congeniality, Sokol Talent, and Heritage Involvement Award.

For complete information please see our website www.missczechslovakus.com. If you would be interested or know a wonderful and talented young lady please feel free to forward this email or send appropriate contact information to myself. We are also available on our facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Miss-Czech-Slovak-US-Pageant/98994805512?v=wall>

Sincerely,

**MaryElizabeth Lackey
Pageant Director
785-317-5010**

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. Election of Officers will take place.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District of the FCSU met for its Fall meeting on December 5, 2010, with ten branches in attendance. The current slate of officers was re-elected for the next year. Plans were made for events in 2011.

The Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2011. Branch 738 will host. Branch 35 will host the Fall meeting on a date to be determined later. Branch 2 will host the Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 19, at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Mass will begin at 9:30 with brunch to follow. Watch for additional meeting details in upcoming announcements.

The district would like to collect e-mail addresses from each branch in order to improve communications. For example, items for the meeting agenda or details of meeting arrangements can be sent directly to the secretary. If we don't already have your e-mail, please contact the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net

The Pittsburgh District extends wishes for a Happy New Year to all Jednota members

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

Attention Members: Branch 743 Needs Your Help

As Financial Secretary of Branch 743, I have been unable to contact certain members of the Branch. It may be that the person is deceased and the beneficiaries are entitled to life insurance proceeds, or they are not receiving life insurance policy updates.

Your Branch needs a current address or telephone number for any of the named individuals listed below.

Any assistance provided will be greatly appreciated.

Joseph C. Rimarcik
President/ Financial Secretary
42909 Sussex Park Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087
586-254-0225

Branch 743 Missing Address As December 09, 2010

Name	Year Born	Name	Year Born
Anderson, Shirley S	1936	Litwin, Madonna	1958
Appleby, James B	1988	Maas, Pauline E	1919
Atkinson, Frances	1917	Madar, Douglas	1956
Baldwin, Irene	1926	Madar, Judith	1940
Batchik, Mary E	1962	Markovich, Laura	1957
Bratley, Susan	1951	Matejcik, John	1947
Bertolini, Angelo P	1925	McKolay, Peter	1959
Bradham, Jonathan M	1973	Mracna, George W	1942
Calcaterra, Grace	1956	Nosal, John M	1929
Cassar, Louis	1947	Nosal, Marisa	1957
Churchran, Donald	1942	Osebold, Christine	1955
Comito, Dorothy	1932	Osebold, Maureen	1952
Petrovich, Mary E	1941		
Deering, Evan W	1998	Schulte, Dennis	1969
Dutchik, Brandon R	2004	Smiscik, Maria	1954
Fetter, Beverly	1947	Smolos, Andrew E	1921
Sopcik, Albert E	1921		
Greslikova, Natalia	1974	Strode, Karen	1958
Korpak, John	1914	Stvrtecka, Anna	1919
Gordon, Josephine	1913	Szymanski, Karen	1975



Fraternal's Trade Association Unveils New Identity

The nation's premier association of fraternal benefits societies has adopted a new identity to better reflect its purpose, membership and value to communities throughout the nation: **American Fraternal Alliance.**

The organization, which will be known informally as "the Fraternalists" or "Fraternal Alliance," also unveiled a new logo and tagline as part of its new identity. The association, formed in 1886, previously was called the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA).

The First Catholic Slovak Union is a member of the Fraternalists.

The American Fraternal Alliance is a non-profit trade association with 70 members, each of which is a fraternal benefit society. These member societies operate in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada.

Fraternalists throughout the U.S. and Canada celebrate their common bonds, work together on thousands of volunteer efforts in communities all across the map, and have brought the concept of mutual aid into its third century. The fraternal system is a time-honored, cost-effective way that a large segment of Americans and Canadians provide financial protection to their families.



**A M E R I C A N
F R A T E R N A L
A L L I A N C E**

FACTS ABOUT THE FRATERNALS

Did you know:

- Fraternal benefit societies represent nine million individual members who participate in 31,500 local chapters—among America's largest member-volunteer networks.
- These members contributed an estimated \$400 million in direct financial aid to charitable and fraternal programs last year.
- Members represent one of America's largest volunteer networks, with individuals volunteering 91 million hours for community-service projects last year.
- Fraternal benefit societies have \$363 billion of life insurance in force.
- Fraternal benefit societies paid \$3.3 billion in life insurance benefits, \$4.6 billion in annuity benefits, and \$475 million in accident and health benefits in the U.S. last year.



Congregation of Holy Cross to Merge US Provinces

At its general chapter meeting in Rome this past summer, the Congregation of Holy Cross approved the merger of its two existing U.S. provinces of priests and brothers. The newly-adopted legislation authorizes the Superior General to effect the merger in order to enhance the congregation's ministries of "parish, mission, education." At a joint meeting of the Eastern Province and Indiana Province Councils on December 4-5, 2010, it was agreed that the merger of the Eastern Province into the Indiana Province should be effected by the Superior General on July 1, 2011 (Feast of the Sacred Heart). The Indiana Province will proceed with the appropriate civil instruments to change its name to the United States Province of Priests and Brothers.

The ministries of the new province will include four colleges and universities: University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN, founded 1842), University of Portland (Portland, OR, 1901), King's College (Wilkes-Barre, PA, 1946), and Stonehill College (Easton, MA, 1948). These and all other ministries will be integrated, including 17 parishes from Vermont to Oregon; André House, a ministry to the homeless and poor in Phoenix; the Downtown Chapel in Portland; Ave Maria Press in Notre Dame; and Holy Cross Family Ministries in North Easton, Massachusetts. HCFM was founded by Servant of God Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and encompasses Family Theater Productions, Family Rosary, and Father Peyton Family Institute. The United States Province will also be present in Mexico, Chile, Peru, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The congregation's United States Province will comprise over 410 priests and brothers plus 80 seminarians currently in formation for a life of service in Holy Cross. The administrative offices of the province will be located in South Bend, IN. This reorganization has been under discussion by both provinces for some time, with a vision "to enhance the effectiveness of the Holy Cross mission in the United States," stated Fr. David T. Tyson, C.S.C., Provincial Superior for the Indiana Province. Fr. Thomas P. Looney, C.S.C., Provincial Superior of the Eastern Province, stated, "In merging we celebrate and manifest God's gift of our brotherhood in Christ for the service of God's people."

Holy Cross presence in America began in 1841, when the French-founded order sent Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., who later founded the University of Notre Dame. Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., was beatified in 2007, and the order celebrated the canonization of its first saint, Saint André Bessette, C.S.C., on October 17, 2010.

For more, contact: Rev. Edwin H. Obermiller, C.S.C.
Assistant Provincial, Indiana Province
Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
574-631-1018
obermiller.2@nd.edu
www.holycrossvocations.com



OBITUARIES

Remembrances of a Great Public Servant: Michael A. O'Pake, Senator and Branch 175 Member

Senator Michael A. O'Pake, Democratic Whip in the Pennsylvania Senate, died Monday, December 27, 2010, in Reading Hospital and Medical Center. He was 70. Born in Reading on February 2, 1940, he was the son of the late Michael E. and Anna (Maslar) O'Pake. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Patrick.



At his death, Senator O'Pake was the longest-serving member in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Following two terms in the state House, he was first elected to the state Senate in 1972 and was overwhelmingly re-elected to the Senate nine times.

Senator O'Pake noted in November, on being awarded the prestigious Shield of Loyola award at St. Joseph's,

that his legislative career was guided by Jesuit precepts of service to others. "I hope tonight and tomorrow, when we all look back, we can answer this question in the affirmative," he said, "Has my life made a difference for good in the lives of others?"

Raised in the Glenside public housing project, Senator O'Pake was motivated by the challenges created by the poverty that he witnessed from an early age. Despite his later accomplishments, he continued to live in the Glenside neighborhood throughout his life.

After working as a law clerk for the Penn-

sylvania Superior Court following law school, O'Pake followed in a political path that he said was inspired by the late President John F. Kennedy. He won his first election in 1968, after challenging the incumbent state Representative by going door-to-door on foot throughout his district. His only election loss came in a tight 1980 race during the first campaign to elect a state Attorney General.

During a distinguished legislative career that spanned five decades, Senator O'Pake focused especially on serving the needs of children and families, the elderly and the disabled, and was the author or a principle role-player in the passage and enactment of numerous significant laws that have shaped Pennsylvania in recent decades, including the establishment of the Department of Aging, the adoption of No-Fault divorce, passage of the Children's Protective Services law and Protection from Abuse Act, creation of a property tax and rent rebate for seniors and the disabled, and the establishment of

the state's landmark Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

He was unswerving in his desire to help people no matter the difficulty of the issues they confronted or the problems they faced, and was especially dedicated to recognizing the special and everyday accomplishments of 11th Senatorial District residents, tirelessly appearing at as many events large or small as his schedule could handle.

A public viewing took place at St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church in Reading, PA, on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011, from 3PM to 8PM, and again on Monday, Jan. 3 2011, from 9AM to 11AM, followed by a private Mass of Christian Burial at noon.

Heartfelt condolences go out to the relatives of the Maslar and O'Pake families from the members of Branch 175.

Frank Straka, Branch 175 President

Senator O'Pake was a 1957 graduate of Reading Central Catholic High School, where he won the 1956 national Optimist International oratory contest. He graduated summa cum laude from St. Joseph's University in 1961 before going on to earn his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1964, where he received the Keedy Cup for best appellate advocacy. He was a member of the Berks County Bar Association and was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court as well as state courts in Pennsylvania. He was a distinguished member of St. John the Baptist Branch 175, Reading, PA.

Sister Theresa Podlucky, SCN

Sister Theresa Podlucky began her eternal life at the age of 82 on Friday, December 17, 2010. At the time of her death, Sister was a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY. (The Vincentian Sisters of Charity, Pittsburgh, PA merged with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in 2008). Born in Johnstown, PA, Sister entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Johnstown on February 2, 1947, and served God and the Church for 64 years. Sister Theresa served in the diocese of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, PA as a teacher in both elementary and secondary schools and as a CCD Coordinator. She spent one year as an instructor of the English language in Ruzomberok, Slovakia. Her other community responsibilities included Vocation Recruiter, Formation Team Directress, and Aide at the Vincentian Child Development Center. Her final years were spent in the prayer ministry until she became a resident of Vincentian Home

where she died. Sister Theresa received a B.Sc. in Home Economics from Mt. Mercy College (now Carlow University) and a M.Sc. in Clothing & Textiles from Penn State University. She also obtained Certification in English from Duquesne University. Sister Theresa was preceded in death by her parents, Gabriel and Margaret, brothers, Michael, Gabriel, John and Joseph, and sisters, Julia, Yolanda and her twin, Mary Vogatsky. She is survived by her special bother-in-law, John J. Vogatsky, Sr., her very close niece, Gloria J. DeNorcy, numerous nieces and nephews, and by her sisters in community. Friends were received at St. Louise Convent, Pittsburgh, PA (formerly the Vincentian Motherhouse) on Wednesday, December 22 from 2 - 8 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered in the St. Louise Convent Chapel on Thursday, December 23 at 11:00 a.m. Burial followed in the Sisters' cemetery on the convent grounds.

