



Jednota

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NUMBER 5792



Slovak Heritage Room Opened in Detroit

A Slovak Heritage Room was opened in recently at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan. The room contains beautiful displays of Slovak ceramics, wood crafts, Slovak crystal, folk costumes, books and other artifacts. The room is a work in progress. The display cabinets were donated by Branch 34 of the Slovak League and Branch 743 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Joseph C. Rimarcik

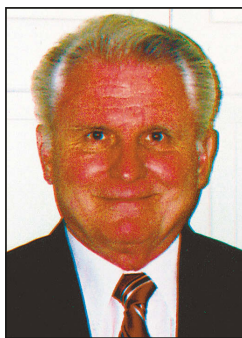
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Members and Friends:

2009 is here. 2008 is past. Many good things happened in the past, many good things will happen in the future.

We at the Home Office pray for you and hope you will do likewise. We are a Catholic, Slovak fraternal and want to remember that as we move forward. I say, "honor the past, live in the present and work for the future".

2009 will be a year of challenges in all our lives. A new Federal government administration will hopefully move the economy forward, respecting all



Andrew M. Rajec

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At the dinner, Branch 553 presented its annual donations. At the presentation were L-R Rev. Ralph Coletta, President Joe Petrasek, Barbara Hammriel and Mike DeLuca from the Light of Heart Villa, Vice President Gregory Petrasek, and Mr. Frank Lancianese, Director of "All Star Training" of Special Olympics, Ohio.

Akron Branch 553 Hold Annual Vilija

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, celebrated its annual traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Vilija on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the Slovak 'J' Club in Akron, Ohio. Over 125 people attended this joyous event which included a traditional old fashion Slovak Christmas dinner. President Joe Petrasek of Branch 553 remarked that this was "one of the

continued on page 5

FCSU LIFE

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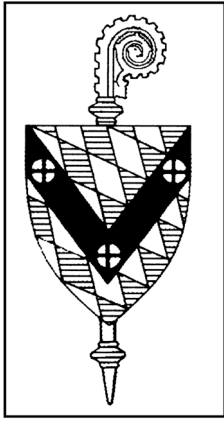
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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Champion P. Gavalier; Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B.

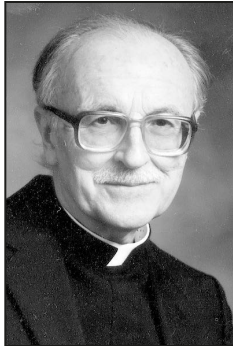
February 1, 2009

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 1: 21-28

Gospel Summary

Jesus goes to the synagogue in Capernaum with four of his disciples where people are astonished that he teaches with such authority. A man in the synagogue, possessed by an evil spirit, recognizes Jesus as the "Holy One of God" who has



**Champion P. Gavalier,
O.S.B.**

come to destroy the spirits of evil. After Jesus casts out the evil spirit, the people in the synagogue are amazed at the power and authority that Jesus possesses, and go out to spread his fame throughout Galilee.

Life Implications

More of the implications of this passage may reveal themselves if we remember the narrative context into which Mark places it. After this cure of the demoniac, Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law and many others afflicted either by illness or by evil spirits.

It is with these acts of power done out of compassion for the needs of others that Jesus begins his public life. Immediately before, Mark has told us of the baptism of Jesus, with the Spirit descending upon him and the voice from heaven saying to him, "You are my beloved Son." Jesus is then tempted by Satan not to trust that affirmation. After the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus goes to Galilee where he proclaims that the kingdom of God is at hand. He calls disciples to follow him, and together they go to the synagogue at Capernaum (today's gospel passage).

The cure of the demoniac represents the beginning of the messianic age when the power of Satan's kingdom will at last be destroyed ("Have you come to destroy us?"). Jesus enters a world in which Satan reigns, teaches with the authority of God, and with compassion casts out evil spirits that hold people in bondage and fear. Christ's mission, begun here, will not be completed until the end, "when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power . . . The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Cor 15: 24-26).

Jesus called disciples to be with him as he began his mission at Capernaum; now he calls us to be with him as he continues his mission in the towns and cities where we live. The Spirit descends upon each of us at baptism, and a voice from heaven says to each of us, "You are my beloved." We, like Christ, will often be tempted by Satan not to believe these words when the power of evil seems to be invincible. We will also be tempted to use power and authority, not with Christ's compassion in service of others, but to advance our own reign.

Later in his gospel, Mark talks about authentic Christian discipleship. Two disciples who were with Jesus at Capernaum (Jesus and John) seem to have assumed that discipleship means enjoying positions of power. Jesus summoned all his disciples and explained his notion of power. He said that among the Gentiles, rulers make their authority felt and lord it over people. But, he added, among his disciples, whoever wishes to be great must be the servant of all. This was the notion of power that led Jesus to teach, to cast out demons, to cure illnesses, and finally to give himself up to death on a cross with the supreme power of love. "For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45).

February 8, 2009

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

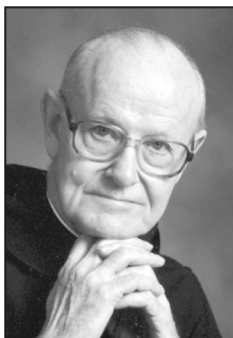
Mark 1:29-39

Gospel Summary

In Mark's gospel, Jesus is presented as one who acts rather than as one who speaks. The lengthy discourses in Matthew, for example, are missing in Mark. This is in keeping with the biblical conviction that actions speak louder than words. It is the interventions of God in human history, at the Exodus of Israel and then in the definitive Exodus of the Resurrection of Jesus, that contain the essential source of biblical revelation. This reminds us also that we must personally participate in some way in those events of liberation in order to receive the salvation promised by the Bible.

In today's gospel, Mark draws our attention particularly to those who were possessed by demons. Whatever their malady may have been, it represented the sad condition that existed before God brought a light-filled, harmonious world out of the original darkness and chaos. Jesus continues this creative work and the demons, as contemporary agents of the old chaos, instinctively recognize him as their adversary.

It is poignant to see how Jesus is already beginning to disappoint his disciples. They cannot wait for him to raise the flag of rebellion and to use his power to drive out the Roman occupiers of their land. But he goes off instead to a quiet place to commune with his heavenly



**Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.**

Father. He has come to preach the good news of salvation through the power of love and sacrifice, rather than through the military power and domination that they seek.

Life Implications

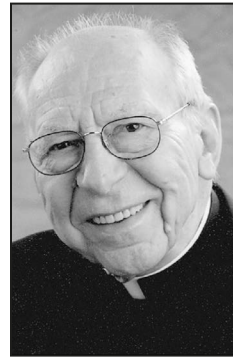
We need not look far to find the reality of chaos and dissent in our world today. The ancient Hebrews saw in the original chaos an aggressive force that was constantly trying to take back the creation that God had brought forth. Their imagery may have been primitive, but their perception was very accurate. In fact, the forces of chaos seem at times to have the upper hand today, as nations are consumed by ethnic hatred, communities are divided by strife and families are often torn apart by sibling rivalries. Sometimes the chaos enters our own psyches as we struggle to see the meaning in our lives.

God is fully aware of these troubles and he has sent Jesus to give us the wisdom, which alone can bring us peace and happiness. This is the unlikely, but only truly valid, wisdom of loving concern. Jesus not only taught this wisdom but he lived it fully as he gave his life for us.

We, like the disciples, are all for making war to achieve our purposes, but Jesus goes away to pray. This does not mean that we should not strive to achieve legitimate objectives but it does mean that, ultimately, it is only prayerful attention to the Lord and sincere love of others that will heal the beautiful world that God has entrusted to us and bring the peace and harmony that Jesus came to offer us. For God certainly wishes, once again, to look at our world and be able to recognize, as he did at the beginning, that it is "very good" (Gen 1:31).

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Galatians -2



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

In his allegory regarding Sarah and Hagar (Galatians 4:21-31), Paul gives these two historical women a symbolic meaning, a deeper significance.

Sarah comes to represent the covenant God made with Abraham. "The Lord said to Abram: 'Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find a blessing in you.'" (Genesis 12:1-3)

Hagar represents the Sinai covenant. "When the Lord came down to the top of Mount Sinai... (he) delivered all these commandments: (The Ten Commandments)... This shall you speak to the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven. Do not make anything to rank with me: neither gods of silver nor gods of gold shall you make for yourselves.'" (Exodus 19:20,20:1 20:22)

Christians, Paul maintains, boast of the real covenant made by God with Abraham.

Jews, on the other hand, take pride in the Sinai covenant and are born into slavery.

"You, my brothers, are children of the promise, as Isaac was." (Galatians 4:28)

"Pay close attention to me, Paul, when I tell you that if you have yourselves circumcised, Christ will be of no use to you! I point out once more to all who receive circumcision that they are bound to the law in its entirety. Any of you who seek your justification in the law have severed yourselves from Christ and fallen from God's favor. It is in the spirit that we eagerly await the justification we hope for, and only faith can yield it. In Christ neither circumcision

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ANTHONY X. SUTHERLAND, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com

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April 29	April 20
May 13	May 4
May 27	May 18
June 10	June 1
July 8	June 29
August 5	July 27
September 2	August 24
September 16	September 7
September 30	September 21
October 14	October 5
October 28	October 19
November 11	November 2
November 25	November 16
December 9	November 30

There will be no issues on: April 15, June 24, July 22, August 19, and December 23

Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.com.

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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, FEBRUARY 4	MONDAY, JANUARY 26
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

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Anthony Sutherland, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com
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From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

An Important Message to Our Members

Due to the recent news concerning our nation's financial crisis and economic conditions, the Society's Investment Committee wants to reassure you that the FCSU remains in strong financial condition.

If you have been reviewing the various financial reports that have appeared in our publication reflecting the reports filed with the various Insurance Departments of the states in which the Society is licensed, you will note that in addition to our overall strong surplus we have additional reserves to help cover unexpected downturns in the financial market. This helps assure our continued financial strength.

The Society's Investment Committee has been meeting and staying abreast with all the many financial events as they take place. As you are already aware, the Society has always taken a conservative approach in our management of our Investment Portfolio. The investment policy that the Society has in place has served the Society well, and the Society will continue to exercise caution in the future. This is your Society. Management's thoughts and efforts are always in the best interests of our membership.

Those of our members that have annuities with the FCSU will notice that your interest earnings continue to be credited and your balance is growing. This is in direct contrast with those investors that have investments in the Mutual Funds and the Stock Market. Perhaps it is time to open or add funds to a FCSU Annuity!

Thank you for your continued loyalty to the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Happy New Year

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citizens. A theme of unity and working for a common good should help our economy turn around.

Wars or threats of war, and economic problems have in the past brought people together, i.e. World War II, the Great Depression. However, there have been exceptions, i.e. the Vietnam War.

The 1987 movie "Wall Street" which won an Academy Award for Michael Douglas, as Wall Street financier Gordon Geckko, contained the famous line said by Geckko – "Greed is Good". Well, maybe greed is not good, especially if it negatively impacts other people.

We have many examples of out-of-control greed in the past few years, especially on Wall Street i.e. World Com, Enron, AIG, Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme and in the sub-prime mortgage mess.

The New Year, however, also brings new hope. With Spring not far behind, new life will re-generate our world, at least here in the northern hemisphere.

Human beings have the ability to generally look for the positive. The Catholic Church also looks toward the positive. After all, the most sacred time of the year, Easter, the Resurrection, follows the Crucifixion by only a few months.

We as human beings survive the cold and the First Catholic Slovak Union survives and strengthens as we experience what most experts agree is the worst economic turmoil since the Great Depression.

I hope that you and your families remain strong during the Winter season and emerge again in the Spring with new vigor and optimism.

Fraternally yours,
Andrew M. Rajec
President

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009 THRU MARCH 31, 2009

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The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.50% (4.402% APR)

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Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

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nor the lack of it counts for anything; only faith, which expresses itself through love." (Galatians 5:2-6)

"Out of love, place yourselves at one another's service. The whole law has found its fulfillment in this one saying: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' If you go on biting and tearing one another to pieces, take care! You will end up in mutual destructions! (Galatians 5:13-15)

"It is obvious what proceeds from the flesh: lewd conduct, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, bickering, jealousy, outbursts of rage, selfish rivalries, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like.

"In contrast, the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness and chastity." (Galatians 5:19-23)

"Make no mistakes about it, no one makes a fool of God! A man will reap only what he sows. If he sows in the field of the flesh, he will reap a harvest of corruption; but if his seed- ground is the spirit, he will reap everlasting life. Let us not grow weary of doing good; if we do not relax our efforts, in due time we will reap our harvest. While we have the opportunity, let us do good to all men- but especially those of the household of the faith." (Galatians 6:7-10)

"See, I write you in my own large handwriting. Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised are making a play for human approval- with an eye to escaping persecution for the cross of Christ. The very ones who accept circumcision do not follow the law themselves. They want you to be circumcised only that they may boast about your bodily observance." (Galatians 6:11-13)

"Henceforth, let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body." (Galatians 6:17)



Seated L to R: Board members Loretta Ekoniak, Jim Bench, Secretary Bernadette Demechko, and Veronika Mourkova, Prague, Czech Republic. Standing L to R: Treasurer Bob Petruska, Martin Michal, Zvolen, Slovakia, and Board member, Ron Garchar. Greg Lambert, Salem, Ohio, is currently in the group's Sister City of Spisska Nova Ves, studying for one year.

Youngstown Sister Cities Hosts Exchange Students

Youngstown Sister Cities hosted its Czech and Slovak high school exchange students at the American Slovak Cultural Association Villija Dinner held in December in Youngstown, Ohio. Host families of the students were also in attendance.

Students spoke briefly about their experiences in the United States. Each was given a monetary gift from YSC.

