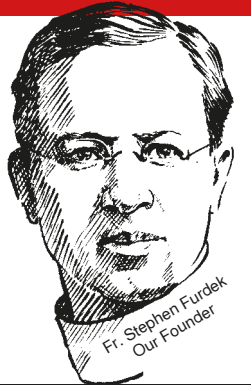




Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



Mr. Thomas M. Hricik

The Jednota is saddened to report the passing of one its most distinguished members, Mr. Thomas M. Hricik. The following is the obituary lovingly compiled by his family.

Thomas M. Hricik, 79, of Greensburg, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010. Born Sept. 22, 1930, in Pleasant Unity, he was a son of the late Michael and Cecilia Takac Hricik. Tom attended Pleasant Unity Elementary School and graduated from Hurst High School, Norvelt. He was honorably discharged from the Army of Occupation, having served with 14th Armored Cav. Regiment on the Russian Border Patrol in Germany during the Korean War. He studied under the G.I. Bill and earned an accounting certificate from Westmoreland/Greensburg Business School. He also took additional courses in the purchasing field from the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University. Tom had been employed by Teledyne Vasco for 34 years, attaining the position of manager of planning and scheduling, then as director of purchasing. As a member of Jednota Branch 181 KJ United. Tom served his branch and district as financial secretary and president of the George Onda District. He then served as national president of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada for 12 years. Tom was named President Emeritus. He was a lifelong member of St. Florian Catholic Church, United, and the church choir. Tom also had a lifelong love of Byzantine Catholic Church. He attended the annual pilgrimage at Mt. St. Macrina in Uniontown each year with his family. In 1997, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his humanitarian efforts and outstanding contributions to America representing the Slovak community as a distinguished fraternalist. In 2006, he was nominated by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, one of the highest papal honors. He participated in the investiture ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Tom was a member of the board of directors of Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League of America. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Jankola Museum, Library of Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius and a member of the following organizations: National Fraternal Congress of America, Slovak Catholic Sokol, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, National Slovak Society, Zemplin Club in Cleveland, Ohio, and Kosice, Slovakia, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada and a past member of the Slovak World Congress. Tom was proud of his Slovak heritage and was fluent in the language. He traveled extensively in Slovakia and much of Europe. He also was an avid reader, especially on historical topics. Tom loved when his family could all be together, especially during the holidays. Tom is survived by his wife of 53



continued on page 3

Message from the President

Thomas M. Hricik passed from this Earth on Tuesday January 5, 2010.

I along with several other Board Members attended his funeral on January 8th and 9th, 2010. On behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union and myself I gave the following eulogy at the Funeral Mass.

It is with great sadness that we observe the death of Thomas M. Hricik, past President of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Jednota, where Tom served as its President for twelve years, until his retirement in 2006.

Prior to serving as President, Tom spent many years working diligently for the Society both as an elected National Officer and as a Member and Officer in Branch 181 and in the George Onda District. He was especially proud of his service to Branch 181, where for many years he was a top Recommender and was in fact a Million Dollar insurance producer.

Tom was very proud of his family, including his wife Gerry, children and grand-children and his nephew. He talked of them frequently.

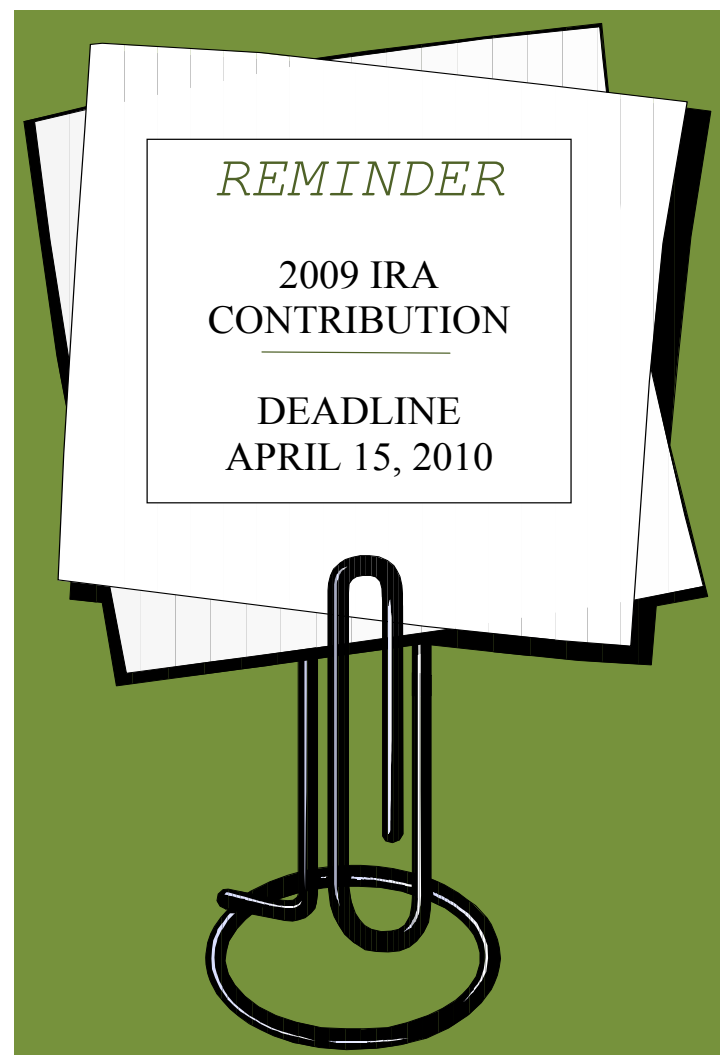
As with any person of accomplishment, vision and energy he was not afraid to make tough and sometimes controversial decisions. In 1995 when he first became President of the Jednota, the Society was, for a number of reasons, facing financial problems. The Society surplus was down to three million dollars. When he left the office in 2006 our surplus was eleven million dollars and in spite of the greatest financial crisis the World has experienced since the Great Depression, that still is not totally resolved at this time, the Society's surplus still stands at over eleven and one-half million today.

Those controversial, although necessary decisions, included closing the old Jednota Or-

continued on page 3



Andrew M. Rajec



REMINDER

2009 IRA CONTRIBUTION

DEADLINE
APRIL 15, 2010

continued on page 3

Inside

Editorial/Commentary	2
Minutes	8
Bowling	9,10
Branch/District Announcements	15-16
Slovak	20-24

Insights and Viewpoints



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

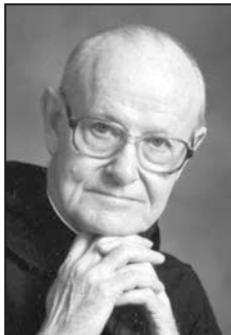
January 31, 2010

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 4:21-30

Gospel Summary

Biblical passages used in the liturgy often suffer from being removed from their contexts. This is particularly noticeable in today's gospel selection, which shows Jesus referring to a biblical passage from Isaiah, which he has just read without telling us what it is. We need to note, therefore, that he has just read an important messianic passage. Accordingly, when he declares that this prophecy has been fulfilled, he is in effect announcing his own claim to be God's chosen one for the liberation of Israel.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

Jesus senses some resistance to this dramatic announcement and counters it by reminding them that it is always difficult for local folks to believe that one of their own might be much more than they have given him permission to be. In a sense, this is a recognition of the truth in that adage: "Familiarity breeds contempt."

This narrowness of vision takes on much more serious implications when it touches our own relationship with God. As Jesus points out, God has never felt obliged to recognize privilege based solely on birth (or church membership). Being a member of a chosen people simply clarifies one's obligation to respond to God's special claims on that people; It does not excuse one from obedience to those claims. It is a privilege with heavy responsibilities. Thus, in the gospel story, the widows and lepers from outside of Israel prove to be more worthy of God's attention than the members of his own people.

Life Implications

It is important to recognize the symbolic and universal implications of the narrow-minded attitude of excessively provincial people. The challenge of today's gospel takes us far beyond the merely social implications of that phenomenon. The fact is that we are all tempted to reject the challenging initiatives of God in order to cling to our own more familiar and controllable vision of life. The words of Isaiah are pertinent here: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (55:8-0).

This point is sharpened in the words of Jesus to Peter when he reacts against the thought of a suffering and dying Messiah: "For you are not on the side of God, but of men" (Mark 8:33). Jesus is God's Messiah long before he is our Messiah. And, although we will always be tempted to "domesticate" and make reasonable the claims of God, they will forever challenge us to be converted from self-satisfied, provincial and merely human ways of relating to God's message.

As a matter of fact, the divine message, embodied in the person and words of Jesus, calls us into the "wilderness" of endless concern for others. For we never really know where unselfish love will lead us. We may even have to say at time, "My life is really no longer my own. I have loaned it to others who are more in need than I am." When that happens, we will understand why Jesus said that God went outside of Israel to take care of the widow of Sidon and Naaman, the Syrian.

February 7, 2010

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 5:1-11

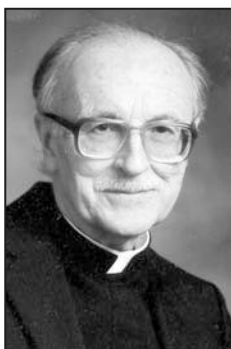
Gospel Summary

While Jesus was speaking to a crowd that was pressing in on him by the Lake of Gennesaret, he noticed some fishermen washing their nets. He got into one of their boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. He then taught the crowd of people from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he told Simon to go out into deep water and lower his nets for a catch. Simon replied that they had worked all night and caught nothing, but he would do as Jesus asked. Simon and his partners caught so many fish that their nets were about to break, and their two boats were completely filled.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, I am a sinful man." Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they reached shore, Simon and his partners, James and John, left everything and followed Jesus.

Life Implications

One of the most pervasive threats to the faith of Christians during the first centuries of the Church was a religious philosophy called Gnosticism (from a Greek word meaning "to know"). This philosophy rejected the creator God of Genesis for a supreme, unknowable



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

Divine Spirit beyond the God of Scripture. Further, Gnostics taught that all matter, including the human body, was evil. They believed, however, that certain human beings were a spark of the Divine Spirit, and through a secret knowledge could be freed from the prison of their bodily humanness to realize their true, eternal spiritual nature.

In their view, Jesus was a Gnostic, a spark of the Divine Spirit, who only appeared to share the nature and lot of human beings. He, therefore, really did not suffer and die, but came only to teach the secret knowledge to other "spirituals" in the fallen world. In its negation of the material world, Gnosticism was a threat to Christian faith because it seemed to be spiritually superior. The New Testament, on the other hand, stresses the reality of the suffering and death of Jesus in whom "dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily" (Gal 2:9). Jesus endured the shame of the cross, Paul said, and to proclaim Christ crucified was a "stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles" (1 Cor 1:23).

The spirit of Gnosticism remains a pervasive force in our culture, not in regard to the humanness of Jesus, but in regard to bypassing the Church in its all-too-apparent humanness. There is an attractiveness about emulating the Gnostics, who with superior knowledge feel no need for institutionalized religion, and thus are free for spiritual life in a variety of New Age ways. Harold Bloom, a perceptive cultural critic, in his book *The American Religion: The Emergence of the Post-Christian Nation* may not be far off the mark when he asserts: "And the American Religion, for its two centuries of existence, seems to me irretrievably Gnostic. It is a knowing, by and of an uncreated self, or self-within-the-self, and the knowledge leads to freedom, a dangerous and doom-eager freedom; from nature, time, history, community, other selves." Gnosticism is a cultural mind-set, not a denomination.

In the mind of Jesus, there is no bypassing humanness, either his own humanity or the humanity of the Church. Today's gospel reveals an important moment in the coming-to-be of the Church, a very human, structured society that Jesus intended even during his earthly ministry. Through this society, aptly called his own Body, he would continue his mission in history, not merely for elite spirituals, but for the whole crowd of people pressing in on him. The Church, which Jesus initiated at the beginning of his earthly ministry, he continues to complete as Risen Lord by sending the promise of his Father (Lk 24:49). It will thus be from the abiding presence of Jesus through his Spirit that Peter will again hear the words of today's gospel as he speaks to the crowds at Pentecost: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will now be catching men."

For many people today, the humanness of the Church, if not a scandal and foolishness, is often regarded as an obstacle to direct communion with the Divine Spirit. I am sure that many times the successors of Peter have echoed his words in their hearts: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Yet, the good news is that Jesus has not departed, and has promised never to depart from the Church. And it is through the humanness of the Church, as through the humanness of Jesus, that God finds us and welcomes us to our true home.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 26 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Raod

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

New Year Greetings From the Vice President

The celebration of the birth of our Savior and the renewed spirit of the New Year can both serve to shepherd a spirit of fraternalism essential to the continued strength of our Society. While many well-intentioned New Year's resolutions have been made – and soon broken – let me propose a realistic resolution that takes each of our members to fulfill.

A Worthy Goal for 2010

Let's set a goal for every one of the members of our Society to pledge to sign up just one new member in 2010. Meeting this worthy goal is certainly within each of our members' abilities. If every member signed a member, we would double the membership in our Society. Surely, everyone knows someone who needs insurance. Certainly, many of our own members will be surprised to learn about the quality products offered at extremely competitive rates.

Ask About The Many Affordable Products

For example, one of our most affordable products is the "JEP" (Juvenile Enrichment Plan). For only \$14.00 a year, you can insure your son, daughter, grandchild, godchild, nieces and nephews – from infancy to age 21 for \$10,000. They'll have term life insurance with the guaranteed ability to convert their term coverage into a permanent life insurance contract. For more particulars, give your lodge officer a call or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682.

On behalf of my wife Maria, my family and myself, I want to wish you and yours a very healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year. May God bless and protect all of you throughout the coming year.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President



National Vice President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

continued from page 1

phanage and the Printery in Middletown, PA and other difficult and emotional issues. The end result was a stronger Society.

The one troubling factor regarding the Society that was constantly on his mind was the slowly declining membership in all the various Slovak fraternal, including ours, and the seeming inability to reverse this multi-generational trend that has existed since the 1960s.

I first met Tom at the Jednota Convention in Pittsburgh in 1988. He introduced himself to me while on the river cruise on a warm, beautiful Pittsburgh night. We found we had many common interests. We both had served in the U.S. Army in Armored Cavalry units, he in the 1950s during the Korean War and I in the mid-1960s during the Vietnam War.

His love of the Slovak language and Slovak people was very evident. The many stories he told of his Slovak relatives, friends and acquaintances were always informative and entertaining. I'd joke with him about his vychodny (Eastern) Slovak dialect and his quips and comments were often hilarious.

Tom's devotion to his Slovak heritage was second only to his devotion to his family and his Catholic faith, which he practiced diligently. He voiced concern about the decline in church attendance, especially among the youth, and also about the closing of Slovak churches.

Many of you are aware of his intense interest in history, United States, Slovak and the world, spanning many years and many subjects, which caused him to be a voracious reader. Also noteworthy was his passion for music and his vast record collection, spanning from Slovak to Middle-eastern music and much in between.

Going to week-end garage sales, when possible, was an avocation. Collecting antiques and other items of interest was a passion and more than once he showed his excitement about finding a WWII souvenir or other interesting and sometime valuable items

Some of you know him much better than I do. None of us is perfect and we all have shortcomings. Sometimes these shortcomings come from a passion or an ideal not equally shared by others, and we can't understand why not. Tom had this passion, and some say this shortcoming.

The many rewards and recognitions earned by Tom over the years are tremendous and many of you are aware of them. Many have been noted in his obituary.

I met Tom Hricik first as a stranger, then knew him as an acquaintance, then as a person with some common interests, then as a colleague and fellow Jednota Officer and finally as a friend.

Tom's life and contributions to his Church, to our Society and to all who knew him, I think can be summarized in the old Slovak phrase that is on the masthead of our Society's newspaper, the Jednota.

For God and Nation – Za Boha a Narod.

Tom, Rest in Peace – Z Bohom – God Be With You.

Mr. Thomas M. Hricik

continued from page 1

years, Geraldine "Gerry" Firment Hricik; his children, Mary Borde and husband, Arthur, of St. Augustine, Fla., Michael Hricik and wife, Victoria, of Mt. Pleasant, Beth Ann Silva and husband, Ruben, of Greensburg, Thomas Hricik and wife, Brandi, of Sewickley, Stephen Hricik and wife, Lori, of Germany; ten grandchildren, Arthur and Robert Borde, Michael and Paul Hricik, Drew Silva, Mary Ella and Thomas Hricik, Alison and Parker Chambers and Anne-Sophie Hricik and his nephew, Stephen Hricik, for whom he served as guardian. Also surviving are sisters, Katherine Keim and Elizabeth Felice; and nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by six siblings, Stephen Hricik, Michael Hricik, Mary Selis, Patricia Hricik, Cecilia DeBacco and Joanne Hricik. Family and friends were received from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and 1 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday in the JAY A. HOFFER FUNERAL HOME, Norvelt. A blessing service was held 10:15 a.m. Saturday in the funeral home followed by his Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in St. Florian Catholic Church, United, with the Rev. William C. McGuirk as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Florian Cemetery, Trauger. A Parastas service was held at 2:30 p.m. Friday in the funeral home with the Rev. Regis Dusecina. Military rites were accorded at 10 a.m. Saturday by Armbrust Veterans Association.