Sr. M. Bertille Janech, SCN

Sister M. Bertille Janech, of McCandless, began her eternal life at the age of 92 on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010. At the time of her death, Sister was a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Nazareth, KY. The Vincentian Sisters of Charity, Pittsburgh, merged with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in 2008. Sister Bertille entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Mathias Parish in Natrona on Sept. 2, 1934, and joyfully served God and the church for 76 years. During her years of ministry, Sister served in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg as an elementary teacher in the primary grades and as principal. In the diocese of Mobile, Ala., she was the principal of St. Jude Education Center and in Venice, FL, she was the CCD coordinator. She was the first director of the Vincentian Child Care Center. Sister began her prayer ministry in

2002 and spent her final years at Lourdes Hall in St. Louise Convent. Sister Bertille was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Mary (Riecki) Janech; brothers, John and Louis; and sister, Mary Naydeck. She is survived by her nieces, nephew, numerous great-nieces and great-nephews and her Sisters in community. Sister Bertille is remembered by her nieces and nephews as a gentle, loving teacher with a quick sense of humor. Friends were received from 2 to 8 p.m. on the following Tuesday and 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at St. Louise Convent, Pittsburgh, PA (formerly the Vincentian Motherhouse). The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the St. Louise Convent Chapel, followed by burial the Sisters' cemetery on the convent grounds.

Louis Kollar, Dedicated Officer of Branch 595 and Past FCSU Election Committee Chairman, Dies

Louis "Louie" A. Kollar, age 82, passed away Thursday morning, December 30, 2010 at a local care facility, following a brief illness. He was born in Muskegon on July 17, 1928 to Alois and Mary (Kazimir) Kollar. Louie was a 1946 graduate of Muskegon Heights H.S. and served on the reunion committee. A stand-out football player in high school, Louie went on to Assumption College in Canada to study business and play on their football team. After one year in Canada, he returned to Michigan and resumed his studies in business at Michigan State University until entering the U.S. Army in 1951. Prior to retirement, Mr. Kollar was employed at Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. for 30 yrs, retiring in 1989. Louie was a life-long member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and a dedicated member of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

He practically grew up next to his branch, Tatra Hall Branch 595 in Muskegon, MI, as all of his childhood homes were within walking distance and both of his parents were life-long members. He became active in Branch 595 functions and first became an officer of Tatra in 1949. Before leaving to serve in the Korean War in 1951, he had already held the office of Treasurer for two years. He completed his tour of duty and returned from the War in 1953 when he again ran for office. This time it was for the office of

Financial Secretary, a position he won and held ever since January 1, 1954. In 2003, during Tatra Hall's Anniversary/Holiday Dinner Dance, Louie was honored for a milestone 50 years of service. No stranger to commitment on the national level, as well, Louie attended every National FCSU Convention beginning in 1948 and served as national election committee chairman for the past four conventions.

He married the former Doris E. Fuhrmann in Muskegon on September 10, 1955. Doris preceded him in death on January 15, 1995. Mr. Kollar is survived by: one daughter, Debra M. Kollar of Kalamazoo; four sons, Louis (Christy) Kollar of Austin, TX, Thomas (Tracy) Kollar of Ada, MI, Edward (JoAnn) Kollar of N. Muskegon and John Kollar of Muskegon; seven grandchildren, Katherine, Kristin, Rebecca, Sarah, Edward, Justin and Jessica; and his cousin, Joseph (Carole) Kollar of Muskegon. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 11:00 AM, Wednesday, January 5, 2011, Fr. Thomas J. Brown presiding. Visitation was at The Lee Chapel Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc., Tuesday, 2-4 & 6-8 PM and one hour prior to the Mass at church. The evening visitation began with the rosary prayed at 6 PM. Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Reminder...

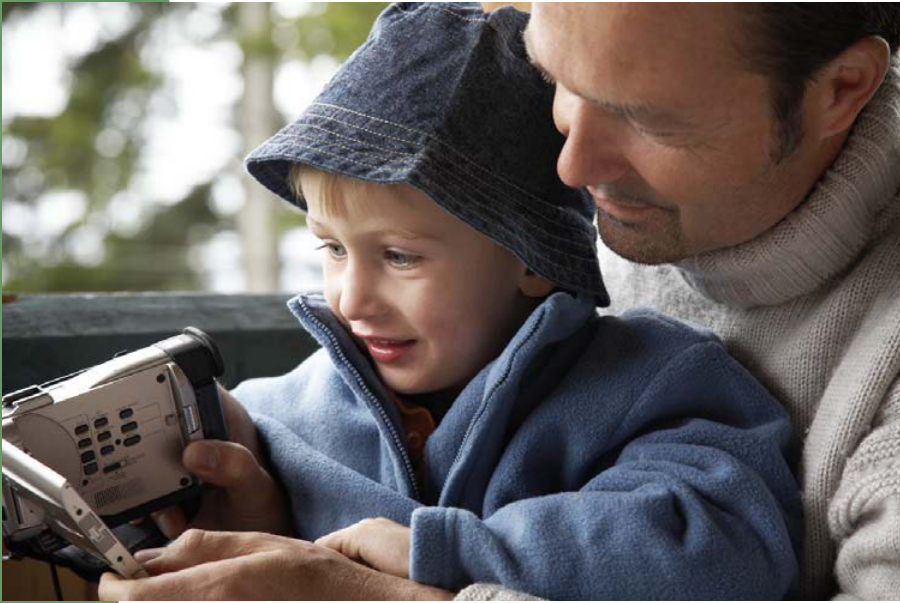
All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulife-editor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can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

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

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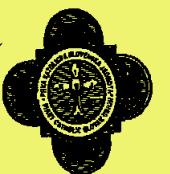
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The Spiš Region: A Land Rich in History

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late 19th century, as much as 42.2% of Spiš was forest. The region's major cities include (going from north to south) Stará Ľubovňa, Kežmarok, Poprad, Levoča, Spišská Nová Ves and Gelnica. The Spiš region in the former Hungarian Kingdom had an area of 3,668 km² and 170,535 inhabitants in 1910, but a small portion of northern Spiš (195 km²) has belonged to southern Poland since World War I.

Slovak-American Connections

Many Slovak-Americans trace their ancestry from the Spiš region, including both sides of my own family. People from Spiš, known as Spišaks (Spišáci in Slovak), often intermarried in the USA and Canada, and even attended certain parishes and fraternal societies. They settled in certain parts of North American cities and towns, for they spoke the same unique dialect, which has a curious assortment of Slovak and German words. For instance, a large number of Slovak immigrants from Spiš joined the National Slovak Society.

It was no mere accident that my father chose a Spiš wife. They spoke the same dialect of the Slovak language from birth. Even my own wife, Rebecca, has Spiš origins on her father's side of the family.

Anna Sutherland, the wife of *Jednota's* former editor who has done a wonderful job editing the Slovak section of the newspaper, also hails from the Spiš region. I personally have known a number of people with the name Spišák, such as Dennis Spisak, who serves as the announcer and director of the Slovak Radio Program at WKTL-FM 90.7 in Struthers, Ohio, which airs 9-11 pm every Saturday. Another acquaintance is the well known fraternal leader in Johnstown, Joanne Spisak,

In the early years of immigration, Slovaks often identified more with their county origins rather than their state, since they came from Austria-Hungary. Most Spiš immigrants came to the USA when Spiš still constituted part of Kingdom of Hungary.

Names for Spiš

Spiš is pronounced "Speesh," with a double "e" sound and a soft "s" ending. It is actually an historical term and refers to the name of the county (*župa* in Slovak) formed in the old Hungarian kingdom during the Middle Ages. During the era of its origins, Latin was the common administrative language and writers Spiš was one of the *comitatae* of northern Hungary. The Latin word *Scepusium* was the government term for the region. The Magyars of Hungary referred to the area as *Szepes*; Poles spell it *Spisz*, with the same pronunciations as in Slovak. And Germans call it *Zips*, for the region became home to a large number of German settlers during the Middle Ages, as we shall see below.

Spiš is also one of the most beautiful parts of the Slovakia. Dramatic mountains and rolling hills grace the region and offer the most breathtaking scenery. Most of the villages lie in the many valleys which wind between these mountains and hills. In the western part of Spiš, the majestic High Tatra Mountains (*Vysoké Tatry*) offer a fantastic background that is the delight of any photographer. In addition to magnificent scenery, Spiš also enjoys a rich history.

Historical Background

What we know of the history of Spiš goes back a long way. People first settled Spiš during the Paleolithic Era of pre-history (The Old Stone Age), over twenty thousand years ago. Among the earliest finds which prove the presence of people is a Neanderthal brain cast, which archaeologists discovered in Ganovce. Archaeologists have also found traces of human existence at Poráč cave near the village of Ruzbachy, which is near the towering Spiš Castle.

Modern archaeological excavations also uncovered evidence of a permanent settlement of Celtic peoples near Spiš Castle. The Celts reached Slovakia before the time of the Romans, as early as 400 B.C. Slavic peoples moved into the Spiš region in the sixth century A.D. and they built several castle sites near Spisška Nová Ves (at Čingov) and at Dreveník. Also worth noting is a unique church which archaeologists discovered at Chrast nad Hornádom.

The Middle Ages

The history of Spiš, which we can document with historical evidence, begins in the thirteenth century. The village of Zakovce (the birthplace of my great grandmother) is the first place which we have documented written records about. The religious organization of *Spiš Prepostvo* existed at that time.

We know that more Slavs settled in Spiš before the Tatar invasions of the twelfth century. A Slovak gentry served the Hungarian state and gained certain privileges for their military service. Most of these inhabitants moved to the area between Spisšský Štvrtok and Poprad. After the Tartars left in 1243, the Hungarian sovereign reinstated their former privileges and those residents became free squires. As part of their service to the crown, they were required to send ten armed lancers to the royal military in case war broke out. Thus the later name of the territory derives from this history: the District of Ten Spiš Squires.

Beginning in the late twelfth century, Spiš became a separate administrative unit of the Hungarian kingdom. The Hungarian king invited German colonists to help settle and develop the region after the end of the Tatar invasions. The Germans called the region "*Zips*" and settled near the old Slavic villages; they eventually mixed with the native Slovak population. In 1271, the Germans obtained special privileges, and this led to a boom in the formation of new towns. The privileges granted German colonists wide-ranging personal freedoms and the towns were largely self-governing and independent of the county administration. Villages soon transformed into medieval towns. Iglov and the German settlement of Nová Ves (Zipser Neudorf) would become Spišská Nová Ves. The German village Deutschendorf became Poprad. Three different ethnic groups formed the town of Kežmarok – Slovaks, Magyars, and Germans.



A railway built in the late 1800s helped towns such as Spišská Nová Ves prosper and contribute to a revival of the Spiš economy that continued into the 19th century.

In thirteenth century, the Spiš towns joined a self-governing organization called the Spiš Saxons' Union. The body changed its name to the Province of XXIV Spiš towns during the fourteenth century. The Spiš district maintained its independence until 1802. Other Spiš towns and villages not included in the union were subjects to the lord of Spiš Castle.

The Hungarian crown also granted special privileges to those who settled the mining area near Gelnica. The inhabitants from Gelnica established many other mining towns, including Smolník, Mnišek nad Hnilcom, and many more. Miners in the Gelnica area maintained their exclusive privileges until the late fifteenth century.

During the sixteenth century, the towns of Levoča, Kežmarok and Gelnica grew in importance and became independent royal towns. Stará Ľubovňa, Podolinec and Hniezdne later became independent royal towns as well.