Seminarian Michael Zabrecky, Kosice, Slovakia, studying for the Diocese of Youngstown, was unable to attend and was represented by Jim Bench.

Jim is a member of FCSU 181 and also a member of the FCSU Supreme Court.
bdemechko@aol.com

Bernie Demechko, Secretary
Younstown Sister Cities

Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for January 2009

General Intention

Family. That the family may increasingly be a place of formation in charity, personal growth, and the transmission of the faith.

This month Pope Benedict XVI asks us to pray for families, that everywhere they may grow in love, truth, and faith. The Pope has in mind the 6th World Meeting of Families convening in Mexico City this month to affirm the family as the best place to learn Christian values.

We don't know much about the childhood years of Jesus, but St. Luke's Gospel tells us that he was obedient to his parents and "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man" (Luke 2: 51-2). Even Jesus was formed in his values by his upbringing. The Holy Family is a model for all families.

Pope Benedict cites charity as the first value one may learn at home. Children witness their parents' love for God, each other, all their children, friends, neighbors, and strangers. Children of loving parents emulate them not just because of their good example, but because they themselves have been nourished by love. Children from loving families grow up healthy in body, mind, and spirit. They are formed in such a way that they can be a light to the world.

The Holy Father also mentions the "transmission of faith" in this prayer intention. Faith is always a gift of God, yet God uses families to inculcate children in the faith. Children learn faith when they see their parents acting in faith. They also learn faith when their parents speak about their beliefs. Parents who choose not to speak about faith for fear of hindering a child's free choice are doing the child no favors. We wouldn't withhold love from a child - why should we withhold faith?

Recently the parents of the beloved St. Therese of the Child Jesus were beatified by the Church in recognition of their formation of their daughters, all five of whom entered religious life and became holy women. St. Monica, the mother of the great St. Augustine was also recognized as a saint for transmitting the faith to her son - doing so, famously, through the power of her prayers!

So we pray for families. Good families are the future of the Church, the hope of the world.

Reflection:

How have you helped by actions and words to form children in love and faith?

Mission Intention

Christian Unity. That Christian denominations may strive for full unity so as to be more credible witnesses of the Gospel to a world in need of a "new evangelization."

Thinking about evangelization this month, the Holy Father asks us to pray, as he often does, for all Christians, not just for Catholics. The Holy Father recognizes that the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ is being communicated to the world by many Christian denominations. The Pope asks us to work together to witness to the Gospel.

So we can preach the Gospel credibly, the Pope asks that we Catholics, we Apostles of Prayer, "strive for full unity" with those of other Christian denominations as we hope and pray that they may also seek unity with us. When non-Christians see that Christians are divided, they understandably doubt the message. Without unity, our message that we are one in the Body of Christ seems hypocritical. But our unity - if only we could achieve it! - would underscore the truth that the Kingdom of God is among us.

Pope Benedict understands that we live in a time of profound change. As Christians, we can face these changes because we rely on Jesus' promise that he will be with us to the end of the world. He said that the gates of hell shall never prevail against his Church.

Those who do not hold to Jesus' promises, however, are bound to experience anxiety in this time of accelerating change. Traditional belief systems throughout the world are failing as relativism and secularism are spreading, hastened by technologies of instantaneous communication. Rather than fear these changes, we Christians should see an unprecedented opportunity for evangelization.

What did Pope John Paul II mean when he called for a "new evangelization"? He meant that we Christians should witness boldly to a world longing more than ever to hear and believe the Good News. And we should employ every possible tool of communication to obey Christ's commission to "make disciples of all nations."

We pray that Christians may unite in the power of the Holy Spirit and lovingly witness to the truth of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus, the Lord.

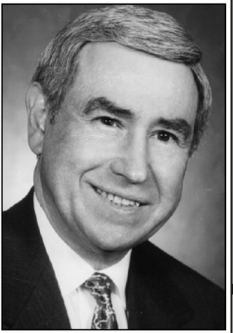
Reflection:

How can you work in unity with other Christians to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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

Teaching Children Money Smarts

Do your children understand the value of a dollar? Learning how to manage money is a lesson that will be essential throughout their lives. Here are some tips that you can use to ensure that even the youngest children learn how to save and spend wisely.

Give Them Responsibility

Most children begin to learn about money through their allowances. When you give your children a regular allowance and let them make decisions on how to spend it, you're providing them with an opportunity to budget and take responsibility for their own expenses. Each child will be ready for an allowance at a different age but 5 or 6 is often a good time to start.

An allowance is a great introduction to how money works in the real world. Your children may not always make the right decisions, but they will learn from their mistakes now rather than when they are adults.

Allowance Options

There are many ways an allowance can work. Some parents pay one amount every week, while other children receive money in exchange for certain chores or accomplishments. Some families require children to save some part of their allowance, while others leave this decision up to the child.

You should explain to your children what they are expected to pay for with the allowance. It may be meant to splurge on items, such as new toys or pizza after school with friends, or you might ask them to chip in on other expenditures, such as equipment they will need for a sports team. On all of these options, there is no one correct answer, so you can pick the approach that's right for your family.

Encourage Savings

Whether you require your children to save some part of their allowance or not, it's a good idea to open savings accounts for them and suggest that they set money aside whenever they receive it, including birthday gifts or money they earn from summer jobs. Of course, savings aren't meaningful unless they have something to save for. When your child is dreaming of an expensive electronic gadget or some other pricey item, explain that he or she can have it when there's enough cash in the savings account to buy it. This will teach your children the value of saving and teach them an appreciation of money and the things it can buy.



Christmas Party in Chicago



Musician and humorist "Amazing Mike"

The Czech and Slovak American Genealogical Society of Illinois held its annual St. Nicholas Party on December 1, 2008 at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont, Illinois. After a delicious, family-style dinner, the 150 attendees were entertained by musician "Amazing Mike", who escaped from communist Czechoslovakia. "Amazing Mike" plays a variety of non-traditional instruments, such as beer bottles, and has appeared on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. He has been the organist at Assumption of the B.V.M. Slovak Catholic Church in Chicago since 1988. Thanks go to Sue Rolsky, the CSAGSI Hospitality Chair who organized the party.

Robert Tapak Magruder

Annual Vilija

continued from page 1

most solemn events that he ever attended." Present at the dinner were three local priests, Rev. Ralph Coletta, Chaplain of Branch 553; Rev. Richard Ondreyka, retired priest from SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood, Ohio; and Rev. Jared Orndorff, a fourth generation member of Branch 553.

The officers of Branch 553 wish to thank all the hard working volunteers and fellow Catholic Slovak brothers and sisters.

Gregory Petrasek



Sitting at the head table are L-R Gregory Petrasek, Vice President of Branch 553; Father Richard Ondreyka, Father Jared Orndorff, Father Ralph Coletta, and Joseph Petrasek, President of Branch 553.



L-R Larry Petrasek of Branch 553; Laura Janis of Warren, Oh; Grace Bacot of Youngstown, OH; and Gregory Petrasek, Vice President of Branch 553.



Scenes from annual Vilija in Akron.

Detroit Branch 743 Annual Christmas Meeting

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, held its Annual Christmas Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall in Sterling Heights, Michigan. The officers presented their reports and the election of officers was held. Also on the agenda was a financial report, approval of the 2009 budget, and a discussion of activities. A Christmas party with a buffet and entertainment was held following the meeting.

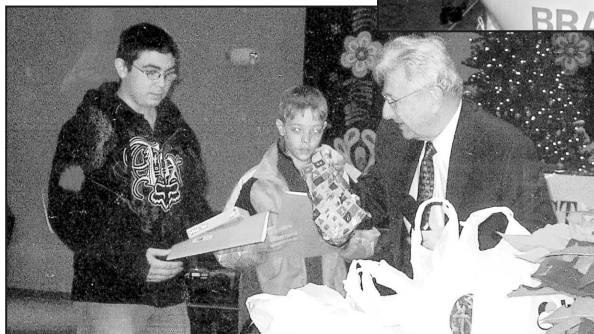
The event was well attended and a big success.

Joseph C. Rimarcik

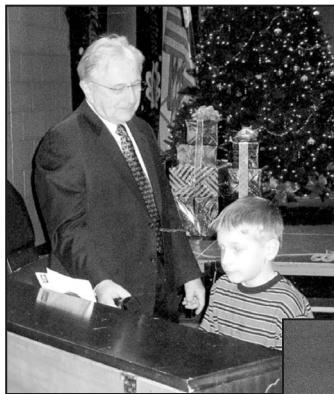


Christmas decorations made the annual Christmas meeting especially festive.

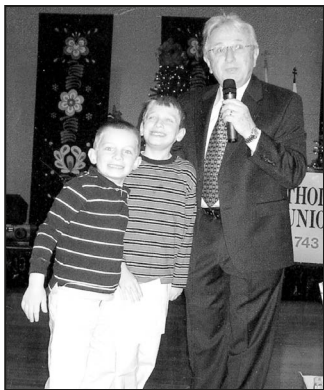
Officers of Branch 743. L-R are Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary; Martin Kamensky, Chairman of Auditors; Milan Straka, Auditor; Stephanie Gervais, Auditor; and Anna Magusin, Treasurer



Christmas presents for the children

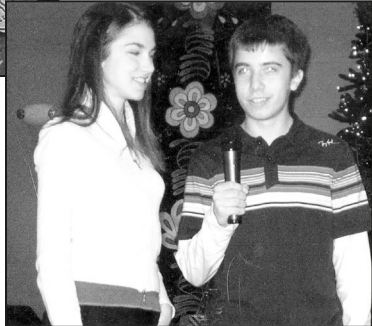


President Joseph Rimarcik with singers Andrew and William Elliott



Lauren and Ryan Wietchy singing a Christmas song

Andrew Elliot at the piano



The Christmas luncheon



Paul Magusin administered the Officer's Oath



Lucina Folk Ensemble L-R Anita Anderko, Susie Halley, Nadia Oros, Michele Mager and Jana Chuba



Lucina Folk Ensemble. Back row L-R are Peter Sokol, Jan Hudak, Mike Anderko, Joe Chuba, Peter Liptak, and Joe Oros. Front row L-R are Nadia Oros, Susie Halley, Jana Chuba, Anita Anderko, and Michele Mager.

Lucina Folk Ensemble Performs in Slovakia

The Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland, Ohio had the great honor of representing the United States by performing in the 43rd annual Folk Festival beneath Poľana in Detva, Slovakia.

The four day event, held July 10 through July 13, 2008, was hosted by Urad Vlady Slovenskej Republiky. Dancers were housed in dormitories at the university in Zvolen. There they practiced vigorously at the producer's direction for three full days prior to performing in Detva on Sunday, July 13th.

Lucina members participated in Sunday's event along with over 200 Slovak dancers from groups located in Czech Republic, Hungary, France, Poland, Serbia, Romania and Ukraine. The show's theme was a colorful display of villagers (dancers), strolling through a make believe market while each ensemble took a turn at performing their routine center stage. Dancers were accompanied by live musicians playing the fujara, gajdy-bagpipes and penny whistles. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon in Detva with more than 3,000 in the audience.

The Lucina ladies performed Betar Ja Dzivocka, a playful karicka dance depicting the style of the Zemplin region. After several minutes, they were joined center stage by the Polish and Ukrainian Slovak ensembles and collectively performed a grand karicka.

The Lucina Ensemble showcased their well known and ever vibrant Gypsy dance. The Gypsy dance started out with the poor Gypsy played by former Lucina Director, Mike Anderko, flaunting splendid dance moves until the remaining Gypsy men decide to sneak upon him. After the men individually showed off their talent to the audience, the Gypsy ladies tantalized the men with their magnificent talents including spinning and fancy foot-work.

Lucina members received a standing ovation from the Detva audience for their performance of Gypsy. The show ended when all performers gathered on the main stage for song and paraded off down the main aisle.

The dance festival concluded that evening with a gracious banquet provided by their hosts. Lucina members independently continued their stay in the Slovak Republic visiting family and friends along with former dancers of whom have returned to the native land.

The Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble wishes to thank their generous supporters, families and friends, and all who made the trip possible in the essence of promoting Slovak heritage.


WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Manor Oak Two, Suite 500 + 1910 Cochran Road + Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 531-2990 or (888) SLOVAKS + Fax: (412) 531-4793

ENJOY A TOUCH OF SLOVAKIA

February 7 – Two Photo Exhibits from Slovakia
"Slovakia, Slovaks and Connections on Historic Postcards and Photographs"
"The Magic Number "8" in the History of Slovakia"

WHEN: February 7 thru February 28
WHERE: National Slovak Society Heritage Museum
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317
PRICE: Free – No reservations needed



At the opening reception on Saturday, February 7, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Professor Martin Votruba will explain the history of Slovakia highlighted in these exhibits.

Slovak wine and cheese will be available to our guests at the opening reception.

March 7 – Lenten Cooking Demonstration

WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
WHERE: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church
4027 Beechwood Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
PRICE: Free – Donations are appreciated



We have a cook from Slovakia who will demonstrate making bryndzove halusky. Recipes will be available. Afterward, all will enjoy homemade soup, halusky and dessert. Attendance is limited to 25. Call for reservations at (412) 531-2990.

February 24-April 14 – Slovak Language Lessons

WHEN: Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
PRICE: Free – Reservations needed, please call (412) 531-2990



The new format will feature vocabulary building and basic conversation by Bozena Hilko.

Sponsors:

First Catholic Slovak Union • First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association • Greek Catholic Union of the USA • Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
National Slovak Society • Slovak Catholic Sokol • Slovak Savings Bank • Sokol USA • Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association

31st Annual Slovak Catholic Federation SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic Fraternal, Religious Communities of men and women and nearly 300 Slovak Parishes. Today, in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the **31st Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal**. The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic Fraternal, our Parishes and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2009 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in Churches of Slovak Decent across The United States and Canada and will continue to the end of the year.