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective August 1, 2009, FCSU Life is offering the "Park Free Plus" Annuity...

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 **4.1%**. This initial interest rate is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

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

Insights and Viewpoints

REFLECTIONS ON THE VELVET REVOLUTION: 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM IN CENTRAL EUROPE

"Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it." Edmund Burke

By John Karch

Part I

In 1946 Winston Churchill delivered his "Iron Curtain" address at a Fulton, Missouri college, in which he realized the Soviet aggression toward control of Eastern Europe (EE). In February 1948 a Communist coup in Prague sealed Soviet control of EE and the U.S. eliminated those countries from the GI Bill. Although I was unable to undertake my graduate studies in Bratislava, I spent the summer months of 1948 in my village of birth (Velka Domasa) in eastern Slovakia observing the transition to Communism. I returned in 1957 as the U.S. representative on a U.N. two-week "Study Tour" of Slovakia, then spent a few days in Velka Domasa seeing communism fully established. However, while the Eisenhower-Dulles policy of "Liberation" gave the oppressed people hope the Soviet suppression of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 dimmed it. In 1968 the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia ended Dubcek's "Socialism with a human face."

Over the decades people living under communism became increasingly isolated and dissatisfied. The Western countries, especially the U.S., produced information and cultural programs providing accurate information about the U.S. and the West while undermining Moscow's control. I was with the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), including the Voice of America (VOA), during 1957-86, all years devoted to the USSR and EE. The U.S. signed bilateral exchange agreements with the Soviet Union and EE countries. In 1969-70 I was with the "National Education USA" Exhibit in six Soviet cities and in 1974 I directed the month-long "Progress and the Environment" Exhibit in Bratislava. In 1985, during my last USIA assignment, in Vienna, Austria—NATO Spokesman at the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) Negotiations—Prague denied me a Visa to visit my ailing Aunt (in Bratislava) and Uncle (in Presov area). My wife Loretta and daughter Anne Marie were given visas; they visited my Aunt.

Beginning with Kennedy, U.S. Presidents visited Germany and the Berlin Wall, part of the 100-mile 1961 structure separating East and West Germany. On June 12, 1987 President Ronald Reagan did likewise and delivered an historic address that impacted on the future of the Cold War and is quoted to this day. This is Reagan's complete reference to "Tear Down this Wall":

"General Secretary Gorbachev, If you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this Gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this Wall!"

The same month, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced "Perestroika," a policy of economic and political restructuring. In November 1989, the East German regime issued a decree opening the Wall and allowing the reunion of families. The symbolic Wall was torn down completely by the end of 1990 and the Cold War came to an end in EE, including Czecho-Slovakia. However, in freedom national problems were not ended, and some continue to this day. In Czecho-Slovakia the Governments in Prague and Bratislava negotiated a "Velvet Divorce" which established two independent political entities—the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic—effective January 1, 1993.

However, the "Velvet Revolution" did take place—Communism did fall in Czecho-Slovakia—and is so cited throughout the world, no less in Washington, D.C. where the Slovak

Embassy, headed by Ambassador Peter Burian, can be justifiably proud of celebrating it. According to him, these events "...altered the course of the history and brought profound changes to that region and to the world. In November 1989, the Velvet Revolution, in then Czechoslovakia, started the journey of the Slovak and Czech nations towards freedom, democracy, and prosperity. Over these past 20 years, Slovakia has traveled a long and successful road. Today, Slovakia is a proud member of NATO and the EU. Slovakia is a strategic partner, friend and close ally of the United States of America. We are working together in many parts of the world on bringing democracy and stability to other nations."



Slovak Ambassador to USA Peter Burian above.

Editor's Note: Look for Speakers' remarks on this important event as Jednota runs Part II on the Velvet Revolution from Mr. John Karch



Pictured here, L to R, Congressman John Mica from Florida; D.C. Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak; Congressman Joseph Wilson from South Carolina.

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 3	MONDAY, JAN 25
WEDNESDAY, FEB 17	MONDAY, FEB 8
WEDNESDAY, MAR 3	MONDAY, FEB 22

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

"JEDNOTA"

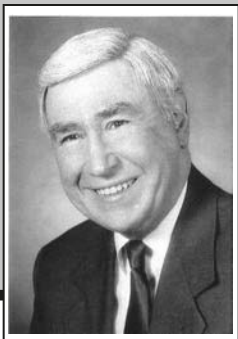
6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398

FAX: 216-642-4310

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

By Joseph T. Senko

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



Avoid Investment Scams

With the stock market turmoil of recent months and numerous other investments losing their appeal, many people are looking for ways to earn back the funds they've lost on stocks or to get some positive returns on the money they have left. Unfortunately, there are many con artists trying to take advantage of people eager to offset their market losses.

IS IT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

This is always the first question to ask when spending your money. If an investment or business opportunity promises guaranteed, rapid, or unusually high returns, examine the investment materials carefully to determine how these assurances can be possible. Keep in mind that high-yield securities also carry high risks, including the possibility that you could lose your entire investment. Remember, just because a company has a nice office, attractive brochures, and an appealing Web site, that does not mean it is poised for success or that it's even a legitimate business. The more questions you ask, the more likely you are to discern if the promises are real or if they are whitewashing the risks involved. Here are some of the best questions to ask.

IS THE COMPANY REGISTERED?

When a company registers its securities with a government regulator, it is required to publish an annual report and a prospectus that detail its financial situation. It is possible to sell securities without registering, but this should be a red flag to potential investors. It may mean the company is trying to avoid regulation – and the kind of disclosure that regulation requires – because it has something to hide. Ask for an investment prospectus and annual report, and then review them with an objective adviser. If these documents aren't available, it's probably best to walk away from the investment.

DOES THE INVESTMENT HAVE A TRACK RECORD?

Some scammers will offer you the chance to get in on the ground floor of a new opportunity. This may sound tempting, but it's best to invest in a business that has a proven history of financial success. Ask, too, if the people involved in the investment have any experience in this field. What is their previous success in this business? What documentation is available to demonstrate their track record?

WHY DO I HAVE TO INVEST IMMEDIATELY?

Con artists often insist that you must send in your money right away because only a few shares of a company are left. This should be a red flag to turn down the opportunity. The cons are only trying to prevent you from asking questions they can't answer.

IS ALL MY MONEY BEING USED TO BUY SECURITIES?

High-pressure sales people often operate the way they do because they are expecting to get big commissions from the sales they make. Those commissions are deducted from your money. Before you invest, find out if there are fees or costs involved and ask how much of your total outlay will actually be used to make an investment. Legitimate stock brokers do charge transaction fees, but it's always important to ask what they are in advance so you know what amount will be invested.



Pre-Lenten "Fašiangy" Dance To Be Held In Greenfield, WI

There will be a pre-Lenten "Fašiangy" dance sponsored by Slovak League of America Assembly #20 of Milwaukee on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street, Greenfield, WI

Delicious Slovak food and bakery will be available from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Music for dancing will be provided by the Slovak Band of Chicago. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will perform at 7:30 p.m.

Advanced tickets are \$4.50, at the door \$5.00.

To purchase tickets, or for more information, please call Betty @ 414-425-6137 or Emily @ 414-464-1063.

We extend a special invitation to all Jednota Brach 89 members.

Srdečne Vám ďakujem!
 Betty Valent



Branch 162 of the First Catholic Slovak Union donates to the War and Veterans to help send packages to the veterans on foreign lands. Taking part in the donation is James Marmol, president of Branch 162 and War and Veterans committee member, and receiving the donation is Joe T. Joseph, Chairman of the War and Veterans and member of Branch 162. Other branches and districts of any fraternal are encouraged to support our troops and donate to the War and Veterans postal package program by contacting Joe T. Joseph at 724-438-8688.

Thank You From The War and Veterans Committee of Branch 162

by Joe T. Joseph

The War and Veterans Committee is thankful for the postage donations we have received from Abundant Life Church, Mrs. Fitzsimmons, First Catholic Slovak Union 162, Burchanti Family, Herald Standard newspaper, Fayette County realtors and all others who have assisted us in shipping over 188 packages this last two weeks to the troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and various hospitals.

Also, the committee wishes to extend sincere thanks to the Frasier School District, Albert Gallatin School District and the Jr. ROTC, Laurel Highlands School District, California Area School District, Uniontown Area School District, St. John's Evangelistic School and Church, Giant Eagle, Shop 'n

Your Help Is Still Needed, Appreciated

We have received requests for 662 more new first time soldiers who are arriving daily in harm's way. Your help is needed for us to continue our package program to our troops.

If you need any assistance in getting your soldiers name on our list, contact us at once. All checks please make payable to:

War and Veterans
 322 Dixon Blvd.
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 Phone: 724-438-8688

Sincerely
 Joe T. Joseph, Chairman
 Chuck Thomas
 James Marmol
 Committee Members

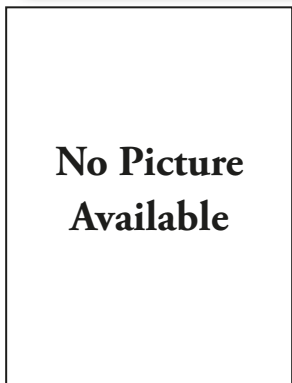
Save and all other persons who have whole heartily assisted us.

Publication Schedule for 2010

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

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Thru December 2009

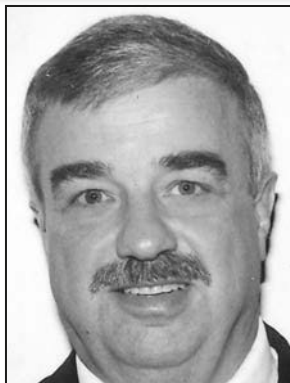


No Picture Available

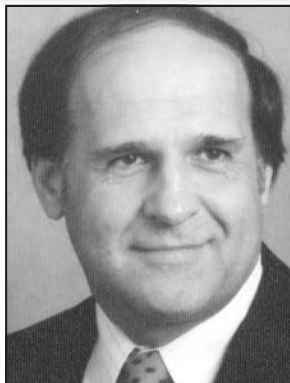
Thomas Podrasky
First Place



Kimberly M. Meeker
Second Place



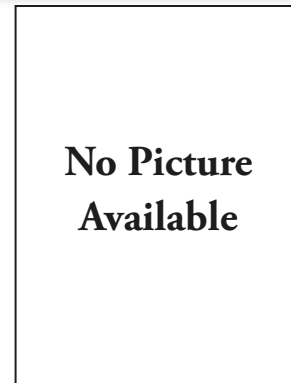
Kenneth A. Arendt
Third Place



Carl J. Ungvarsky
First Place



Andrew R. Harcar
Second Place



No Picture Available

Thomas Podrasky
Third Place

Top proposers by Amount of Annuities sold

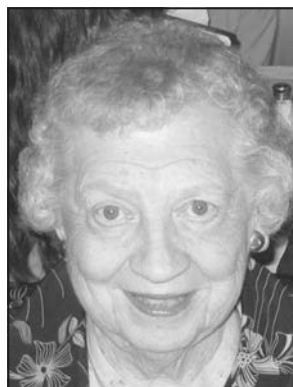
name	branch	Amount
Thomas Podrasky, Jessup, Pennsylvania	85	\$365,000.00
Kimberly Meeker, Windsor, New York	166	\$323,900.00
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermillion, Ohio	228	\$295,507.98
Andrew Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$269,126.93
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$243,756.05
Joseph E. Rura, Coral, Pennsylvania	484	\$240,705.75
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$226,115.23
Joseph T. Scavina, Boardman, Ohio	682	\$223,700.00
Roger T. Soltis, Massillon, Ohio	410	\$205,233.08
Joseph M. Bugel, Orland Park, Illinois	313	\$200,000.00

Top proposers by Total Points

name	branch	Total points
Carl Ungvarsky, Mountain Top, Pennsylvania	173	631
Andrew Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	467
Thomas Podrasky, Jessup, Pennsylvania	85	365
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermillion, Ohio	228	338
Kimberly Meeker, Windsor, New York	166	322
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	286
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	280
Dorothy Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	273
Joseph E. Rura, Coral, Pennsylvania	484	273
Audrey Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	2658



Mark Marmol
First Place



Dorothy Petrus
Second Place



Anna Magusin
Third Place

Top proposers by Amount of insurance sold

name	branch	Amount
Mark Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	\$520,000
Dorothy Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$300,000
Anna Magusin, Warren, Michigan	743	\$300,000
Michael P. Kolesar, Olmsted Twp, Ohio	855	\$250,000
Audrey Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$226,000
John A. Jurcenko, Chicago, Illinois	153	\$174,000
Carl Ungvarsky, Mountain Top, Pennsylvania	173	\$160,000
Joseph M. Bugel, Orland Park, Illinois	313	\$116,000
Edward T. Surkosky, Windber, Pennsylvania	292	\$110,000
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$110,000



L-R, District President Pfeifer, Bishop Brandt, Father Kulick,



District officers and members attending the meeting.



Saint Nicholas

The GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT of the FCSU held its Annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 6, 2009. After a celebrated Mass by Monsignor William Charnoki and Reverend Larry Kulick, guests were seated in the festively decorated dining room of the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. There followed a typical Slovak Christmas Eve dinner of oplatki with honey, Christmas soup, pagach, bobalky, fish, pirohi, wine, and kolache. Beautiful door prizes were awarded including platters of kolache and many poinsettias. Special guests included: Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, Bishop of Greensburg; Monsignor William Charnoki, Pastor of Holy Trinity in Ligonier, PA; Reverend William McGuirk, Pastor of St. Florian in United, PA; and Reverend Larry Kulick, District Chaplin and Master of Ceremonies for the event and FCSU President and Mrs. Andrew Rajec.

A special "thank you" to all involved for making this a memorable evening.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DON'T BUY LIFE INSURANCE

**UNTIL YOU CALL
1-800-533-6682**

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.FCSU.COM



You'll find out about our products:

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

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

News From Slovakia

Vazny: Construction of D4 Bratislava Bypass Will be Priority in 2010

Bratislava, December 28 (TASR) - The construction of the so-called D4 bypass around Bratislava is one of my ministry's main priorities for next year, Transport, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Lubomir Vazny has told TASR.

"Traffic intensity in Bratislava is growing continuously, which can't leave me satisfied in any way," said Vazny.

The whole project has been at a standstill for several months due to the lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) from the Environment Ministry. According to Vazny, the assessment may be ready in the first half of 2010 and should be followed by a tender lasting around 18 months. The last phase before construction - completing the projects and gaining building permission - shouldn't take longer than until mid-2013 and should then be followed by the construction work itself, which is expected to take around four years, meaning that the bypass could be opened in 2017.

TSAR

Sramko: Public Support for Euro Is Greatest Success

Bratislava, December 29 (TASR) - The introduction of the euro in Slovakia one year ago was a success, as it has brought stability and made the country attractive to investors, central bank (NBS) governor Ivan Sramko has told TASR.

Sramko praised the current Government (as of 2006) for continuing the commitment of the former cabinet to introduce the common European currency in 2009.

"In the end, politicians accepted that the risks of euro introduction are lower than those of its non-introduction," said Sramko, who will complete his five-year term in the post this year.

Developments in the monetary sphere were tense shortly after the parliamentary elections in 2006, and the mood on financial markets was influenced by ambiguous communication and an unclear presentation of the Government's intentions vis-a-vis the euro. At that time, NBS had to intervene against a slump in the Slovak koruna, which wasn't justified when it came to Slovakia's economic performance, recalled Sramko.

"I initiated a discussion with the Prime Minister (Robert Fico) and Finance Minister (Jan Pociatek) at which I attempted to clarify the way in which it was necessary to communicate this issue, in order to give a clear signal to the financial markets of the Government's intentions. As soon as communication was modified and refined, the situation stabilised," said Sramko.

The outgoing NBS governor also praised public support for the euro as the most significant success. "Contentment nears 80 percent, according to some surveys. If the whole process had gone smoothly and the criteria had been met but people didn't have a good feeling from it, it couldn't have been evaluated so positively," said Sramko.

At the same time, Sramko contrasted currency stability in Slovakia with the situation in neighbouring states, and pointed to significant investments that came to Slovakia this year (Volkswagen and AU Optronics) as a demonstration of the positives that the euro has brought to the country.

TSAR

IES: Consumer Confidence Stopped Deteriorating in December

Bratislava, December 29 (TASR) - Confidence in the Slovak economy continued to grow in December, when the Indicator of Economic Sentiment (IES) increased by 2.9 to 82.3 points month-on-month, the Slovak Statistics Office (SU SR) reported on Tuesday.

The index has also increased slightly (0.1) y-o-y, but is down 18 points compared to the long-term average. "The growth in the index was influenced by improvements in the development of all components included in the calculations," stated SU SR.