Beginning in the fourteenth century, people belonging to the Orthodox faith began to settle northern and eastern Spiš hills. They were granted the so-called "Valach privileges," and scholars believe that they emigrated from the Wallachian province of present-day Romania. Since then, this ethnic community has retained its specific identity, but is known more for its religion, which today is Greek Catholic (Byzantine) as a result of a reunification with Rome during the sixteenth century.

In 1412, the history of Spiš changed due to debt owed by the Hungarian King Sigismund. He borrowed some 360,000 Czech pence from Polish king. As security for the loan, he mortgaged to the Polish crown sixteen towns and two castle manors from Spiš. Thirteen of these towns belonged to the former Province of XXIV Spiš towns, including Stará Ľubovňa, Podolinec and Hniezdne, the castle manors in Ľubovňa and Podolinec, and thirteen villages. Because Sigismund and his successors never repaid the loan, the territory remained under Polish sovereignty until 1772, when Poland was divided between Austria, Prussia, and Russia. Herein lies the origins of the Polish claim to the northern Spiš region.

After the towns returned to Hungarian governance, they became the self-governing Province of XVI Spis towns with its seat in Spišská Nová Ves. In 1876, the towns joined the Spiš County administrative district. The county system remained in place until it changed in 1922 during the First Czechoslovak Republic. But most Slovak ancestors emigrated to America while the county system remained in place. Thus Slovak-Americans often make reference to "Spiš County," a former historical entity.

The region of Spiš hosted a wide variety of economic activities, but mainly agriculture, forestry and mining. Because Spiš lay on the important international trading route which ran south from the Baltic region, the famous Amber Road, and on the main East-West highway, towns in Slovakia became significant marketplaces during the Middle Ages. Wealthy merchants set up shop in towns like Levoča and Kežmarok, and one may still see the houses of wealthy burghers to this day. Many people settled around the Poprad and Hornád River valleys, and the rivers would serve new industries that grew up in the region. In addition to being centers of trade, the towns developed traditions of fine craftsmanship, especially in Levoča and Kežmarok. Present-day, summer craft fairs remind us of this legacy of artisanship. Thus during the Middle Ages, Spiš enjoyed a prosperous economy and a vibrant cultural life.

Many notable noble families lived in Spiš, such as the Berzevicis, Görgeys and Mariassys. They built elaborate manors and attracted guests from across Europe. The formerly middle class Zapoľský and Thurzo families rose to prominence in Spiš when they acquired noble status as a result of their successful business ventures. When the Csáky family acquired Spiš Castle in 1638, the family members became the county's chief district administrators.

The Reformation and Afterwards

One of the most important events, which rocked Spiš during the second half of the sixteenth century, was the Protestant Reformation. By 1600, almost all of Spiš had turned Lutheran. While several famous civic and aristocratic schools originated during this period, the seventeenth century also led to a time of troubles. A number of ongoing rebellions disrupted regular economic life and hindered the regular development of the region. In addition, two plagues in 1700 and 1710 wreaked havoc throughout Spiš; nearly half the population per-

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The Spiš Region: A Land Rich in History

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ished. It would take over a century to recover.

By the latter half of the seventeenth century, Spiš underwent a gradual re-Catholicization. By 1776, Spiš had its own diocese centered in Spišská Kapitula. To this day, most Spišáks are Catholics, although a small Lutheran minority still exists.

Growth in the 19th Century

Not until the second half of the eighteenth century did the Spiš economy begin to revive. The process continued until the late nineteenth century. Among the most significant events worth mentioning was the construction of the Košice-Bohumín railroad from 1870 to 1872. Running through the heart of Spiš, the new railway facilitated the development of new industries and mining. Businesses established new and modern factories in towns such as Krompachy, Poprad, Spišská Nová Ves, Kežmarok, Spišská Bela and Smolník. New mines opened up, the most important being the formerly very prosperous iron-ore mine and smelter in Rudňany, southeast of Spišská Nová Ves, at the foot of the Red-Ore Mountains.

Spa resorts also started in the towns of Ruzbachy, Ganovce, Sivá Brada, Baldovce, Spišská Nová Ves and Stos. In order to promote tourism in Tatras, new trails were made and an electric railway made the mountains more easily accessible for all. Electricity was introduced in the towns and a vibrant cultural life developed. With an infrastructure in place, new sanatoriums and medical institutions opened in the High Tatra Mountains.

Museums and parks opened across the region, such as Hušov Park in Poprad. Three weekly newspapers started publication in Spiš -- *Zipser Bote* in Levoča, *Szepesi Lapok* in Spišská Nová Ves and *Karpathenpost* in Kežmarok. (The Magyars prohibited most Slovak newspapers.) New and highly regarded teachers' schools started in Spišská Kapitula, Spišská Nová Ves and Levoča.

By 1900, Slovaks accounted for about 58 percent of the population of Spiš. About one-fourth of the inhabitants were German, about 8 percent were Carpatho-Rusyn, and just 6 percent were Magyar. (Someone told me that the Germans in Kežmarok were quite haughty and that in more recent history, the Germans used to kick people in the shins if they spoke Slovak!)

The intellectuals from Spiš acquired a reputation of excellence across Europe. Here we will name just a few examples. Jozef Maximilian Petzval, who was born in Spišská Bela, invented modern photographic optics and became a professor at the University of Vienna. Dr. Vojtech Alexander from Kežmarok pioneered the science of radiology in Hungary. Ján Hunfalvy, from Veľký Slavkov, founded the discipline of Hungarian comparative linguistics.

Spišáks became so proud of their achievements and individuality, that some intellectuals hoped to establish their own independent Spiš Republic after the First World War. They feared that the new Czechoslovak government would not respect the rich traditions of their multi-ethnic society. They noted that small countries such as San Marino and Monte Carlo existed, yet they were no larger than Spiš.

Unfortunately, they proved right in predicting the neglect of Spiš by the new government. In 1920, Czechoslovakia granted thirteen Spiš villages to Poland in exchange for territories in Silesia. The region was no longer whole. In 1922, the central government in Prague abolished Spiš County as a result of an administrative redistricting. Even though Spiš had enjoyed more than 700 years of self-governance, the First Czechoslovak Republic had ended it once and for all.



Spiš has hosted a wide variety of economic activities, mainly agriculture, forestry and mining.

Modern Spiš

During the 1920s, the Slovak part of Spiš became divided between two new counties, the Sub-Tatra county (*Podtatranská župa*) and the Košice county (*Košická župa*). More administrative changes occurred in 1928-1939 and 1945-1948, when it became part of the newly named Slovak Land (*Slovenská krajina*).

During the Second World War when Slovakia acquired independence, Spiš was incorporated into the eastern section of Tatra county (*Tatranská župa*). The Slovak Republic used the opportunity of the war to reincorporate the Polish part of Spiš as well as parts of Orava county that Poland had obtained in 1920. As the Red Army approached from the east in 1944, the Germans evacuated many of the Germans living in Spiš. Following World War II, the renewed Czechoslovak state expelled most remaining Spiš Germans and confiscated their property under the Beneš Decrees.

The post-World War II settlement led to a return of northern Spiš and northern Orava to Poland. The Slovak Spiš area was divided between the new Košice Region (*Košický kraj*) and the Prešov Region, and the administrative borders differed markedly from the historic Spiš. Again in July 1960, The Czechoslovak communist government incorporated Spiš into a new Eastern Slovak region (*Východoslovenský kraj*), and that lasted until the year after the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

After Slovakia became an independent state in 1993, Spiš was again divided in 1996, this time between the Košice and Prešov Regions, in which Spiš has six administrative districts.

Today Slovaks still use the term Spiš, but mainly in a tourist or historical sense. About 320,000 people currently live in the Spiš region, and about half of them live in cities. The region is suffering from high unemployment (often around 25 percent) and relative government neglect.

Still, the very word Spiš connotes a sense of awe for history; the Spišáks have bragging rights to both a vibrant past and a natural beauty. The High Tatras and Spiš Castle blend together to dominate the breathtaking skyline of Spiš and remind us of how beautifully God and man can create magnificent and inspiring scenery. It remains one of the most gorgeous gems of Slovakia.

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The most reknown scholar on the Spiš region is the retired archivist who worked at the State Archives in Levoča, Ivan Chalupický, who has served as president of the Spiš Historical Society (*Spišský dejepisný spolok-SDS*). The SDS publishes an annual journal, *Z minulosti Spiša* (From the Spiš Past).

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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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News From Slovakia

Dzurinda: EU Shouldn't Drop Enlargement Until Europe Is 'Whole and Free'

Bratislava, January 4 (TASR) - "We don't have the right" to say that the European Union is tired of enlargement, Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Mikulas Dzurinda has told TASR in an interview.

In this connection, Dzurinda recalled the words of former U.S. president George Bush Sr., who said that Europe should be "whole and free". "I think that this isn't true yet, as it [the EU] still lacks the Western Balkans and some of the countries that we call the Eastern Partnership [Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine - ed. note]," he said.

Dzurinda expects that during the Hungarian or Polish EU presidencies this year, Croatia as the hottest candidate for EU membership at the moment will complete its accession talks successfully.

At the same time, Dzurinda hopes that accession talks will begin soon with Serbia, which is now awaiting the status of candidate country.

The head of Slovak diplomacy also expects a successful European future for Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. "I can't assess how successful the final compromise between Macedonia and Greece [concerning the official name of Macedonia - ed. note] will be, however," he added. Macedonia was given the status of candidate country in December.

"I would also be glad if especially Ukraine and Moldova, which are fulfilling the criteria despite the fact that nobody is formally requiring this from them, continue on the European path as well," said Dzurinda.

In the case of Turkey, Dzurinda thinks that "a longer way" is involved and that it's important to be careful. According to him, Turkey should be supported in terms of its reforms, but the big cultural difference has to be taken into consideration as well. "The final decision will have a political character and every EU country will consider it sensitively. But one thing is certain - we have an eminent interest in good relations with Turkey," added Dzurinda.

Radicova: Many Challenges Waiting for Government in 2011

Bratislava, January 3 (TASR) - The biggest challenges for the Government this year are unemployment, regional inequalities, the construction of motorways and public infrastructure, the creation of new jobs with added value, and investments in education, innovation and new technologies, Prime Minister Iveta Radicova has told TASR.

According to Radicova, another goal should be to ensure a qualified labor force with access to health care. "I'm not saying that we can provide all this within a year, but we'll be taking the first steps so that we can respond to these challenges," she said in the interview.

Radicova at the same time expressed her hope that the measures to consolidate public finances planned by the Government will be maintained. The state deficit should fall from 7.8 percent of GDP in 2010 to 5 percent this year, while the 3-percent threshold required by the EU budgetary rules should be reached in 2013. "If this governing Coalition works, if we manage to meet the priorities on which more [financial] means should be spent and which should help to kick start growth in employment and the creation of new jobs, if the eurozone is stabilized, then I would dare to say 'yes' [we'll manage it]," she added, referring to the chance of achieving this goal.

Another possible change that Radicova pointed to was a reduction in the levy burden, which she views as one of the barriers to employment growth. Measures are being prepared by an expert group that she created for this purpose. "Their assignment is to change the levy reform in a way that will ensure that the net income of a specifically-defined group of the population will be increased and that we'll also provide a certain amount of relief to employers. We currently have two solution scenarios. This is a task for the Coalition Council, which I will summon to deal with this issue," added Radicova.