The 2008 Appeal collected \$53,777.80.

Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,124,436.20.

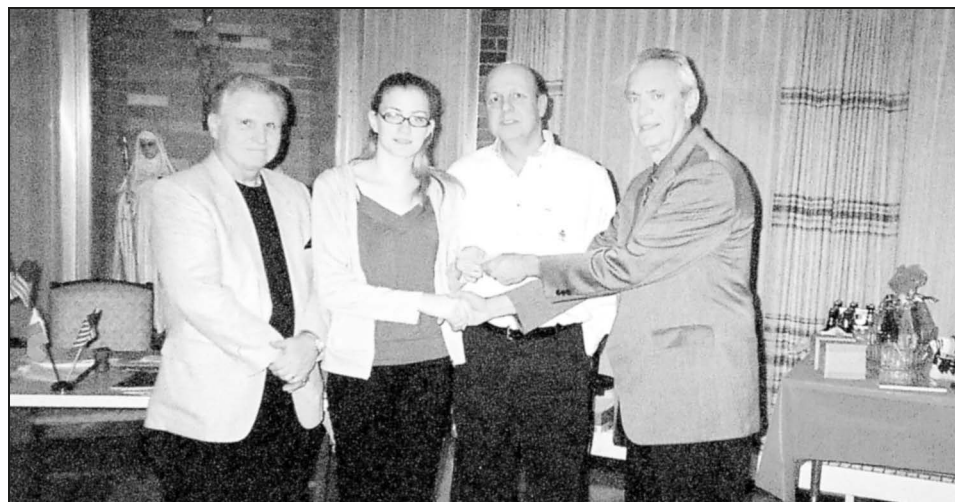
Funds raised from the Appeal will aid the priest-graduate students at the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future leaders of the Diocesan Churches in Slovakia both as Vicars and Bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors for the seminaries that educate future priests. As well, funds benefit those Religious Communities both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak Conference of Religious. These Communities being: Vincentian sisters of Charity (*Ruzomberok*); Dominican Sisters (*Dunajska Luzna*); School Sisters of St. Francis (*Zilina*); Daughters of St. Francis (*Bratislava-Prievoz*); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (*Secove and Presov*), Franciscan Friars Minor (*Bratislava*), House of St. Benedict (*Bacurov*).

The Slovak Catholic Federation, founded in 1911, under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The purpose of the Slovak Catholic Federation is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner; for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as National President is Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Pastoral Region of the Diocese of Scranton. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. Bishop of Altoona/Johnstown. The National First Vice President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, Pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, Sayre, and the Church of Saint Ann, Bentley Creek, PA. is the Coordinator for this Annual Appeal.

In our Church today, we are finding more and more individuals of Slovak descent/background do not attend traditionally founded Slovak Parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this Appeal come both from the collections taken in our Slovak Parishes as well as from individual donors.

Your tax deductible donation made out to the **Slovak Catholic Federation**, noting for the **Annual Appeal**, can be sent directly to the National Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation:

Dolores Evanko
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201



National President Andrew Rajec and District 2 President John Jurcenko congratulate Lauren Tocik and her uncle Kenneth Jurinek, members of Branch 313.

Branch 313 in Chicago is very proud of its member Lauren Tocik, who was awarded a \$100 college grant at the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District Annual Meeting on November 2, 2008. Lauren, a freshman at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, is also a FCSU Scholarship recipient.

5.00%

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President - telephonically
George F. Matta, Treasurer

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the November, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

In the lieu of a written report, the Treasurer led a discussion reviewing the monthly report from our custodian, Merrill Lynch.

The President led a discussion about the possibility of hiring an asset management company to assist the Executive Committee on any potential purchases and sales of stocks and bonds. The President stated that there are three asset management companies to be considered for interview at this time. There may be more in the near future.

The Treasurer led a discussion regarding annuity rates for the 1st quarter of 2009. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to keep the interest rates as in the 4th quarter of 2008:

Interest Rates for the 1st quarter of 2009 – effective January 1, 2009 thru March 31, 2009:

- The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRAs is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

- The annual yield on "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.25% (4.162% APR).

- The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.75% (4.641% APR).

- The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.50% (4.402% APR).

Motion carried.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

The President asked the Treasurer to come up with several scenarios on how we can take advantage of our membership with Federal Home Loan Bank. The Treasurer stated he will have his report ready for the January Executive Committee Meeting.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our Sales Production Report in different Regions and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President stated that we will advertise for independent agents in Florida and Ohio in January of 2009. He also stated that he is in contact with our current independent agents.

Seminars

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on seminars held in 2008. He said he conducted five seminars in 2008 and over a 2 year period he conducted 14 seminars.

The Executive Secretary stated that he is in process of setting up a Power Point program which will help us with seminar presentations.

The Vice President led a discussion about bringing the District Presidents to the Home Office for a two-day meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to familiarize and update the officers with our insurance and annuity products and our Home Office procedures.

The Vice President asked for suggestions for 2009 Membership Meet. He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

The Vice President reviewed our current advertisement and all mailing sent from the Home Office. He stated that our current advertisement has been very effective and we will continue with it.

COMBINATION OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President stated that Susan Ondrejco and the Fraternal Director of Slovak Catholic Sokol, Ed Moeller, are reviewing the joint Golf Tournament for 2009. As soon as the dates and sites are finalized a formal announcement will be made.

2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary stated that site inspections for our 2010 Convention are being planned. Once the inspections are completed the President will update the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

JEDNOTA ESTATES

The President stated that the leasing contract for Printery Building in Middletown, PA has been extended for another 6 months, until March 2009.

The President also stated that he is in contact with an industrial appraisal firm regarding our property in Middletown. Once an appraisal is completed, the President will update the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the roof repairs being done on the Printery building in Middletown. He stated that he would inform the Executive Committee when the repairs are completed.

BOND REPOSITORY AGENT

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on his discussion with two potential custodians of our bonds. The Executive Secretary suggested that we make this move after the 1st of January 2009.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of November 2008

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$292,890.27
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 40,358.57
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ - 0 -
Trust Fund	\$ - 0 -

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

MISCELLANEOUS

The President led a review of our NFCA dues for 2009. The Executive Secretary reviewed the annuity contributions and redemptions for 2008. Our annuity sales and redemptions have been steady with no unusual amount of new sales or redemptions.

The Executive Secretary presented the Budget for 2009 for the Executive Committee to review. He stated that he will present the 2009 Budget to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, December 13, 2008 for final approval.

The Executive Secretary further presented to the Executive Committee the Home Office and Jednota Editors Office holiday hours. The Offices will be closed on following days: December 24, 25 & 26, 2008 and January 1 & 2, 2009.

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee about the holiday greeting on the Home Office answering machine. He stated that the greeting is extended in the Slovak and English languages.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to adjourn the meeting. The Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

News From Slovakia

Kubis and Obsitnik Meet to say Good-Bye

Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Jan Kubis met U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Vincent Obsitnik at a good-bye meeting on Friday, January 2, 2009, Foreign Ministry spokesman Jan Skoda has told SLOVAKIA.

Obsitnik and Kubis thanked each other for their respective efforts in the development of Slovak-American relations.

At the same time, Obsitnik, 70, who took up the post in late 2007 pointed to the successes that both countries achieved- especially Slovakia's inclusion in the U.S. non-visa regime as of November 17, 2008. The outgoing Ambassador, who was born in Moravany near Michalovce and emigrated as a child with his parents, personally thanked Slovakia for its support of NATO in Afghanistan.

In connection with the end of Obsitnik's diplomatic mission in Slovakia, Kubis appreciated the Ambassador's work and his contribution in enhancement of mutual relations of the two countries, especially his personal advocacy of Slovakia being included in the non-visa regime.

Obsitnik, who previously had no diplomatic experience, was the first U.S. ambassador of Slovak origin.

TASR

Conversion to Euro Has Been Smooth

The conversion of all banking systems in Slovakia to the euro on January 1, 2009 has been smooth and without incident, central bank (NBS) governor Ivan Sramko said at a press conference at NBS headquarters the same day.

Slovakia had joined the eurozone as its 16th member at midnight on January 1. "The cash dispenser network has been fully functional and able to issue euros by 2:00 a.m.," said Sramko, specifying that some 28 percent of cash dispensers were able to dispense the new currency as early as one minute after midnight, and by 12:30 a.m. it was 80 percent.

"At the moment, at least 96 percent of cash dispensers have been adjusted and are able to dispense euros," said Sramko in the afternoon, adding that payment terminals at shops have been put into operation by 2:00 a.m.

Also attending the press conference, Finance Minister Jan Pociatek said that all the state's basic systems like the State Treasury, budget and tax softwares are running well in the new regimen.

"We haven't registered any significant problems," said Pociatek, adding that he doesn't expect any huge troubles to come in the days ahead.

"For sure, there will emerge some small, local problems, that will have to be dealt with... we only need to be patient. Therefore I believe that the whole transition process will go successfully," added Pociatek.

TASR

Economy Ministry: Crisis Shouldn't Influence Tourism in 2009

The global economic crisis should not have a dramatic effect on tourism in Slovakia in 2009, Gabriel Kuliffay, the general director of the Economy Ministry's tourism section said recently.

"Slovakia will remain a cheaper destination within Europe, which means that if tourists- influenced by the crisis- want to save money, they won't choose exotic countries, where there are often problems with security as well, but will opt for closer destinations- neighboring countries," said Kuliffay.

According to him, Slovakia is typical of countries to which most foreign tourists come from neighboring or nearby states, in its case the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Hungary, Austria and Ukraine. "We expect Slovaks who travelled abroad before to show interest in their own country for the very same reason (the crisis). This will only help our tourism. I'm not afraid that Slovaks may live more modestly for a while, but will always travel.

TASR

Fico: Slovakia Lucky to Adopt Euro in 2009

In the times of global economic crises, Slovakia can be considered lucky that it adopted the euro on January 1, 2009, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico told SLOVAKIA recently.

According to Fico, in times like these, it is becoming very clear what a great importance it can be for a small state with an open economy to adopt a strong and stable currency. "Therefore I praise everybody who was advising us in 2006 to include the commitment to adopt the euro on January 1, 2009 in our Government program," Fico said.

The Premier also stated that the euro is attracting foreign investors to Slovakia and has certainly a positive effect on Slovakia and its economy.

Fico thinks it is now the Government's task to ensure that the new currency will become a

success for Slovaks as well, since, according to him, otherwise this change wouldn't have any sense. "We didn't promote the euro adoption for the profit of entrepreneurs and of Slovak economy solely, even if it is very important, the common people have to manage as well," he pointed out.

"We stick to the principle of fulfilling the Maastricht criteria (preconditions to enter the eurozone). We have to fulfill them," stressed Fico, mentioning one of the criterion- lowering the public finance deficit, keeping it under 3 percent of the country's GDP.

Another issue is the EU's Growth and Stability Pact, forcing every EU members state to lower public-finance deficit by 0.5 percentage point each year. In the times of the global economic crisis this can prove as being problematic. Fico thinks the forthcoming years will force EU countries to ignore this Pact in order to cumulate finances to support investments. "We're still a country that is lowering this deficit, which invokes sympathy as well as great credibility among the EU member states.

TASR

Index of Economic Sentiment Continued to Fall in December

Slovakia's Index of Economic Sentiment (IES) continued to fall in December, recording a month-on-month drop of 6.2 points to 82.2, the Statistics Office announced recently.

Driven by negative developments in almost all confidence indicators, the IES reached its lowest level since March 1997, with a year-on-year loss of 18.9 points, down almost 18.8 points vis-à-vis the long-term average.

The industrial-confidence indicator fell by 5.6 points month-on-month to minus 21.3 points. This development was due to an expected fall in industrial production in the next three months and to lower demand.

The construction-confidence indicator in December was down by 0.5 points month-on-month to minus 10.5, which is still 11.5 points higher than the long-term average, however.

"The retail-confidence indicator continues to fall steeply. Its current level of 3.7 points is a result of negative developments in all three of its components: a negative evaluation of the current and expected economic situation and a high level of stock," reads the Statistics Office's report.

The services indicator fell by 5.3 points to minus 0.3 points as a result of a negative assessments in all three input indicators.

Consumers were more optimistic in December than in November, however, with increases in three components- prospects for household savings, the expected financial situation in households, and Slovakia's estimated economic development. This led to a 1-point improvement month-on-month to minus 30 points. The indicator fell by 24.4 points year-on-year, however.

TASR

New Arrivals Hall Open at Poprad Airport

A new arrivals hall at Poprad-Tatry Airport designed to improve travelers' comfort and increase the airport's capacity was opened recently.

The new arrivals terminal will allow the airport to handle aircraft carrying up to 250 passengers, instead of the previous capacity limit of 150. This will apply even during the winter season, when tourists tend to go the High Tatra Mountains with more luggage.

The reconstruction and extension of Poprad Airport began in the summer of 2008 and was financed from EU structural funds, the state budget and private resources. The total cost of the project reached €1.03 million excluding VAT.

As of March 29, 2009, the airport will offer two new regular flights to Bratislava and Bologna. "We assume that passengers will be able to use the air route between Poprad and Bratislava five times a week... and fly to Bologna three times a week. The service will be provided by Danube Wings," the airport's director Ivana Herkelova told SLOVAKIA.

Herkelova also noted that a new charter flight will be introduced in the summer between Poprad and Hurgada (Egypt). "We're also negotiating charter flights to Tunis," she added.

Poprad-Tatry, which opened in 1938, is the highest altitude airport in Europe.

TASR

Slovaks Sent More than 30 Million Text Messages on Christmas Eve

Slovaks have sent more than 30 million text messages on December 24 alone. The peak time for sending text messages was between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., according to the statistics of three mobile-phone operators in Slovakia- Orange, T-Mobile and Telefonica O2.