The deterioration in consumer confidence in Slovakia also came to a halt in December, with the indicator rising by 7.2 m-o-m to 26 points due to less public pessimism when evaluating all its four components.

A significant improvement was recorded especially in the evaluation of expected developments vis-a-vis the economy and unemployment in the country. From the y-o-y perspective, consumer confidence improved by 4 points

TSAR

Fico Visits Fire Station, Thanks People in Service on Christmas Eve

Nitra, December 24 (TASR) - Prime Minister Robert Fico on Christmas Eve visited the District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps in Nitra.

"As many people in various spheres work this day, I believe that ... it's necessary to ex-

press special thanks to the working people who can't be with their families on Christmas Eve," said Fico.

The premier went on to say that he hasn't visited the fire house in Nitra at random, as he spent an entire night with fire-fighter at this very station ten years ago. "I know many people here in person," added the prime minister.

Fico, who is known for having strained relations with journalists, thanked the media for their presence at the event and wished all people peace and coziness. "I wish you all happy holidays," he concluded.

TSAR

Public Health Office: 31 New Novel Flu Cases in Slovakia Last Week

Bratislava, December 28 (TASR) - A total of 31 pandemic flu A(H1N1) cases were confirmed over the course of last week, increasing the overall number of cases to 986, said Public Health Office (UVZ) representatives on Monday.

The majority of cases have been registered in Bratislava region (431) and Nitra region (148).

Doctors have continued to give the Panenza vaccine to medical personnel at hospitals and health centres.

Last week, UVZ registered 13 severe cases of the respiratory illnesses accompanied with pneumonia that required hospital treatment. A total of 272 of such cases were confirmed between November 3-December 24. "105 cases have been virologically screened so far, with the pandemic virus A(H1N1) confirmed in 84 of them," said Epidemiology Department representatives, who added that there have been 32 fatalities in Slovakia in which the A(H1N1) virus had a contributory effect to the cause of death.

TSAR



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

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL

24 PUBLIC SQUARE

CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113

PHONE: 216-696-5600; FAX: 216-696-0432

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

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

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

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

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2009 RENAISSANCE HOTEL, PITTSBURGH, PA

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Director, to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, Slovakia and the recitation of the Pledge of the Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain;
Andrew M. Rajec, National President;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President;
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary;
George F. Matta, National Treasurer;
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors;
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel;
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1; - absent, excused
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2;
Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3;
George Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4;
Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6;
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 & 9.

READING OF THE CALL

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MARCH 13 & 14, 2009.

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky to accept the minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Regis Brekosky to accept the agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President read his welcome to the Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT ESTATES

Jednota Estates – The President updated the Board of Directors on Jednota Estates. He stated that he sent a letter to Steve Nease, maintenance personnel, concerning the maintenance and upkeep of our property. The President stated that he outlined certain concerns which need to be addressed immediately or possible disciplinary action will take place.

The President stated that there have been rumors that we have been trying to sell the property in Middletown, PA. There have been no offers nor a contract for the sale of the property other than the unsolicited offer from Triple Crown Corporation, which the Board of Directors is aware of and has previously decided not to accept. The Jednota Estate properties are not being offered for sale.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota, Inc. - The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report on Building No. 2 to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions.

Jednota Properties, Inc. - Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., presented a report for Jednota Properties, Inc. and answered questions. He stated that he is trying to get a new lease from ACS, who stated that they are waiting for the approval from the State of Pennsylvania for a new contract. The President of Jednota Properties, Inc. further updated the Board of Directors on the landscaping around Building No. 2. He stated that he is in process of hiring a landscaping company to do the work.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR SECOND QUARTER OF 2009

Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth A. Arendt presented the second quarter of 2009 Financial Report and answered the Board Members' questions. He stated that his report would be published in our Jednota newspaper.

KEY BANK INVESTMENTS

The Executive Secretary updated and answered any and all the Board of Directors questions on investments with Key Bank and Key's subsidiary Victory Capital Management. He also reported on the activity with the Federal Home Loan Bank and stated that he will pass out a written report for the Board's review at the Saturday's session.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors with Saturday's schedule and activities for Friday night. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Damian Nasta to adjourn the meeting for the day.

Father Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Father Thomas Nasta celebrated a Mass for the Board of Directors and guests.

SECOND SESSION

Saturday Morning, September 12, 2009

OPEN

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead us in prayer. The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call. Father Thomas Nasta and Joseph Minarovich were absent and excused.

AQS, ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC. REPORT

Mr. Larry White, representing AQS, Asset Management Company, LLC., present at the invitation of the President, gave his report to the Board of Directors. A copy of his report was passed out to all Board Members. Mr. White continued with his presentation while discussing the following agenda:

- Portfolio metrics and distribution
- Transactions
- Portfolio Reinvestment vs. Projected Annual Yield
- Projected Portfolio Cash flow
- Market Data
- Fed Fund Futures/FMOC
- Market Levels
- 10 year corporate bond spreads vs. treasuries
- Reinvestment Strategy Analysis
- Commentary

When he concluded his presentation, Mr. White answered all the questions of the Board of Directors.

The Executive Secretary passed out his written Financial Report concerning our activities with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and investments with Key Bank and its subsidiary, Victory Capital Management. After the Executive Secretary's Report, the President asked for a motion from the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Committee to borrow up to an additional five million U.S. dollars (\$5,000,000.00) from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati so we can take advantage of the current very low interest rates. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Sprock to authorize the Executive Committee to borrow up to five million U.S. dollars (\$5,000,000.00) from the FHLB of Cincinnati and invest the money in allowable investments for profit on a maturity matched basis. The Society is taking advantage of the extremely low interest rates provided by the Federal Reserve to make profits as is being done by the very large profitable banks. In other words we can borrow at an average cost of 1.3% and invest the money at higher rates. Motion carried unanimously.

The President asked if there were any more questions by the Board regarding these issues. Hearing no further questions the meeting continued.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Membership

The Vice President reviewed the sale production report in different regions for the second quarter of 2009 and answered questions from the Board of Directors. Vice President Harcar also reviewed the sales productions of our independent agents. He also stated that he plans to have more seminars until the end of this year.

New Annuity Products

The Vice President reported on our new Park Free Annuity product and also on the new Eight Year Annuity. The Eight Year Annuity will be introduced after the 1st of January 2010 with a bonus rate which will be determined at a later date.

The Vice President further led a discussion regarding the number of lapsed policies we are experiencing and asked the Executive Secretary if the Home Office employees can start to call these lapsed policies holders to see if we can still retain them as members.

The Vice President reported to the Board of Directors that all single JEP policy

continued on page 14



Accent on Activities



2010 International Bowling Tournament

January 2010



Plans for the 2010 International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held in Erie, Pennsylvania, the weekend of April 30 - May 2. Registration forms can be found in this issue of the *Jednota* paper.

The Team Event will be held Friday evening and Saturday morning. Doubles and Singles



events will be held Saturday and Sunday. You can bowl as much or as little as you want by participating in as many events (Teams, Doubles, and Singles) you would like.

While the International Bowling Tournament is a USBC certified Tournament, you can still participate in the Tournament. To be eligible for USBC prizes, you can become a USBC member at the Tournament.

The Saturday night banquet will feature a trip to the Presque Isle Downs Casino.

Even if your Branch, District, or Region does not send participants to the Tournament, you can still show your support of fraternal activities by placing an ad in the program book or by sponsoring a lane at the bowling alleys. (Information on sponsoring a lane can be found below.)

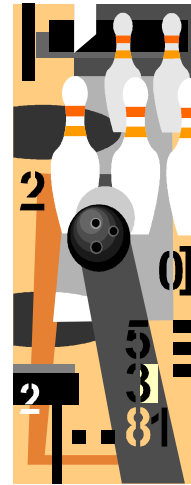


Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2010 International Bowling Tournament in Erie, Pennsylvania. Hope to see you there!



NEW THIS YEAR

We are allowing multiple team entries, including mixed teams. Up to two team members are allowed to remain on the same team. This is an interesting way to increase the number of teams. The more teams that enter, the larger the prize fund.



It's that time of year again! Our Annual Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, April 30, through Sunday, May 2, 2010. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

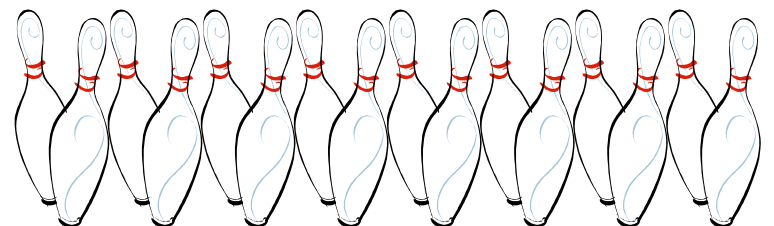
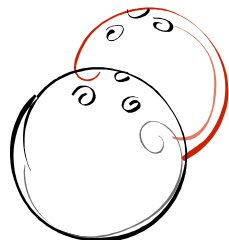
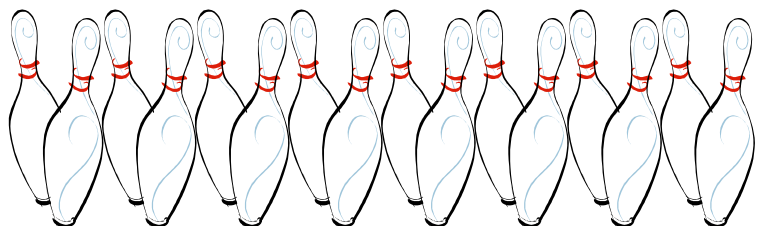
This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor: \$25 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Branch, District, or Region name.

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

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 10, 2010.



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

Please Read Carefully
ENTRY BLANK
56th Annual Men's and 47th Annual Women's
International Jednota Handicap Tenpin
BOWLING TOURNAMENT
 Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union
 Moral support certified by the United States Bowling Congress

Entry Fees

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

Optional Events

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

2010 April 30-May 1-2
 Entries Close
 March 12, 2010

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

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

Eastway Lanes
Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA

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)	- Schedule - TEAM EVENT Friday, April 30 6 PM & 9 PM Saturday, May 1 9 AM (or as needed) DOUBLES AND SINGLES Saturday and Sunday May 1 & 2 9 AM & 1 PM PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES		
	1.					
	2.					
	1.					
	2.					

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

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



Book Corner

Jan Kocur: A Story of Slovak Pride, American Patriotism & the Golden Age of the Slovak League of America

By Richard D. Kocur, Jr.
 Modra Publishing c.2009
 ISBN 978-0-9790300-0-0
 265 pp.

***a book review by Virginia Parobek,
 past secretary of the Slovak Institute of Cleveland***

Not everyone gets to write a biography of their grandfather 100 years to the day he set foot on American soil. But of course, not everyone is Richard Kocur, Jr., either, whose grandfather was none other than Jan Kocur (1887-1948), secretary of the Slovak League of America (SLA) for over 25 years. You may also recognize the Kocur name because the author, Richard Kocur, Jr., has written articles for *Jednota* in the past.

A native of Turzovka in the Zilina region of "Upper Hungary," Jan Kocur was always a man of high principles. As a longtime opponent of Magyar domination of Slovakia, he was only too glad to enlist in the US Army to fight against the Austro-Hungarian Empire (AHE) in the hopes of seeing a free and independent Slovakia in his lifetime.

He had his work cut out for him.

One very important influence on Kocur was the Pennsylvania Agreement (PA) of 1918 which paved the way for the creation of the state of Czecho-Slovakia post WWI. The document guaranteed autonomy for Slovakia under this singular statehood, including the right to create an assembly. (The city of Pittsburgh was chosen because it held the largest group of politically active Slovaks when the Czechs and Slovaks decided to come together).

The PA became the basis of Kocur's life's work which he carried out through the office of secretary for the SLA until his death in 1948. He and other Slovaks saw WWI as an opportunity to dissolve the oppressive AHE. His principles pushed him to a new level of contribution; he felt so strongly about this that he voluntarily enlisted in the US Army and served as a medic in an ambulance company on the frontlines.

By November 1918, the war was over and the PA, signed by, among others, Thomas G. Masaryk, who would later be elected as the first President of the new state of Czecho-Slovakia

But the fight for Slovak independence was just beginning. The formation of the new Czecho-Slovakia was received with great joy by Slovaks everywhere, believing in the tenets of the PA which was to guarantee Slovaks a separate administration, judiciary and parliament; also, Slovak was to be the language used in the schools and public office

As you may remember, the hyphenated state of Czecho-Slovakia somehow morphed into Czecho-slovakia under the rule of Masaryk and Edvard Benes and it wasn't long before Slovaks felt let down again. The new President of Czechoslovakia wasn't interested in implementing PA principles whatsoever.

By 1920, at the age of 33 and living in the Pittsburgh area, Kocur was elected secretary of the SLA which was the singular voice of the Slovaks in America and abroad, increasingly. It had become a force to be reckoned with. When the Czech government made noises to annex northern Slovakia to the Poles, Kocur wrote a memorandum to President Wilson (which is included in the book), but this was ignored. Then Andrej Hlinka was jailed and the fight was on. It got to the point where the Czech officials denied the PA's very authenticity so Kocur took the original PA document home with him for safekeeping!

There were periods during the Great Depression when Kocur worked without pay for the SLA just to keep the League going. Charitable organizations at the time largely ignored the needs of immigrant families and so Kocur wrote an eloquent letter appealing to all Slovaks to help one another out during the rough times.

In chapter 16 of Jan Kocur, Monsignor Jozef Tiso, a growing figure in Slovak politics and advocate for Slovak autonomy, visited the US in 1937. The following year, the PA was finally incorporated into the Czechoslovak constitution, but it was a little too late.

In March of 1939, Mons. Tiso was summoned to Berlin by Adolf Hitler, the leader of the rising Nazi party in Germany. Hitler wanted the Sudetenlands back and told the Brits that his army would march into Czechoslovakia unless it was released. Despite the resultant Munich Agreement, which transferred the Sudetenland to Germany, Hitler and his army marched into Czechoslovakia anyway. Faced with the choice of national suicide (forceful takeover by the Nazis) or national self-preservation, Tiso went with the latter. Hitler declared the Slovak parliament independent and the first Slovak Republic was born. The new Slovak Republic was recognized by over 20 countries (at this time, Hitler was not yet the scourge of Europe).

By late 1940, the Third Reich implemented their appalling policies and the Slovak Republic was believed to be guilty by association. The FBI paid a visit to Jan Kocur's home, wondering if the SLA wasn't a dangerous and subversive force with the ongoing war in Europe. Czech leaders seized this opportunity to declare the SLA and Slovak people Nazi allies.

Kocur tirelessly wrote to the American press and diplomatic corps to increase the legitimacy of the Slovak Republic, but alas, it was eventually not to be. With the defeat of the Axis powers, the Czech politicians (who'd fled and gone into exile) attained the restoration of Czechoslovakia with help from the communists. In 1947, Mons. Tiso was found guilty of war crimes and was executed in Bratislava. The SLA then condemned Edvard Benes and the new Czech government.

continued on page 18

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Seminar Attendees



L to R, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., Joseph Slivasky, Idka Rajec, National President Andrew Rajec, Edward Surkosky, Lawrence Fenimore



L to R, Joseph Slivasky, Lawrence Fenimore, Theresa Cassat, Edward Surkosky, NTC. Pres. Andrew Rajec, Joseph Rura

Successful Sales Seminar in Windber, PA

The Membership and Marketing Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union held a sales seminar on Sunday October 25, 2009. It was held at S.S. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 604 Graham Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania.

Recommenders from the Rev. John Martvon District (District 7) were invited to attend. Among those present were National President Andrew M. Rajec and National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., members of FCSU's Marketing Committee. The District President, Ed Surkosky, held a short meeting before the seminar.

The seminar was very well received by the members present. It centered on the society's insurance and annuity portfolio, home office procedures, and other insurance-related topics.

A dinner was held after the seminar and door prizes were given out. Many thanks to the district officers for setting up the seminar and dinner.

We Hope To See You Next Time

Nothing is certain except change. Every business and industry experiences change and the life insurance industry is no exception. In more recent years, the FCSU has offered new insurance and annuity products.

But more than life insurance and annuity products have changed. Consumers are sophisticated and better educated than in the past, so there is a definite need for recommenders to be thoroughly knowledgeable about our products and abreast of the times. We must know our portfolio inside and out. How? ... By attending and getting involved in our seminars.

If one is scheduled for your district, please form a carpool and attend.

Hope to see you at the next seminar.

Until next time ...

Good Luck and God Bless!

