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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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Top 10 Reasons to Think IRA

By Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

The term IRA stands for an individual retirement account (IRA). An IRA can deliver many benefits, now and later. Later, in helping you save for retirement; now, in giving you a tax break on earned income for the current filing year.

The following are the Top 10 Reasons to think about IRAs – poised as we are at the beginning of a brand new year. January is a great time to open an IRA, if you don't already have one, or to review your existing IRA account to ensure you are taking all the latest advantages, so read on.

10. Almost everyone is eligible to participate. Initially, the ability to open an IRA was restricted to workers who were not covered by a qualified employment-based retirement plan. The 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act (ERTA) was enacted to allow taxpayers under the age of 70½ are able to contribute to an IRA, regardless of their coverage under a qualified plan. The best way to ensure that you are qualified to participate in an IRA is to consult with a tax or IRA Specialist.

9. You can have your own IRA account (even if you "stay at home.") Husbands and wives may each have an IRA, even if one person in that marriage is not working. Individual Retirement Accounts are available to anyone who receives taxable compensation during the year. Contributions to an IRA may encompass a fairly wide range of compensation sources – including wages, salaries, fees, tips, bonuses, commissions, and taxable alimony.

8. You can withdraw money from your IRA (under certain circumstances). Common think-

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Kenneth Arendt



Second Annual Bowling Tournament
May 3 – 5, 2013
Buffalo, New York

The First Catholic Slovak Union has invited the above fraternal to join us for the Second Annual Bowling Tournament. AMF Airport Lanes, the home of the Second Annual Bowling Tournament, offers traditional bowling on 66 lanes, featuring new flat screen monitors, a new Kegel lane machine and new settee seating. Relax in one of their two bar areas and watch your favorite sports on TV or challenge your friends to a game of pool.

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

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

We'll be spending the weekend at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The Millennium Hotel offers complimentary parking, an indoor pool, a fitness center, an airport shuttle, and a business center all at a convenient location, just three miles from Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

Enjoy shopping in over 200 stores at the Walden Galleria mall directly next door to the Millennium Hotel. It's just a short ride from several area attractions including: Niagara Falls, downtown Buffalo, and Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of the Buffalo Bills.

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

Susan Ondrejco,
Fraternal Activities Director



January Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus

The month of January has traditionally been dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. The feast of the Holy Name of Jesus is a feast of the liturgical year in the Roman Catholic Church that stems out of devotional piety for when the Child received the Name Jesus as had been foretold by the Archangel Gabriel to Our Lady at the Annunciation.



• 2012 Photo Contest Winners, Part II
See pages 12-13

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



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- 6 Year Fixed Rate IRA* 3.25%**

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

February 3, 2013

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 4:21-30

Gospel Summary

Biblical passages used in the liturgy often suffer from being removed from their contexts. This is particularly noticeable in today's gospel selection, which shows Jesus referring to a biblical passage from Isaiah, which he has just read without telling us what it is. We need

to note, therefore, that he has just read an important messianic passage. Accordingly, when he declares that this prophecy has been fulfilled, he is in effect announcing his own claim to be God's chosen one for the liberation of Israel.

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

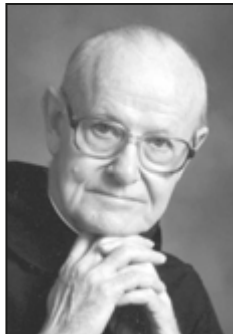
This narrowness of vision takes on much more serious implications when it touches our own relationship with God. As Jesus points out, God has never felt obliged to recognize privilege based solely on birth (or church membership). Being a member of a chosen people simply clarifies one's obligation to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

Life Implications

It is important to recognize the symbolic and universal implications of the narrow-minded attitude of excessively provincial people. The challenge of today's gospel takes us far beyond the merely social implications of that phenomenon. The fact is that we are all tempted to reject the challenging initiatives of God in order to cling to our own more familiar and controllable vision of life. The words of Isaiah are pertinent here: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (55:8-9)."

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

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



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

February 10, 2013

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 5:1-11

Gospel Summary

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

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

Life Implications

One of the most pervasive threats to the faith of Christians during the first centuries of the Church was a religious philosophy called Gnosticism (from a Greek word meaning "to know"). This philosophy rejected the creator God of Genesis for a supreme, unknowable Divine Spirit beyond the God of Scripture. Further, Gnostics taught that all matter, including the human body, was evil. They believed, however, that certain human beings were a spark of the Divine Spirit, and through a secret knowledge could be freed from the prison of their bodily humanness to realize their true, eternal spiritual nature.

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

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

In the mind of Jesus, there is no bypassing humanness, either his own humanity or the humanity of the Church. Today's gospel reveals an important moment in the coming-to-be of the Church, a very human, structured society that Jesus intended even during his earthly ministry. Through this society, aptly called his own Body, he would continue his mission in history, not merely for elite spirituals, but for the whole crowd of people pressing in on him.

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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, FEB. 13	MONDAY, FEB. 4
WEDNESDAY, FEB 27	MONDAY, FEB 18
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13	MONDAY, MARCH 4

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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Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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Year of Faith: the Structure of the Church

Dear Friends,

Our summary of the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (Lumen gentium) continues with the third chapter, On the Hierarchical Structure of the Church and in Particular the Episcopate.