"In the past few years, the customers preferred sending text messages and multimedia messages to making calls during Christmas," stated Richard Fides from Orange, Despite this, as many as 13 million phone calls were registered in all three operators' networks on Christmas Eve, most of them in the morning. Martin Vidan from T-Mobile said T-Mobile registered ten times more text messages sent on Christmas Eve compared to any other day.

Christmas greetings were also spread through approximately 250,000 multimedia messages via all three networks.

TASR

FCSU LIFE



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Slovak Heritage members attending are, first row L-R Recording Secretary Anna Hudock, Chairman Philip R. Tuhy, Corresponding Secretary Bernadette Yench, Andrew Chuba and Public Relations Board Member William A. Zdancewicz. In the back are L-R Joseph and Anna Biros, Stanley Hozempa, Board Member Helen Savinski, Florence Hozempa, Board Member Dorothy Sullivan, Thomas Check, Financial Advisor Board Member Magdalen Benish, Darina Tuhy, Board Member Betty Pirnick, and Margaret Baker.

Slovak Show and Tell

A "Slovak Shoe and Tell" was held recently by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania as part of its 25th anniversary celebration. The affair was held at St. Matthew Slovak Lutheran Church, Wilkes-Barre.

Attendees enjoyed the "Show" portion which featured a picture/slide show presentation of activities sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society over the past quarter century. The "Tell" portion afforded members guests and public attending to share memories of Slovak traditions and experiences enjoyed with their families over the years. The occasion included singing of Slovak songs to accordion music provided by Andrew Chuba of Wilkes-Barre.

SPECIAL REMINDER

There has been a change in our address. The new address for sending all articles is Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. Please do not use the old 1011 Rosedale Avenue address. You may continue to send by fax at 717/944-3107 or by email at editorjednota@yahoo.com. Thank you.

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NEW FROM FCSU

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

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- *10 Year Level Term
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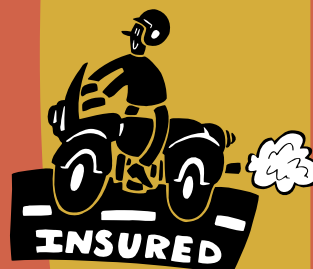
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\$100,000	\$12	\$18
\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
\$500,000	\$60	\$90

Premiums can be paid with Credit Cards, Debit Cards, or a Bank Account.

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.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. A full business meeting will be held and activities for 2009 will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

Mary Dubber, Secretary

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

Branches 5, 240, 263 and 419 will hold a joint Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Joe Obester, 500 Brown Street, Duryea, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the auditor's report, a discussion of securing new members and branch activities, and the election of officers. All members are encouraged to attend. A buffet will follow the meeting.

Joe Obester, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 30, 2008, at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

The following officers were elected for 2009: Daniel Spegar, President; Gaza Mika, Vice President; William Spegar, Secretary-Treasurer; William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary; and Michael Antonik and Florence M. Nalevanko, Auditors.

Donations in the amount of \$8,500 were approved for distribution in 2009 to the following: Michael Bosak Society in Slovakia; LaSalle Academy, Jessup, PA; Holy Ghost Church, Olyphant, PA; Lackawanna County Health Care Center, Olyphant; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund, Jankola Library, Danville, PA; Valley Community Library, Peckville, PA; and St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Scranton, PA.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, June 28, 2009 following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Ghost Church, Olyphant. This Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Finally, the officers of Branch 10 wish to extend best wishes to everyone for a Joyful New Year.

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the Karlin Club, 5308 Fleet Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of branch activities, and the election of officers.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 75- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA.

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, held its semiannual meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the residence of President and Financial Secretary, Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

President Anderson opened the meeting with a prayer. Recording Secretary Christine Anderson read the minutes of the previous meeting, which was accepted as read (with a grammatical correction). Mr. Anderson gave the Financial Secretary's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Christine Anderson, and a second by Christine Jacoby. As of December 1, 2008 the Society's net worth was \$9,882.74.

Ronald Anderson gave the Auditors' report. A motion to accept the report was made by William J. Gilger, Jr. with a second by Mark C. Gilger, Sr. The auditors' report was in agreement with the Financial Secretary's report.

A motion was made by Christine Anderson to retain all officers for the coming fiscal year. Mark C. Gilger, Sr. seconded the motion. The following officers will serve in the year 2009: Ronald M. Anderson, President and Financial Secretary; Mark C. Gilger, Sr., Vice President; Christine Anderson, Recording Secretary; William J. Gilger, Jr., Treasurer; Christine Jacoby, Steve Jacoby and Mark C. Gilger, Sr., Auditors; and George Dorko, Fraternal Activities Director.

On a motion by Ronald Anderson with a second by Mark C. Gilger, Sr., and unanimously approved by the membership, the annual stipend payable to all officers at-

tending the lodge meetings will increase to \$15.00 yearly from \$10.00 yearly. Local lodge dues notices will be ready for mailing by December 8, 2008. The annual donation of \$75.00 to the Mother Cabrini Youth Center was unanimously approved following a motion by Christine Anderson and a second by William J. Gilger, Jr. Ronald and Christine Anderson attended the District meeting in Mahanoy City in October 2008. Due to the sudden illness of Mr. Nasta the meeting agenda was tabled until the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by William J. Gilger, Jr. with a second by Steve Jacoby.

Christine Anderson, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 89- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The Knights of St. Mary & St. Joseph Society, Branch 89, will hold a meeting and election of officers on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. at The Grecian Inn, 14375 West Capital Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin. There will be social time from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. followed by the meeting with lunch at 2:30 p.m. Lunch for members is complimentary; guests will be charged \$15.00. Reservations must be made by January 20, 2009. To make reservations call Mike Novak at 414/445-5382, or send your check made payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br. 89 to Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

On the agenda will be the election officers, and a discussion of donations and activities for 2009.

Our Easter Duty Mass will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 9:00 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92nd Street, Milwaukee. Breakfast will be served immediately after the liturgy at 10:30 a.m. at The Grecian Inn. Breakfast is complimentary for members; guests will be charged \$12.00. Children under age 6 are free. Reservations must be made by March 22, 2009. Call Mike with the number attending at 414/445-5382, or send a check payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br. 89 to Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 332P- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

There has been a merger between the St. Andrew Society, Branch 332P in Detroit, Michigan with the St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, Detroit. All members of Branch 332P will now hold membership in Branch 743. This merger has taken place as of December 3, 2008. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314. Phone: 586/254-0225.

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 362- BARTON, OHIO

The Our Lady of Angels Society, Branch 362, will hold its next regular meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 12:00 noon at 70820 Crescent Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio. The election of officers will take place.

John Wodarczyk, President

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Jozef Vaencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio. The election of officers will be held at this time.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on December 14, 2008. The following officers were elected: Millie Leskovyansky, President; Grace Kavulic, Vice President; Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary; Jackie Bobby, Financial Secretary; and John Kavulic and Edward Walko, Auditors. Monsignor Peter M. Polando installed the officers.

We wish to thank National President Andrew Rajec for honoring us with his attendance at our meeting.

The officers of Branch 731 wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate the feast day of its patron on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Lunch will be served at the Father Snock Center following the liturgy. Door prizes will be given to many lucky individuals. The lunch is complimentary for members. There is a nominal cost for guests who wish to attend. Make your reservations by March 18, 2009 by calling Millie Leskovyansky at 330/782-3219 or Theresa Smre cansky at 330/629-9178.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 22, 2009 with a Slovak Mass, for all living and deceased members, at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in room 118 at 1:00 p.m.

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

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

Congratulations to the 2008 Jednota Benevolent Foundation Scholarship Winners:

Cambria Alpha

Anita Anderko

Ryan T. Dutton

Mollie Ferlin

Nicholas Galasso

Martin Madar

Mary Ellen Pecharka

Genevieve Ann Pecharka

Caitlin Schwartz

Elise Schwer

Grand Junction, Colorado

North Royalton, Ohio

Boardman, Ohio

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Homer City, Pennsylvania

Miami, Florida

Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania

Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania

Hamilton, New Jersey

Bedminster, New Jersey



Annual Slovak Ball set for February 21 in New York Athletic Club

The Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC) cordially invites you to attend the 17th Annual Slovak Ball on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at the New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York City. Cocktails will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Marek Soltis Orchestra. Tickets to this black-tie preferred event are \$160.00 per person and \$95.00 for students. Please, make checks payable to S-ACC (Slovak-American Cultural Center) and send to: Stano Krcmar, 33 Weasel Drift Road, West Patterson, NJ 07424. For more information call Matus Culen at 914/738-9115 or Gita Hlavinka at 201/242-0214.

At this Slovak Ball Honorary Consul of Pennsylvania Joseph Senko will be honored. His activities have been wide and varied. He was treasurer for Friends of Slovakia, a member of all Slovak fraternal societies, Slovak League of America, Slovak Catholic Federation, Chairman of Auditors of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and a regular contributor for the JEDNOTA newspaper. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Duquesne University and a Master of Science degree from Robert Morris University. He is married to Albina Senko, a native of Slovakia.

The Slovak Ball has become a well established traditional event attracting members of the Slovak-American community in the tri-state area and beyond. The proceeds of this event help make worthy contributions to American-Slovak cultural and educational activities. All this would not be possible without the generosity of our members and friends.

The Slovak-American Cultural Center invites the Slovak community to attend this event in great numbers and to join us in cultivating Slovak culture as well as personal friendships. With your help we can achieve considerable success in the future.

Rudolph L. Gregus



Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

Do you speak Slovak?	Hovoríte slovensky?	(hovoreetYe slovenski)
A little	Málo	(mÁlo)
Can you read Slovak?	Viete čítať slovensky?	(vettYe cheetatY slovenski)
I can	Viem	
I cannot	Neviem	
You have good pronunciation	Máte dobrú výslovnosť	(mÁtYe dobroo veeslovnostY)
I cannot speak fluently	Nemôžem hovoriť plynne	(nYemWOxYem hovoritYplnnyYe)
It is a difficult language	To je ťažká reč	(toYe t YazYká reč)
You will learn it soon	Naučíte sa jej skoro	(nauchetYe sa YeY skoro)
The accent is easy	Prízvuk je ľahký	(preezvuk Ye lYahkee)
It is on the first syllable	Je na prvej slabike	Ye na prveY slabike)
If you know Slovak, you know something of all Slavic languages	Keď viete slovensky, viete dačo zo všetkých slovanských jazykov	(Yak znÁtYe slovenski, viete dacho zo vshetkee X slovanskee X Yazikov)
You cannot read Serbian or Russian	Nemôžete čítať srbsky alebo rusky	(nYemWOzYet cheetatY srbski aYebo ruski)
Why not?	Prečo nie?	(precho nYYe)
They use the Cyrillic alphabet	Užívajú cyrilliku	(uzYeeva Yoo tsirilliku)

On the Street

What are you looking for?	Čo hľadáte?	(cho hYadÁtYe)
I am looking for the post office	Hľadám poštu	(hYadÁm poshtu)
Where may I get a car?	Kde môžeme dostať auto?	(kdYe mWOzYem dostat outo)
On Fourth Street	Na štvrtej ulici	(na shtvrteY ulitsi)
He lives at number four	Býva pod číslom štvrtým	(beeva pod cheeslom shtvrteem)

(to be continued)

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

Attention:

All Jednota Members Residing in Illinois

The Illinois Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its 2009 scholarship program.

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is 1-800-533-6682 (1-800-JEDNOTA)

Illinois Fraternal Congress Scholarship Program Applicant Information Sheet

1. Applicant must be currently attending or planning to enroll as a full time student in an accredited college, trade or technical school. The applicant may also be returning to school.

2. The applicant, the applicant's parent or legal guardian must be a member in good standing of an Illinois fraternal benefit society for a minimum of two years.

3. The applicant, the applicant's parent or legal guardian must belong to a Society whose membership dues are current with the Illinois Fraternal Congress.

4. An applicant who has lived apart from his/her family for a period of one year may be considered a separate family and establish eligibility through his/her own membership in an Illinois lodge.

5. Three (3) non-renewable scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500 and will be awarded at the discretion of the IFC Board.

6. Recipients are not eligible for a second scholarship from the IFC.

7. The Society coordinator must return the application to the IFC Scholarship Chair by February 1, 2009. All applicants will go through a judging process and the winners will be announced at the annual Illinois Fraternal Congress meeting in March 2009.

8. The decisions of the judges will be final.

9. Payment of the scholarship will be made directly to the recipient upon notice from the institution to which the winning recipient has been accepted.

10. A current grade transcript must accompany the scholarship application. Because of the February 1, 2009 deadline, students should secure a current high school or college transcript of grades BEFORE going on Christmas break. Many administrative offices are usually closed during the holidays.

11. All questions on the application must be answered. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

IFC Scholarship Chairman

Tom Adamson, National Catholic Society of Foresters



L-R are Dolores Bachesta, College scholarship recipient Leah Miklovic, Joseph Miklovic, President of Branch 109; Grade school scholarship recipient Nicholas Uxa, Ann Miklovic, and Margaret Lyons with Lilian Lyons, the youngest member.

St. Louis Branch 109 Celebrate the Holidays

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 109, joined with Branches 101 and 011 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for a business meeting and a Christmas extravaganza on Sunday, December 14, 2009. Over 55 members attended the affair which included feasting on a wide range of Slovak holiday desserts and deli treats. On the cusp of a predicted frozen, dreary, rainy week in St. Louis, a holiday spirited meeting of Slovaks, both young and old, enjoyed each other's company, toasting another prosperous year of existence and prayed for those members who could not be with us owing to their passing away during the year.

Branch officers were elected for the new year with the assemblage hailing praise on those officers who served so magnificently during the year. The vice president announced that 20 members reached 80 years of age. Each received a \$10 bill to honor this anniversary.