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

National Vice-President

Membership and Marketing Chairman

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
20						21					22		23		
				24					25		26				
27	28	29	30				31	32							
33							34				35	36	37	38	
39							40				41				
42							43				44				
				45	46						47				
48	49	50							51	52					
53					54		55	56				57	58	59	60
61				62			63				64				
65							66				67				
68							69				70				

Copyright ©2009 puzzlejunction.com

Across

- 1 Famed
- 6 Garlands
- 10 Tempo
- 14 Decrease
- 15 Dwarf buffalo
- 16 Aquatic bird
- 17 Ohio city
- 19 Sharp
- 20 Bristle
- 21 Noblewoman
- 23 Fr. saint (Abbr.)
- 24 Merriment
- 25 Bowman
- 27 Singer Callas
- 31 Lightweight woc
- 33 Remediate
- 34 Witches
- 35 Mouth off
- 39 Fixes
- 40 Beer relative
- 41 Digress
- 42 Wager
- 43 Fastened
- 44 Badger
- 45 Iniquities
- 47 Rounded
- 48 Arrived at LAX
- 51 Some
- 53 Japanese capital
- 54 Beauty pageant headgear
- 57 Tobacco holder
- 61 Redact
- 63 Building toy
- 65 Tactical manuev
- 66 Aspect
- 67 Perry Mason's Street
- 68 Hurried
- 69 NM city
- 70 Fencing swords

Down

- 1 Negative votes
- 2 Double-reed instrument
- 3 Tense
- 4 Bunsen burner
- 5 Temp. (Abbr.)
- 6 Romance langu
- 7 Organic compo
- 8 Hawkeye State
- 9 Shoes
- 10 Time zone (Abt
- 11 Inundated
- 12 ___ du jour
- 13 Register formal
- 18 Dallas, Texas school inits.
- 22 Annums (Abbr.
- 24 Crazes
- 26 Fmr. president
- 27 Baby's first wo
- 28 Prayer ending
- 29 Landlord's due
- 30 Absolutely
- 31 Grain bundles
- 32 Elderly
- 34 Dangerous stor
- 36 Saddle horse
- 37 Flower holder
- 38 Peered at
- 41 Pack away
- 43 Most orderly

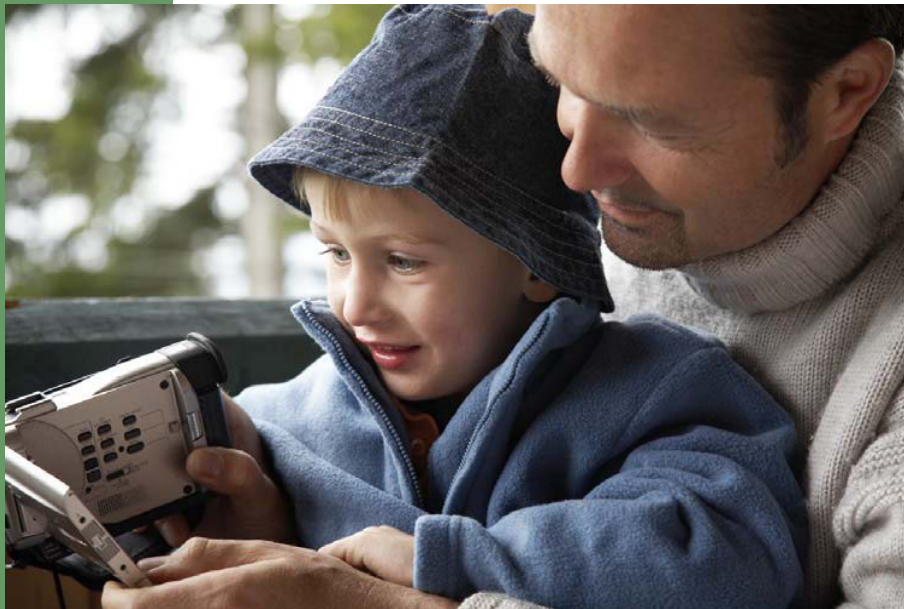
- 46 Ex-servicemar
- 48 Ogles
- 49 Summate
- 50 Racket
- 51 Confronts
- 52 Winter time zo in New York
- 55 Solo
- 56 Make over
- 57 Homework
- 58 Cay
- 59 Brazilian socce legend
- 60 Gr. letters
- 62 Turner or Williams
- 64 Lyric poem

See Solution on Page 18

FCSU LIFE

**PROTECT
YOUR CHILDREN
FOR ONLY
\$14.00
YEARLY!**

This is not a misprint. Read on to find out how.



YOUR FAMILY COMES FIRST.

Your family is the center of your life. You would do anything for them. We are offering you this economical opportunity to guard your children and help them on their way to financial responsibility.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

The many benefits of insuring your children with JEP include:

- \$10,000 in term life insurance coverage to age 25, for children ages 0-21 — *for only \$14.00 a year.* (Contact the home office for larger amounts)
- Protection for your kids' future insurability by offering conversion at age 16 or older to a regular permanent policy — regardless of health (if policy has been in force for at least two years).
- Enrollees become eligible to apply for the Societies fraternal benefits at no additional cost.
- Annual premiums are eligible for scholarships

CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Yes. We want you to receive our free, no obligation information on JEP! Simply call us at 1-800-533-6682, and we'll send you information and applications for the program. We're confident after reviewing our literature that you'll find this one of the best values to help your children for years to come.



**DON'T DELAY, CALL TODAY!
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER
OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-533-6682**

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
of the United States and Canada
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131-2398



NEW FROM FCSU

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that it can now accept credit cards for Insurance premium payments.
*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Please contact the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further information or go to our website at www.fcsu.com to download a payment form.

**We accept:
Visa,
Mastercard,
and Discover**

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2009**

- The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.75% (4.641% APR)
 - The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.50% (4.402% APR)
 - The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.00% (3.922% APR)
 - The first year annual yield on a new "Park Free Plus Annuity" is 4.1% (4.018% APR)
 - The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.25% (4.162%APR)
 - The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.25% (4.162% APR)
- If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

4.75%

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

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 4.75% (4.641% APR)

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

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

FCSU LIFE

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

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

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

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

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



**Act now!
Don't delay!**

Contact your local branch officer or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details. Visit us on the web at www.fcsu.com or email us at fcsu@aol.com



firsT cATHolic sloVA K union Anno un cin G

The fiXed r ATe 6-yeAr * Annuity And ir A

AVoid sTo cK mArKeT VolATility

eff ecTive 1/1/2010

4.25% (Apr 4.162%)

*interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years

**SIX YEAR
FIXED RATE
4.25%
(4.162% apr)**

Our fiXed r ATe 6-yeAr annuity offers you the following benefits:

- A much higher interest rate than other current low rates available
- Rate is guaranteed for 6 years. No interest rate fluctuation or changes
- The power of annuity tax deferral.
- A safe, secure and competitive investment for your retirement (IRA) funds
- Opportunity to lock-in a competitive rate for 6 years and avoid the turmoil of stock market volatility

The fiXed r ATe 6-yeAr annuity has the following features and terms:

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

COMPARE OUR fiXed r ATe 6-yeAr ANNUITY RATE TO YOUR LOCAL BANK RATES

do n'T del Ay, AcT no WI

Contact our Home Office or your local branch for more information!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
P.O. Box 318013
Independence, OH 44131-8013
Call 1-800 Jednota or 1-216-642-9406

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting

continued from page 8

holders are eligible to apply for the FCSU Scholarship Program as long as they meet all the other requirements set by the rules of the said Scholarship Program.

The Vice President provided a further update on the upcoming Membership Meet to be held November 14 - 21, 2009.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco updated the Board of Directors on the current Best Picture Contest for children. She also reminded the Regional Directors to submit the required forms to her if they are planning to have a regional picnic.

The Fraternal Director further reported on the joint Golf Tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol. She stated that the tournament was well attended and that there were 80 golfers representing the FCSU and 120 golfers representing the Slovak Catholic Sokol. According to the feedback she received, everybody had an enjoyable time.

Susan Ondrejco further informed the Board of Directors about the 2010 joint ventures. She stated that they may not work out in 2010 because of the conflict in dates. The President stated that he will be in touch with Larry Glugosh, Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, to see if dates for joint activities in 2010 and 2011 could be worked out.

Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director of Region 7, asked the Fraternal Activities Director if the blankets given away at the Golfing Tournament can be made available for purchase as Christmas gifts.

The President stated that he is looking for jackets or shirts for FCSU officers so they can be easier to recognize at different FCSU events.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented her written report to the Board of Directors and answered their questions. The Chairman of Auditors stated in her report that everything was satisfactory. Her report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

CONSOLIDATION AND JOINT VENTURES

The President stated he will be in contact with Slovak Catholic Sokol regarding the joint sport events in 2010 and beyond. The President asked the Members of the Board of Directors to be supportive of joint events.

CONVENTION 2010

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office sent information to all Branches regarding the 2010 Convention and events we are planning to have in 2010. More detailed information will be mailed to the Branches as it becomes available.

MISCELLANEOUS

When they attend the Slovak Heritage Festival in New Jersey, the President and

Vice President will interview an applicant for the position of Editor of our newspaper. When all the interviews are completed the President and the Executive Secretary will review the qualifications of all the candidates and the President will make the final decision on the Editor's position.

ACCEPTANCE OF ALL THE REPORTS

A motion was made by Regis Brekosky and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept all the reports (President's, Vice President's, Executive Secretary's, Treasurer's, General Counsel's, Chairman of Auditors', and Fraternal Activities Director's). Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Milos Mitro to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to end the meeting. Motion carried.

Vice President Andrew Harcar closed the meeting with prayer at 4:00 P.M.

Rev. Joseph R. Grosko, pastor of Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin, PA, celebrated the Mass for the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors appreciated him offering the Mass in absence of Fr. Thomas Nasta.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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

ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

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

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

Three additional **ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS** of \$500.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$1,000 of reserve insurance (JEP Policy, Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least **four years prior to April 1st** of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$5,000 or more of term insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2006 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a Branch Officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U. or download an application from our web site (www.fcsu.com).
5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: **Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131.**
6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.**
7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.
8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting **a proof of college enrollment.**

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

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

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



**Build Your Future!
Deposit to your Annuity and IRA***

**Flexible Premium Deferred accounts
Currently earning 4.75% (4.641% apr)**

First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Rd.
Independence OH 44131
1-800-533-6682

* Restrictions Apply

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT FCSU.COM

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2010, at 12:00 noon at Eat 'n Park restaurant, 1002 Ohio River Boulevard, Northside, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of delegates for the 2010 Convention. All members interested in being a delegate must attend this meeting. The election of officers for the new year will also take place.

Hope to see many of you on Saturday, January 23, 2010, at 12:00 noon at Eat 'n Park restaurant on the Northside.

Regina Ondrejco, Secretary

BRANCH 3P- HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Michael Koval

BRANCH 6 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCHES 5, 240, 263, AND 419 - OLYPHANT, NANTICOKE, DUPONT, AND WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branches 5, 240, 263, and 419 will hold a joint meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2010, at 2 PM at 81 Kado Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention will take place, along with the election of officers for the branches for the coming year. Also, a discussion of future branch activities will take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting. If you plan to attend, call (570) 824-4125. Refreshments will be served.

Marie Gryczko, President

BRANCH 35- BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

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

the 49th FCSU Convention. Other branch issues will be discussed.

Joseph Yuros, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 55- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold a special meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Vice President Steven J. Gerba, 188 Di-Marco Drive, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting will be to finalize the election of Delegates to the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held Saturday, August 14 through Wednesday, August 18, 2010. Refreshments will be served. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please call the President at 610/356-7956 or the Vice President at 215/637-6530 for directions.

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 82 - HAVERSTRAW, NY

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Please join us on Sunday, February 14, 2010, for our meeting and election of officers, with a luncheon to follow. Social time is from 12:30 until 1:00. The meeting is from 1:00 to 2:00 (approximately). Some topics of discussion will be: Election of Officers; Election of delegates for the convention in Cleveland; Donations; and 2010 Activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 168 - S AMBOY, NJ

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 237 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

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

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 266 - HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Richard Lazar

BRANCH 339 - PORT CHESTER, NY

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 340 - TARRYTOWN, NY

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 342 - WARREN, OHIO

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 382- SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will hold a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, March 7, 2010, at 12:00 noon at Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The election of delegates to the 2010 Quadrennial Convention will be held. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of future activities and the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office. The auditing of the books will also take place. Light refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 553 - UNIONTOWN, OHIO

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

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

Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 567 - NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Rosalie Favere, Recording Secretary
continued on page 17

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

BRANCH 644 – MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 706- SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

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

Art Fayta, Treasurer

BRANCH 731 - POLAND, OHIO

At our annual meeting, we elected officers for 2010 for the St. Joseph Branch 731. The officers elected were Millie Leskovyansky, President; Grace Kavulic, Vice-President; Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary; Jackie Bobby, Financial Secretary; John Kavulic and Ed Walko, Auditors. We also selected delegates to the 49th Convention. Meeting dates for 2010 are May 16, 2010, September 19, 2010 and December 19, 2010. On March 21, 2010, we will celebrate Mass for our Feast Day with a luncheon to follow.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 14, 2010, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of Branch 743. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in The Slovak Heritage Room. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

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

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

BRANCH 746 – EDISON, NEW JERSEY

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

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda

will include final election of Delegates to the August Convention. Okres meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 759 – NEWTON FALLS, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 759K Newton Falls, OH and Branch 764K Warren, OH. All members of Branch 759K will now hold membership in Branch 764K. This merger has taken place as of January 07, 2010.

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Discussion of promoting new members as well as selecting of delegates for the district meeting will take place. Branch 796 would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year. God Bless.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT – NEW JERSEY

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Barbara Ann Holly, Secretary

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN

The date selected for the next Semiannual meeting of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District has been changed. We have been informed by the Benedictine Sisters that the date chosen will not work for them. So the next District Semiannual Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. (the Sunday following Easter).

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

Address Changes?

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

FCSU LIFE SINGLE PREMIUM INSURANCE

*Purchase Single Premium Whole Life
Insurance coverage for your children or
grandchildren.*

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

To learn more contact your local branch officer or call the FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682.

Visit our website at www.fcsu.com to use our quote system for additional amounts of insurance.

Features:

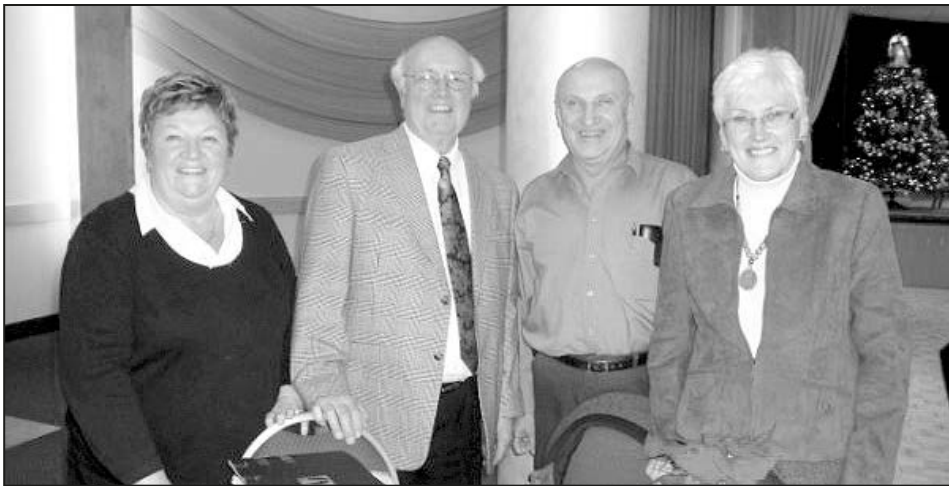
- Pay one premium and have fully paid-up life insurance
- Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more) subject to current FCSU Life non-medical limits
- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren



Standing L-R Jim Szabo, Milan Zoldak, Sitting L-R Mike Kapitan, Anne Mitro, Milos Mitro



Standing L-R Arnold Herca,, Jeff Macko, Ed Forma, Irene Gorman. Sitting L-R Helen Herca, Anne Forma, Anne Fedurko



L-R Marilyn Jursa, Harry Romolock, Jenny Romolock



Standing L-R Helen Von Friedl, Maureen Jursa, Mike Doric, Sitting L-R Mike Kapitan, Sharon Tomas, John Tokarsky



] L-R Stan Pella, Marilyn Jursa, Emil Jursa, Jim Szabo, John Kapsa

Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba and Branch 785

The annual meeting of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba and Branch 785 was held Sunday Dec. 6, 2009 in the parish hall of Sts. Cyril & Methodius church in Mississauga Ontario.

40 members gathered for a luncheon in the church hall preceding the meeting.

Annual reports were presented by President Michael Kapitan, Treasurer Mike Doric and Sports Director Joe Jursa. Auditor Jim Szabo reported that all figures were audited and were correct.

Joe Jursa reviewed the Jednota bowling and golf tournaments held in the US and the local Jednota golf tournament held in Toronto.

Regional Director Milos Mitro reviewed the events that have taken place in the last year at the Board of Directors meetings. The combined Jednota/Sokol golf tournament in 2009 was a success. The 49th International Convention of the FCSU will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland Ohio Aug 14 to 18, 2010.