This section begins by stating that Jesus entrusted the apostles with preaching and teaching the Gospel to all peoples, a divine mission that is to last unto the end of the world. For this reason, the apostles took care to appoint successors (bishops) and, in order that the episcopate itself might be one and undivided, Jesus placed Peter over the other apostles, instituting in him a permanent and visible source and foundation of unity of faith and communion.

Just as the office granted individually to Peter is permanent and is to be transmitted to his successors, so also the apostles' office of nurturing the Church is permanent and is to be exercised without interruption by the sacred order of bishops. Therefore, the Council teaches that bishops by divine institution have succeeded the apostles as shepherds of the Church. And just as Peter and the other apostles constituted one apostolic college, so in a similar way the pope, the successor of Peter, and the bishops, successors of the apostles, are joined together. The college of bishops has no authority unless it is understood together with the Roman Pontiff as its head.

The pope, the Vicar of Christ, has full, supreme and universal power over the Church and is always free to exercise this power. He is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and the faithful.

Bishops are obliged to enter into a community of work among themselves and with the pope. They are to supply to the missions both workers for the harvest and also spiritual and material aid, both directly and on their own account, as well as by arousing the ardent cooperation of the faithful. They should gladly extend their fraternal aid to other churches, especially to neighboring and more needy dioceses, in accordance with the venerable example of antiquity.

Bishops are authentic teachers, endowed with the authority of Christ. In matters of faith and morals, the bishops speak in the name of Christ and the faithful are to accept their teaching and adhere to it with a religious assent.

Bishops possess the fullness of Holy Orders. They direct the conferring of baptism, are the original ministers of confirmation, and the dispensers of Holy Orders. They also regulate every legitimate celebration of the Eucharist and moderate penitential discipline. Bishops govern the particular church entrusted to them and the power they personally exercise in Christ's name is proper, ordinary and immediate, although its exercise is ultimately regulated by the supreme authority in the Church. Bishops have sacred right and duty before Lord to make laws for their subjects, to pass judgment on them and to moderate everything pertaining to the ordering of worship and the apostolate.

Compared to the Council's teaching in this chapter about bishops, little is said about priests and less about deacons. By virtue of his ordination, a priest is bound together with all other priests in an intimate brotherhood which naturally manifests itself in mutual aid, both spiritual and material, personal and pastoral, in their meetings, common life, and in their work. The priest is dependent upon his bishop in order to exercise his ministry. The priest is to lend his effort to the pastoral work of the entire diocese and even the entire church. He is to look upon his bishop as his father and reverently obey him. A bishop, in turn, is to regard his priests as his co-workers and as his sons and friends.

Regarding deacons, the Council outlines their ministerial duties. They are to administer baptism solemnly, be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist and bless marriages in the name of the Church, to bring Viaticum to the dying, to read Sacred Scripture to the faithful, to preach, to preside over worship and prayer of the faithful, to administer sacramentals, and to officiate at funeral and burial services. Deacons are permitted to exercise these duties only with the permission of his bishop. The Council looks forward to the day in which the diaconate can be conferred upon men not preparing for the priesthood, even upon those who are married.

The summary of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church will continue in the next issue of the Jednota with the Council's teaching on the Laity. Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

From the desk of the Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt



**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2013 Scholarship Program.

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2009 to be eligible under the rules of this period.

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

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2013 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

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

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2013.

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

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

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year (fall semester of 2014).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2013. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

For an application form, please call the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800- JEDNOTA or go to www.fcsu.com/scholarships.

AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH ACCOUNTS

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA
INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	3.35% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.10% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee	1.90% APY
(new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% APY

**If you have any questions
about our annuities or IRA's,
Please contact your local branch officer
or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682**

Email: fcsu@aol.com
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

FCSU Single Premium Whole Life Rates have changed effective January 1, 2013.



Go to www.fcsu.com/insurance for details - or contact your branch office or the Home Office: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

The Men's and Women's 2nd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

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

The 2nd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at AMF Airport Lanes-Buffalo, 3754 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The tournament will be held the weekend of May 3-5, 2013. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 3, at 5:45 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 15, 2013. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. PRIZE FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

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

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

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded. Only members with USBC Membership Cards will be eligible for the USBC special awards in this USBC Certified Tournament. Bowlers without USBC Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Committee at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or

merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2011-2012 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2011-2012 season and with at least 21 games in the 2012-2013 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU, LPSCU, NSS, or FCSLA tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2013, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the entry form at time of entry.

AVERAGE CHANGES: The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Committee. It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others. Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average. Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprising of 2 men and 2 women are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams

for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

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

HANDICAPS: MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. WOMEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the submitted average. Women participating in mixed teams or doubles will have a handicap of 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 45 pins. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent. All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee. Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

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

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

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

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

Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM	5/3		
DOUBLES & SINGLES	5/4		

2013 May 3 - 4, 2013
 Entries Close
 March 15, 2013

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 2nd Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

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

AMF Airport Lanes-Buffalo
3754 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Entry Fees

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

Optional Events

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

Banquet Fees

Member	\$25.00
Total Included	\$.....