Radicova and Dzurinda Agree on Functioning of Council for EU Affairs

Bratislava, January 4 (TASR) - Prime Minister Iveta Radicova and Foreign Affairs Minister Mikulas Dzurinda (both SDKU-DS) have agreed on a dual-level system of functioning for the Government's ministerial council for European Union affairs, Radicova's spokesman Rado Bato told TASR.

In effect this means that major political decisions will be coordinated by the prime minister. Meanwhile, the co-ordination of working issues concerning ministry state secretaries and general directors of state bodies, such as the assimilation of directives and regulations, will come under the remit of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

According to Bato, the body focusing on EU issues needed a revamp, as it was previously run by the deputy prime minister for EU affairs. The current cabinet lacks such a post, however.

Hospodarske Noviny daily claimed in its Tuesday edition that Dzurinda was trying to circumvent Radicova via his initiative to change the status of the council. The daily reported that according to Dzurinda's plans, the council was set to be chaired by the foreign affairs minister, whose powers would also be considerably strengthened. In addition, Dzurinda wanted the body to feature all ministers except the premier.

Analysts: Food Prices May Rise by 7 percent in Some Months of 2011

Bratislava, December 30 (TASR) - The main challenge that the Government will have to face next year is the planned consolidation of public finances, whose deficit is projected to drop below 5 percent of GDP, analysts approached by TASR concur.

"The economy will need to restore its reputation in the area of public finances and stick to the path of planned consolidation," said Slovenska Sporitelna bank analyst Maria Valachyova. She noted, however, that the consolidation will curtail economic growth and raise prices by nearly 1 percent.

Notwithstanding the plans, Slovakia's GDP is expected to go up by more than 3 percent, which should be enough to ensure job creation. "In addition, the slowing down of growth by several tenths of a percent is a minor threat compared to the path of falling into inappropriate debt," said Postova Banka analyst Eva Sadovska.

Meanwhile, according to Sadovska, food prices are expected to rise by as much as 7 percent in some months, with higher prices of commodities and oil on global markets partly to blame.

Analysts: Debt Problems in Eurozone Will Challenge Slovakia in 2011

Bratislava, January 3 (TASR) - The Slovak economy will face a number of challenges in 2011. The consolidation of public finances will be among the internal ones, while the potential deepening of problems within eurozone members could affect it from the outside, Postova Banka analyst Eva Sadovska has told TASR.

"I view the possible outbreak of debt problems within other eurozone members as a possible risk for 2011. The deepening debt crisis could weaken the euro even more significantly against the dollar," she added.

According to Sadovska, a weaker euro would be beneficial for exports, but would make imports from 'dollar-countries' more expensive. People would feel this in the case of holidays and internet shopping. "Many commodities, for example crude oil, are traded in dollars, so they are becoming more expensive for Europeans when re-calculated into the weaker euro. This could have an influence in the form of higher energy prices, but also on ordinary goods in the shops," she said.

Volksbank analyst Vladimir Vano expressed his conviction that eurozone membership will be beneficial for the country despite the current problems. He pointed out that Slovakia is able to have a say when specific decisions are made, as it is represented in the European Central Bank (ECB). "Slovakia has a fully-fledged voice in the [ECB] managing board via the Slovak central bank (NBS) governor," he stated.

Jurzyca: Gov't Careful when Permitting Start-ups of Private Universities

Bratislava, January 2 (TASR) - The Government is very careful when giving permits to private universities, Education Minister Eugen Jurzyca (SDKU-DS) has told TASR.

"This is due to the risk of the 'inflation' of university degrees," he said, adding that the issue doesn't concern state money as private universities don't get any - apart from scholarships.

According to Jurzyca, university diplomas on the labor market have the same value. "They (the degrees) don't facilitate distinguishing between those students who studied diligently and those who didn't," said Jurzyca. He added that the risk (of degree inflation) is quite high today, and that "the Government is careful, very careful when approving any new private universities."

Jurzyca at the same time stressed that the Government doesn't have problems with the conception of private ownership (of schools). He explained that in the education market there is a great "information inequality" and that the ministry is trying to address this by thoroughly assessing the quality of universities. "The better we're able to measure the quality of universities, the easier can we allow new ones (to be established)," he said.

There are currently ten private universities in Slovakia.

Krajcer: Transformation of TASR Among Big Issues in 2011

Bratislava, December 31 (TASR) - The Culture Ministry has prepared a host of legislative changes for 2011, including the transformation of the News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR), Culture Minister Daniel Krajcer (Freedom and Solidarity/SaS) told TASR in an interview.

According to Krajcer, the changes that will concern TASR should be drawn up by December 2011. "Of course, an expert group will be involved, because there are several models for TASR's further functioning," he said.

Meanwhile, the process of the merger of public-service Slovak Radio (SRo) and Slovak Television (STV) should continue. Parliamentary Chairman Richard Sulik (SaS) is set to announce the name of the interim director of Radio and Television of Slovakia (RTS) on New Year's Day. This should either be STV general director Stefan Niznansky or SRo head Miroslava Zemkova. Parliament is set to elect a more permanent RTS chief within three months.

Following the election of the new RTS management, a "recovery regime" will be launched within the institution.

"The Culture Ministry will initiate a broad discussion concerning RTS's program direction with the focus on a precise definition of public service. The issue of new premises for television and radio services will be tackled after analyses are carried out," said Krajcer.

Nový domov, nové priateľstvá, nové poznatky a skúsenosti

(Pokračovanie z JEDNOTY zo dňa 5. januára 2011)

Obnovenie kontaktov

Písomné kontakty sa obnovili až po nástupe Dubčekovho vedenia k moci, po „obrodnom procese“, no trvali pomerne krátko, lebo po vstupe vojsk Varšavskej zmluvy na naše územie a nástupe Husákovho vedenia a jeho „normalizácie“ sa opäť prerušili. Znovu sa obnovili až po odchode sovietskych vojsk z našej vlasti, teda po takmer 20 rokoch. To som už bol dôchodca, rodičia mi nežili a nežili už ani niektorí príbuzní sesternice Mary. Žili už iba ich deti, ktoré nevedeli po slovensky, takže sme si písali len po anglicky s príbuznými strýca Stephena, ktorí žili v Arizone (ostatní sa odmĺčali), no moja angličtina bola pomerne slabá, pretože som bol v nej iba samoukom.

Jedného dňa som jej napísal, že by som bol rád, keby navštívila Slovensko, aby videla, kde sa narodili jej rodičia, kde bývali, poznala ich rodnú vlasť... Po dlhšom čase mi napísala, že má pre mňa prekvapenie, že pricestuje s manželom koncom leta. Ono, ako som to neskôr zistil, nahovoril ju na to jej manžel Lee, horlivý cestovateľ, fotograf, obdivovateľ historických a kultúrnych pamiatok, ktorý precestoval už veľa krajín, no v Európe bol iba v Rumunsku.

Nepísaná kronika - oživené spomienky - stretnutie po rokoch

Pricestovali teda. Nikdy sme sa doposiaľ nevideli. Ešte predtým som jej napísal, aby mi poslala ich fotografie. Pobudli niekoľko dní v môjho syna v Bratislave, kde sa zoznámili s jej kultúrnymi a historickými zaujímavosťami. Potom ich cesta viedla ku mne na stredné Slovensko (Sliač), kde pobudli niekoľko dní a navštívili susednú obec Hronsek s unikátnym dreveným kostolom (kultúrna pamiatka UNESCO), ale aj starobylé mestá Zvolen, Kremnicu, Banskú Bystricu, Banskú Štiavnicu, Lesnícke múzeum vo Sv. Antone... Potom sme vyrazili na východné Slovensko do obce Šapinec, okr. Svidník, odkiaľ pochádzal môj i jej tetin manžel John Gnall, za ktorým sa ona vysťahovala do Mahanoy City. Cestou sme sa pristavili aj v Radome, mojom rodisku, kde sa priženil môj otec a po druhom návrate si tam postavil dom. Moji hostia obdivovali malé dedinky i staré domy s hospodárskymi usadlosťami. Mali veľa dotazov a Lee všetko fotil a fotil...

No najviac ich dojala návšteva obce Šandal v okrese Stropkov, rodisko môjho i Marynho otca s malým domčekom pôvodne pokrytým slamenou strechou. Nazreli do izby, kuchyne, komory, ale aj do pivnice, maštale a priľahlých hospodárskych stavieb, obdivovali studňu s rumpálom na dvore, malý ovocný sad so žľnkotajúcim potôčikom tečúcim pomimo... Lee fotil a fotil. Divili sa, ako mohli žiť v takom domčeku rodičia so 7 deťmi a uvedomovali si dôvod vysťahovania detí do USA. Mimoriadny obdiv prejavovali pri návšteve drevených kostolíkov s ich nádhernou vysoko umeleckou sakrálnou výzdobou, ktoré sa tam nachádzali takmer v každej dedine, či mestečku.

Nie menej ich zaujalo aj Múzeum Andy Warhola v Medzilaborciach (prechádzali sme aj cez Mikovú, rodnú obec jeho rodičov), Duklianske múzeum vo Svidníku, Skanzen východoslovenskej kultúry a umenia, Prírodné múzeum zbrání dukliansko-karpatskej operácie, Dukliansky pamätník a cintorín 1. čs. armádneho zboru v ZSSR, starobylé mestá Bardejov, Levoča, Prešov, Košice a na dva dni si odsokčili aj do Osvienčima a Krakova v Poľsku, ktoré si veľmi želali vidieť.

Odchádzali domov s dojatím, spokojnosťou, spomienkami a zážitkami na pobyt v malej, ale peknnej krajine. Pri lúčení mi povedala Mary: „Budeme radi, ak ťa o rok uvidíme u nás. Pozývam ťa na návštevu.“

Príprava na d'alekú cestu

Pozvanie som s potešením prijal. Začal som si vybavovať vízum a uvažovať o vhodnom termíne. Rozhodol som sa pre koniec júna. Vnuk mi ale navrhol, aby som pri tejto príležitosti navštívil aj súrodencov v štátoch Texas, Ohio a Pennsylvánia, s ktorými som toho času nekorespondoval. Považoval som to za dobrý, reálny a zaujímavý návrh a zdôveril som si s ním Mary v Arizone. Tá sa pravdaže s nimi skontaktovala a po dlhšom čase súhlasila s mojim návrhom a po konzultácii so s ďalšími súrodencami uviedla predbežné dátumy a termíny, kde a ako dlho by som sa tam mohol zdržať, keďže boli ešte v pracovnom pomere.

Ich návrh bol pre mňa vyhovujúci. Prijal som ho a oznámil súhlas. Pripravoval som sa na cestu s trocha podivným pocitom, keďže okrem Mary som sa s ostatnými súrodencami nestretol a videl som ich iba na fotografiách.