There was a discussion about the upcoming convention and members were chosen to be delegates for the convention.

Elected officers for Branch 785 are as follows

President - Milan Zoldak

Vice President - John Kapsa

Treasurer - Mike Doric

Sports Director - Joe Jursa

Financial Secretary - Mike Dobis



L-R Olga Dobis, Joe Tomko, Terry Tomko

Recording Secretary - Anne Mitro

Chairman Auditors - Jim Szabo

Public Relations - Jerry Siman

Auditors - Ed Forma, Stan Pella, Joe Tomko

Jerry Siman, Public Relations

Book Review: Cleveland Slovaks

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

Sabol, John T., and Alzo, Lisa A., *Cleveland Slovaks*. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 127 pp. ISBN: 13 978-0-7385-5242-2

A familiar expression states, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Many of us thoroughly enjoy a good picture book, and we often preview the books we read by glancing at its photographs. The recently published *Cleveland Slovaks* is history at its best – through the lens of the camera. The work is a sparkling accomplishment of several years of splendid research to document the history of one of America's largest ethnic communities, Slovak Americans in the Cleveland area.

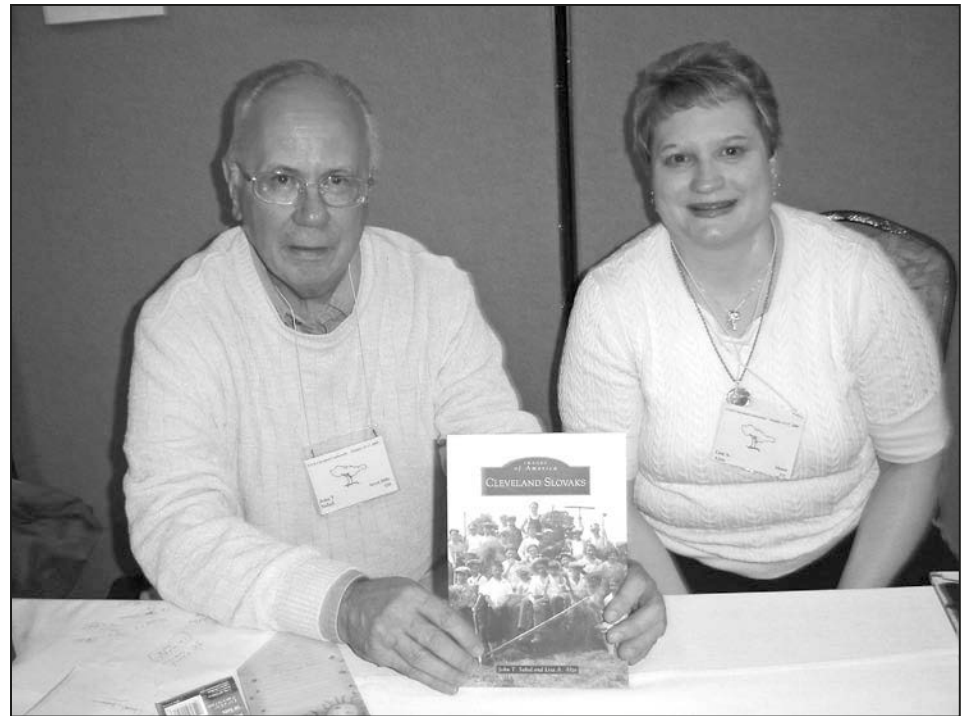
The two authors, John T. Sabol and Lisa A. Alzo, were both eminently qualified for this task. A native of Cleveland and long-time parishioner of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish, Sabol has written a number of church histories and has published articles on genealogy. His co-author, Lisa A. Alzo, is a free lance writer and lecturer who has published six books and many magazine articles. Her works include the award winning *Three Slovak Women*, a family history that mirrors the experience of many Slovak-American women over three generations, and the wonderful cookbook, *Baba's Kitchen*. She also serves on the board of directors for the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and both authors appeared at the CGSI's recent conference in Independence, Ohio.

Their book appears at a most auspicious time, for the Diocese of Cleveland has been closing the Slovak parishes which served the immigrants and several generations of their descendants. As more and more parishioners moved to the suburbs and attendance dwindled, the memory of their churches and their vibrant life needed to be preserved, for they depict a story not just for historians, but for all interested in immigrant history and the Slovak-American experience.

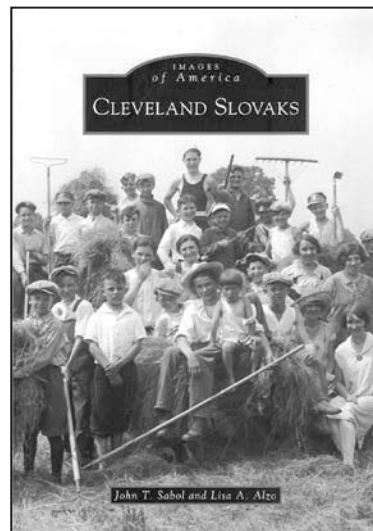
The book also helps bring life to several of my articles which I wrote on *Cleveland Slovaks*, including the chapter in "The Slovaks," in *Identity, Conflict, and Cooperation: Central Europeans in Cleveland, 1850-1930* (Cleveland: Western Reserve Historical Society, 2003): pp. 249-306. Much of research I did was in 1988-89, and the book was finally published over a decade later. Unfortunately, my chapter contained only one photo, for at the time, we authors were told that photos would make the book too expensive. Since that time, technology has reduced costs and has made the publication of photography much more affordable. A few years after my research, Cleveland native Joe Hornack helped arrange the translation and publication of the best early history of Cleveland Slovaks, *Ján Pankuch's History of the Slovaks of Cleveland and Lakewood*, translated by Rasto Gallo. (Minneapolis and Cleveland: Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International and the Western Reserve Historical Society, 2001). Hornack, who has worked with Andrew Hudak at the Slovak Institute at the Slovak Benedictine Abbey, also offered considerable assistance to Sabol and Alzo in obtaining photos and information for the *Cleveland Slovaks* book, so his contribution merits recognition as well.

The story of Slovak Cleveland deserves attention, for according to the 2000 U.S. Census, about 93,500 people from the region confirmed their Slovak ethnic background. The book documents their history in photographs with full explanations of each scene, which the authors meticulously researched for accuracy. Prominently featured are Slovak neighborhoods, the ethnic churches, and family and fraternal life. The book also offers a fine introduction to the history of early Slovaks in Cleveland, beginning with a brief summary of the story that Jacob Gruss told to Pankuch about the first settlers who established communities near the mills and factories where they labored.

Thanks to Arcadia Publishing, many communities and ethnic groups throughout the country are documenting their story and history in pictures. Arcadia has assumed the role as the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. It aims "to make history



Authors John T. Sabol and Lisa A. Alzo with their recently published book, *Cleveland Slovaks*.



Cleveland Slovaks features years of research and photographs that document the history of one of America's largest ethnic communities, Slovak Americans in the Cleveland area.

accessible and meaningful through the publication of books on the heritage of America's people and places." Arcadia has published more than 6,000 local history titles. For further information or to purchase this book or others, one may also visit the website: www.arcadia-publishing.com, or one may write to:

Arcadia Publishing
420 Wando Park Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 853-2070
(843) 853-0044 fax .



Book Corner

continued from page 10

In July of 1948, Jan Kocur died of pulmonary disease exacerbated by his exposure to poison gas during WWI. His funeral was attended by dignitaries and representatives from every Slovak organization in the US including Jednota and the National Slovak Society.

The funeral Mass was conducted by no less than 9 priests. It was presided over by Fr. Theodore Kojis, Abbott of the Cleveland Benedictines. Burial took place in the Slovak cemetery in Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

This 265-page book is a glowing tribute to the man whom Karol Sidor dubbed as "a gallant secretary." The 20 short chapters read quickly, although sometimes the text gets bogged down with too many details like in the chapter "Citizen Kocur;" and the "Doughboy" chapter reads like a textbook at times. Yet one cannot fault Kocur, Jr., for his diligent footnoting work; he has certainly done his homework.

The use of diacritical accents is uneven throughout the book, such as the hacek is missing from the "C" in Konstantin Culen's name. And the spelling of Masaryk in the book—Massaryk—is unusual, indeed. I found it curious as to items left out of this biography like mention of the 1915 Cleveland Agreement, Milan Stefanik's mysterious death in 1919 and the Slovak National Uprising in 1944 which spelled and the of Slovak statehood.

A brief account of the history of the SLA would have been appropriate at the outset of the story and I would have liked to read more about Andrej Hlinka and the People's Party's role in Slovakia during this timeframe. Another person I'd have liked to learn more about was Amelia Kocur, Jan Kocur's daughter who stepped in to help with the secretarial role when Kocur fell ill.

The use of the hyphenated form of Czecho-Slovakia throughout most of the story is problematic, for the hyphen was officially "dropped" from the name in 1920

These quibbles aside, Jan Kocur is a paen to a grandfather who achieved much in his lifetime and has proven to be a true Slovak patriot.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Fraternal Benefit

\$500,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

Open to all members of FCSU!

AD&D insurance for single or family coverage up to \$500,000 at a special rate.

Please contact our AD&D Administrator at 1-800-968-2071 for further information and rates or go to www.habianassociates.com/oh to apply online.

Including:

- Accidental Loss of Life
- Child Care
- Cobra Premium & Educational Expense
- Home Invasion
- Evacuation & Repatriation
- Spouse or Domestic Partner Employment
- Training Expense
- Permanent Total Disability Benefit

Quarterly Premium Rates

Principal Sum	Single	Family
\$100,000	\$12	\$18
\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
\$500,000	\$60	\$90

Special Fraternal Benefit

If a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a *Single Premium Policy, issued after August 1, 2008, FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 **AD&D Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.

*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years
**Insurance is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member insurer of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. Exclusions may apply. Insurance may not be available in all jurisdictions.

Policyholder: First Catholic Slovak Union of the U.S. and Canada
Policy No.: 9906-51-81

Please check one
 New Enrollment
 Change in Existing Coverage

Please print clearly

Last Name First Name Middle Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Your Loss of Life Beneficiary _____

Relationship _____

Name of Spouse _____

Benefit Amount Selected _____

Plan Choice: (check one of the plans)
 Member Only
 Member & Family

Your Signature _____

Pay Pal Confirmation # _____


Date _____

Habian & Associates, Inc.
 6611 Rockside Road #205
 Independence, OH 44131
 Phone: (216)524-2070
 Fax: (216)520-3053

dave@habian.com

Up to \$500,000 of Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance

Pay Now

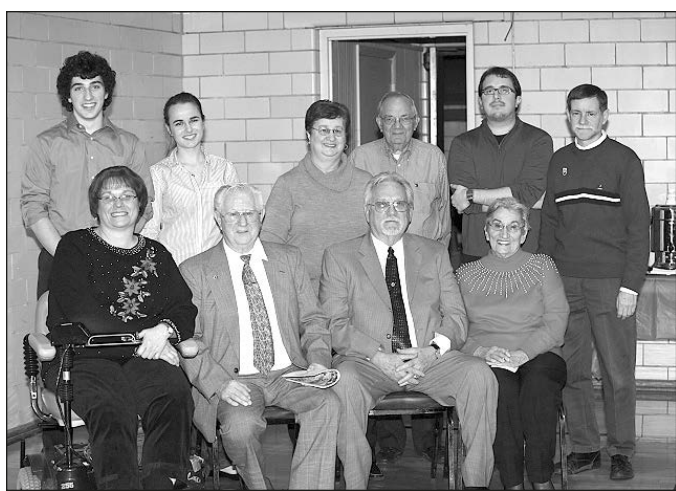


Premium for AD&D is payable to **HABIAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.** If paying by check the Annual Premium is due. Annual Premium = 4 X quarterly premium.

Enrollment is as easy as 1, 2, or 3!!!
 Fill out this form and either:

1) Mail it; 2) Fax it; or 3) enroll at www.habianassociates.com/oh/

YOUTH ROUND-UP



Seated L-R Loretta Ekoniak, Jim Bench, Bob Petruska, Bernie Demechko Standing L-R Matej Lukac, Victoria Vitekova, Gigi Bacon, John Pavlansky, John Slanina, Ron Garchar

Students From Slovakia Hosted

Slovak students, Matej Lukac, Spisska Nova Ves, and Viktoria Vitekova, Bratislava, and six members of their host families were guests of Youngstown Sister Cities at the annual Villija Dinner held in December at Saint Matthias Church Hall, Youngstown, Ohio.

Both students were introduced by Secretary of Youngstown Sister Cities (YSC), Bernie Demechko, and presented a monetary gift from the group. Matej is attending New Philadelphia High School and Victoria is studying at Saint Thomas High School, both in the Youngstown area.

Eight of the twelve members of YSC Board were present. Newly elected officers include: President, Bob Petruska; Vice President, Jim Bench; Treasurer, Ron Garchar; Directors, John Pavlansky, Loretta Ekoniak, and newly elected to the Board, Gigi Bacon, (wife of co-founder, Steve Bacon), and John Slanina, YSC Webmaster.

At the recent meeting of the Board, the Steve Bacon Memorial Scholarship Fund was established which will assist, financiall , any student from the United States who will study for one year in Sister City, Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia, or any student from that city who will come to Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Michigan to student through Rotary International which works with Youngstown Sister Cities in this program.

YSC wishes to thank The Jednota newspaper and its readers for the continued financial support we obtain which helps us to continue our YSC activities and perpetuate our Slovak heritage.

Bernie Demechko
bdemechko@aol.com

Address Changes?

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

"Park 2 Annuity — Now Earning 4.00%" (3.922% apr)

Under the "PARK 2 ANNUITY", you make a ONE-TIME DEPOSIT OF AT LEAST \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a **GUARANTEED RATE FOR TWO YEARS**. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- ▶ The FCSU **GUARANTEES YOUR INITIAL INTEREST RATE FOR TWO YEARS**. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- ▶ 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
Visit our web site at FCSU.com

Pre zahraničných Slovákov by mala STV v budúcnosti vysielat' cez satelit

Bratislava (TASR) - Za najvýhodnejšiu formu televízneho vysielania pre zahraničných Slovákov považuje vicepremiér Dušan Čaplovič prenášanie signálu prostredníctvom satelitu a jeho prijímanie cez tzv. set-top boxy a odkodovacie karty. Aj napriek kráteniu finančných prostriedkov v štátnom rozpočte by sa už v budúcom roku mali začať v tomto smere realizovať prvé opatrenia, uviedol vicepremiér. Do budúcnosti by chcel nájsť finančné prostriedky na komplexné vysielanie, ako ponúka napríklad maďarské televízne štúdio Duna. Jeho cieľom je podobné vysielanie do zahraničia, ako má Slovenský rozhlas, ako aj vysielanie pre zahraničných Slovákov. Vysielanie by sa pritom malo zamerať na rozprávky, pôvodné slovenské hry a informácie o Slovensku. Satelitné vysielanie by sa podľa Čaploviča malo najprv riešiť vo vzťahu k Európe, potom k Amerike a následne Austrálii. Možnosti šírenia ďalšieho okruhu Slovenskej televízie (STV) vidí podpredseda vlády aj prostredníctvom internetu.

STV stojí pred úlohou vyriešiť spolu s Úradom pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ako aj s pomocou rezortu kultúry, otázku vysielania pre zahraničných Slovákov. Verejnoprávnu televíziu k vypracovaniu koncepcie takéhoto vysielania totiž zaviazalo uznesenie vlády z roku 2008. Ako uviedol generálny riaditeľ Štefan Nižňanský, koncepcia existuje a postúpili ju vicepremiérovi Čaplovičovi, ako aj odboru pre zahraničných Slovákov na ministerstve kultúry. STV je podľa neho pripravená zabezpečiť túto programovú službu, len čo sa vyrieši otázka jej finančného krytia.

Prenášanie signálu novej programovej služby STV prostredníctvom satelitu považuje Nižňanský za jediné reálne riešenie. Z hľadiska programového obsahu tejto služby STV v koncepcii uvažuje o modeli tzv. "programovej skladačky" toho najdôležitejšieho z Jednotky, Dvojky, Trojky, prípadne v budúcnosti (dokumentárne ladené) Štvorky. Zároveň chce verejnoprávna televízia využívať aj materiály nakrútené samotnými Slovákami žijúcimi v zahraničí, povedal Nižňanský. "Boli by sme najradšej, keby to bola obojstranná spolupráca. Sú tam mnohé regionálne a mestské televízie, kde Slováci majú zastúpenie a vedľa nás nakrútiť a poslať zaujímavé dokumenty o ich živote," uzavrel šéf STV.