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

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

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

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

Friday, May 3rd
Registration 5:00 PM
Bowlers: 6:00 PM
 8:30 PM

Saturday, May 4th
Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM

1st Team Events
 2nd Team Events

1st Doubles/Singles
 2nd Doubles/Singles

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
COMPLETE INFORMATION

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

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

Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls ages 4 thru 12, that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by **April 15, 2013**. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, and if there are other children in family entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta

1544 Rokosz Lane

Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



RaisingOurKids.com



Top 10 Reasons to Think IRA

continued from page 1

ing is that once you put money into an IRA you cannot, under any circumstances, withdraw that money prematurely. And it's true: in general, making a withdrawal from your IRA before the age of 59 ½ will incur IRS penalties. But there are exceptions to this penalty rule, including the disability or death of the IRA owner, some unreimbursed medical expenses, some first-time home purchases, and certain educational expenses. It pays to talk to a tax or IRA professional to learn whether the specifics of withdrawing money from an IRA would work for you.

7. Today, you can contribute more than ever toward your retirement. The maximum amount you can contribute annually to an IRA has steadily risen over the years. When IRAs were introduced in 1974, taxpayers could contribute up to \$1,500 a year; the amount by which you could then reduce your taxable income. For the 2012 tax year, you can contribute up to \$5,000. And, looking forward to the next tax season, the contribution rate will rise again to \$5,500.

6. There's a way to help "catch up" for later-in-life savers. If you think you've waited too long to start saving for retirement, think again. People who are age 50 or older are allowed to make an additional "catch-up" contribution to an IRA account. For the 2012 tax year, the amount you can put into an IRA is up to \$6,000. In the 2013 tax year, you will be able to contribute \$6,500.

5. You're allowed to start small to build big. Perhaps you are just starting out, and feel you don't have much "disposable income" with which to start a savings account. The good news about IRAs: even a small amount put aside each year toward your retirement can add up over time.

4. IRA savings have special tax "friendly" status. When the US government created guidelines for IRAs some thirty years ago, the idea was to help people to start saving for retirement by allowing them to set aside money that would grow tax deferred—or sometimes, even

tax free. How your taxes are impacted by your IRA contribution depends on the type of IRA you choose; but (generally) money you place in an IRA will either help you reduce the taxes you pay in a given tax year or will allow you to withdraw it tax free in retirement (see below, #3, for details).

3. There are several IRA plans from which to choose. IRAs come in several forms, so you can choose the right plan for you. The three main types are:

- A "traditional" IRA that allows contributions that are often tax-deductible and all transactions and earnings within the IRA generally have no tax impact. Withdrawals from a traditional IRA, however, are generally taxed as income.
- Named for Senator William V. Roth, Jr. and introduced as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, a Roth IRA that allows contributions made with after-tax assets to (generally) have no tax impact, and withdrawals are usually tax-free.
- A SEP IRA is a provision allowing a self employed person or a small business employer to make retirement plan contributions into a traditional IRA established in the employee's name, instead of to a pension fund in the company's name.

2. You don't need to choose between great rates and great savings. One thing you don't need to make a choice regarding: whether to save money for retirement or get a great interest rate. The First Catholic Slovak Union offers several products that may be purchased as IRAs, combining all the benefits of an IRA with the excellent rates of our annuity products:

- Eight-Year Flexible Premium IRA, with a current rate of 3.60% APY
- Six-Year Flexible Premium IRA, with a current rate of 3.35% APY
- Six-Year Fixed Rate IRA, with a current rate of 3.25% APY

1. You don't have to do it alone. The bottom line? The First Catholic Slovak Union is here to help our members. For more information on FCSU IRAs, contact your local branch representative, call the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA, or visit the FCSU website at fcsu.com and click on the Annuity tab.

Scenes From the Season: Continued FCSU Celebrations Around the Country

George Onda District's December Štedrý Večer

The George Onda District held its annual Štedrý Večer in December at the Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg, PA. In attendance were 111 members and guests including: National President-Andrew Rajec; National Treasurer-George Matta; National Chairman of Auditors-Karen Hunka; Supreme Council Member-James Bench; Region 4 Director-James Marmol. Plus District 3 Officers: President-Clarence Pfeifer; Vice-President-Darlene Patty; Secretary-Linda Gonta; Treasurer-Stephen Gonta. Our Chaplain, Reverend Larry Kulick was Master of Ceremonies and concelebrated the Mass with Monsignor William Charnoki. The first star in the evening sky was spotted by Stephen LaPay. After dinner and the awarding of door prizes, the Pittsburgh Slovaks entertained.

- Submitted by Linda L. Gonta, Secretary



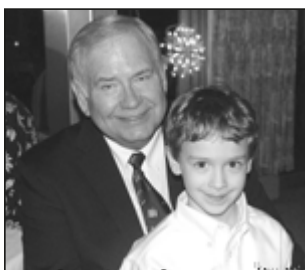
Andrew and Idka Rajec



George and Florence Matta



James and Patricia Marmol



Stephen Gonta and Stephen LaPay



Edward and Barbara Mizikar



(L - R) Idka Rajec, Geraldine Hricik and Patricia Marmol



Members and guests of the George Onda District - 111 in all - celebrated Stedry Vecer in Greensburg, PA, last December.