Leah Jane Miklovic was presented a 'ribbon and medal' for receiving a 2008 John A. Demko Memorial Scholarship from the Slovak League of America. Another member, Nicholas Uxa, was presented a 'ribbon and medal' for receiving a 2008 FCSLA scholarship. These honored members were deservedly given a large round of applause for their accomplishments.

Each member of the First Catholic Slovak Union attending received a door prize of "goodies". Senior members, led by Mary Pelch, were in charge of welcoming fellow senior members and in distributing the prizes.

Joseph Miklovic

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 & FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

FIRST SESSION

Thursday, September 25, 2008

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada and 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 – absent, excused
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – to be present via telephone
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1 – present via telephone
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 September Meeting.

READING OF THE REPORT OF THE JEDNOTA ESTATES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

President Andrew Rajec asked the Chairman of the Special Committee, James Bacon, to introduce its members :

James Bacon – Chairman
Rudolph D. Glogovsky, Member
Regis P. Brekosky, Member
Joseph Senko, Member
Carl Ungvarsky, Member
Karen Hunka, Member

After the introduction of the Special Committee, the Board of Directors went into Executive Session.

RECESS OF SESSION

At this time the Board of Directors broke for lunch.

SECOND SESSION

The President opened the second session. The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call and noted that Susan Ondrejco was now present. Gary Matta joined the meeting telephonically.

At this time the President excused those members of the Special Committee who are not part of the Board of Directors. The President resumed the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING JUNE 14, 2008

A motion was made by Rudolph Glogovsky and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

The President presented the agenda for the September Meeting and asked for its acceptance.

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the

agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2008

Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth A. Arendt presented the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2008 and answered the Board Members' questions. He stated that his report would be published in our Jednota newspaper. A motion was made by Rudolph

Glogovsky and seconded by Henry Hassay to accept the Executive Secretary's report. Motion carried.

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the F.C.S.U. Bond depository with Merrill Lynch. He also stated that he met with two local banks to discuss the possibility of either or both becoming our custodian (s) to replace our existing custodian. A copy of the proposals from each bank was given to the members of the Board of Directors. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky to authorize the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of changing our Bond custodian and to give his recommendation to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer George F. Matta presented his report and answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Karen Hunka to authorize the Treasurer to investigate the possibility of investing the Society's excess cash with U.S. Treasury bonds. Motion carried.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary informed the Board of Directors that the FHLB has all the necessary documents and that we are waiting for final approval by their Board.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Susan Ondrejco read her report to the Board of Directors and answered their questions. She updated the Board on the 2008 Golf Tournament. She further informed the Board about the progress on joint venture with the Slovak Catholic Sokol for 2009. Progress is going well and she will update the Board of Directors as more information becomes available. She also stated there will be a Sports Committee meeting on October 11, 2008 in Pittsburgh area.

2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the progress of the event planner who is still gathering information for our convention in 2010. The Executive Secretary will update the Board of Directors with his progress.

RECESS OF SESSION

There being no further business to conduct for today a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to adjourn the Board of Director's meeting for the day. Motion carried. Father Thomas Nasta led the Board in prayer.

THIRD SESSION

Friday Morning, September 26, 2008

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and asked Fr. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL

The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call and stated that everybody is present.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed the Production Report by Districts for the second quarter of 2008 and answered the Board's questions.

The Vice President asked the Executive Secretary to explain the new layout of the Report to the Board of Directors.

Independent Agents

The Vice President also led a discussion regarding independent agents. He stated that we are advertising for independent agents in two states: Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Vice President also stated that we will expand our advertisement for independent agents in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. This will be done after January 1, 2009.

The Vice President further stated that we have expanded our ads in the Jednota newspaper and in each issue we will advertise one of our products. We will also continue putting an ad with all our mailings to our branches and members.

Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky suggested sending a letter to Districts regarding

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

moving their District meetings to different areas and to rotate the locations of such meetings so to enable more Members to attend.

A motion was made by Henry Hassay, seconded by Joe Minarovich, to accept the Vice President's report. Motion carried.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota Properties, Inc. Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota Properties, Inc. presented his report and answered questions. Building # 2 is fully leased with a lease renewal with ACS in March 2009 under negotiation.

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



SCF Seeks Contributors for 'Good Shepherd' Annual

Dobry Pastier (The Good Shepherd), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, compiles articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is currently accepting articles for inclusion in the 2009 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is **May 1, 2009**. **Due to the printing schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual.** The annual will be available for distribution in the Fall.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

USE OF PHOTOS

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

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

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

ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

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

- Slovak articles can be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie. A hard copy must also be mailed to her. It needs to be noted when mailed that the article was also e-mailed. Oftentimes, accent marks, diacritical characters and other special characters do not come through properly when articles are e-mailed. Having a hard copy of the article, appropriately marked, will save on valuable time and resources.

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

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

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

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

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka, presented her report and answered the Board's questions. The Chairman stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit of the first and second quarter of 2008 and found that everything was in order. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Henry Hassay to accept the Chairman of Auditors' report. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Executive Secretary gave a review of Bylaw 4.05 regarding the rules for Branches receiving a yearly stipend.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Henry Hassay 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 Damian Nasta to adjourn. Motion carried. Father Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Chicago Branch 153 View Slovak Christmas Tree

On Sunday, December 14, 2008, members of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153 in Chicago viewed the Slovak Christmas tree on display at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Each year the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District sponsors a Slovak tree display as part of the museum's annual 'Christmas Around the World' exhibit. This year Christmas trees from 54 nations decorated by Chicago's various ethnic communities were on display.

Following their visit, Branch 153 members enjoyed a fraternal dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Rudy Bernath, Vice President, Br. 153

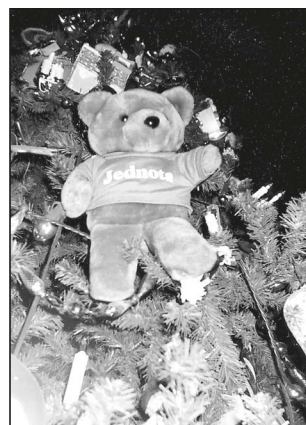


Members of Branch 153 in front of the Slovak Christmas Tree

The Slovak Christmas Tree decorated by the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District



Members and friends of Branch 153 enjoy a fraternal dinner after viewing the Slovak Christmas Tree at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry



The Jednota Teddy Bear says Hello!



Mr. and Mrs. John Jurcenko and friends in front of the Slovak Christmas Tree



Decorative Slovak gingerbread on the Slovak Christmas Tree

ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

kuchtivosti, zvlášť na najväčšej burze sveta Wall Street napríklad: World Com, Enron, AIG, Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme a neporiadku rizikových hypoték.

Nový rok, však, tiež prináša novú nádej. S blížiacou sa jarou, nový život regeneruje náš svet, zvlášť na našej severnej pologuli.

Ľudské bytosti majú všeobecne schopnosť vnímať pozitívne. Katolícka Cirkev tiež očakáva väčšie úsilie k všeobecnému blahu. Konečne, náš najsvätejší čas v roku, Veľká noc, Vzmárvyčvstanie, ktoré nasleduje po Ukrižovaní, nás delí len niekoľko mesiacov.

My ako ľudské bytosti prežijeme zimu aj Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota prežije a bude pevnejšia, v čase, keď väčšina odborníkov je toho názoru, že zažívame najväčšie ekonomické turbulencie od Veľkej hospodárskej krízy.

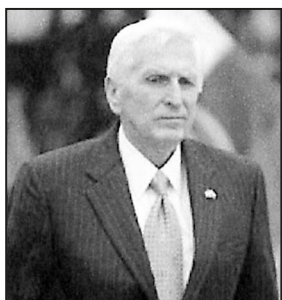
Dúfam, že počas zimnej sezóny načerpáte spolu s rodinou nových síl a s príchodom jari vykročíte plní energie a optimizmu.

Fraternalisticky,
Andrej M. Rajec
hlavný predseda IKSJ



Na rozlúčkovom stretnutí veľvyslanca USA Obsitnika

Bratislava (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš prijal 2. januára na



Vincent Obsitnik

rozlúčkovom stretnutí veľvyslanca USA na Slovensku Vincenta Obsitnika. Obsitnik poďakoval Kubišovi za jeho výnimočnú profesionálnu a osobnú angažovanosť pri rozvoji slovensko-amerických vzťahov. Zároveň zhodnotili úspechy, ktoré v tejto oblasti obe krajiny spoločne dosiahli, najmä zaradenie Slovenska do bezvízového programu USA. Veľvyslanec osobitne poďakoval za podporu Slovenska politike Severoatlantickej aliancie v Afganistane.

V súvislosti s ukončením pôsobenia Obsitnika na Slovensku Kubiš ocenil profesionálne pôsobenie veľvyslanca USA a jeho prínos v rozvoji vzájomných vzťahov, najmä úsilie o zaradenie Slovenska do bezvízového programu USA.



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

I.Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New York City pozýva svojich členov, priateľov i hostí na Výročnú schôdzu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 25. januára 2009 o 1:00 hodine odpolednia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street and First Avenue v New York City.

Na schôdzi je naplánovaný nasledovný program: vyhodnotenie práce Zboru Slovenskej ligy za uplynulé obdobie, finančná správa, voľba výboru na rok 2009 a plán podujatí na rok 2009. Očakávame, že sa naše členstvo na tejto schôdzi v hojnom počte zúčastní!

Ostávam s priateľským pozdravom

Milan R. Dait
predseda I. Zboru SLvA



Za zosnulým bratom Dr. Edwardom A. Tuleyom

Pozdrav smútiacej rodine od predsedu MS Jozefa Markuša

Na Slovensko a do Matice slovenskej, ktoré si už zosnulý náš brat, priaznivec a žičlivec Dr. Edward Tuleya tak ctí a vážil, prenikla smutná zvesť o jeho odchode od nás k Najvyššiemu, aj keď vo veku takpovediac „matuzalemskom“.

Prijmite všetci jeho najbližší, priatelia, členovia Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slováci v Amerike, prejav našej úprimnej spoluúčasti nad stratou tak významnej a životaschopnej osobnosti, akú predstavoval a v pamäti aj predstavuje brat Edward Andrew.

Ako otec, manžel, akiste aj ako profesor dejín či vášnivý športovec si vždy našiel čas pre veci národa, slovenského ducha v Amerike a jeho rodný Šariš má byť na koho hrdý. A my s ním.

Chceme Vám všetkým poďakovať za Vašu podporu jeho dielu, najmä jeho vzácnej rodine, priateľom jednotárom, slovensko-americkej sociéte, ktorá mu pomáhala vytvárať zázemie pre jeho vklady a prínosy v rodinnom i národno-duchovnom živote v slovenskej Amerike.

Chceme poďakovať jeho obetavosti, úsiliam, ktoré vložil do slovensko-amerického života a ubezpečiť Vás, že ostáva v pamäti Matice slovenskej ako jedna z významných osobností slovenského sveta v 20. a na začiatku 21. storočia.

Nech ho Pán žehná vo svojom náručí a odvdáči sa mu za všetko, čo pre ducha, národ a kresťanstvo vykonal, nech je milostivý jeho nesmrteľnej duši, nech On sám teší zarmútených.

S prejavom hlbokkej sústrasti

Jozef Markuš
predseda Matice slovenskej

Novoročný príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Vážení spoluobčania,

rok 2008, ktorý sme prežili v každodenných radoostiach i starostiach, je minulosťou, zostane už len v našich spomienkach a v našich činoch. Určite sa ho každý z nás snažil naplniť tak, ako najlepšie vedel, či už v oblasti pracovnej, rodinnej alebo osobnej. Z môjho pohľadu, pre Slovenskú republiku a jej obyvateľov to bol rok úspešný. Otvorili sme sa svetu a svet sa otvoril nám. Našli sme potrebnú odvahu na zmeny, ale aj na korekcie ich dopadov. Som hrdý na to, že Slovensko sa stalo plnohodnotným a akceptovaným členom európskych i svetových zoskupení. Slovensko sa vďaka poctivej práci našich občanov zaradilo medzi ekonomicky vyspelé krajiny sveta, uznanie si získalo aj svojou uváženu a principiálnou medzinárodnou politikou. Od dnes sme členmi eurozóny – aj to považujem za úspech.

Som nemenej pyšný na to, že Slovensko sa neľutuje a nepodriaďuje sa silnejším len preto, že je rozlohou malé. Záleží mi na tom, aby občania našej republiky boli hrdí na to, čím sú, kde žijú či odkiaľ pochádzajú. Aj vo veľkej Európe je dôležité, aby jednotlivé národy nezabúdali na svoju identitu. Iba vtedy - pri úprimnom vedomí a úsilí - môžu priniesť medzi ostatné národy to svoje, jedinečné – nezabúdať na seba, svoje korene a rešpektovať osobitosť toho druhého. V tom je sila a podstata každého kvalitného vzťahu a spolunažívania. Či už medzi súrodencami, rodinami, priateľmi, národmi, národnosťami alebo kontinentmi.

Vážení spoluobčania,

Udalosti z jesene minulého roka, ktorými Spojené štáty vstúpili do dlhého a bolestivého hospodárskeho úpadku, poznačili celý svet. Aj my sa pýtame, aký to bude mať vplyv na našu ekonomiku, na sociálny rozvoj, na náš život.

Na prahu Nového roka pri príležitosti Dňa vzniku Slovenskej republiky a realite dnešných dní by sme v Európskej únii mali rok 2009 vnímať ako rok vnútroeurópskej solidarity. A to aj z toho dôvodu, že spoločne sa podieľame a sme zodpovední za pokoj vo svete, bezpečnosť a blahobyt.