Muž a žena

„Priateľstvo muža a ženy je dobrodružstvom, v ktorom nechýba aj bolesť. Jeho krása sa rodí z náročného zdolávania prekážok, ktoré sú predovšetkým v nás samých.“

REGINALD A. SLAVKOVSKÝ OP

„Pravá láska súvisí s nesmrteľnosťou. Je potvrdením nesmrteľnosti a večného života. Pravá láska je spätá s osobnosťou a osobnosť je spätá s nesmrteľnosťou.“

NIKOLAJ BERĎAJEV

„Zem je božským miestom pre všetkých, ktorí sa neľakajú búrok, ktorí nevypustili zo svojich úst trpké slová a ktorí vedľa trochu humoru premeniť trne na ruže.“

PHIL BOSMANS

„Vzťah muža a ženy je akýmsi mikrokozmosom sveta, ktorý rozhoduje o makrokozme.“

JÁN LETZ

„Stretutie sa v my nielen uľahčuje úplnú vzájomnú výmenu medzi ja a ty, ale vytvára aj akýsi skúsenostný svet, ktorý by nejestvoval bez tohto stretutia.“

EMMANUEL MOUNIER

„Ak Boh stvoril človeka na svoj obraz, potom je schopný zjaviť sa cez ľudské vzťahy.“

JACQUES GUILLET

Katolícke noviny

2010 - Rok chudoby

Stále pretrvávajúca hospodárska kríza sa prelieva do "sociálnej". V tom lepšom prípade prináša znižovanie plátov. V horšom stratu zamestnania. Mnohí ľudia majú čo robiť, aby si zabezpečili minimálny životný štandard a zaplatili nevyhnutné náklady. Najohrozenejšími sociálnymi skupinami sú v každom krízovom období mladí ľudia, viacčlenné či neúplné rodiny, ženy a aj dôchodcovia. S cieľom informovať a zmierniť dopady krízy na obyvateľstvo vyhlásila Európska únia rok 2010 za ROK CHUDOBY.

Viac ako pol milióna Slovákov je reálne ohrozených chudobou

Bratislava (TASR) - Na Slovensku je viac ako pol milióna ľudí reálne ohrozených chudobou. Ich počet sa však môže pre dopady hospodárskej a finančnej krízy zvýšiť. Až 79 % z opýtaných Slovákov sa v tohtoročnom európskom prieskume vyjadrilo, že chudoba je v SR veľmi rozšírená. Ľudia sa obávajú aj jej ďalšieho šírenia.

Európska únia (EÚ) zisťuje, či je človek chudobný pomocou 21 indikátorov. Určuje úroveň dlhodobej nezamestnanosti, príjmovej nerovnosti či regionálnej súdržnosti. Najdôležitejším kritériom je určenie príjmovej hranice chudoby. Reálne ohrozený chudobou sa podľa tohto ukazovateľa stáva každý občan, ktorého príjem sa nachádza pod 60 % mediánu disponibilného príjmu jednočlennnej domácnosti v danej krajine. Ak by sa vychádzalo iba z tohto jedného ukazovateľa, tak je na Slovensku v riziku chudoby každý občan, ktorého príjem je menší ako 268.64 eura (8,093.05 Sk). Podľa európskych prieskumov bolo tak v roku 2008 chudobou v SR ohrozených približne 595,000 osôb, čo predstavovalo 11 % obyvateľstva. Rastúce riziko chudoby Európanov si uvedomuje celá EÚ. Neustále pretrvávajúca finančná a hospodárska kríza sa totiž premieta aj do sociálneho postavenia občanov. Únia sa preto rozhodla vyhlásiť rok 2010 za rok chudoby. Medzi členské štáty rozdelila milióny eur, ktoré majú použiť na boj proti nej.

Novoročný príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

Ale dokážeme správne a zodpovedne oceniť mieru prosperite a potrieb?! Ak chce súčasný svet riešiť stav, do ktorého sme sa dostali kvôli financiám budeme musieť riešiť najmä zlyhávanie morálky súčasnej civilizácie. Áno, budeme si musieť od neudov odpomôcť. Všetci predsa vieme, čo je dobré a čo zlé. Musíme sa vrátiť k základným všeludským mravným hodnotám, ktoré sú pre nás ľudí typické a záväzné aj cez hĺbku dejín. Potom určite nebudeme konať ani na úkor zdravia, prírody, sociálnych istôt, vzdelanosti a kultúrneho rozumu. Na Slovensku sa ľudia v zložitých situáciách dovoľovali zdravého sedliackeho rozumu. Pri našich stretnutiach sa ho dovoľavate aj Vy - drahí spoluobčania. A dovoľavate sa ho právom. Odmietate politické šarvátky, nespravodlivosť, lož, ohováranie, podvody, ubližovanie nevinným. Chceme Vás všetkých uistiť, že ich odmietame spoločne.

Drahí spoluobčania, počas vianočných sviatkov som si opätovne uvedomil, že tie najkrajšie chvíle sú a navždy zostanú spojené s pokojom a radosťou v rodinách. Že to najvzácnejšie, čo nám život dáva, je samotný život. Áno, naše deti, vnúčatá, pravnúčatá. Rodina, priatelia a všetci naši najbližší. A že najvzácnejším darčekom pod stromčekom je spoločne prežitý čas s nimi. Len sa ohliadnite okolo seba a spýtajte sa, kto všetko nám už chýba. Kto každý nás už navždy opustil, kde zostalo prázdne miesto, na ktorom by sme tak radi videli niekoho z blízkych. Aj počúvali to, čo nám ešte chcel povedať a nestihol. Preto sa oprávnené pýtam, aj sám seba, koľko času venujeme najbližším? Až príliš sa naháňame za hmotnými statkami, beháme z obchodu do obchodu, lebo nám ešte chýba to, ešte nemáme tamto, a potom si unavení sadáme na stoličku, klesáme do kresla a možno sledujeme televíziu. A kde je čas na spoločný rozhovor? Koľko z nášho voľného času venujeme najmä deťom, teda budúcnosti? V reálnom čase iba niekoľko minút. Čudujete sa? - Aj ja sa čudujem. No musím úprimne priznať, že pri hlbšom zamyslení - sme síce v ich spoločnosti, no zvyčajne duchom niekde inde. Už nás na to začínajú upozorňovať aj ľudia, ktorí sa venujú otázkam vzťahov v rodine, využívaniu voľného času. Viem, že ho nemáme nadbytok, že nám akosi v posledných rokoch chýba. Že nám chýba čas aj na prečítanie dobrej knihy, na porozprávanie rozprávky našim ratolestiam. Že sa nevieme sústrediť na vyrozprávanie spomienok na naše detstvo, mladosť i starosti dospievania. Že nám nevychádza čas na spomienky, aby sme vlastným potomkom priblížili minulosť, vzťahy v rodinách, vlastný život, jeho radosti i trápenia. Aby sme sa rozpomínali na zvyky a obyčaje, na tradície našej kultúry a umenia, aby sme ukázali ako sme žili, po čom sme túžili, v čom sme sa sklamali. Veď nežijeme odtrhnutí od sveta. Európska kultúra, ktorá je aj našou kolískou, nás núti k zamysleniu, či ideme po správnych cestách, či robíme všetko pre to, aby sme sa v Európe nestratili. Myslím si, že sme nepoblúdili, že vieme čo chceme. No nemali by sme zabúdať, ani podceňovať to najzákladnejšie - kto sme.

Nemyslím si, že žijeme menejcennejší život, než ostatní Európania. Nemali by sme sa však podceňovať, mali by sme byť sebavedomejší, odhodlanejší a cieľavedomejší. To by nám aj v tomto roku mohlo pomôcť vrátiť sa k nášmu duchovnému bohatstvu. I k sebe samým, ku všetkému pozitívnemu, čo sme na svojej doterajšej historickej ceste nadobudli. Dovoľte, aby som aj pri tejto príležitosti zopakoval svoje krédo: „Myslím národne, cítim sociálne“. V súčasnosti si plnosť a šírku jeho dosahu uvedomujem stále viac a viac. Tým, že sa náš život čoraz naliehavejšie dožaduje pravdy, spravodlivosti, sociálnej a právnej istoty. Ten život, ktorý nemôže žiť bez vlastných koreňov, vlastnej identity, ničím nenahradiťnej podstaty, ktorou sa od seba líšime ako ľudské bytosti, ale aj ako národy. Aj preto si azda spoločne želáme: odložiť nežičlivosť a závisť, nachádzať pre seba navzájom aj slová uznania a povzbudení. Tak ako ich nachádzam aj ja, v deň Nového roka, ktorý je aj dňom vzniku Slovenskej republiky. Lebo si mnohí, ba takmer všetci zaslúžite aj slová uznania, úcty a poďakovania.

Vážení spoluobčania, ďakujem Vám za každý skutok ľudskosti, pomoci tým, ktorí sú na ňu odkázaní. Ďakujem Vám za všetko, čo ste urobili pre ľudí a tým i pre našu domovinu - Slovenskú republiku. Úprimne Vám želim rok hojnosti. I viery vo vlastné sily. Vinšujem Vám zdravie, šťastie i Božie požehnanie. Vinšujem Vám dobrých susedov, priateľov a najmä pokoj v rodinách. Nech je pre nás všetkých nový rok 2010 lepší, dôstojnejší, istejší, než rok starý. Vinšujem Vám všetko najlepšie, drahí spoluobčania. To najlepšie v srdci i v skutkoch.

Buďme ľuďmi dobrej vôle!

Správa tlačového oddelenia prezidenta SR

Únik mladých slovenských talentov do zahraničia pokračuje

BRATISLAVA (TASR) - V celej Českej republike študuje viac Slovákov ako na bratislavskej Univerzite Komenského. Upozornil na to bývalý minister školstva Ján Pišút. Neoficiálne odhady hovoria, že je ich už viac ako 20,000. Exminister predpokladá, že Slovensko takto prichádza o svoje talenty. "Pre nich je to fajn, však sa dostali tam, kde chceli, myslia si, že majú viac otvorenú cestu do sveta. Keď sa pozriete na to, ako Slovensko zaobchádza so svojimi talentami, tak ja to vidím dosť smutne," komentoval Pišút, ktorý pôsobí v mimovládnej Akademickej rankingovej a ratingovej agentúre (ARRA). ARRA hodnotí kvalitu vysokého školstva na Slovensku.

Podľa Pišúta každá univerzita zháňa čo najkvalitnejších ľudí, ale tých nie je nekonečno. Existuje odhad, že v Európe by sa zmestili len na zhruba dvesto univerzít, povedal. Zo Slovenska odchádza mnoho ľudí s vysokoškolským diplomom s tým, že doktorát si zamieria urobiť niekde do zahraničia. Vyhľadávajú najmä renomované školy. "Či sme vyvinuli dosť snahy, aby sa títo špičkoví ľudia vrátili domov, mám o tom pochybnosti," poznamenal Pišút s tým, že sa treba zamyslieť, aké podmienky vrátane finančných im vytvára ich krajina. Prijal by analýzu, ktorá by ukázala, ako sa "hospodári s týmito talentami". "Mám pocit, že by sme nedopadli dobre," konštatoval.

V susednej ČR je podľa neho napríklad lepšie financovaný výskum a granty sú štyrikrát vyššie ako na Slovensku. "Netreba podceňovať ani faktor študentského života, ktorý je pre študentov veľmi dôležitý," doplnil Pišútov kolega z agentúry ARRA Michal Považan.



Foto TK KBS Peter Zimen

Prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič prijal dňa 7. januára 2010 koledníkov Dobrej noviny.

Slovak President Ivan Gašparovič welcomes Christmas Carolers „Dobra novina“ in the Presidential Palace.

Prezident SR prijal koledníkov Dobrej noviny

Koledníci Dobrej noviny zo Svätého Jura, Kamenej Poruby a Košíc-Ťahanoviec prišli aj tento rok zavinšovať prezidentskému páru. Zahrali, zaspievali tradičné koledy zo svojich regiónov a Ivanovi Gašparovičovi a jeho manželke Silvii Gašparovičovej venovali drobné darčeky.

Prezident Ivan Gašparovič v príhovore veľmi ocenil spontánnu žičlivosť malých i veľkých koledníkov a ušľachtilosť ich cieľa. Zablahoželal organizátorom podujatia k 15. výročiu nepretržitého úsilia o pomoc chudobným deťom v afrických krajinách. Pripomenul tiež, že aj on ako chlapec chodieval „so starou mamou s koledami. Ale vy ste už niekde ďalej. Aj my sme vyberali peniažtek, koláčik, ale tie zostávali nám. Vy ste koledníci v duchu ozajstnej koledy. V duchu tých Troch, ktorí priniesli všetkým šťastie a radosť. Vy nemyslíte na seba, ale na tých, ktorí sú na svete s vami, ale a ktorí nemajú všetko to, čo potrebujú pre radostný a šťastný život.“ povedal najvyšší predstaviteľ Slovenska spolu s nádejou, že Dobrá novina bude roznášať radosť aj naďalej.

Prezident Ivan Gašparovič tak ako každý rok, aj teraz prispel koledníkom Dobrej noviny do ich pokladničky finančným darom. Predseda organizácie eRko – Hnutia kresťanských spoločenstiev detí Marián Čaučík v príhovore uviedol, že koledníci, ktorí prišli do Prezidentského paláca „zastupujú viac ako 26,000 koledníkov Dobrej noviny, ktorí v uplynulých dňoch navštevovali domovy vo svojich farnostiach, ohlasovali ľudom dobrú novinu o narodení Pána Ježiša a zbierali peniaze na pomoc ľudom v Afrike, ktorí žijú v oveľa ťažších podmienkach ako žijeme my.“

Kolednícku akciu Dobrá novina organizuje už 15 rokov Hnutie kresťanských spoločenstiev detí v spolupráci s katolíckymi farnosťami a Pápežskými misijnými dielami. V minulom roku koledníci navštívili takmer 80,000 rodín v 1191 mestách a obciach a vyzbierali spolu s individuálnymi darmi 748 tisíc €.

Dobrá novina takto prostredníctvom konkrétnych rozvojových projektov v Keni, Ugande, Južnom Sudáne, Etiópii pomohla deťom ulice, sirotám a ženám v núdzi, pomohla zabezpečovať základné životné potreby a vzdelávanie detí i dospelých. Dobrá novina sa orientuje na tieto núdzne krajiny preto, lebo v nich nefungujú systémy „sociálneho poistenia“ a nie je tu nikto, kto by sa staral o najchudobnejších z chudobných,“ uviedol Marián Čaučík.

TK KBS



NATO Wives Bazaar dalo finančný dar Slovensku

Bratislava (TASR) - Vyše 7,000 eur z charitatívnej organizácie NATO Wives Bazaar si rozdelili dve slovenské neziskové organizácie. Symbolické šeky s finančnou pomocou odovzdala 4. januára ich zástupkyňiam Slávka Kučová, ktorá zastupuje Slovensko v charitatívnej organizácii NATO Wives Bazaar združujúcej manželky národných vojenských predstaviteľov vo vojenskom výbere Severoatlantickej aliancie.

„Dohromady sme tento rok priniesli na Slovensko z NATO Wives Bazaar 7,365 eur, čo si myslím, že je veľmi krásna čiastka na to, aby pomohla tým, ktorí to najviac potrebujú, teda našim deťom,“ priblížila Kučová s tým, že finančnú čiastku si rozdelia neziskové organizácie Nový domov z Prievidze a Priatelia slaných detí z Liptovského Mikuláša. „V silnej medzinárodnej konkurencii, kde bolo 24 medzinárodných projektov, Slovensko dosiahlo veľmi krásny úspech, lebo sme obsadili šieste a 16. miesto a z 24 projektov dostalo peniaze len 16 projektov,“ doplnila Kučová. Ako ďalej uviedla, NATO Wives Bazaar je charitatívna organizácia, ktorá sa zaoberá pomocou hlavne detským neziskovým organizáciám.

„Každoročne v polovici novembra organizuje predvianočné stretnutie, predaj svojich tradičných národných výrobkov, kde sa prezentujú všetky členské a partnerské krajiny NATO. Výtazok z tejto charitatívnej akcie je prerozdeľovaný medzi medzinárodné a belgické projekty,“ objasnila Kučová.

Umiestnenie slovenských projektov považuje za veľmi pekný výsledok aj náčelník Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR Ľubomír Bulík. Podľa Bulíka nejde len o predloženie projektov, ale aj o pomoc organizáciám, ktoré majú záujem o takýmto spôsobom získané finančné prostriedky. „OS SR tým získavajú určitý priestor na lepšie sa zviditeľňovanie či už v rámci NATO alebo aj doma na Slovensku,“ myslí si Bulík, podľa ktorého musia byť OS SR dostatočne otvorené celému prostrediu. „Nielen naše typické spôsobilosti, teda byť pripravení na akékoľvek možné riešenia rôznych ohrození, pôsobenie v medzinárodných organizáciách a tak ďalej, ale pochopiteľne máme záujem sledovať aj takéto aktivity, napríklad charitatívnu činnosť, ktorá dotvára celú tú mozaiku OS SR,“ zdôraznil.