Začiatok mojich potuliek po USA

Pobalený a vybavený darčekom letel som do Arizony a pristál v Phoenixe, kde ma čakali Mary a Lee. Bolo tam mimoriadne teplo. Po občerstvení v reštaurácii sme uhaňali autom cestami, popri ktorých sa týčili aj dvojmetrové kaktusy, typický to znak pre Arizonu, a na viacerých miestach boli na poliach popri ceste tabuľky s nápisom FOR SALE s uvedením akrov pod nimi. Po ubytovaní sa a dvojdnovom oddychu sme vyrazili do blízkeho okolia a navštívili prírodnú rezerváciu TUZIGOTT, v ktorej pred vekmi žili domorodí obyvatelia-apači (Arizona patrila niekedy Mexiku). Neskôr sme vycestovali ešte ďalej, prezreli sme si zázrak prírody Grand Cañon i veľkolepé dielo, zázrak vedcov a technikov, obrovský kolos, vodnú priehradu, postavenú na rieke Colorado. Zastavujeme sa v Las Vegas s jeho chýrnymi hracími automatmi, ruletami a ubytujeme sa v hoteli Hilton. Tri týždne ubehli ako voda, nastáva čas lúčenia, pri ktorom prejavili želanie navštíviť o rok-dva opäť Slovensko.

V sobotu ma Mary a Lee odvádzajú na letisko do Phoenixu, odkiaľ letím do Texasu (Houston) kde ma čaká bratranec Steve, ktorého prvýkrát vidím. Nasadáme s batožinou do auta a asi po 45 minútovej ceste sa zastavujeme pred jeho domom. Zvítanie sa s jeho manželkou milou Kathryn. Chcú mi toho ukázať čo najviac, no obaja sú ešte zamestnaní, a nechcem, aby si kvôli mne brali dovolenku. Hneď na druhý deň navštívim s bratrancom NASA, vedecko- výskumný ústav pre lety do vesmíru s prírodným múzeom rôznych vesmírnych lodí a raketoplánov. Skrátka prehliadka nám trvala 4 hodiny. Ešte toho dňa popoludní navštívime krytý obrovský areál motýľov. Je ich tam more, jedny krajšie od druhých. Je tam teplo a vlhko. Majú tam aj svoje napájadlá. Večer, pri pouličných svetlách, navštívime ešte zaujímavé miesta mesta. Ráno mi nechávajú kľúč od domu a obaja odchádzajú do práce. Prechádzam sa ulicami poblíž ich domu a všetko si všimam.

Na druhý deň ma Kathryn popoludní zavezie k moru, k Mexickému zálivu. Obdivujem neďaleké bungalovy postavené na silných drevených koloch nad zemou. Bývajú tam totiž každý rok veľké záplavy, ktoré spôsobujú tamojším obyvateľom nemalé škody. V piatok podvečer rozlúčka v atraktívnej reštaurácii, na ktorej sú prítomní aj dvaja Stevovi synovia.

Ráno letím do Clevelandu, (Ohio). Na letisku ma čaká sesternica Kathy, ktorú vidím prvýkrát. Na druhý deň prejavujem želanie navštíviť cintorín, kde sú pochovaní jej rodičia. Navrhujem brať sviečku, no ona kýva odmietavo hlavou, že iba kyticu. Je to nový, moderný cintorín na miernom svahu, celý zatrávnený. Vyzerá ako lúka. Žiadne pomníky, iba medené dosky s menami mŕtvych, ktorí sú pod nimi v zemi, nám hovoria, že tam ležia jej rodičia. Kládie kyticu. Chvilu stojíme v nemom tichu, pokloníme sa ich pamiatke a odchádzame preč. V jedno odpoľudnie odchádzame do vzdialenejšieho okolia a prechádzame dedinami i mestečkami s nemeckými pomenovaniami, ako Berlin ..., čo znamená, že sa nachádzame v regióne, kde žijú nemeckí osadníci. Obedujeme vo veľkej prírodnej reštaurácii. Čašníci a servírky sú oblečení v typických nemeckých krojoch. Čítim sa tam, ako keby som bol v Nemecku. V sobotu odchádzame na Ontárijské jazero, prevážame sa po ňom loďou... Nedeľa je dňom lúčenia. Prichádza pre mňa z Pensylvánie sesternica Dorothy s manželom. Nasadáme do auta a uhaňame rovinami i miernymi pahorkatinami. Na rozhraní štátov Pennsylvánie a Ohia sa pristavujeme v reštaurácii na malé občerstvenie. O pár hodín sme na mieste, pred ich domom, v dedine New Boston, poblíž starého baníckeho mestečka Mahanoy City.

Pobyt v horách a ďalšie výlety

O tri dni upravuje sesternicin manžel Stephen auto a pripravuje ho na výlet (trip). Odmontuje zadné sedadlá, nakladá dnu stan, stoličky, varič, plynovú lampu, potraviny... a vyrážame na stanovanie do hôr. Po dvoch dňoch sa presunujeme na iné miesta. Steven varí, ja mám na starosti umývanie riadu, no na jeho príkaz nesmiem po umytí vodu vyliať na zem, ale zaniesť do blízkej umyvárky a tam

ju vyliať. Vyliatu vodu na zemi s drobnými odpadkami z jedál by vraj zaňuchal medveď, ktorý má veľmi dobrý čuch a mohol by nás ohrozovať. Hovoril, že čítal v novinách, že takto vlni usmrtil pri stanovaní medveď chlapca. Povedal som, že sa bojím, že sa chcem domov vrátiť živý a navrhol som mu, aby sme spali v aute. Pousmial sa, ale súhlasil. Potom sa počasie zhoršilo, a tak sme vycestovali domov. O niekoľko dní podnikáme cestu na nový trip. Navštívime New York, Niagarské vodopády, Sochu slobody... Všetko si pozorne všimam, veľa fotografujem.

V poslednú augustovú sobotu a nedeľu sa už tradične každý rok koná neďaleko Mahanoy City, na lesnej čistinke, reunion s piknikom, príbuzných Gnallovej a Stelmakovej rodin. Schádzajú sa tam jednotlivci i celé rodiny zo všetkých končín USA.. Bol som na ňom a bolo nás tam okolo 50. A prízvisk Stelmak je tam veru dosť. Veď len podľa údajov na internete je ich tam okolo 50. Pravdaže, poniektorí sú už len veľmi vzdialení príbuzní a viacerí iba menovci. V nedeľu je rozlúčka po slovensky a sem-tam aj po anglicky so slovami: Good-bye, Good luck and maybe after the year see you again.

Preslávili našu vlasť v cudzine

Do USA sa vysťahovalo veľa, preveľa Slovákov. Poniectóri z nich, alebo ich deti, sa svojou usilovnou a húževnatou prácou dostali tam aj do popredia pozornosti širokého povedomia tamojšieho ľudu a zapísali sa tak do ich i slovenských dejín ako: Andy Warhol, Michal Bosák, Štefan Banič, Jozef Murgaš, Eugene A. Cernan ... Cudzina sa im stala druhou vlasťou.

Návrat domov

No nastal aj čas môjho odchodu, lúčenia. Steven a Dorothy ma odvádzajú do Washingtonu D.C. Tam si stihneme ešte pozrieť letecké múzeum a iné zaujímavosti a smerujeme na letisko. Ďakujem za milú návštevu a mimoriadne príjemný pobyt.

Nesiem si domov nádherné a nezabudnuteľné dojmy z potuliek po USA, krajine mnohých tvári, z ktorých som niektoré spoznal.

Autor článku: Andrej Štelmák
Sliač, Slovakia



Slovenský ples v New Yorku

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku (SAKS) oznamuje, že tohoročný výročný Slovenský ples usporiada v sobotu 26. februára 2011. Začne sa recepciou o 6:00 hodine večer. O 7:00 hod. sa bude podávať hodnotná večera. Populárna kapela Express spestrí večeru a po nej bude hrať do tanca.

Na plesu bude poctená generálna tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy Nina Holá za jej celoživotnú prácu v slovenskom národnom živote v New Yorku a na okolí a v Amerike. Program večera bude tiež spestrený hodnotnou tombolou a hudobnou vložkou.

Ples sa bude konať v miestnostiach prestížneho New York Athletic Club-u (180 Central Park South, NYC). Bližšie informácie alebo pozvánky na ples si možno vyžiadať telefonicky u Eta Jendrek, tel. č. 201-568-1736.



Novoročný prejav prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Pri tvorbe pracovných miest by sme sa podľa prezidenta nemali spoliehať len na zahraničie. Zahraničné investície sú dôležité, no vytvárať ich treba aj investovaním do inovácií a vzdelania. Podľa Ivana Gašparoviča je v tomto smere potrebná *„nová kvalita zodpovednosti, za seba i za iných. Zodpovednosť, nie škandalizovanie za každú cenu“*. Odmietla *„odvádzanie pozornosti od skutočného problému - udržania sociálneho zmiernu. Pretože už nie je taký pevný, ako pred časom. Aby sme vrátili ľuďom väčšiu istotu, musíme im dať vzdelanie a pracovné príležitosti.“* Cestou k istote je *„kvalitnejšie vzdelanie a viacej pracovných príležitostí.“*

Prezident: Rodiny postihla kríza

Rodiny žijúce na Slovensku postihla kríza, upozornil prezident. *„Nepamätám sa, že by sme v nich mali toľko problémov. Občas mám pocit, akoby sa módnym hitom stal rozvod - deti ponechané na výchovu ulici,“* zdôraznil. Riešenie existenčných a vzťahových problémov rodiny závisí síce podľa hlavy štátu od členov rodiny, no nielen od nich. *„Izolovaná rodina si sama nevystačí. Je závislá od podmienok, aké panujú v spoločenstve, ktorého je súčasťou. Preto je nesmierne dôležité, aby si štát plnil svoje funkcie a povinnosti tak, aby rodiny štátu dôverovali, aby cítili, že rieši ich problémy, že je tu pre nich a nie iba pre niekoľkých vyvolených.“*

Prezident: Musíme euro udržať

Prezident nesúhlasí so spochybňovaním spoločnej európskej meny. Vstup SR do Európskej únie označil za výsadu, ktorá sa nepresadzovala ľahko. *„A nie jednoducho sme sa stali aj členmi eurozóny. Nijako preto nemôžem súhlasiť s názormi, ktoré našu spoločnú európsku menu spochybňujú. Nie je to dobrá cesta. Nevieť síce vyčísliť, v akých ťažkostiach by sme dnes bez eura boli, ale možno by sme sa ako osamelí bežci so samostatnou menou na zložitej ceste hospodárskej krízy aj stratili. Problémom, nech sú akokoľvek ťažké, sa isto čeliť lepšie spoločne.“* Podľa Ivana Gašparoviča vďaka prijatiu eura *„sme získali množstvo pracovných miest, výrobných kapacít, ktoré generujú pomerne stabilný hrubý domáci produkt.“* Preto sa musíme zaručiť o udržanie eura. *„Faktom však je, že v súčasnej situácii niet čo závidieť vláde, ale pokiaľ ide o jej postoj v rámci konsolidácie eura, oceňujem jej postoje k rizikám. Občania by však iste namiesto parlamentných šarvátok privítali viac vysvetľovania, aby jasnejšie vnímali nielen súčasnú situáciu, ale aj možné východiská z nej.“*

Prezident: Výsledky zahraničnej politiky SR sú dôvodom na občiansku hrdosť

„Výsledky, ktoré dosiahla zahraničná politika Slovenskej republiky za posledné roky, sú dôvodom na skutočnú občiansku hrdosť. Medzinárodné postavenie Slovenska je porovnateľné s inými európskymi demokraciami,“ konštatoval na margo slovenskej diplomacie Gašparovič. Vyzdvihol tiež pôsobenie našich vojakov v afganskom Kandaháre, ktorých nedávno osobne navštívil. *„V ťažkých podmienkach tam obhajujú demokratické hodnoty a v najlepšom zmysle slova šíria dobré meno našej vlasti za jej hranicami.“* Im a aj našim vojakom v ostatných misiách a ich rodinám zaželal *„veľa šťastia v novom roku, aby úspešne pokračovali vo svojej náročnej práci a aby sa im nič zlé nestalo“*.