Vedomá solidarita a pomoc je nielen postojom, ale aj mravným základom toho, ako sa spoločne brániť, pomáhať si v nepriazni a ohrození. To je výzva pre nás politikov, politickú reprezentáciu Slovenska, aby konala v záujme našej mladej republiky – v záujme všetkých občanov, a to bez ohľadu na národnosť a stranícku príslušnosť, vierovyznanie, sociálne postavenie či vzdelanie. Usilujme sa o našu občiansku zrelosť, ktorej základy sú zakotvené aj v našej ústave. Som presvedčený o tom, že tento cieľ dokážeme dosiahnuť, ak spoločne prijmeme výzvy prosperity budúcnosti.

Ako iste viete, finančná kríza zasiahla aj európske podielové a dôchodkové fondy. Áno, trh je dobrý sluha, ale nie vždy dobrý pán. Voľným rukám trhu možno dôverovať, ale ako ukazuje život, treba jeho spoľahlivosť overovať. V tomto smere sa už ani Slovensko nemôže spoliehať na to, čo hovoria súkromné agentúry, preto musíme zvýšiť nekompromisnosť a angažovanosť štátu. Politika sa už nemôže opierať o domnienky. Takémuto postojovi sa nebránime, ani Európska únia, ani európske finančné inštitúcie. Musíme prezieravejšie než v minulosti zvažovať, akú zadlženosť si môžeme dovoliť, či ako ju korigovať. Aj náš štát aj naše rodiny.

Som rád, že sa naša vláda tomuto problému zodpovedne venuje a prijala opatrenia, aby zabránila dramatickému prieniku krízy na Slovensku.

Naše rodiny však musia pocítiť význam solidarity a uplatňovanie skutočnej rovnosti príležitostí, starostlivosť o ľudsky dôstojné podmienky pre tvorivý, plnohodnotný život. Potom aj nastupujúce generácie pochopia, prečo sa treba celý život vzdelávať, čím sa presadzovať v práci, za čo požadovať primeranú odmenu, čo prináša podpora rodinám s deťmi, s čím sa spája dôstojná staroba. Iba vzdelanie prinesie šancu deťom zo sociálne slabších vrstiev vykročiť z kruhu, v ktorom sa desaťročia nachádzajú ich rodičia. Aj v tejto orientácii vidím naše možnosti boja za sociálnu spravodlivosť proti sociálnemu vylúčeniu a chudobe.

Považoval som to za potrebné zdôrazniť, najmä preto, že narastajú sociálne nároky, no aj problémy i neistota. Ale ako zvykli hovoriť naši otcovia, „peňazí na to, čo potrebujeme, nebýva nikdy dost“. Dôležité je teda, aby sme nepodľahli panike, ktorú vytvárajú predovšetkým tí, ktorí chcú na súčasnej kríze zarobiť. Čestné to určite nie je. A nepatrí medzi nich ani náš štát. Preto musíme byť obozretní a dôslední.

Viac ako doteraz musíme prejavovať aj naše sociálne cítenie. Pomáhajme tým, ktorí sú na pomoc odkázaní. Všimajme si ich, podajme im pomocnú ruku. Aj tým, ktorí ju nečakajú, lebo v ňu prestali veriť. Venujme sa osamelým, starým a chorým. Vážme si tých, ktorí sa dokážu obetovať pre iných. Moje poďakovanie patrí im, tak ako vám všetkým, čo dorábate chlieb náš každodenný, i ten duchovný čo tvoríte materiálne i mravné bohatstvo nášho národa.

Žiada sa mi povedať, aby sme aj v roku 2009 potvrdili – v duchu našich tradícií – že Slováci majú dobré srdce. Že sa budeme usilovať o dobré medziludské vzťahy. Že neprestaneme myslieť na náš spoločný domov, budúcnosť našich detí. Na rodnú zem, vlasť, Slovensko. Venujme sa mu v našom zamýšľaní, v našom počínaní, i v modlitbách.

Drahí spoluobčania,

Ešte mám pred očami deti, ktoré aj do prezidentského paláca priniesli svoju detskú radosť, svoje pesničky, básničky, vinšovačky. Priniesli aj betlehemské svetlo, ľudské teplo, nehu. I vzácnu iskru v očiach, akú majú len tí, čo chcú dokázať niečo dobré a pekné, podeliť sa o to.

Na prahu Nového roka si preto želim, aby nás obklopovali šťastné deti. Múdri, šľachetní a žičliví ľudia. Aby vám prialo zdravie, aby sme sa takto o rok stretli a mali dobrý pocit z toho, čo sme urobili. Pre každého z nás, pre naše rodiny a domov, pre našu vlasť.

Boh daj šťastia tejto zemi. Žehnaj Slovensku – múdrosť, mravnosť, trpezlivosť a spolupatričnosť.

Šťastlivý nový rok, drahí spoluobčania!

V Bratislave zomrel básnik Milan Rúfus

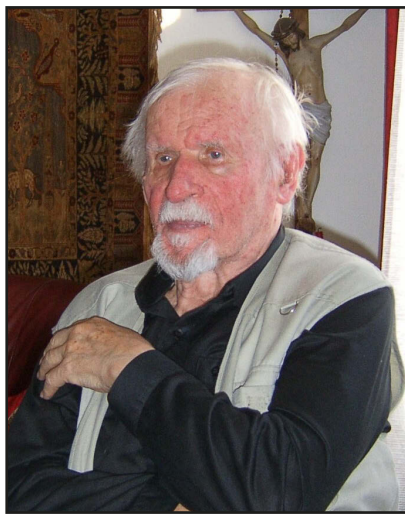
Bratislava (TASR) - V bratislavskej Nemocnici Staré Mesto zomrel 11. januára krátko pred 7. hodinou ráno básnik Milan Rúfus. Literát Milan Rúfus patrí medzi najvýraznejšie osobnosti slovenskej poézie v moderných slovenských dejinách. Po desaťročia nadošiel otázky pravdy a krásy, písal o svetskej a božskej láske, neúnavne hľadal ľudskosť a pravdu. Rúfusove básne sú jednoduché a zrozumiteľné verše, plné viery v Boha, pokory, skromnosti a lásky k životu a človeku. Pre Slovákov predstavuje Rúfus výnimočnú morálnu autoritu. Jeho básnické a esejistické diela i tvorba pre deti sa tešia veľkému čitateľskému záujmu. Osemdesiate narodeniny majstra si Matica slovenská (MS) v spolupráci s Literárnym informačným centrom uctili uvedením do života (9. decembra 2008) slovensko-anglického výberu z jeho poézie a esejí pod názvom *Nieš' bremeno a spievať*, ktorý ilustrovaný výtvarník Vladimír Kompánek.

Verše Milana Rúfusa vychádzajú na Slovensku v desaťtisícových a modlitbičky pre deti v stotisícových nákladoch, čo nemá v súčasnej Európe obdobu. Ak by napríklad Nemci mali takéhoto básnika, museli by jeho verše, vzhľadom na stomiliónovú po nemecky hovoriacu populáciu, vychádzať v miliónových nákladoch. Najväčší úspech dosiahli Rúfusove Modlitbičky, ale aj posledné zbierky básní *Báseň a čas* a *Vernosť*. S veľkým záujmom sa očakáva jeho najnovšia zbierka *Ako stopy v snehu*, ktorou sa zavŕši básnikova výpoveď z predchádzajúcich dvoch zbierok a vznikne jedinečný básnický triptych (*Báseň a čas*, *Vernosť*, *Ako stopy v snehu*). Kniha vyjde vo februári 2009 vo vydavateľstve Slovenský spisovateľ. V tomto roku vyjde aj prvá kniha o živote a diele Milana Rúfusa pod názvom *Milan Rúfus/Malé resumé z pera osobného priateľa Rúfusovcov a znalca jeho diela Imricha Vaška*.

Milan Rúfus sa narodil 10. decembra 1928 v Závažnej Porube na Liptove. Vyštudoval slovenčinu a dejepis na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave, kde v rokoch 1952-1989 prednášal dejiny slovenskej a českej literatúry. Dva roky (1971-1972) pôsobil na univerzite v Neapole. Od roku 1990 žil na dôchodku v Bratislave. Prvé básne publikoval v časopisoch už od 40. rokov minulého storočia. Debutoval básnickou zbierkou *Až dozrieme* (1956) a odvtedy vydal ďalších vyše 20 zbierok. V mnohých básňach je evidentné silné sociálne cítenie a tematické zázemie. Sústredil sa v nich na tému domova, ktorý pre Rúfusa znamenal hlbokú básnickú a ľudskú istotu. Významnou oblasťou literárnej aktivity Milana Rúfusa je esejistická tvorba. V knihe *Človek, čas a tvorba* reflektuje otázky poézie a jej vzťahu k pravde, domovine a dobe a vyznáva sa zo svojho vzťahu k ľudovej slovesnosti, k výtvarnému umeniu a jej tvorcom i k básnikom svojej mladosti. Rovnocennosť básnickej a esejistickej tvorby Rúfusa potvrdzujú štyri epistoly k ľuďom, ďalší výber esejí v knihe *O literatúre, Epistoly staré a nové, Rozhovory so sebou a s tebou, Život básne a básneň život*.

Publishers v americkom štáte Illinois vyšiel v roku 2006 dvojjazyčný, anglicko-slovenský výber z poézie Milana Rúfusa s názvom *And That's the Truth* (A to je pravda) s pôsobivými grafikami Kolomana Sokola.

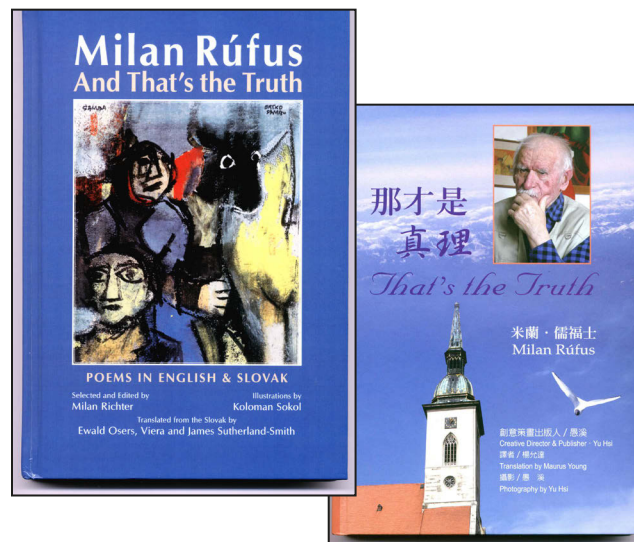
Časť Rúfusovho diela vznikla ako básnický komentár výtvarného diela Ľudovíta Fullu a Miloša Bazovského, ako aj obrazových publikácií umeleckého fotografa Martina Martinčeka. V roku 1998 vyšla Biblia s ilustráciami Vincenta Hložníka, ku ktorej Milan Rúfus napísal prológ a vybral texty z Písma svätého - Starého zákona a výber z poézie s názvom *Presné ako chlieb a voda*. Veľmi cennú básnickú zbierku



Milan Rúfus

Malá nočná hudba od Milana Rúfusa predstavili v roku 1999 v Galérii Ľudovíta Fullu v Ružomberku. Knižička bola prvou bibliofiliou a vyšla na Slovensku približne po desiatich rokoch vo vydavateľstve Máriusa Matáka v Martine, aj v reedícii ešte v tom istom roku.

Za svoje dielo dostal Milan Rúfus nespočetné množstvo ocenení. Okrem mnohých iných Národnú cenu Svetového kongresu Slovákov (1990), Rad Tomáša Garrigua Masaryka III. triedy (1991), Rad Ľudovíta Štúra I. triedy (1995). Získal viackrát ocenenia Slovenského spolku spisovateľov, Cenu vydavateľstva Slovenský spisovateľ. Toto vydavateľstvo mu v roku 2004 udelilo jednu z dvoch výročných cien za zbierku básní *Čakanka* - knihu, ktorá patrí k najosobnejším výpoveďiam autora. Za básnickú zbierku *Báseň a čas* dostal Cenu Slovenského spisovateľa za rok 2005. Rúfus získal v júni 2008 Cenu Literárneho fondu za pôvodnú literárnu tvorbu za básnickú zbierku *Vernosť*. Jeho zatiaľ posledná zbierka potvrdzuje, že základné etické hodnoty, ktoré vyznáva, nie sú vonkoncom samozrejme. Slovenský básnik Milan Rúfus sa stal prvým laureátom medzinárodnej Ceny Crane Summit za poéziu 2008. Cenu mu slávnostne odovzdali 11. decembra v bratislavskom Divadle As-torka. Jeho básne v rámci ceny vydajú aj v čínštine. Od roku 1991 ho trikrát navrhli na Nobelovu cenu za literatúru. Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič udelil na návrh vlády SR Milanovi Rúfusovi štátne vyznamenanie Pribinov kríž I. triedy za mimoriadne zásluhy o kultúrny rozvoj Slovenskej republiky, jeho národný a sociálny étos. Ocenenie prevzala 8. januára básnikova žena Magda.



Slovenský ples v New Yorku 21. februára 2009

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SACC) v New Yorku usporiada 17. slovenský ples v sobotu 21. februára 2009 v New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South (na rohu 59. ulice a 7. ave.) New York, N.Y.

Toto tradičné podujatie vie pritiahnúť slovensko-americkú verejnosť a záujemcov nielen z New Yorku, New Jersey a Connecticut, ale aj zo štátov Pennsylvánia a Massachusetts. Z finančného zisku SACC poskytuje americké vysokoškolské štúdium slovenským študentom na Slovensku. Toto by nebolo možné bez štedrosti a porozumenia členov SACC-u a priateľov. Každý príspevok na tento cieľ je vítaný a neoceniteľný.