Organizácie Priatelia slaných detí, ktorej cieľom je pomáhať rodinám s deťmi s cystickou fibrózou, získala finančnú pomoc na projekt Vďaka za lepší nádyh. Týka sa inhalátorov, ktoré poisťovne na Slovensku nepreplácajú, takže sú považované za nadštandardné, ale ľudom s cystickou fibrózou veľmi pomáhajú pri liečbe. Projekt organizácie Nový domov, ktorá pomáha deťom a mládeži s ťažkým zdravotným postihnutím v prievidskom regióne, má podľa jej riaditeľky Gabriely Škurárovej zabezpečiť týmto ľudom podmienky na plnohodnotnejší život.

Kláštor Premenenia Pána v Sampore na Slovensku potrebuje vašu pomoc

Drahí naši dobrodinci,

okrem vianočného pozdravu prihovárime sa Vám aj nasledujúcimi slovami. Tieto riadky nenesú v sebe už také posolstvo nežnosti a radosti, skôr zachytávajú realitu nesviatočného všedného života. Predovšetkým Vám píšeme, že náš záměr, ktorý sme Vám predstavili v našom poslednom liste dokončiť čo najskôr celý kláštor Premenenia Pána teda do týchto Vianoc, sa nám nepodarilo spniť. Nepresťahovali sme sa a ešte stále bývame v Bacúrove. Obyčajne, keď sa čosi nesplní, hľadajú sa vinníci, padajú hlavy, alebo sa to zdôvodní „objektívnymi“ príčinami, ktoré sa vždy nájdu...

Nechceme a ani nevieme spoľahlivo podať zdôvodnenie nenaplnenia nášho plánu. Vedomí sme si však inej dôležitej skutočnosti: Akékoľvek „sťahovanie“ každého človeka riadi Režisér z Neba.

Keďže sme nemali zhon zo sťahovania, mali sme možnosť pokojne prežiť veľmi obohacujúce týždenné duchovné cvičenia, ktoré nám pomohli hlbšie sa „presťahovať“ do mníšskeho zmysľania a správania.

Tak trochu sme smutní, že nám ktosi ukradol cestný vozík, doslúžila nám Felícia a museli sme ju dať do šrotu bez podielu „šrotovného“. Otec Blažej musel pre natrhnuté väzivo núdzovo parkovať v horizontálnej polohe takmer mesiac. Toho roku neboli až tak usilovné ani naše včely. A mohli by sme pokračovať... Ale je tu i iný pohľad: V tomto roku dvaja ďalší mníši zložili večné sľuby, prijali nám dvoch spolupratrov na teologické štúdiá, hlásia sa nám až štyria noví kandidáti, z čoho máme veľkú radosť. Vydali sme prvú zntovanú liturgickú knihu našich modlitieb. Kláštor na Sampore sme stihli zatepliť a dať vonkajšiu fasádu. Oplotili sme celý pozemok. Vymaľoval sa celý kláštor. Položila sa všetka dlažba a obklad. Dokončila sa montáž zdravotníckej a takmer v celom kláštore sú už svietidlá. Na odovzdanie je pripravená kuchyňa so všetkým zariadením a tiež pracovňa. Začali sme s úpravou terénu, výsadbou okrasných i ovocných stromov. Rozostavaná je vstupná brána.

Aj v tomto roku ste nás mnoho a mnohokrát presvedčili o Vašej finančnej pomoci a tiež o Vašich pracovných rukách, pri rôznych prácach na kláštore v Sampore. Naše slová nevyvážia Vašu priazeň a pomoc. Jedine dobrotivý Boh dokáže odmeniť všetky prejavy dobra, ktorými ste nás obdarovali. Hlavne vďaka Vám, sa kláštor Premenenia Pána stáva úžasnou skutočnosťou a takpovediac svedectvom Božieho zázraku! Tiež v tomto roku sme spolu s Vami prežívali smútok nad odchodom do večnosti z okruhu Vašich i našich blízkych. Modlitbami vyprosujeme, aby všetci, ktorí nás opustili boli účastní liturgii nebeskej. Napísané riadky vypovedajú, že náš každodenný život za múrmi kláštora je v mnohom podobný s Vašimi životnými zápasmi. Všetci sme zatiaľ na mori života a snažíme sa dostať-doplávať na breh večnej blaženosti. Stále je teda pre každého z nás veľmi aktuálne, kým plávame pomáhajme si!

Na záver sa predsa chceme s Vami podeliť o jednu veľmi radostnú správu, ktorá veríme, že sa 24. mája 2010 stane skutočnosťou. V ten deň o 10.00 hodine bude slávnostná posviacka kláštora Premenenia Pána na Sampore. Už teraz ste na túto slávnosť všetci pozvaní a budeme sa tešiť Vašej účasti.

Pre tých, ktorí nás chcú ešte predsa podporiť dary posielajte na adresu: St. Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, Ohio, 44104 – 3725; alebo priamo Dom sv. Benedikta, Bacúrov 28., 962 61 Dobrá Niva, Slovak Republic, Europe.

Vďační mníši benediktíni

Spoplatnenie systému ESTA Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí SR nevíta

Bratislava (TASR) - Zavedenie desaťdolarového (asi 7 eur) poplatku pri online cestovnej registrácii ESTA pre návštevníkov Spojených štátov amerických Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí SR nedramatizuje. „Na druhej strane nás to neteší a nevítať to,“ uviedol to šéf slovenskej diplomacie Miroslav Lajčák.

Podľa neho to skôr oslabí pozitívny psychologický efekt, ktorý zrušenie vízovej povinnosti prinieslo. Minister je presvedčený, že to nebude mať negatívny dopad pre občanov SR. „Ak má niekto na to, aby cestoval do USA, tak má aj na to, aby zaplatil 10 dolárov za dotazník. Finančný efekt, ktorý z toho americká strana získa, však bude menší v porovnaní s morálnym kreditom, ktorý utrpí škodu tým, že keď chceme, aby ľudia cestovali, tak nezavádzam podobné reštrikcie na ich príchod,“ vysvetlil.

Spoplatnenie systému ESTA odsúhlasil americký Senát v septembri minulého roka, čaká ešte na schválenie v Snemovni reprezentantov a podpísanie prezidentom Barackom Obamom. Výnos z platieb je určený na podporu cestovného ruchu v USA, ako aj na pokrytie nákladov na prevádzku systému. Občania väčšiny európskych krajín vrátane Slovenska môžu do Spojených štátov cestovať bez víz. Vyžaduje sa však, aby sa ľudia online registrovali najmenej 72 hodín pred cestou a cestovné povolenie v systéme ESTA si obnovili každé dva roky.

Lajčák pripomenul, že Slovensko chce systémovo riešiť situáciu súvisiacu s tým, že napriek splneniu podmienok na vycestovanie imigračný úradník nepustí záujemcov na územie USA. Minister dodal, že takých prípadov síce nie je veľa, ale dejú sa. „Chceli by sme viac jasnosti a systému v tom, ako narábať so situáciami, keď ľudia dostali súhlas, ale imigrační dôstojníci im neumožnili vstup. Chceme, aby naši ľudia vedeli, že keď majú nejaký problém, prečo ho majú a aby sa v každej chvíli pojednávania cítili komfortne a dôstojne,“ podčiarkol.

Rozhovory s americkými partnermi podľa Lajčáka dokazujú, že USA majú v súvislosti so zavedením systému ESTA dobré skúsenosti, osvedčil sa a zjednodušil cestovanie ľudí, pričom sa nezvýšil počet prípadov zneužitia bezvízového styku. Rovnako to pre Slovákov platí aj pri cestovaní do Kanady. „Pravidelne sledujeme čísla a počet slovenských občanov, ktorí žiadajú o azyl, sa ani zďaleka nepribližuje k červeným číslam,“ objasnil. Zároveň sa domnieva, že pri otázke zavedenia vízovej povinnosti medzi Kanadou a Českou republikou by mala Európska únia hovoriť jedným hlasom.

„To je jeden z momentov, keď trváme na tom, že sa európska solidarita musí prejavovať a som rád, že sa prejavuje. Treba sa pozrieť aj na to, o čom som presvedčený, že to nie sú spontánne pohyby, ale že je to organizovaný biznis a v tom prípade voči tomu nie je imúnna žiadna krajina,“ upozornil Lajčák. Kanada totiž odôvodnila zavedenie víz rastúcim počtom žiadateľov o azyl, predovšetkým z radov českých Rómov. Únia zatiaľ neprijala definitívne stanovisko, aby všetkých 27 členských štátov zaviedlo ako isté gesto vízovú povinnosť pre držiteľov diplomatických a služobných kanadských pasov.

Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou

Feast of St. Nicles celebrated in New York City



Spoločná fotografia zúčastnených Mikulášskej nádielk .

V nedeľu dňa 6. decembra 2009 Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v spolupráci so Spolkom sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City pripravili pre našich najmladších farníkov Mikulášske odopoludnie spojené s Mikulášskou nádielkou. 120 detí sa tešilo z darčiekov o ktoré sa pričínili nielen rodičia detí a príbuzní, ale aj náš pán farár Martin Svitan. Deti s radosťou víтали sv. Mikuláša a spievali mu:

Mikulášku, dobrý strýčku,
modlím sa Ti modlitbičku,
zlož tu plnú nôsku,
daj nám z darov Tvojich trošku,

či konička medového,
či koláčka makového,
veď Ty strýčku Mikuláš,
mnoho dobrých vecí máš.

Vyšla kniha o slovenských pamiatkach zapísaných v zozname Unesco

New Book on Historical Sites in Slovakia registered in the Directory of UNESCO

Bratislava (TASR) - Svetové kultúrne dedičstvo Unesco je nová publikácia a predstavuje slovenské lokality a objekty zapísané v unikátnom zozname. Podľa editora Daniela Kollára kniha reprezentatívne charakterizuje význam a pestrosť nášho historického a kultúrneho prostredia. Máme sa čím pyšiť, pretože vzhľadom na rozlohu a množstvo obyvateľov patríme počtom zápisov k najzaujímavejším krajinám sveta. Kniha predstavuje polohu lokalít, prístup k nim, ich históriu, najzaujímavejšie objekty a ich súčasný stav. Ten potvrdzujú aktuálne fotografie, medzi nimi aj letecké zábery.

Technické pamiatky Banskej Štiavnice tvoria šachty, štôlne, povrchové a podzemné dobývky, haldy, ťažné veže a iné objekty súvisiace so správou baní a ich strojovým vybavením. Také sú továrenské a účelové budovy, klopačky, banícke nemocnice i 33 vodných nádrží – tajchov, ktoré sú časťou pôvodného vodohospodárskeho systému. Popri nich a pamiatkovej rezervácii Banskej Štiavnice do zápisu patria lokality Štiavnické Bane, Banská Hodruša, Vyhne, Banská Belá, Ilija a Svätý Anton.

V tomto roku zapísaná rozšírená lokalita Levoča, Spišský hrad a pamiatky okolia (Spišské Podhradie, Spišská Kapitula a Žehra) predstavuje pozoruhodný súbor objektov vojenského, politického a cirkevného charakteru, ktoré boli pre stredovekú Európu bežné, avšak ani jeden sa nezachoval v takom kompletnom a nezničenom stave. Levoča v hraniciach pamiatkovej rezervácie je totožná s rozsahom stredovekého opevneného mesta založeného v 13. a 14. storočí. Jeho súčasťou je Kostol sv. Jakuba s desiatimi oltármi predstavujúcimi pozoruhodnú kolekciu polychrómovaných prác v neskorogotickom štýle i s 18,6 metra vysokým oltárom Majstra Pavla z roku 1510.

Aj zachovanie pôvodného súboru objektov ľudovej architektúry osady Vlkolínec prispelo k zapísaniu do Zoznamu svetového dedičstva. Je to typ osídlenia drevenej zrubovej architektúry karpatských horských oblastí. V osade je 33 pamiatkovo chránených roľníckych usadlostí. Podľa Dvořákovskej autentické hodnoty Vlkolínca chránené uprostred nenarušeného prírodného prostredia možno priradiť k svetovým špičkovým predstaviteľom kultúrneho dedičstva. Ich krása očarí neumelou jednoduchosťou a návštevníka naplní nezvyčajnou pokorou.

Opevnené mesto Bardejov predstavuje výnimočne dobre zachovaný príklad hospodárskej a sociálnej štruktúry trhového mesta stredovekej strednej Európy. V zozname je zapísaná jeho mestská pamiatková rezervácia a židovské suburbium. Vraj je to najgotickejšie mesto na Slovensku. Jeho centrum tvorí ucelený súbor historických budov a v ňom nedošlo k výraznejším stavebným zásahom, čo sa stalo väčšine centier historických miest u nás.

Pod číslom 1273 je v Zozname svetového dedičstva osem drevených chrámov. Sú výnimočným dokladom tradičnej religióznej architektúry severozápadnej karpatskej oblasti, jej medzietnického a medzikultúrneho charakteru na relatívne malom území, kde sa prelínala latinská kultúra s byzantskou. Tri evanjelické kostoly sú v Kežmarku, Leštianách a Hronseku, rímskokatolícke majú v Tvrdošíne a Hervartove, gréckokatolícke stoja v Bodružale, Ladomírovej a Ruskej Bystrej. Niektoré sú s priláhlými cintorínmi a každý z nich má osobitú architektúru aj interiérovú umeleckú výzdobu. Kniha z bratislavského vydavateľstva Dajama vyšla v rámci edície Kultúrne krásy Slovenska.



St. James Church in Levoča



V spoločnosti sv. Mikuláša zľava: Henrieta H. Daitová, Michaelka Vida, Nicolka Habina a Karolko Vida.



Otec Štefan Chanas počas modlitby.

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

Vážení priatelia,
v prvom rade Vám a Vaším rodinám želim do Nového roku 2010 veľa šťastia, zdravia, osobných i pracovných úspechov.

Zároveň Vás pozývam na Výročnú členskú schôdzu I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v New York City, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 24. januára 2010 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

Na schôdzi vyhodnotíme prácu výboru I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy za uplynulé obdobie ako aj podáme finančnú správu. Na programe je aj voľba do nového výboru na rok 2010, ktorý vypracuje plán podujatí na nasledujúce obdobie. Očakávame, že sa tejto schôdze všetci zúčastníte!

Ostávam s priateľským pozdravom

Milan R. Dait
predseda I.Zboru SLvA

Sneží ...

Páli mráz a ticho sneží.
Sneh zaveje stopy naveky ...
Dušu neuväzní milión mreží,
zbytočné sú plané náreky.

Potom, keď zaspím, zostaň tu.
Ticho sneží a večere sú zimné.
Prebroď sa cez hlbokú samotu
a na chvíľu zostaň pri mne ...

Pavol Sirchich

„Nikdy nepoviem, že som nežil“

Čas sa rúti ako lavína.
Človek býva zlý i nežný,
čistá je, len láska mamina.



Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Záujem** investorov o Slovensko aj napriek svetovej hospodárskej kríze podľa Slovenskej agentúry pre rozvoj investícií a obchodu (SARIO) pretrváva. V súčasnosti je rozpracovaných 154 projektov. Spomínané projekty predstavujú celkovú hodnotu v objeme 4.97 miliardy eur (149.72 miliardy Sk) a majú potenciál vytvoriť 29,042 nových pracovných miest. Najviac projektov smeruje do energetiky, výroby motorových vozidiel či výrobkov z gumy a plastov. Najviac realizovaných projektov pochádza zo Slovenska, Nemecka, USA a Kórejskej republiky. SARIO aj napriek nepriaznivej ekonomickej situácii vo svete i na Slovensku očakáva, že v roku 2010 bude záujem investorov o SR aj naďalej rásť.

• V menšej miere ako automobilový priemysel postihla hospodárska recesia firmy so zameraním na energetické úspory a ekológiu. Týka sa to aj spoločnosti Swep Slovakia, s.r.o., ktorá sa etablovala a expanduje v Priemyselnej zóne v Kechneci, v okrese Košice - okolie. Spoločnosť švédskeho investora má v súčasnosti 150 zamestnancov, v budúcnosti plánuje zamestnávať okolo 300 pracovníkov. Spoločnosť SWEP ako súčasť globálnej spoločnosti Dover Corporation je medzinárodná spoločnosť v oblasti prenosov tepla. Zastúpenie má v 50 krajinách sveta a výrobné jednotky vo Švédsku, Švajčiarsku, USA, v Malajzii, Slovensku a v Číne.

• **Kaplanka** v tvare korábu je jednou z mála atrakcií, ktorými sa môže pochváliť obec Kozelník v okrese Banská Štiavnica. Svätostánok posvätený ako Božské srdce Ježišove vyhľadávajú obyvatelia dediny, ale aj veriaci z blízkeho okolia vo zvýšenej miere práve počas vianočných sviatkov. Kaplnku postavili dedičania pred tromi rokmi, pretože sa už nechceli stretávať v zasadačke malého obecného úradu. Podľa starostu Ivana Vrāba je to najmä zásluha farára Imricha Kovāča z blízkej Banskej Belej a stavebného nadšena Ondreja Bindera zo Svätého Antona, ktorý prišiel s nápadom netradičnej stavby. Na netradičný cirkevný dom, ktorý sa vraj nedá nájsť nikde inde vo svete, sa chodia od jeho otvorenia pozerat turisti z domova i zo zahraničia. Najnovšie nazrú aj k asi 200-ročnej zvonici, ktorej zvon tento rok napojili na časový spínač. Asi 190 obyvateľom obce tak zvoní presne na obed a tiež večer.