G. MESEŽNIKOV: Prezident vládu nekonfrontoval, nepriamo kritizoval R. Sulíka

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič síce nešiel vo svojom dnešnom novoročnom príhovore do konfrontácie s vládou Ivety Radičovej, svoj politický postoj k nej však už naznačil tým, že v uplynulých dňoch odmietol dôležité vládne zákony a vrátil ich do parlamentu. Pre TASR to konštatoval politológ Grigorij Mesežnikov. *„Tá dikcia bola voči vláde zmierlivá, to, samozrejme, neznamená, že to nie je opozičný prezident. Lebo to množstvo vrátených zákonov bolo naozaj nadštandardné.“* Analytik ďalej upozornil, že v jednej veci vláda Gašparovič dokonca aj pochválil - za konsolidáciu.

Prezident, naopak, podľa neho nepriamo skritizoval predsedu parlamentu Richarda Sulíka. Ten sa nedávno vyjadril, že Slovensko by si malo pripraviť aj plán B, teda návrat ku korune. Gašparovič v príhovore zdôraznil, že euro netreba spochybňovať a treba sa ho snažiť udržať.

Tradičný novoročný prejav hlavy štátu bol podľa politológa dosť stručný a nevybočil z očakávaní. *„Hovoril o všeobecných veciach, o význame rodiny, význame solidarity, zdôraznil našu zodpovednosť SR ako členskej krajiny Európskej únie a NATO.“*

V súdnicte podľa Mesežnikova nepomenoval prezident reálne problémy pravým menom a neuviedol ani ich príčiny. Chýbala mu tam tiež zmienka o slabej dôvere občanov v súdnicte, či o korupčných škandáloch. SITA

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša, č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 30. januára 2011 o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66th Street, New York City. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov, aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili v hojnom počte.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Novoročný pingpongový turnaj Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku oznamuje, že v sobotu 22. januára 2011 o 13:00 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66th Street organizuje Novoročný pingpongový turnaj. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Jozef Juráši, športový referent

Výročná schôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v N.Y.C.

Vážení priatelia, pozývame vás, všetkých členov I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v New York City, ako aj hostí na výročnú schôdzu I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v N.Y.C., ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 23. januára 2011 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v N.Y.C.

Na schôdzi bude podané vyhodnotenie práce I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy za uplynulé obdobie, finančná správa, voľba výboru na rok 2011 a plán podujatí na rok 2011. Očakávame, že sa na tejto schôdzi v hojnom počte zúčastníte. Po schôdzi bude podané občerstvenie.

Dovoľujeme si Vám všetkým zaželať Šťastný Nový rok 2011.

**Milan R. Dait, predseda
I. Zboru SLvA v N.Y.C.**

Tanečná zábava v Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Slovenské kultúrne stredisko usporiada tanečnú zábavu na ktorú pozýva slovenskú verejnosť, aby sa prišla medzi nás dobre zabaviť. Tanečná zábava sa bude konať v sobotu 5. februára 2011 v spoločenskej hale kostola Svätej Trojice, 474 Penn Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Večera na plese sa začne podávať o 7:00 hodine večer, preto vás prosíme, aby ste prišli načas.

Do tanca bude hrať Slovenská hudobná skupina „Kontakty“. O zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto telefónne čísla: Ján Dračulín – (908) 541-0372; Mary Karch – (732) 572-2331.

Za Slovenské kultúrne stredisko

Mary Karch

SLOVENSKÁ LIGA OZNAMUJE

Štipendia Slovenskej ligy

V rámci svojho štipendijného programu Slovenská liga v Amerike udelila v decembri 2010 sedem štipendií po \$750.00 z daru nebohých slovenských národovcov Ján a Júlia Demko, ktorí vo svojej pozostalosti zanechali \$4,500.00 na štipendijný program Slovenskej ligy. Júlia Demko darovala Slovenskej lige ďalších \$4,500.00 ešte za svojho života.

Žiadatelia o štipendium Slovenskej ligy musia napísať v angličtine alebo v slovenčine 5 až 10-stranovú písomnú prácu na akúkoľvek tému, ktorá má vzťah k slovenskej histórii, kultúre alebo k slovenskému životu v Amerike či na Slovensku. 23 žiadateľov poslalo písomné práce. Štipendijná komisia z nich vybrala nasledujúcich:

Katarina M. Flaugh z West Mifflin, Pa, študentka na Slippery Rock University. Napísala prácu na tému The Joys of my Slovak Heritage. Je členkou IKSJ.

Jefferey J. Hames z Pittsburgh, Pa, študent na Pittsburskej univerzite. Je členom Slovenského kat. Sokola a IKSŽJ. Téma jeho práce: The Slovak National Uprising of 1944. Je členom SKS a IKSŽJ.

Michal J. Hricik z Mt. Pleasant, Pa., študent na Penn University, pripravil štúdiu na tému A Survey of Contemporary Slovak Musicians. Je členom IKSJ.

Kyle G Kessler z Meyerstown, Pa, študujúci na Pittsburgh University, získal štipendium za prácu Slovak Faith Traditions. Je členom ŽPSKJ.

Lisa M. Laboskie zo Sunbury, Pa, členka NSS a študentka na Bloomberg University. Napísala prácu na tému My Rich Slovak Heritage.

Michelle M. Warner z Kenosha, Wisconsin študuje na University of Wisconsin. Štipendium získala za esej Slovak Forever. Je členkou SKS.

Lauren N. Wietchy zo Sterling Heights, Mich., študentka na Saginaw Valley University spracovala tému Slovak Immigration to the United States. Je členkou IKSJ a folklórneho súboru Šarišan v Detroit.

Týmto víťazom vrele gratulujeme. Slovenská liga však ocenila úsilie aj tých žiadateľov, ktorí nezískali štipendium. Každý, kto poslal písomnú prácu, dostal od Slovenskej ligy šek na \$50.00. Okrem toho všetci dostali posledné číslo publikácie Slovákia.

Pekný príklad 443. zboru

Benjamin Gombár st., dlhoročný predseda 443. zboru v Owosso, Mich. poslal v novembri gen. tajomníčke Slovenskej ligy šek na \$1,000.00 ako doživotné členské za piatich členov. Vitáme ich v skupine doživotných členov a B. Gombarovi st. ďakujeme za jeho oddanú celoživotnú prácu v prospech Slovenskej ligy a slovenského života v Amerike.

Ďakujeme darcom

S vďakou zaznamenávame štedrý dar doživotnej členky Slovenskej ligy Mimi Danihels, ktorá darovala \$20,000.00 na štipendijný fond Slovenskej ligy. Mimi Danihels a jej nebohý manžel Leopold (Leo) Danihels podporovali veľkými sumami rôzne kultúrne a charitatívne programy na Slovensku, ako aj Svetový kongres Slovákov a tiež aj národné akcie v Amerike. Už po smrti jej manžela Mimi Danihels darovala vyše \$750,000.00 na Detské kardiocentrum v Bratislave. Mimi Danihels je oblastnou podpredsedníčkou Slovenskej ligy pre západné štáty USA.

S vďakou zaznamenávame aj štedrý dar v sume \$1,000.00 na štipendijný fond od Dr. Catherine Hinterbuchner, manželky nebohého prvého podpredsedu Slovenskej ligy Dr. Ladislava Hinterbuchnera.

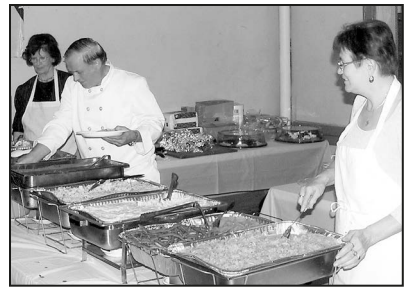
So slovenským pozdravom

**Daniel F. Tanzone
Predseda**

**Nina Holá
tajomníčka**

Úspešné podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New York City

Pokračovanie zo str. 24



Janko Škrkoň, hlavný kuchár so svojimi pomocníkmi.

Katarínsku zábavu sme zahájili modlitbou. Na snímke zľava: Jozef Juráši, vedúci hudobnej skupiny Kontakty; Henrieta Daitová, otec Štefan Chanás, Mária Juráši a Renáta Jurášiová.



Pohľad na prítomných na Katarínskej zábave.

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City usporiadala dve veľmi tradičné podujatia v roku a to Milulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou pre deti našej Slovenskej farnosti v nedeľu odpoľudnia dňa 5. decembra 2010 vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Vďaka patri pánu farárovi Martinovi Svitavovi, ktorý sa postaral o to, že deti dostali občerstvenie aj sladkosti. Všetci sme sa tešili z veľkej účasti mladých a približne 100 detí, ktoré vystupovali so svojim spevom, či básničkami. Nakoniec ako vďaka za darčeky spoločne deti zaspievali sv. Mikulášovi peknú slovenskú pieseň: *Mikulášku dobrý strýčku modlim sa Ti modlítičku, daj nám z darov Tvojich trošku, či koláčka makového, či konička medového...*



Mikulášske odpoľudnie sme začali modlitbou zľava: otec Štefan Chanás, Henrieta Daitová a Jozef Bilik, predseda Farskej rady.



Lacko Korček drží mikrofón počas klavírneho vystúpenia našej pianistky Nicolky Habina.



Miluláš so speváčkami vľavo: Nicolka Habina a vpravo Michaelka Vida.



Spoločná fotografia s prítomnými deťmi na Mikulášskom odpoľudni.

Štedrá večera – Vigília sa konala v nedeľu odpoľudnia dňa 12. decembra 2010 vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Na tento sviatočný deň, keď celý kresťanský svet oslavuje pamiatku narodenia Ježiša Krista aj my farníci sme spolu zasadli k Štedrovečernému stolu v hale nášho slovenského kostola. Ako to bývalo zvykom v slovenských domácnostiach a podľa starej obyčaje konzumovali sme slávnostné jedlá, ktorých bolo niekoľko. Zaspomínali sme si na všetkých vzdialených príbuzných a priateľov a zaspievali sme niekoľko slovenských kolied, ktoré sme ukončili piesňou „Tichá noc, svätá noc...“ Ľudia odchádzali z tohto podujatia povzbudení na tele i na duši a tak svetlo Pánovo niesli i do svojich domácností i tým, čo sú ďaleko za morom.

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka



Pohľad na zúčastnených farníkov počas Štedrej večere z pravej strany haly.



Na snímke zoskupení usporiadateľa podujatia Štedrej večere v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Štát** chce podporiť americký Honeywell investičnými stimulmi. Spoločnosť Honeywell plánuje v prešovskom priemyselnom parku Záborské vybudovať závod na výrobu automobilových turbodúchadiel. Vďaka tejto investícii za 38,3 milióna eur by sa malo vytvoriť 446 pracovných miest. Rozhodovanie podstatne ovplyvnila otázka, či štát pomôže spoločnosti etablovať sa v Prešove. O nenávratnú európsku pomoc pri priemyselnom parku totiž mesto prišlo pre podozrenia pre subvenčný podvod a poškodzovanie finančných záujmov Európskych spoločností.