Na plese bude poctený slovenský honorárny konzul za štát Pennsylvánia Jozef Senko. Jeho činnosť je široká a rozličná. Bol pokladníkom organizácie Friends of Slovakia, predsedom dozorcov Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, člen všetkých slovenských fraternalistických organizácií, Slovenskej ligy, Združenia slovenských katolíkov a stály dopisovateľ do novín Jednota. V jeho rubrike Money Management and tax tips nájdeme mnohé rady a poučenia ohľadom daní. Na Duquesne University študoval business administration a dosiahol stupeň bachelor of Science a na Robert Morris University obdržal Master of Science degree in taxation. Je ženatý a jeho manželka Albina sa narodila na Slovensku.

Vstupné na ples je \$160.00 za osobu a \$95.00 pre študentov. Do tanca bude hrať Marek Soltis Orchestra. O 6. hodine bude koktail a o 7. hodine sa bude podávať hlavné jedlo. Výbor plesu sa postaral o hodnotné ceny do výhry, ktoré sa vylosujú počas večera.

Attire: black tie alebo večerný oblek. Rezervácie: Matúš Čulen (914) 738-9115 a Gitka Hlavinka (201) 242-0214. Šeky treba vystaviť na: SACC a poslať na túto adresu: SACC, % Stano Krčmár, 33 Weasel Drift Rd., West Paterson, N.J. 07424.

Výbor očakáva reakciu do 1. februára 2009. Usporiadatelia srdečne pozývajú slovensko-americkú pospolitosť a priateľov. Toto stretnutie je nielen zábavné a spoločenské, ale aj národno-kultúrnym príspevkom do pokladnice slovenských hodnôt.

Rudo L. Greguš

Na obrázku je Milan Rúfus s americkým vydavateľom Ladislavom Bolchazym, manželkou Magdou a dcérou Zuzkou



Text a foto: Ivan Reguli

Na obrázku sú Milan Rúfus s jeho americkým vydavateľom. Dr. Ladislavom Bolchazym, ktorý vydal jeho zbierku básní *And That's the Truth / A to je pravda*, ktorú do čínskeho jazyka preložil Maurus Young a vydal Yu Hsi. 11. decembra 2008 odovzdal tchajwanský básnik Yu Hsi Milanovi Rúfusovi najvyššie ocenenie Crane Summit 21st Century International Forum, International Poetry Award. V ten deň Milan Rúfus naposledy verejne vystúpil.

Obrázkami z úspešných podujatí farníkov kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Katarínska zábava

V sobotu večer 29. novembra 2008 Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716. Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a 1. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v NYC usporiadali tradičnú Katarínsku zábavu. Do tanca hrala známa slovenská hudobno-spevácka skupina Kontakty. Podávala sa tradičná slovenská večera o ktorú sa postaral náš kuchár Janko Škrkoň. Na snímke usporiadateľa Katarínskej zábavy.



Fašiangová tanečná zábava v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku vás srdečne pozýva na Fašiangovú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu dňa 22. februára 2009 po svätej omši o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$20.00. V cene vstupenky je započítané hlavné jedlo, káva a koláč. V priebehu zábavy bude losovaná tombola a predstavia sa aj deti zo slovenskej školy. Zabávať Vás bude hudobná skupina Jozefa Jurášiho – Kontakty. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Jozef Juráši, predseda



Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič prijal predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských spoločností

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič s manželkou privítal 5. januára 2009 v Prezidentskom paláci predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských spoločností. Na stretnutí boli prítomní Augustín Jozef Lang, štátny tajomník Ministerstva kultúry SR, Ján Juran, riaditeľ cirkevného odboru MK SR a Mons. Mario Giordana, apoštolský nuncius Svätej Stolice.

Ivan Gašparovič privítal predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských obcí na tradičnom novoročnom stretnutí a zaželel im veľa úspechov v požehnannej práci i v osobnom živote, zdravie, šťastie a spokojnosť. Ako povedal toto stretnutie vníma ako možnosť upriamiť pozornosť spoločnosti na duchovné hodnoty.

Slovenský prezident v príhovore k predstaviteľom cirkví upozornil na súčasný negatívny jav v spoločnosti, ktorým je honba za peniazmi, preferovanie kariéry a zháňanie peňazí, čo podľa neho predstavuje vážne znepokojenie. Apeloval preto na predstaviteľov cirkví keď povedal: „Konzumná kultúra prekvitá, všetky odvetvia kultúry a umenia, ktoré sa usilujú o posolstvo humanizácie, zápasia o prežitie. Národné hodnoty chátrajú, víťazí globálny nevkus. Verím však, že sa to dá zmeniť. Preto vás prosím, aby ste vo svojich cirkvách, vo svojich farnostiach a náboženských spoločnostiach sústredili svoju pozornosť a sily práve týmto smerom. Ak si chceme zachovať svoje korene v Európe, naša spoločnosť sa musí riadiť pevnými morálnymi zásadami a duchovnými hodnotami.“ Zdôraznil vplyv duchovných na medziľudské vzťahy, na kultúrnosť života, na formovanie osobnosti predovšetkým mladých ľudí. Zároveň konštatoval, že cirkvi a náboženské spoločnosti a obce majú nezastupiteľné miesto v spoločnosti.

Za prítomných predstaviteľov cirkví a náboženských obcí sa hlave štátu poďakovali za prijatie Mons. František Tondra, spišský diecézny biskup a predseda KBS, Ján Semjan, predseda Ekumenickej rady cirkví a zástupca biskupa Reformovanej kresťanskej cirkvi na Slovensku a Pavel Traubner, čestný predseda Ústredného zväzu židovských náboženských obcí v SR.

Mons. František Tondra vyjadril potešenie zo stretnutia s ostatnými predstaviteľmi cirkví u prezidenta SR. Upozornil však na úskalia súčasného pluralizmu, ktorý so sebou neraz prináša dezorientáciu v základných požiadavkách spoločného dobra. „Základné požiadavky spoločenských vzťahov sú tiež nemeniteľné. Sú to zákonitosti, ktoré nevyhnutne vyžaduje reflexiu človeka. Kultúra života je odrazom kultúry človeka, jeho osobnosti i vonkajšieho prejavu“, povedal v príhovore.

Stretnutie s predstaviteľmi cirkví pozdravili aj koledníci Dobrej noviny. Koledníci z Trnavy, Šáše a Zakamenného zavinovali všetkým prítomným zdravie, šťastie a požehnanie do nového roka 2009. Prezidentský palác navštívili už po ôsmy raz a ako povedal Martián Čaučík, predseda Hnutia kresťanských spoločností, doteraz malí koledníci vzbierali viac ako dvadsaťjeden milión korún. Cez humanitárne a rozvojové projekty Dobrá novina už pomohla deťom v Ugande, Keni a v Južnom Sudáne. Na záver stretnutia sa v Kaplnke sv. Barbory v Prezidentskom paláci konala Ekumenická bohoslužba za Slovensko.

TASR

Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou

V nedeľu odopoludnia dňa 7. decembra 2008 Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v spolupráci so Spolkom sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v NYC pripravili pre našich najmladších farníkov Mikulášske odopoludnie spojené s Mikulášskou nádielkou. 96 detí sa tešilo z darčiekov o ktoré sa pričínili nielen príbuzní a rodičia detí, ale aj náš pán farár Martin Svitan. Touto cestou by sme sa mu chceli za všetko poďakovať ako aj našim deťom, ktoré svojimi piesňami, básničkami, ako aj hrou na klavíri spestrili atmosféru blížiacich sa Vianoc. Na pripojených snímkach sú zábery detí počas svojho individuálneho vystúpenia.



Štedrovečerná večera - Vigília



Na snímke zľava: Lacko Korček; Henrieta H. Daitová; otec Martin Svitan, hlavný duchovný Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC; Stanko Rosemberg; Jozef Bilik, predseda Farskej rady Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC; Rado Lesay, spevák; Štefan Chanas, kaplán Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého.

Na snímke zľava: Rado Lesay, spevák; Mária, organistka; Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka spolkov; otec Štefan Chanas, kaplán Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého.



V nedeľu odopoludnia dňa 14. decembra 2008 Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v NYC usporiadali Štedrovečernú večeru – Vigíliu pre našich farníkov a priateľov. Táto sa niesla v duchu slovenských tradícií. Podávali sa tradičné slovenské jedlá a spievali sa známe vianočné koledy. Všetkým ktorí sa zaslúžili o toto vydarené podujatie vyjadrujeme vrelé poďakovanie. Hlavné aktivistom manželom Bilikovým, Daitovým, Šulákovým, Marienke Božekovej, ako aj kuchárom za zabezpečenie chutných jedál.

Henrieta H. Daitová
tajomníčka spolkov

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

V trenčianskom Chráme narodenia Panny Márie bola na polnočnej omši po prvý raz vystavená presná kópia betlehemskeho jezuliatka. Jezuliatko dostala skupina asi 170 pútnikov, ktorí v novembri navštívili Izrael a absolvovali svätú púť. Daroval im ho sprievodca púte mons. Ján Majerník. Soška je vyrobená z cedrolitu, má v ľudoch vzbudzovať lásku, a to nielen počas vianočných sviatkov. Každý rok sa vyrába iba niekoľko kusov takýchto kópií a na Slovensku je ich len päť. Jedna kópia je v Lendaku.

Novým majiteľom 72.21-% podielu v akciovej spoločnosti JASNÁ Nízke Tatry sa stala firma Tatry mountain resorts, a. s., so sídlom v Tatranskej Lomnici. Doteraz patrilo 732,046 kusov zaknihovaných verejne obchodovaných akcií do holdingu spoločnosti 1. garantovaná, a. s. Záujem o kúpu predmetného podielu v spoločnosti JASNÁ Nízke Tatry prejavilo viacero slovenských i zahraničných investorov. Spoločnosť Tatry mountain resorts predložila podľa informácií 1. garantovanej najvýhodnejšiu ponuku. Za jeden kus akcie spoločnosti JASNÁ Nízke Tatry ponúkla 1,140 Sk (37.84 eura). Táto cena prevyšuje nominálnu hodnotu akcie a čistú hodnotu jej aktív. Nový majiteľ uhradil celkovú kúpnu cenu v plnej výške ku dňu prevodu akcií, ktorý sa uskutočnil 19. decembra. Jasná je najtradičnejším a najväčším slovenským lyžiarskym strediskom. Spolu so strediskami Štrbské Pleso, Park snow Donovaly, Skipark Ružomberok, Snowparadise Veľká Rača a Vrátna patrí medzi päťhviezdičkové zariadenia.

Na Slovensku sa v dôsledku odkladania rodičovstva rodí málo detí. Nižšiu plodnosť má v rámci Európy už len Moldavsko. Vyplýva to z analýz Výskumného demografického ústavu (VDÚ), ktorý na ich základe vytvorilo generačný pohľad na problematiku plodnosti žien na Slovensku od roku 1950 do roku 2007. V tomto období došlo v tejto oblasti k výrazným zmenám, výsledkom ktorých je podľa vedúceho VDÚ Borisa Vaňa extrémne nízka úhrnná plodnosť. Tá v roku 2002 dosiahla historické minimum, ktoré predstavuje 1.19 dieťaťa na ženu. V súčasnosti sú Slovensko a Poľsko dve krajiny EÚ, ktoré majú najnižšiu intenzitu plodnosti. Predstavuje 1.25 dieťaťa na jednu ženu. Dnešné trendy odsúvania materstva do vyššieho veku naznačujú, že dôjde k výraznému nárastu jednodetnosti. Rovnako znepokojujúci je aj nárast bezdetných rodín. Údaje Štatistického úradu SR hovoria, že v 50. a 60. rokoch bol priemerný vek matky 23.4 roka, na konci 80. rokov mala prvoroďička najčastejšie 22.5 roka, v minulom roku 26.1 roka. Odhady naznačujú, že priemerný vek matiek pri narodení dieťaťa bude narastať na úroveň 30 rokov.

Na Medzinárodnej olympiáde mladých vedcov (IJSO), ktorá sa konala v decembri 2008 v Kórei, zabodovali úspešne aj mladí Slováci. Do vlasti si priniesli jednu zlatú, dve strieborné a tri bronzové medaily. Z krajín Európskej únie prekonalo Slovensko len Nemecko a Maďarsko. Vedomostná súťaž z fyziky, chémie a biológie je určená pre žiakov do 16 rokov, ktorí okrem individuálnych skúšok súťažia v trojčlenných družstvách o najlepšie zvládnutý experiment. Musia však riešiť aj také úlohy, ktoré nie sú obsahom učiva základnej školy. Zlatú medailu získal Eugen Hruška z gymnázia v Hlohovci. Strieborné medaily si priniesli Dominik Štefanko z Gymnázia Andreja Vrábla v Leviciach a Matej Balog z bratislavského Gymnázia Grösslingova. Bronz patrí Martinovi Kocmáňovi z Gymnázia Andreja Vrábla v Leviciach, Silvii Hnátovej z Gymnázia Párovská v Nitre a Jaroslavovi Ferencovi z gymnázia v Seredi. V taiwanskom hlavnom meste Tchaj-pej získali slovenskí nadaní študenti v roku 2007 v konkurencii 200 žiakov z 38 krajín sveta jednu zlatú, dve strieborné a šesť bronzových medailí.

Tlačová agentúra Slovenskej republiky (TASR) začína od 1. januára 2009 vydávať spravodajský servis v ďalšom cudzom jazyku. K informáciám v angličtine pribudnú informácie o Slovensku v nemčine. V nemeckom jazyku bude prinášať správy o spoločenských, kultúrnych, hospodárskych, politických a športových udalostiach zo Slovenska.