Craig Huska and Karen Hunka



Darlene and William Patty



Clarence Pfeifer and Helen Homulka



Stephen and Linda Gonta



(L - R) Reverend Larry Kulick and Monsignor William Charnoki

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Vigil Dinner in Fairchance, PA

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Roman Catholic Church held a Christmas Eve Slovak Vigil Dinner in Fairchance, PA on Friday, December 7, 2012, starting at 6:00pm.

St. Helen's Church Hall was transformed into an inviting, festive, and aroma-filled atmosphere for this traditional "Štedrý Večer" - meaning "bountiful evening." The evening featured a meatless

12-item meal to commemorate Christ's birth (12 items representing the 12 apostles). Dancing and singing and music was provided by The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PÁS). Slovak Christmas items were also available for purchase. All in all, attendees - including members of the FCSU such as National President Andrew Rajec and Idka Rajec and Region 4 Director James Marmol and Patricia Marmol enjoyed the celebration of Slovak heritage and cherished traditions.

- Submitted by Jean A. Thompson



Chewy Says Name Your Day in 2013

Hi, Kids (and all those "Young at Heart"):

It's me, Chewy. Did you have a nice Christmas and New Year? I sure did. I was hanging with my priateli (friends in English). Look at that pic of me in the crazy elf outfit. A guy can't have more fun than that. Hard to believe we're already sitting on top of a whole new year, but I thought January is a most excellent time to remember a really cool practice back in my homeland of Slovakia. See, back where I come from, in Slovakia, each day of the year corresponds to a person's name. Sweet, right? We're talking like two birthdays, people, because a name day is darn near as important as a birthday.

Used to be that the names for each day of the month were taken from the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints. Now, there's tons of name for each day. Ema and Jasna are two names for this publication date in January, January 30th, and Emil is one example for the last day of January. You can log on to the FCSU website for all the months of the year. Go to www.fcsu.com/namedays to find yours. Of course, if you don't happen to see your name listed, no worries. I'm pretty sure there is no Chewy day on any calendar anywhere.

But everyone's name has a story. Maybe someday we'll get together and share stories about how we got our names. Mine involves a certain "unfortunate incident" with the master's new slippers when I was just a pup (hey now, I was only a 2 months old, and my gums itched from all those pesky new zuby – teeth, you'd say in English – coming in!).

Until then, keep your ears up and your tail wagging!

Your friend,
Chewy



Chewy spent his first Christmas in America at the First Catholic Slovak Union. He had so much fun. Here he is in the elf outfit his new friends bought him for the 2012 holiday season.



Father Campion P. Gavalier

continued from page 2

The Church, which Jesus initiated at the beginning of his earthly ministry, he continues to complete as Risen Lord by sending the promise of his Father (Lk 24:49). It will thus be from the abiding presence of Jesus through his Spirit that Peter will again hear the words of today's gospel as he speaks to the crowds at Pentecost: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will now be catching men."

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

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

The Face of America in the World

Sergeant Patrick Lybert, age 28, was so devoted to his special needs brother, Noah, that he swore he would only marry a woman who was equally willing to welcome him into their home when their mother died someday.

First Lieutenant Ben Keating, the 27-year-old son of Baptist ministers, believed in being a servant leader to his platoon because he wanted to follow Jesus' leadership model. He was so invested in his faith that he brought a Latin copy of St. Augustine's "Confessions" with him to Afghanistan.

Those are just two of the many American troops from the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment (3-71 CAV) whose stories are told in the new book *The Outpost: An Untold Story of American Valor* by ABC News Senior White House correspondent Jake Tapper.

In the summer of 2006, the Army decided to build a small outpost in the largely-unexplored Nuristan Province of Afghanistan, which shared a border with Pakistan. The goal was to stop Taliban fighters and their weapons from crossing into Afghanistan. Also on the agenda was befriending the locals and investing in their communities. The good intentions, unfortunately, didn't lead to simple resolutions.

Tapper points out that this was a province "mythically untamed." Another problem was that the outpost would be situated in the deepest part of a valley surrounded by three mountains that could, at any time, "be filled with people who wanted to kill those stationed there." With impassable roads and minimal space for helicopters to fly in supplies or re-enforcements, more than one person noted that this was "a really bad idea."

Plans, however, proceeded anyway, and this is the story Tapper recreates. In profiling the various troops and their commanders, he always finds just the right personality traits and stories about their backgrounds, allowing readers to respect them and relate to them.

Of course, that heart and relatability is also what makes *The Outpost* a difficult read. When some of these soldiers get killed, you feel the loss. But the book should be read nevertheless because all the troops deserve to have their heroism and sacrifice recognized and honored. While stories about troops who misbehave or break the law often get maximum exposure in the news, the majority perform their duties nobly and well.

At the same time, *The Outpost* doesn't downplay the mental, emotional and spiritual anguish caused by serving in Afghanistan. From armed insurgents who use small children as shields—to soldiers under fire helplessly watching a brother-in-arms painfully bleed out after getting hit in the legs by a rocket-propelled grenade, the horrors of modern warfare are ever-present.

The Outpost is an alternately exhilarating, heartbreaking and maddening book—maddening because some of the poor decisions made by military superiors or those in Washington cost good soldiers their lives. But ultimately, *The Outpost* is about the troops themselves. It's war through their eyes and in their words. And it's a testament to the fact that the brave men and women who serve and sacrifice for the United States deserve our appreciation.