• **Viac** ako desaťkilometrová cyklotrasa spojí päť samospráv na území národného parku Slovenský raj. Povedie severnou časťou Raja z metropoly Spiša cez Smižany, Spišské Tomášovce, Letanovce až do Hrabušíc. Trasa je naplánovaná po pôvodnej vicinálnej ceste, kedysi komunikácie tretej a štvrtej triedy, ktorú lemovali križie. Táto trasa je podľa autorov štúdie najvýhodnejšia. Myšlienka cyklotrasy v srdci Slovenského raja rezonuje už viac ako desať rokov. V týchto dňoch sa veci pohli a predstavitelia všetkých samospráv sa stretli, aby myšlienku znova oživilí a rozbehli.

• **Na Slovensku** sa v porovnaní s minulosťou začínajú čoraz častejšie rodiť deti mimo manželstva. Analýza Inštitútu informatiky a štatistiky ukazuje, že nemanželský pôrod najčastejšie volia mladé matky. Na to, že sa v priebehu 90. rokov zmenilo reprodukčné správanie obyvateľstva, poukazujú demografi už niekoľko rokov. Jednak Slovensku spomalila pôrodnosť, jednak sa počatie dieťaťa začína odkladať do vyššieho veku rodičov. Jedným z badateľných trendov je i ten, že sa u nás stávajú bežnejšími prvé nemanželské pôrody. Ako vysvetlila Michaela Potančoková z Inštitútu informatiky a štatistiky, ide o pôrody na úkor takzvaných predmanželských koncepcií - prípady, kedy k počatiu dieťaťa dochádza ešte pred uzavretím manželstva a v priebehu tehotenstva sa muž a žena vezmú.

• **Svätú** rodinu s narodeným Ježišom tak, ako ich vidia ľudia rôznych kontinentov, si mohli pozrieť nedávno v **Piešťanoch**. **Balneologické múzeum** zaradilo na tohtoročné vianočné sviatky do programu prezentácií výstavu Betlehemu sveta do zbierky Viery a Jozefa Gruskovcov. Vyše sto z nich je inštalovaných až do polovice februára 2011 v troch výstavných priestoroch múzea, okrem hlavnej budovy v mestskom parku aj vo Vile Dr. Lisiku a lekárni pod kolonádou. Návštevníci múzea sa môžu pokochať pohľadom na betlehemy z Kanady, kde je Ježiško i ostatné postavičky oblečené do odevov Inuitov, z USA, Mexika, Kostariky, Hondurasu, Čile, Japonska, Tibetu, Nepálu, Indie, Fínska, Talianska, Španielska, Veľkej Británie i z krajín susediacich so Slovenskom. Tvorcovia betlehemov často obliekajú postavy do národných krojov, japonské sú v kimone, indiánske v typickom odevu, v Peru sa rodina plaví na trstinovom člne. Zaujímavé sú aj miniatúry, napríklad betlehem v kokosovom orechu, kamennom vajičku, tekvičke, banicky betlehem či slovenský v husacích vajciach.

• **Minister** školstva Eugen Jurzyca (SDKÚ-DS) priznal problémy so zavádzaním povinnej angličtiny u žiakov na prvom stupni základných škôl (ZŠ). V rozhovore potvrdil, že sa ju od septembra 2011 budú učiť tretiaci. "Máme tam problémy, priznávame, sú spojené s byrokraciou so štruktúrnymi fondmi," uviedol. Rezort už skôr avizoval, že pedagógov si na vyučovanie angličtiny vyškolí. Podľa ministra ak sa učiteľia, ktorých je podľa neho nedostatok, dozvedajú, problémy vôbec nenastanú. "Ak by bol aj tak problém, tak sme dostali ešte aj ponuky od niekoľkých zahraničných organizácií," dodal šéf rezortu školstva. Do škôl by tak smerovali "rodení" učiteľia angličtiny - speakeri. "Aj takto by sa to dalo riešiť, keby nastala krízová situácia." Povinnú angličtinu plánovalo pôvodne ministerstvo súčasnej vlády zaviesť už od prvého ročníka ZŠ. Odborníci vtedy upozorňovali, že návrh prinesie viac rizík ako pozitív. Výhrady mali napríklad aj voči tomu, že ide o určitý nátlak a neslobodu pri voľbe cudzieho jazyka. Upozorňovali aj na nedostatok kvalifikovaných jazykárov. Povinnú angličtinu má zaviesť novela školského zákona, ktorú schválili poslanci v polovici decembra.

• **V** priebehu nasledujúcich rokov chce šéf rezortu dopravy Ján Figel' (KDH) využiť z eurofondov na výstavbu slovenských ciest približne 2,2 miliardy eur. Tieto peniaze by sa mali použiť v rokoch 2011 až 2014. Minister zdôraznil, že aktuálne Slovensko prichádza do obdobia, ktoré bude výnimočné z hľadiska intenzity a objemu investícií do nadradenej infraštruktúry. V lete budúceho roka by mala byť napríklad dokončená výstavba od Nitry až po Tekovské Nemce na rýchlostnej ceste R1. Aktuálne sa už spúšťajú verejné súťaže na výstavbu vybraných úsekov diaľnice D1, ktoré boli pôvodne obsiahnuté v zrušenom prvom a treťom balíku projektov verejno-súkromného partnerstva (PPP). Celkovo ide o 70 km diaľnice.

• **Nový** webový stránku Múzea mincí a medailí v Kremnici sprístupnila verejnosti Národná banka Slovenska (NBS). Stránku zverejnila tiež na nových internetových adresách. Informovala o tom vedúca tlačového a edičného oddelenia NBS Jana Kováčová. Stránka je od 3. januára prístupná nielen cez stránku NBS, ale aj prostredníctvom novej adresy www.muzeumkremnica.sk. "Múzeum mincí a medailí v Kremnici je od roku 1994 súčasťou NBS. Verejnou informáciou o múzeu často hľadala medzi stránkami múzeí, nie prostredníctvom webovej stránky NBS," objasnila Kováčová. Pokračovala, že stránka múzea sa odlišuje od stránky NBS aj farebnosťou a dizajnom, lepšie tak zohľadňuje prezentačné potreby múzea. Jej návštevníkom sú k dispozícii - atraktívnejší vzhľad, jednoduchšia orientácia a bohatá fotograféria.

• **Šéf** Ministerstva hospodárstva (MH) SR Juraj Miškov informoval, že jeho rezort vedie rokovania s približne 80 zahraničnými investormi, ktorí majú záujem investovať na Slovensku. Pre povzbudenie záujmu zahraničných investorov o investovanie na Slovensku plánuje rezort hospodárstva v nasledujúcich mesiacoch uskutočniť prezentácie slovenského podnikateľského prostredia v zahraničí, tzv. road-show. "Na prelome februára a marca 2011 pripravujeme investičnú road-show po USA. Rovnako sa v prvom štvrtroku 2011 pripravuje road-show po Nemecku," informoval.

• **Kúpele** Bojnice, predovšetkým tamojší nový kúpeľný dom Lysec, získali za rok 2010 európsku listinu za výnimočné služby v zdravotnom sektore. Na základe odporúčania rakúskej cestovnej kancelárie Kurresen Sprenger o tom rozhodla Európska únia žurnalistov v oblasti cestovného ruchu. Prezident únie žurnalistov Walter Zilka ho v závere roka prišiel osobne odovzdať riaditeľovi Kúpeľov Bojnice Slavomírovi Eliášovi. Európska únia žurnalistov je medzinárodná organizácia, ktorá úzko spolupracuje s Radou Európy v Štrasburgu. Podľa Eliáša ocenenie je uznaním za služby, ktoré počas roka v kúpeľoch poskytujú domácim, ale aj zahraničným pacientom, najmä z Rakúska a Nemecka. Kúpeľný dom Lysec dali do užívania v roku 2008. Splňa európske štandardy v oblasti zdravotníctva a kúpeľnej liečby.

• **Podľa** štatistik Ústredia práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR si podľa novembrových údajov nevie presne 53,339 nezamestnaných nájsť prácu dlhšie ako dva roky. Najviac takýchto ľudí je v Banskobystrickom kraji, a to 14,352. Vysoké čísla vykazujú aj Košický a Prešovský kraj. V každom je viac ako 13,000 ľudí bez práce dlhšie ako 48 mesiacov. Naopak, najmenej ich je tradične v Bratislavskom kraji, a to 288. Celkovo je na Slovensku 374,281 nepracujúcich, čo za novembra minulého roka znamená viac ako 12-% mieru evidovanej nezamestnanosti. Ich počet v medzimesačnom porovnaní klesol o 1,855, v porovnaní s vlaňajškom o 288.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

HĽADÁME

Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota v Spojených štátoch a v Kanade hľadá zástupcov plynne po slovensky hovoriacich alebo licencovaných odporúčateľov, ktorí by reprezentovali našu organizáciu a ponúkali naše životné poisťky a anuitné produkty, najmä v oblasti štátov
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Brat Andyho Warhola skončil po boji s pneumóniou

Dňa 28. decembra 2010 syn Johna Warholu, Donald oznámil, že vo veku 85 rokov zomrel na Štedrý večer 24. decembra 2010 v nemocnici v Pittsburghu, Pensylvánia jeho otec a brat výtvarníka Andyho Warhola, ktorý bojoval s pneumóniou.

John Warhola bol jedným z troch zakladateľov Nadácie Andyho Warhola pre vizuálne umenie, ktorá v Pittsburghu založila múzeum. Po smrti otca v roku 1942 John vchoval Andyho a postaral sa, aby navštevoval akadémiu. Andy Warhol (pôvodným menom Andrew Warhola) zomrel vo veku 58 rokov v roku 1987 po komplikáciách po operácii žľazníka. Rodičia Warholovcov boli prisťahovalci rusínskej národnosti z dediny Miková v Rakúsku-Uhorsku (teraz v okrese Stropkov na severovýchodnom Slovensku). Andyho bratia John a Paul sa narodili ešte na dnešnom Slovensku.



FOTO TASR / AP

Na archívnej snímke 9. augusta 2002 rodina svetoznámeho kráľa pop-artu Andyho Warhola, starší bratia John Warhola (vľavo) a Paul Warhola (vpravo) a dvojročný prasnovec Matthew Warhola z Cranberry stoja pred zväčšenou napodobeninou novovydanej známky Andyho Warhola pri príležitosti prvého dňa jej vydania v múzeu Andyho Warhola v Pittsburghu.

AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File

In this Aug. 9, 2002 file photo, the family of pop artist Andy Warhol, a Pittsburgh native, older brothers John Warhola, left, and Paul Warhola, right, stand with Andy's great nephew Matthew Warhola, 2, of Cranberry, Pa., in front of the newly issued Andy Warhol stamp at a first day of issue celebration at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. John Warhola, the older brother who helped raise Andy and later helped establish the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, has died. Warhola's son, Donald, says his father was 85 when he died on Christmas Eve after battling pneumonia in a Pittsburgh hospital.

Pavína Hrehová, prvá administrátorka Kanadského Slováka, na večnosti

Zahučali hory, zahučali lesy, kde ste sa podeli moje mladé časy?

V piatok 19. novembra 2010 v kanadskom Montreale sa odobrala do sveta večnosti Pavína Hrehová, manželka zakladajúceho redaktora Kanadského Slováka. Po dlhšej a trápnej nemoci umrela v Jewish General Hospital zaopatrená všetkými cirkevnými sviatosťami vo veku 88 rokov.