• Na vianočnom stole slovenských vojakov plniacich úlohy v operácii ISAF na základniach v Kandahāre, Tarin Kowte a Deh Rawode nechýbala kapustnica, rybie filé so zemiakovým šalátom, vianočné obľátky a pozdravy od slovenských detí. Pre týchto vojakov sú každé Vianoce niečím výnimočné. Vo vojenskej operácii sú špecifické tým, že je potrebné veľké úsilie na ich prípravu, aby im pripomínali teplo domova ďaleko od rodín v najnebezpečnejšej vojenskej misii, kde pôsobia príslušníci Ozbromených síl SR. Z ingrediencií, ktoré v decembri striedajúcim sa vojakom od Afganistanu pribalil minister obrany Jaroslav Baška, dokázali pripraviť chutnú štedrovečernú večeru. Medzi pozvanými hosťami na večeri v Kandahāre nechýbal veliteľ leteckej základne KAF Air Commodore Malcolm Brecht, ktorý navštívil slovenský kemp prvýkrát od nástupu novej rotácie. Privítal ho veliteľ slovenského kontingentu podplukovník Alexander Schober podľa slovenských zvyklostí - čerstvo upečeným chlebom a soľou. O sviatočnú atmosféru Štedrého večera sa postaral aj kaplán kontingentu Ján Polťák, ktorý pre vojakov celebuloval vianočnú bohoslužbu. Súčasnú zastúpenie SR v Afganistane tvorí 242 vojakov. Sú umiestnení na leteckej základni Kandahār a v provincii Uruzgan na základniach Tarin Kowt a Deh Rawod. V zahraničných operáciách v Afganistane, Kosove, Bosne a Hercegovine a na Cypre trávil tohtoročné Vianoce 620 slovenských vojačiek a vojakov.

• **Viac** ako tretina Slovákov sa domnieva, že po zavedení eura na Slovensku určite došlo k zdraženiu. Vyplýva to z výsledkov prieskumu nezávislej spoločnosti na prieskum trhu Median SK, ktorý agentúra realizovala od 25. mája do 6. decembra tohto roka na vzorke 5,074 respondentov. Opýtaní na otázku, či si myslia, že došlo v tomto roku k zdraženiu vďaka zavedeniu novej spoločnej meny euro, ako odpoveď "určite áno" uviedlo 33.2 % respondentov a "skôr áno" 37.3 %. Viac ako 19 % Slovákov tvrdilo, že euro zdražovanie skôr neprineslo a podľa 4.5 % respondentov určite neprineslo. Názory mužov a žien na zvýšenie cien po zavedení eura sa od seba veľmi nelíšia. Určite áno potvrdilo 32.8 % mužov a 33.6 % žien a skôr nie v dotazníku uviedlo 20.4 % mužov a 18.9 % žien. Median SK, s. r. o., je slovenská nezávislá súkromná spoločnosť na prieskum trhu, médií, verejnej mienky a pre vývoj analytických a marketingových softvérov.

• **Slovenská** rómska hudobná skupina Cigānski diabli vystúpila koncom decembra v kultúrnom stredisku Is bankasi v tureckom Istanbule a zožala zaslúžené ovácie. Koncertná sieň s kapacitou 800 miest bola plná. Skupina prezentovala široký medzinárodný repertoár známych svetových skladieb a slovenské folklóre, ako aj rómske skladby. Vystúpenie slovenských umelcov malo mimoriadny úspech, čoho prejavom boli nadšené ovácie obecnstva. V deň koncertu uverejnil upútavku a článok denník Daily News & Economic Review, v ktorom čitateľov informoval aj o tom, že v roku 1998 získali títo hudobníci titul najlepšia cigānska hudobná skupina na svete.

• **Umiestnenie** výroby automobilu Volkswagen Up! do Bratislavy si vyžiada investície vo výške 308 miliónov eur a zvýši viac ako dvojnásobne produkciu fabriky na 400, 000 vozidiel. Priamo v závode vznikne 1, 500 nových pracovných miest. "V dodávateľskej sfére sa zamestná až 7, 000 ľudí, z toho viac ako polovica na Slovensku", uviedol hovorca fabriky Vladimír Machalík. V roku 2010 bude pristavená nová časť lakovne, v ktorej sa bude lakovať 600 karosérií denne. V priebehu roka sa skončí montáž Škody Octavia a začne sa vyrábať nový model.

• **Tržby** v slovenských veľhorách opäť zachraňujú ruský hovoriaci turisti. Mimoriadne štedrá klientela opäť zamierila do slovenských veľhôr. Zmenila sa tu najmä cenová politika, ktorá oslovila aj Rusov. Propagácia Tatier v ruských mestách našla ohlas. A pozitívnejšie sa k celej veci postavili aj vízové oddelenia. Okrem chartrových letov prichádzajú hostia z východu do Tatier aj autami či autobusmi. Novinkou je priama autobusová linka z Moskvy do Popradu, ktorá bude premávať od marca.

• **Novoročnou** zbierkou vo všetkých trnavských kostoloch chce cirkev získať časť peňazí na stavbu ďalšieho kostola v "malom Ríme". Aj keď je v Trnave kostolov dosť, na veľkom sídlisku Prednádražie nie je ani jeden. Nový kostol je naplánovaný už najmenej desať rokov, jeho výstavbu však z rôznych dôvodov odkladali. Práce sa však na jar rozbehnú. Cirkev má zatiaľ na stavbu vyčlenených 400,000 eur (asi 12 miliónov korún), ale podľa projektu je na celý komplex pastoračného centra, fary a kostola potrebných 1.7 milióna eur (50 miliónov korún).

• **Obavy** o financovanie a napredovanie projektu Košice - Európske hlavné mesto kultúry (EHMK) 2013 vyjadril predseda KDH a bývalý eurokomisár pre oblasť vzdelávania a kultúry Ján Figel'. "Pripomínam vláde jej uznesenie z apríla minulého roka, podľa ktorého rozpracuje do konca júna 2009 a zabezpečí investičné krytie projektu, pričom doposiaľ sa tak nestalo," uviedol 5. januára Figel' na tlačovej konferencii v Košiciach. Podľa neho je to veľká česť, ale aj príležitosť pre Slovensko rozvinúť svoj potenciál, ktorý pomôže nielen mestu, ale aj regiónu a celej krajine. Figel' pripomenul, že už vo februári bude projekt Košice - EHMK 2013 opäť vyhodnocovať Európska komisia, čo bude dôležité z hľadiska našej kredibility a reálneho naplnenia zámeru. Rozsiahle a dlhodobé investície, týkajúce sa transformácie niektorých objektov v Košiciach na komunitné centrá a tvorivé dielne, je podľa Figel'a nevyhnutné začať už v tomto roku. Ak vláda neprispieje tým, k čomu sa zaviazala, ťažko očakávať, že to vykompenzuje samospráva alebo sponzori, dodal.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Nová kniha o slovenských dejinách (New book on Slovak history)

Kniha prináša pútavo napísaný príbeh slovenských dejín od súčasnosti až po časy, v ktorých sa len hmlisto črtajú naši dávni predkovia, naše korene. Autor tento príbeh prerozprával svojím - slovenským - uhlom pohľadu, čo je iste podnetné, keď interpretácia mnohých faktov bola (a čiastočne stále je) poplatná minulým mocenským a štátoprávnym pomerom.

Zmyslom knihy nie je dať jediný a definitívny výklad dejinných udalostí odohrávajúcich sa v priestore obývanom Slováckmi, ale poctivo i odvážne hľadať „slovenskú pravdu“, zamýšľať sa stále nanovo (aj pod vplyvom nových výsledkov vedeckého bádania), či mnohé nemohlo byť aj inak, ako sme si doteraz mysleli.

Ing. Marián Tkáč, PhD. (1949, Čičava) je vzdelaním ekonóm. V roku 1992 bol poverený založením slovenskej centrálnej banky a s jeho menom je spojený vznik slovenskej meny, slovenskej koruny (1993 až 2008). Od 1. januára 1993 bol najvyšším predstaviteľom Národnej banky Slovenska vo funkcii viceguvernéra. V súčasnosti je vedúcim archívu tejto banky a venuje sa slovenskej histórii s dôrazom na bankovníctvo, finančníctvo a hospodársky vývoj. Je produktívnym publicistom a spisovateľom - doteraz vydal 12 kníh literatúry faktu a 4 beletristické knihy.

Kontakt: Vydavateľstvo Post Scriptum, Rajecká 36, 821 07 Bratislava, Slovak Republic; Tel.: 0903442679; E-mail: pavol.stano@gmail.com



Situácia s výbušninou stavia popradské letisko do zlého svetla

Poprad (TASR) - Situácia so vzorkou výbušniny, ktorá sa z nášho letiska dostala až do Dublinu, je veľmi nepríjemná, konštatovala riaditeľka letiska Poprad - Tatry Ivana Herkeľová. Verí, že na popradskom letisku sa už nebude opakovať. Tento moment podľa nej stavia letisko, ktoré je v súčasnosti druhé najúspešnejšie na Slovensku, do zlého svetla. „Udialo sa to na letisku Poprad, ale až po detekčnej kontrole, naše zložky nezlyhali a urobili sme maximum pre to, aby sme ten proces objektivizovali a aby sme informovali všetky zložky, ktoré sa o tom mali dozvedieť," konštatovala Herkeľová. V súčasnosti sa letisko snaží byť nápomocné pri objektivizácii všetkých informácií a podľa nej je teraz dôležité, aby sa všetky fakty dostali na pravú mieru.

Herkeľová informovala, že letisko Poprad ešte počas inkriminovaného letu v sobotu (2.1.) o 12.32 h informovalo dublinské letisko prostredníctvom telefaxovej správy o tom, že na palube lietadla sa nachádza vzorka výbušniny. Odnela tam aj informácia, že pilot vie o situácii a slovenská strana žiada o opätovné vrátenie vzorky. „Je pre nás záhadou, že táto správa nenašla adekvátnu odozvu z druhej strany," uviedla Herkeľová. Podľa nej je riskantné vzlietnuť s lietadlom, na ktorého palube sa nachádza vzorka výbušniny aj napriek tomu, že vzorka nebola nebezpečná. „Myslím si, že tu pochybili zložky hraničnej polície, malo dôjsť k jednoznačnému zákazu odletu lietadla," dodala Herkeľová.

Vzorka sa na palubu lietadla dostala po štandardnej aktivizačnej činnosti, kedy má vycvičený pes nájsť výbušninu medzi batožinou. Pritom sa použila jedna pachová vzorka a jedna približne 90-gramová vzorka. Pes našiel len pachovú vzorku a na druhú policajť zabudol. "Služobný pes označil prvú vzorku, policajť - psod, pomocný pyrotechnik bol následne odvolaný k inému úkonu, pri čom zabudol vybrať druhú vzorku," opísal situáciu Tibor Mako, šéf Hraničnej a cudzineckej polície Slovenskej republiky. Po tom, čo policajť zistil, že vzorka ostala na palube, oznámil to pilotovi lietadla a situáciu mu vysvetlil. Pilot sa aj napriek tomu rozhodol vzlietnuť, pretože podľa neho nešlo o život ohrozujúcu situáciu.





Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 119

STREDA, 20. JANUÁR, 2010

Číslo 5813



FOTO TASR – Pavol Neubauer

Prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič počas Novoročného prejavu 1. januára 2010 v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave.

New Year's speech by Slovak President Ivan Gašparovič in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava on January 1, 2010.

Novoročný príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

1. január 2010

Vážení a milí spoluobčania!

Je tu Nový rok a s ním sa vždy spájajú vinše, prania a nové predsavzatia. Iste očakávate, že aspoň niekoľkými vetami zhodnotím ten minulý a upozorním spoločnosť aj na to, čo dôležité nás čaká v roku 2010. Uplynulý rok nebol jednoduchý, a nebol len krízový. Pri-niesol nám aj dobré správy. S úspechom sme zvládli výmenu slovenskej koruny za spoločnú európsku menu. Podarilo sa nám prijať Lisabonskú zmluvu. Aj pohnúť s výstavbou cest-ných komunikácií, energetickej sebestačnosti a priblížiť samosprávu k občanovi. Nepo-darilo sa nám však rozhábať, dať správny ráz a tempo celoživotnému vzdelávaniu, rozvoju vedy a kultúry - teda duchovnému svetu našej spoločnosti.

Pripomenuli sme si aj 20. výročie nežnej revolúcie. Ale aj ideály, s ktorými ľudia prichádzali na námestia našich miest. Aj preto sme dnes slobodnejší. Preto dnes môžeme rozhodovať, komu dať svoj mandát, aby nás zastupoval – i reprezentoval – vo veciach verejných. Voľby sú príležitosťou vyjadriť slobodne svoj názor na spoločnosť, jej politiku, na potreby ľudí. Nemali by sme ich podceňovať. Áno, máme aj politický systém, ktorý však zatiaľ vyhovuje viac politickým stranám ako občanom. Máme trhové hospodárstvo, ale aj značný počet nezamestnaných. Máme odvážnu sociálnu politiku, ale aj nemalý počet bezdomovcov. Veľa peňazí vynakladáme na školstvo a zdravotníctvo, ale so vzdelanosťou a zdravotným stavom obyvateľstva spokojní veru nie sme. Už aj z toho, čo som povedal, vyplýva, že nás tento rok čaká dosť práce a povinností. Aj preto si vážim iniciatívu bisku-pov, ktorí vyzývajú vo svojom liste k solidarite, zvlášť v týchto sviatočných dňoch. Mu-síme si navzájom pomáhať. Štát občanom, i občania štátu. Solidaritou získavajú všetci. Tí, čo pomoc dostávajú, aj tí, čo ju poskytujú. Jej dosah je obzvlášť významný najmä teraz, v čase svetovej hospodárskej krízy. Veď nás zasiahla neľútostne, najmä tých slabších a najslabších. No poddať sa jej, vzdať svoj zápas o dôstojné miesto pod slnkom, o tom by sme nemali uvažovať ani v tej najhoršej situácii. A tá tu, chvála Bohu, zatiaľ nie je.

Nedávno som si prečítal zaujímavú úvahu o tom, že žijeme novú a čudnú dobu. Žiaľ, dobu osamelých ľudí. Lebo to, čo sa najviac narušilo za posledné desaťročia, sú medziľudské vzťahy. Nečudujem sa, veď to, čo nás nahnalo do zlých osídliel, sú peniaze. Peniaze povýšené na najvyššiu hodnotu doby, na pána všetkého a všetkých. V súčasnosti nás peniaze najmä ponížujú. Robia z nás sluhov cudzích záujmov. Niet lepšieho dôkazu, ako je súčasná svetová kríza. Honba za ziskami, blahobytom jedných na úkor všetkých ostatných, to nie je dobré. Morálne to nie je ani z hľadiska všeľudských hodnôt, lebo aj na ich vrchole stojí – dôstojnosť človeka. Všetci chápeme, že peniaze sú aj hodnotou úspechu.

Pokračovanie na str. 20

NA NOVÝ ROK 2010

*Nech Vás Betlehemský Ježiško požehnáva ,
dá dobrého zdravia a od všetkého zlého uchováva.*

*Nech požehná celú Vašu a aj našu rodinu,
obdarí Božími darmi, moju peknú rodnú dedinu.*

*Nech požehná celému slovenskému národu,
by vždy rovno kráčal a neupadol zase v porobu.*

*Pre vodcov národa, nech aj Božie zákony platia,
nech očami spravodlivosti, náš národ riadia.*

*Nech Betlehemská žiara, nad ním stále svieti,
by požehnal všetky, po svete roztratené deti.*

*A keď na Kráľovej holy, vzplanú lásky vatry,
nech šťastným rokom je, Rok dvetisíc-desiaty.*

Jozef Smák

Vianočné posedenie Okresu Pittsburgh, IKSJ

FCSU Pittsburgh District Annual Meeting and Christmas Party



FOTO: Regis Brekosky

Na snímke sú novozvolení úradníci na rok 2010 zľava: Joseph Yuros, Anne Wargovich, Anne Berezna, George Matta II., Florence Matta, Anne Pavlan, Karianne Barnes, Fr. Joseph Grosko a Margaret Nasta.

V nedeľu 29. novembra 2009 sa konala výročná schôdza Okresu Pittsburgh IKSJ, ktorá bola spojená s Vianočným posedením vo farnosti kostola Holy Trinity vo West Mifflin, PA. Hostiteľom tohto príjemného vianočného podujatia bol Spolok číslo 628 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Kultúrny program pripravila Susan Ondrejco a folklórna skupina Pittsburgh Slovaks.