As First Lieutenant Keating writes in a letter to his father, "I am continually rewarded when I see eighteen-year-old boys bear up under pressure and carry themselves with the newfound pride of men. They fully understand that they are the face of America in the world."

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



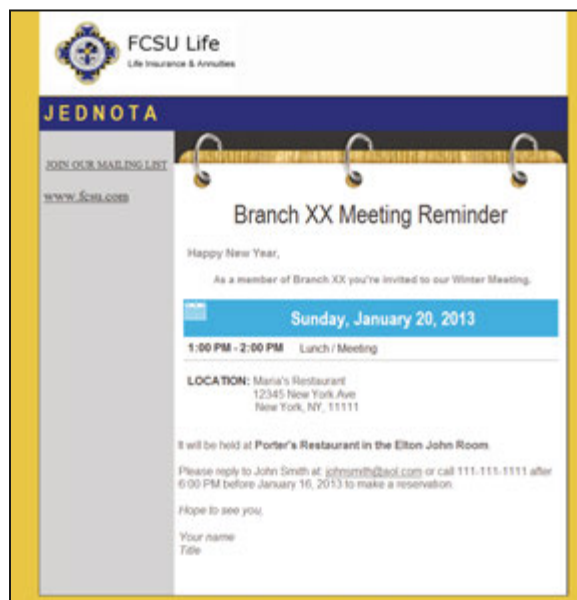
Attention: Branch Officers

New FCSU Support Tool Helps You Reach Out to Your Members

The Home Office of the First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that we are implementing a new support tool to help you reach out to your branch members, strengthening the good work you are doing promoting fraternalism within our Society with regular meetings and events.

When you submit a branch announcement to Jednota for publication, an email reminder will be generated from the Home Office to those of your members for whom we have email addresses. It will include all the information about your branch event that you have provided to Jednota (see above for an example of the format).

If we have your email address, you will be automatically included in this mailing. In order to make sure this is as effective a support tool as possible, please help us gather as many email addresses from your branch as possible – including your own. Please send all of your branch email addresses to info@fcsu.com or by regular mail to the Home Office: FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131. Be sure to always identify your branch affiliation (branch number and location) when sending in your branch emails.



We are pleased to invite you to the

FCSU National

Picnic

86 acres of beautiful grounds, with plenty to do for everyone: swimming, waterslides, tennis, softball, beach volleyball, basketball, bocce, soccer, hockey, miniature golf, golf driving range, and more. Food is served all day.

Watch the Jednota paper for more details!

Frogbridge
7 Yellow Meeting House Rd.
Millstone Township, NJ 08510

Sunday, August 11, 2013

Save the Date!



Accent on Activities



2013 International Tournaments

January 2013



Bowling Tournament

Plans for the 2013 International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held in Buffalo, New York, the weekend of May 3 - 5. This tournament is the second combined tournament, the Second Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament, with the Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union, National Slovak Society, and First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Registration forms can be under Fraternal Events at www.fcsu.com.

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

NEW THIS YEAR

Mixed entries are back! Mixed teams and doubles will be included as part of this year's tournament. All handicaps of those participating in the mixed events will be on the same basis.

In addition, those bowlers who no longer maintain a USBC average and have participated in at least 3 FCSU tournaments in the last 6 years will be able to have a handicap at this tournament. We will use your scores from the 3 tournaments you participated in to calculate your handicap.

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

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2013 International Bowling Tournament in Buffalo, New York. Hope to see you there!

Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held in Canton, Ohio, at the Zoar and Wilkshire Golf Courses. The tournament will be held the weekend of July 20 and 21. Details are still being planned for this event.

NEW THIS YEAR

Seniors (75 and over) and women have an option to participate in a 9 hole event each day. More details will be provided.

Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be a 12 - 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned. Judging is based on creativity.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

- \$50 - First Place
- \$30 - Second Place
- \$20 - Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, Branch number, age, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a **separate sheet of paper**. DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE

Mail your entry to:

Susan Ondrejco
Photo Contest
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

postmarked by October 1, 2013.



It's that time of year again! Our Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, May 3, through Saturday, May 4, 2013. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Saturday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor: \$50 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Individual, Branch, District, or Region name.

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

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 5, 2013.





(L – R) Grandma Becker, daughter Jamie, daughter Jacqueline, and grandson Logan Lazzara



Mrs. And Mr. Janusek



(L – R) Susie Hepner, Melody Bobo, and Kelly Bobo



The Rusiňák family



Val Vesely and Robert Tapak Magruder



(L – R) Pete Turner and Don Cummings

Branch 493 Annual Meeting

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, held its Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, November 24, 2012, at Mabenka's Restaurant in Burbank, IL. After the business meeting, attendees enjoyed a delicious ethnic lunch. Attendees prayed for Branch President Ed Kedzuch, who passed away in November (editor's note: see obituaries in this edition of Jednota), and welcomed our 15 new members for 2012.