Narodila sa 1. marca 1922 rodičom Veronike rodená Grušpíerová a Štefanovi Marejkovi na Kysuciach v povestnej obci Turzovka, ktorá sa rozprestiera pozdĺž ospevovanej rieky Kysuca ... Ako 2-ročná so svojou staršou sestrou a matkou odišli do Kanady k otcovi v Montreale, ktorý ich tam predišiel s vlnou hromadného vystaňovania Slovákov do Kanady. Takmer celý svoj život prežila v municipalitách veľkého Montrealu. V Kanade do rodiny Marejkových pribudlo šesť dievčat a dvaja chlapi, vychované v prísnej kresťanskej disciplíne a slovenskej uvedomelosti. Jej otec, Štefan Marejka, radí sa medzi prominentné osobnosti tvorivej slovenskej komunity v Montreale. Bol spoluzakladateľom slovenskej rímskokatolíckej farnosti (osady) Sv. Cyrila a Metoda, členom výboru vtedajšej slovenskej doplnovacej školy, aktívnym funkcionárom slovenských fraternalistických spolkov, členom Tlačového výboru Kanadského Slováka v Montreale, pohotovým vtipným a národne povzbudzujúcim rečníkom na spolkových oslavách a spoločenských podujatiach.

Pavína školenie absolvovala v Académie St. Alfred vo Ville St. Laurent u rehoľných sestier z radu St. Croix. V svojich mladých rokoch patrila do Ružencového spolku a aktívne sa podieľala na oslavných a spoločenských podujatiach slovenského etnika v Montreale.

Od jej školských rokov bola horlivá obdivovateľka dnes svätého brata Andreja, ktorému sa pripisujú početné zázračné uzdravenia. Ako taká bola slávnostne inštalovaná do radu Veľkých čitateľov brata Andreja, príležitostne poctená zlatou medailou oratória sv. Jozefa v Montreale. V roku 1946, po skončení Druhej svetovej vojny, vydala sa za Štefana Hrehu, redaktora Kanadského Slováka, ktorému vypoľahala v redakcii ako účelná administrátorka novin. Spolu prežili 65 rokov manželského života. Syn Steve je profesorom filozofie a ľudskej vedy, súběžne koordinátorom Medzinárodného bakalaurátu (IB).

V roku 1977 po prvý raz navštívila svoju rodnú Turzovku s manželom, synom a jeho manželkou, odkiaľ si mladí odniesli príjemné spomienky na „starý kraj“ svojich rodičov. V Turzovke navštívila kostol, v ktorom bola pokrstená ako aj jej sestra Gizela pred ňou. Pamätne chvíle strávili v rodinnom pohostinstve jej dvoch sesterníc, Veroniky Vilčekovej v Turzovke (už na večnosti) a Anny Začkovej v Misteku na Morave (dnes Česká republika). Ako hlboko veriaci a nábožná za jej nezabudnuteľné a neopisateľné chvíle treba uviesť návštevu na Živčákovej hore, kde sa zjavila Panna Mária tamojšiemu horárvi. Počas komunistického režimu zakázané miesto, vystavené stálej deštrukcii tam vložných nábožných stánkov, modlitieb veriacich a surovému prenasledovaniu návštevníkov tejto posvätej hory. Ktosi toto zázračné miesto nazval Slovenské Lurdy.

Pohreb mala v stredu 24. novembra 2010 v slovenskom kostole. Cirkevné obrady v kostole a na cintoríne odslúžil mladý slovenský kňaz v slovenskej reči, Rev. Rudolf Grega, syn operného speváka Rudolfa Gregu. Truhlu k oltáru a potom od oltára sprevádzali jej sestry Gizela (Hričko), Annette (Lefavre z Edmontonu), Olga (Slodičák), Alžbeta (Lukča), Veronika (Bertrand) a brat Eugen. Prvé čítanie v anglickej reči prečítal Dr. John Weisnagel a druhé vo francúzskej Raymond Bertrand, ktorý počas omši vysluhoval pri oltári. Sólistka bola Margareta Schnaiderová. Elegickú báseň Posledné Au revoir z pera jej manžela, precitne predniesla Marta Fusková a jej charitatívny Bohu zasvätený život dojemne sprítomnil syn Steve s vyslovením patričnej vďaky všetkým, ktorí sa s ňou prišli rozlúčiť a dať jej svoje posledné Zbohom. Za sóloveho spevu v jej jesenných rokoch obľúbenej piesni Zahučali hory, odprevadili ju z kostola na cintorín Notre Dame des Neiges k večnému odpočinku v rodinnom hrobe.

Za vernou manželkou žiali manžel Steve, za milujúcou a štedrou matkou syn Steve s manželkou Lucille, jej súrodenci (brat Albert predišiel ju do večnosti pred pár rokmi vo Fort Erie, ON), švagriná Stella s manželom Dr. John Weisnagel, početne rozvetvená rodina, široký kruh priateľov a známych z jej mladosti.

Nech odpočívajú v pokoji v zemi svojej adoptovanej kanadskej vlasti.

P.S. Nech je mi dovolené odprevadiť moju premilenú manželku do sveta nenávratna slovami, ktoré sme počas nášho spoločného života pred spánkom jeden druhému povedali: Good night, pleasant dreams, sleep tight, don't let the bug bite, I love you!

Tvoj Steve



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 120

STREDA, 19. JANUÁRA, 2011

Číslo 5835

Novoročný prejav prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

Viac pokoja a dôvery seba a svojmu štátu by sme si podľa prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča mali dopriať v novom roku 2011. Hlava štátu otvorila svoj tradičný novoročný príhovor pripomenutím významu dnešného dňa - Dňa vzniku Slovenskej republiky. Podľa prezidenta je 1. január nielen začiatkom nového roka 2011, no súčasne "sviatkom našej modernej štátnosti."



Aktualizované o vyjadrenie politológa

Občania sa podľa prezidenta „právom dožadujú od politikov a zamestnávateľov, aby ich život nebrali na ľahkú váhu. Aby boli zodpovední, prijali údel obetavosti, ohľaduplnosti a solidarity. Aby Európska únia neprijímala rozhodnutia, ktoré zostávajú na papieri ako plané sľuby.“

Upozornil na pretrvávajúci problém vymožitelnosti práva. „V tomto smere by sme si všetci bez ohľadu na príslušnosť k politickým stranám mali do budúceho roka vytýčiť reálny cieľ ozdraviť našu justíciu. Vnútrošný poriadok v štáte nám nikto nepríde urobiť zvonka a ani o to nežiadame. Sme zaň zodpovední všetci, ktorí sme vstúpili do politiky. Aj keď som presvedčený, že to najdôležitejšie je na právnom vedomí a svedomí samotných sudcov,“ konštatoval v dnešnom novoročnom príhovore prezident SR. „Želaním každého politika sú predovšetkým spokojní občania štátu. Viem, že k takejto spokojnosti máme všetci ešte ďaleko,“ povedal ďalej.

Pokračovanie na str. 21



Novoročný pozdrav všetkým Slovákom v Amerike

Vážená redakcia,

ako som zvykol každým rokom počas vianočných sviatkov aj teraz chcem cez Vaše noviny pozdraviť všetkých Slovákov v Amerike. Vianoce, ktoré sa svojim čarom javia ako najkrajšie sviatky roka, zblížujú ľudí. Deti prídu domov zo štúdií alebo zo zamestnania, keď sú ďaleko od rodičov. Stretávajú sa príbuzní, navštevujú sa. Veriaci sa častejšie stretávajú v kostole a prežívajú svoje cirkevné spoločenstvo. Všetky tieto návštevy nám pripomínajú návštevu Božieho Syna na svet. „Boh tak miloval svet, že dal svojho jednorodného Syna, aby nezahynul nik, kto v neho verí, ale aby mal večný život“ (Jn 3,16). Vianoce obsahujú veľké poslanstvo pre ľudstvo. Syn Boží sa stal človekom, aby oslávil Otca a nám ľuďom priniesol pokoj. „Sláva Bohu na výsostiach a na zemi pokoj ľuďom dobrej vôle“ (Lk 2,14). Opravdivý pokoj môže byť len tam, kde ľudia s dobrým srdcom oslavujú Boha a majú ku všetkým ľuďom vzťah naplnený láskou. Pokoj je Boží dar, ale treba ho správne používať.

Cestou Vašich novín aj ja chcem navštíviť všetkých čitateľov a všetkých Slovákov v Amerike. Chcem im zvestovať pokoj a veľa Božieho požehnania do nastávajúceho roka 2011.

Mons. František Tondra
spišský diecézny biskup



Mons. František Tondra



Usporiadatelia Katarínskej zábavy v prvom rade sprava: Ján Škrkoň, Henrieta Daitová, Nina Holy, Serafína Šulák, Milka Matfiaková, Mária Božeková, Veronika Packová. Druhý rad zľava: Milan R. Dait, Jozef Bilik, Andrej Šulák.

Úspešné podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New York City

Holiday activities of Branch 716 in New York City.

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ a I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New York City usporiadali v sobotu večer 13. novembra 2010 tradičnú Katarínsku zábavu, ktorá sa konala vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Do tanca a na počúvanie hrala známa slovenská hudobná skupina Kontakty. Počas večera sa podávala dobrá slovenská večera, ktorú pripravil Janko Škrkoň. Nechýbala ani dobrá nálada nielen na strane mladých, ale i u tých skôr narodených.

Pokračovanie na str. 22



Čo nás čaká v Novom roku 2011

Nikto z nás nevie, čo nás čaká v Novom roku, len Ten, tam hore, čo drží nad nami, ochrannú ruku. Celý svet, je akýsi zlý. V zle sa zviája, ako vretenica. Čert ju drží v jeho osidlach. Je to ničivá víchrica.

Nedivím sa, veď Pána Boha sme vyhodili, kdesi na smetisko a sv. Kríž, je len akýsi kus dreva a tri železné kince. Vraj doláre sú náš pán, to sú naše zlaté mince. Nik nemyslí, nik nato nepočíta, že to je naše popravisko.

Áno, čaká na nás, veľká, nebezpečná, strašná hrozba, potupným výsmechom sa stala naša, úprimná prosba. Áno, svet je zlý, mamone verí a celý sa topí v hriechu. Kríž z kostola vyhodili, vraj patrí do krčmy, pod viechu.

A tí bezbožní umelci – vedci, svet nestvorili, ani ho nestvorila. Naše úprimné modlitby sú silnejšie, tie hriech a zlo porazia. My veríme, že po ukrižovaní, príde to slávnostné Vzkriesenie.

Jozef Smák



Greek Catholics from the village of Kojšov observed the tradition of blessing water on the feast of the Epiphany. This ritual is usually done in the church but villagers from Kojšov carry on the ancient tradition by processing to the river for the blessing.

FOTO TASR – Milan Kapusta

Vody Jordánu svätili 6.januára 2011, na sviatok Bohozjavenia, na potoku „Reka“ gréckokatolícki veriaci v obci Kojšov v okrese Gelnica. Na Slovensku je už málo miest, kde sa liturgický obrad svätenia vody koná v prírode a nie v kostole. Obec Kojšov je aj rodiskom známeho filmového režiséra Juraja Jakubiska, ktorého pravdepodobne pri jeho poetickej tvorbe inšpiroval aj rodný kraj s ľudovými tradíciami v horskej prírode Volovských vrchov časti Slovenského rudohoria.