Sedemdesiatšesť percent občanov je hrdých na to, čo Slovensko dosiahlo za 16 rokov svojej samostatnosti. Rady hrdých občanov sú v súčasnosti podstatne širšie ako v roku 2003 (49 percent) a o čosi širšie než koncom roku 2007 (66 percent). Vyplýva to z reprezentatívneho prieskumu Inštitútu pre verejné otázky (IVO), ktorý sa uskutočnil v dňoch 4. až 11. novembra na vzorke 1301 respondentov. Pociťujú hrdosť na úspechy Slovenska prevažne vo všetkých skupinách obyvateľstva. Najviac rozšírený je medzi ľuďmi s vyšším vzdelaním (87 percent respondentov s vysokoškolským vzdelaním), u mladých ľudí vo veku 25 až 34 rokov (83 percent), u tvorivých odborných pracovníkov (91 percent), podnikateľov a živnostníkov (83 percent) a odborných pracovníkov (82 percent). Naopak, najzriedkavejšie ho pociťujú ľudia so základným vzdelaním (69 percent) a nezamestnaní (66 percent).

Autorom výtvarného návrhu prvej eurovej poštovej známky, ktorej symbolická hodnota jedno euro pripomína a oslavuje zavedenie eura ako oficiálnej meny v Slovenskej republike, je akademický maliar Martin Činovský. Hlavným motívom známky je symbol eura, pričom na pozadí je detail románskeho portálu z desaťeurovej bankovky. Pod tým je mapa Slovenska so zvýraznením Bratislavy. Podľa filatelistu Jozefa je vydanie prvej eurovej poštovej známky významnou udalosťou nielen v živote štátu, ale aj filatelistu a človeka ako takého. Ako sám priznal, najväčšiu cenu má pre neho známka z historického hľadiska. "Pretože to je jedenkrát v živote človeka a zrejme aj štátu, aj známok," skonštatoval.

Európska únia by sa podľa amerického veľvyslancu v SR Vincenta Obsitnika mala usilovať spoločnými silami získať energetickú nezávislosť. "Byť závislý od jedného zdroja nie je v dnešnom svete dobrá vec, čo možno vidieť na súčasnom spore medzi Ruskom a Ukrajinou. Dúfame, že oba štáty ho vyriešia, aby sa mohli dodávky plynu do celej Európy čo najskôr obnoviť," vyjadril sa Obsitnik v Košiciach počas návštevy na záver svojej diplomatickej misie na Slovensku. Ako ďalej uviedol, existuje síce projekt plynovodu Nabucco z Azerbajdžanu cez Turecko do strednej Európy, ale pokračuje len veľmi pomaly. Veľvyslanec je toho názoru, že Európa by sa mala spojiť a dať tento projekt medzi svoje priority. Podľa Obsitnika by sa však Európa aj USA mali snažiť nielen o energetickú nezávislosť, ale hľadať tiež nové alternatívne zdroje.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Kardinál Tomko o Vianociach

Kúzlo Vianoc nie je podľa slov kardinála Tomka iba „rozprávka, vybásnený mýtus, pekný sen“, ale „skutočná príhoda, ktorá sa stala pred dvetisíc rokmi, siaha až k nám a týka sa nás osobne“. Božie Dieťa je dôvodom „veľkej radosti pre všetkých ľudí, je našim Spasiteľom, Osloboditeľom, Záchrancom, Vykupiteľom“. Toto chudobné pachoľa je, ako povedal, „Boží dar pre nás, dôkaz, že Boh je Láska“ a že Boží Syn sa pre nás „vzdal svojej rovnosti s Bohom, ukryl svoj božský majestát“ a ukázal sa nám „blízky, milosrdný, láskavý, dobrotivý, ľudský“. Božie Dieťa je však zároveň Svetlom a prináša nové svetlo celému ľudstvu. „Priniesol nám jasné svetlo a istotu o základných životných otázkach, odkiaľ pochádzam, načo žijem, aký je môj koniec, čo bude po smrti. Učí nás, ako dať zmysel životu, celej existencii i každodennému lopoteniu.“ Kardinál Tomko vyzval, aby sme si našli čas zastaviť sa pri jasličkách, odkiaľ sa usmieva Dieťa, ktoré sa nám ponúka ako Boh s nami. „Možno ho už nenájdeme vo verejnom živote, hádam už nenachádza miesto ani v našich domoch, vyhadzujeme ho von zo škôl, z politiky, z kultúry. Svojím hriechnym sebecstvom a korupciou sme priviedli svetové hospodárstvo do krízy, hrozí nám nezamestnanosť, ničíme si rodinu a manželstvo, čoraz viac sa stávame ľudstvom bez srdca,“ povedal. Božie Dieťa však vyrovnáva v človeku bezcitnosť. Kardinál zakončil príhovor slovami: „Posielam vám za priehrdie vianočných žičení: viac pravdy, viac ľudskosti, viac priateľstva, viac zhovievavosti, dôvery, spravodlivosti, viac odpúšťania, lásky, statočnosti, šľachetnosti, viac dobroty, jednoty, pokoja, radosti.“

Katolícke noviny

❖❖❖ Zavedenie eura na Slovensku je historickým momentom aj pre celú Európu

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Slovensko využije výhody, ktoré mu nová mena prinesie. Občania budú vidieť pozitívny efekt hlavne pri cestovaní so spoločnou menou vo vrecku, pre podnikateľský sektor prinesie zase euro v mnohých oblastiach zjednodušenie. Krajina sa tiež stane lákavejšou pre nových investorov, zdôraznil Barroso.

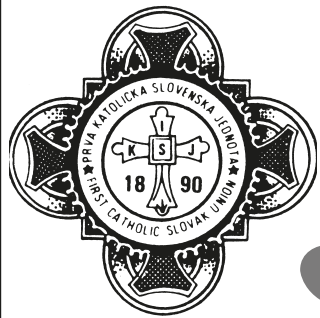
Český premiér Mirek Topolánek závidí Slovensku nie euro, ale skutočnosť, že sa jeho zavedenie podarilo dosiahnuť na základe celospoločenskej zhody. Podľa jeho slov je obdivuhodné, že v otázke zavedenia eura celé Slovensko išlo spoločne za týmto cieľom. Podľa Topolánka zavedenie eura bolo testom disciplíny. Slováci síce predbehli Česko, ale prijatie eura nie sú preteky. Na záver zaželel všetkým obyvateľom Slovenska, aby mali vo vreckách čo najviac eur.

Zavedenie eura na Slovensku nebude podľa premiéra Roberta Fica len pokusom. "Starostlivo sme sa naň pripravili, o čom svedčí hladký priebeh prvých januárových dní, ako aj potešiteľná informácia, že zavedenie eura nie je zatiaľ úmyselne zneužívané na zvyšovanie cien," vyhlásil na slávnostnom podujatí Dovidenia koruna, vitaj euro predseda slovenskej vlády. Počas roka 2009 urobí kabinet podľa Fica všetko pre to, aby nová mena definitívne zakotvila v slovenskej ekonomike. Jedným z predpokladov jej úspešného zavedenia je aj očakávanie priaznivého vývoja inflácie. Prvé dni roka sú pritom pre Slovensko časom skúšok, pripomenul premiér. "Ako keby nebolo dostatočnou starosťou zabezpečiť hladký priebeh zavedenia eura. Musíme sa boriť s dôsledkami nevidanej finančnej a hospodárskej krízy. Ba čo viac, trápi nás plynová vojna medzi Ruskom a Ukrajinou, vážne ohrozujúca celú slovenskú spoločnosť," priblížil Fico. Slovensko sa podľa predsedu vlády lúči s menou, ktorej príbeh bol úspešný a ku ktorej sme si vytvorili silnú citovú väzbu. "Naša koruna sa rozlúčila ako dynamická mena, ktorá po horšom začiatku zažila skvelý koniec. A tak miesto Dovidenia koruna dnes môžeme povedať Ďakujeme ti, koruna," uzavrel Fico.



FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer

Spoločná fotografia prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča (uprostred) a jeho manželky Silvie s predstaviteľmi cirkvi a náboženských spoločností v Slovenskej republike 5. januára 2009 v Bratislave.



ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK

Milí členovia a priatelia:

Rok 2009 je tu. Rok 2008 je za nami. V minulosti sa udia-
lo mnoho dobrých vecí a v budúcnosti nás len mnoho dob-
rých vecí čaká.

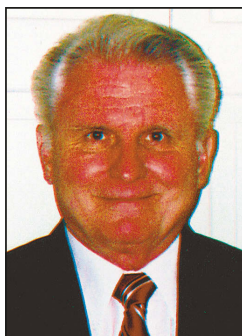
My tu v Hlavnom úrade sa modlíme za Vás a dúfame, že i
Vy tak isto. Keď sa pozeráme dopredu, nesmieme zabúdať,
že sme katolícka, slovenská, fraternalistická organizácia.
Poviem: „váž si minulosť, ži v prítomnosti a pracuj pre bu-
dúcnosť“!

V živote všetkých nás bude rok 2009 rokom výziev. Nová
administrácia federálnej vlády dúfajúc pohne ekonomiku
vpred, rešpektujúc nás všetkých občanov. Línia jednoty
a práca za spoločné dobro by mali pomôcť k zvratu v našej
ekonomike.

Vojna, alebo hrozba vojny a ekonomických problémov v minulosti ľudí spájala,
ako napríklad II. svetová vojna, Veľká hospodárska kríza. S výnimkou, napríklad
vojny vo Vietname.

V roku 1987 film „Wall Street“, ktorý vyhral Cenu Akadémie Michaelovi Do-
uglasovi, v ktorom hral finančníka Gordona Geckka, obsahujúci Geckkov slávny
výrok - „Ziskuchtivosť je dobrá“. Ale, možno ziskuchtivosť **nie** je dobrá, zvlášť
keď má negatívny dopad na ostatných ľudí.

Za posledných niekoľko rokov, máme veľa príkladov nekontrolovateľnej zis-



Andrej M. Rajec

Pokračovanie na str. 16



Zavedenie eura na Slovensku je historickým momentom aj pre celú Európu

Zo slávnostného podujatia „Dovidenia koruna, vitaj euro“

Bratislava (TASR) - Spolu s Rakúskom je Slovensko jedinou krajinou, ktorou spoločná
európska mena prenikla do regiónu strednej Európy, vyzdvihol vo svojom prejave na
slávnostnom podujatí 8. januára Dovidenia koruna, vitaj euro prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič.
Zároveň zdôraznil, že euro je pre Slovensko cesta vymania sa z krátkodobých cieľov.
“Euro je pre nás viac než krokom, je rýznym vykročením,” podčiarkol. Podľa hlavy štátu
prinesie euro slovenským občanom taký úžitok, ako s ním budú zaochádzať. “Nesmieme
ho bezhlavo utracať, ale obracať na dlhodobý úžitok a investovať do budúcnosti,” zdôraznil
Gašparovič. Prezident tiež uviedol, že euro je prínosom nielen pre slovenskú ekonomiku,
ale posilní aj geopolitické postavenie SR. Verí zároveň, že nová mena nesklame samotných
občanov a želá si, aby im nová mena priniesla viac radosti ako starostí.

Rakúsko aj Maďarsko sú hrdé na svojho úspešného suseda - Slovensko, ktorému sa
podarilo prijať spoločnú európsku menu. Ako povedal spolkový kancelár Rakúska Wer-
ner Faymann aj symboly na slovenských eurominciach symbolizujú stabilitu a silu a tu,
ako zdôraznil, budeme všetci potrebovať. Pripomenul, že to boli rakúska centrálna banka,
ktorá poskytla Slovensku eurobankovky na úspešný štart novej meny v SR. Maďarský
premiér Ferenc Gyurcsany vyjadril potešenie a obdiv z úspechov Slovenska, ktoré dosia-
hlo v procese zavádzania eura. Podľa jeho slov, Slovensko môže byť hrdé na svoj jazyk,
históriu a úspechy, ktoré dosiahlo.

Pristúpenie Slovenska do eurozóny je výnimočnou ukázkou toho, čo je možné v Európskej
únii (EÚ) dosiahnuť. Uviedol to predseda Európskej komisie (EK) José Manuel Bar-
roso vo svojom prejave na slávnostnom podujatí Dovidenia koruna, vitaj euro v Bratislave.
Tým, že Slováci efektívne, plynulo a rýchlo prijali spoločnú európsku menu, má dnes
únia už 327 miliónov ľudí používajúcich euro ako svoju národnú menu, pripomenul Bar-
roso. Vyzdvihol odhodlanie Slovenska urobiť taký významný krok. Výrazne k tomu podľa
neho prispela vôľa Slovenska uskutočniť reformy, čo sa v uplynulých piatich rokoch odra-
zilo na dvojnásobnom ekonomickom raste a znížení inflácie na polovicu. Šéf EK verí, že

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FOTO TASR – Martin Baumann

Na snímke prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič počas novoročného príhovoru.

Novoročný príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

Vážení a milí spoluobčania,

stalo sa tradíciou, že na začiatku nového roka si želáme navzájom šťastie. To má
pre každého inú príchuť, každý ho vníma po svojom. Objektívne je šťastie poslom
spokojnosti, dobrej mysle a tolerance. Popri šťastí si prajeme i zdravie – čo je tým
najcennejším a najpotrebnejším v ľudskom bytí. A obyčajne si želáme úspechy,
pracovné i osobné. Aby sa nám tieto želania naplnili, nesmieme podľahnúť bez-
mocnosti, musíme veriť vo vlastné sily a schopnosti.

V čase tých najkrajších sviatkov roka, sviatkov, kedy každý o niečo viac a
intenzívnejšie vníma pokoj domova, teplo rodinného kozuba, spolupatričnosť,
sme si priali lásku. Lásku a úctu človeka k človeku. To všetko Vám v Novom roku
2009 želim aj ja.

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FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer

Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico (uprostred) s manželkou Svetlanou privítal
prezidenta EK José Manuela Barrosa pred slávnostným podujatím „Dovidenia
koruna, vitaj euro“ 8. januára 2009 v priestoroch nového SND v Bratislave.