The officers elected for 2013 are: President Joe Janusek, Vice President Don Cummings, Recording Secretary Valerie Vesely, Financial Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder, and Sgt. At Arms Pete Turner.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary



(L – R) Front row: John Golias, Center Director Mark Grasso, and Make a Difference Day Coordinator Eileen Wilson Back row: Keith Sabovik, Judith Salamon, and Kevin Sabovik

FCSU Honors National You Can Make a Difference Day in 2012

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

In honor of National Make A Difference Day in October 2012, members of the First Catholic Slovak Union – together with other fraternal groups including the Slovak Catholic Sokols, the National Slovak Society, the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, and the 1st Plavecky Society of the Holy Trinity – in the Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, assisted with the preparation and serving of the luncheon menu at the Center. Eileen Wilson, Coordinator, also presented Center Director Mark Grasso, with checks amounting to \$600.00 which will be used toward future breakfasts and luncheons for the guests. He, in turn, sent a formal thank you note to Eileen's attention, commending all fraternal members for their participation, saying, in part: "The staff and guests wish to thank you for donating to the Thomas Merton Center. We wish you God's peace for your generosity."



First Annual Ambassador Peter Burian Roma Scholarship Presented in Bratislava

The Slovak Honorary Consuls in the United States has the honor of joining Ambassador Peter Burian, now Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, in Bratislava, to present the first annual Ambassador Peter Burian Roma Scholarship. This 2012 scholarship was presented to Mr. Vladimir Gaspar, who will be studying at the School of Management in Trencin. This school is affiliated with City University of Seattle in the United States.

The money for the scholarship which includes the student's tuition, board and tutoring expenses is the result of the efforts of the U.S. Slovak honorary Consuls who, in collaboration with Friends of Slovakia, have been sponsoring silent auctions during the Annual Slovak Gala held in Washington, D.C.

In the past three years, the consuls have raised over \$13,000. In addition to the silent auction, individual donations from persons who wanted to honor Ambassador Burian have also contributed to the fund.

The scholarship was selected from among the top Roma students who achieved the highest academic grades in high school (gymnasium). Students who applied needed to complete an application as well as an essay on why they wanted to pursue higher education and what they envisioned themselves doing in the future. Mr. Peter Muzila, Massachusetts Honorary Consul and Martin Valko, Texas honorary Consul, reviewed the application and made the recommendation to the Embassy in D.C.

It is the hope of the consul that this scholarship can be awarded annually. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund may send a check made out to the US Slovak Honorary Annual Scholarship Fund. This can be sent to Cecilia Rokusek, 13325 Arch Creek Road, North Miami, Florida 33181.

In addition, items can be sent to the Friends of Slovakia for the Silent Auction to be held in conjunction with the Slovak Gala to be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Washington Gold & Country Club in Arlington, Virginia

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Branch 254.



(L - R) Joseph Senko, Branch 254 Member and US Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania with scholarship recipient Vladimir Gaspar

Due to overwhelming response,
Special offer extended through
March 30, 2013

1st Year Premium Waived on Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)



All applications must be
received in the Home Office
**postmarked on or
before March 30, 2013.**

- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



FCSU LIFE
6611 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@aol.com
www.fcsu.com

**Higher amounts available - please contact
your Branch Officer or the Home Office*

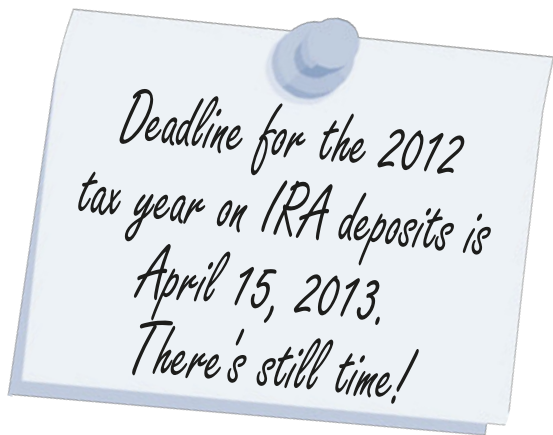
Where in the World Is Jednota?



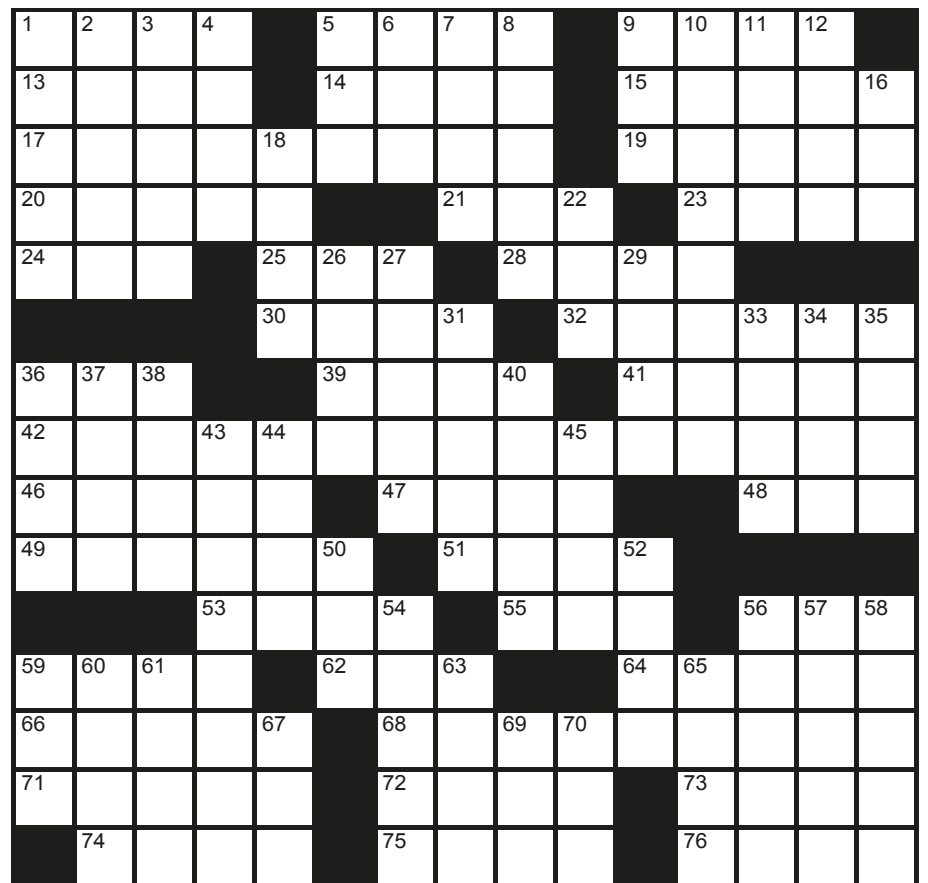
The First Catholic Slovak Union - often referred to as Jednota, which is Slovak for Union - is now licensed to do business in more states than ever!

Already licensed in the following 15 states: Colorado * Connecticut * Florida * Illinois * Indiana * Massachusetts * Michigan * Minnesota * Missouri * New Jersey * New York * Ohio * Pennsylvania * West Virginia * Wisconsin

The First Catholic Slovak Union has added the following 12 states to the list: Arizona * Georgia * Iowa * Kentucky * Maryland * Nebraska * Nevada * North Carolina * South Carolina * Tennessee * Texas * Virginia



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Barks
- 5 *The Thin Man* dog
- 9 Eve's man
- 13 Slender reed
- 14 Doubloon, e.g.
- 15 Stick-on design
- 17 Freedom fighter
- 19 Facial expression
- 20 Surpass
- 21 Gremlin
- 23 Blue-pencil
- 24 Peter and Paul, e.g. (Abbr.)
- 25 Astern
- 28 Deserve
- 30 Squad
- 32 Office stamps
- 36 Hail, to Caesar
- 39 Fires
- 41 Wine grape
- 42 The path can lead to this
- 46 Complete
- 47 Miami-___ County
- 48 Nile reptile
- 49 Art design
- 51 Multitude
- 53 Owl greeting
- 55 Dutch commune
- 56 Banking convenience inits.
- 59 Mexican money
- 62 Old hand
- 64 Binge
- 66 Stave off
- 68 Aberrant
- 71 To the point
- 72 Cigar butt
- 73 Spar

Down

- 1 Swinging toys
- 2 More or less
- 3 Broods
- 4 Dispatch
- 5 Function
- 6 Not worth a ___
- 7 Fatigue
- 8 Leg joint
- 9 Circulars
- 10 Insanity
- 11 Battery contents
- 12 Saharan land
- 18 Bearded animal
- 22 Craze
- 26 Foreboding
- 27 Levied
- 29 Deep in thought
- 31 Tablelands
- 33 Sicilian resort
- 34 Mythical birds
- 35 Escalator part
- 36 Astringent
- 37 Vote down
- 38 Diner sign
- 40 Move stealthily
- 43 Aquarium member
- 44 Peter, Paul and Mary, e.g.

- 45 Lawn starter
- 50 Policeman
- 52 It was wild, once
- 54 Believe in
- 56 Impressive display
- 57 Needle
- 58 Evaporates
- 59 Buttram or Boone
- 60 Roulette bet
- 61 Arid
- 63 Savvy about
- 65 Mountain lion
- 67 Spread, as hay
- 69 Sister
- 70 Honest one

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2013

Issue Date	Deadline
February 13	February 4
February 27	February 18
March 13	March 4
March 27	March 18
April 24	April 15
May 8	April 29
May 22	May 13
June 12	June 3
July 17	July 8
August 7	July 29
September 4	August 26
September 25	September 16
October 9	September 30
October 23	October 14
November 6	October 28
November 20	November 11
December 4	November 25

See Solution on Page 16

Part II of the 2012 P

People



First Place –
Michelle Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

“Boston, MA”



Second Place - Maribeth Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

“4th of July”



Third Place – Lt. Paul Tomanek
Harveys Lake, PA, Branch 381

“Revolutionary War”

Nature or Environment



First Place – Michelle Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

“Two Icicles”



Second Place – Beverly Waters
Pleasant Unity, PA, Branch 181

“Mother Bird Feeding Babies”



Third Place – Patricia Wojnar
Apollo, PA, Branch 35

“Bradford Pear Tree”

Photo Contest Results

Travel or Destinations



First Place – Rachel Popovich
White Oak, PA, Branch 276

“Butterfly Fly Away”



Second Place – Dorothy Jurcenko
Chicago, IL, Branch 153

“Bratislava Old Town”



Third Place – Danielle MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290

“Yellowstone National Park”

FCSU Fraternal Activity



First Place – John Jurcenko
Chicago, IL, Branch 153

“2011 FCSU Membership Meet”



Second Place – Maribeth Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

“Five Santa’s Helpers”



Third Place – Derek MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290

“Branch 290 Meeting”

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 -

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold its annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 24, 2013. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Ave., NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Mens Club in Father Dargay Hall.

The breakfast is free for all members of Branch 3, and the former St. Joseph Branch 226. Please - no parking in the school lot!

Faternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 19 -

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2013.

A Mass in honor of our patron St. Joseph will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Sts Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT.

Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award will be given to the following members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2012:

- Lauren Brainard
- Elizabeth Bruchanski
- Nicole Chichowski
- Wesley Kocurek
- Joseph Koller
- Lindsey Leska
- Robert Lorys, Jr.
- Edward Luchansky
- Salma Malik
- David O'Brien
- Stephen Panella
- Mark Philipp
- Brendan Prince
- Alyssa Pudill

This award recognizes the dedication and many years of service that Margaret Evancho gave to Branch 19, especially its young members.

We cordially invite our members to attend this meeting and our April 14, 2013, and June 9, 2013, meetings.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 89 -

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 invites all members to join us for our meeting and election of officers, with a luncheon to follow. Social time will be from 12:30 - 1:00pm. The meeting will be held from 1:00 - 2:00pm (approximately), with lunch to be served at 2:00pm.

Location: Alliot's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Cost: lunch for members is complimentary; guest's cost is \$20.00. Reservations: reservations must be made by February 12, 2013 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is necessary as the restaurant requires the number of people attending in advance. Payment: make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI, 53222. Meeting topics: some topics of discussion will be: Election of officers, donations, and 2013 activities.

Thank you.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 181 -

UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 9, 2013, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian Church on the church grounds in the St. Florian Formation Building, 4261 Rt. 981, P.O.Box 187, United, PA, 15689. On the agenda: plans for the new year.

Geraldine Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 259 -

STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 10,

2013, at the Christ Our Savior (Holy Trinity) Church Hall in Struthers, OH at 10:00AM. We will conduct an audit and discuss upcoming events for the coming year. All members are encouraged to attend.

The Officers of Branch 259 want to wish all members a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 312 -

BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 3, 2013, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck's home, 1121 Monastery Drive, Latrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of officers.

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 382 -

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, Scranton, PA, will hold its Annual March Meeting at noon on Sunday, March 3, 2013, in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Auditing of the books will take place before the meeting begins.

The agenda will include spring and summer plans, donations, District 17 news, and up-dates from the Home Office. Copies of the 2012 Annual Report to the Home Office will be available.

Light refreshments will be provided. All members are invited to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is president. Other officers are Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael Czankner, secretary; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 682 -

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2013, at 2:30PM at Material Research Laboratories, located at 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, OH, 44471. On the agenda: upcoming events for 2013. All members are encouraged to attend.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 743 -

STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 10, 2013, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30 am at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 796 -

EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday February 24 at 1pm in the basement of Holy Trinity R.C. Church. All members are invited to attend. We will be selecting delegates to attend the district meeting this spring. God Bless.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY, JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2013, at 1pm in the meeting room of Denny's Restaurant, 653 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

On the agenda will be election of officers for 2013 and district business.

Reservations are to be made by contacting President Marmol at (724) 937-0892 or Secretary Holly at (724) 438-0697 by Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Everyone is asked to contribute five dollars to the district to help cover the cost of their meal.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting Tuesday March 19, 2013, at St. Matthias Church Rectory, starting at 6:00pm. On the agenda will be summer activities, the casino bus trip, and open discussions of Jednota business.

Carla Peshek, President



Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage of Faith Offered in April

By Father Philip Altavilla

A special Pilgrimage of Faith Tour, sponsored by the Slovak Catholic Federation, is planned for April 14 - 26, 2013. It will celebrate some very significant moments in the life of the Catholic Church -

- The YEAR of FAITH, called for by Pope Benedict XVI, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the convening of the Second Vatican Council by Blessed Pope John XXIII and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Rome, Italy which was built through the hard work and dedication of the late Bishop Andrew Grutka and the Slovak Catholic Federation, joined by Slovak Catholic fraternal societies and many individuals from the United States and Canada

- The Jubilee Year in Slovakia, celebrating the 1,150th anniversary of the Greek brother saints, Cyril and Methodius, arriving to preach the Gospel to the Slavic peoples

As you consider joining us on this Pilgrimage, it is important to note that this is gathering is a Pilgrimage and not a usual tour. This means that, while we certainly will be visiting many historical and cultural sights, the primary focus of our gathering is spiritual in nature. We will be visiting many churches, celebrating Mass each day and other sacraments (as needed). This may also mean that, depending on certain events that may come into the itinerary even while we are in Europe - that will enhance the Pilgrimage dimension of our gathering - the itinerary is subject to change...even at last minute.

The best way to look at what we are embarking on is to see this as a special event or experience that is to unfold as we journey to Rome and special places in Slovakia that are connected to Saints Cyril and Methodius. In the end, we hope that the faith of those attending is strengthened, challenged and nourished.

The Year 2013 affords us some very unique opportunities to celebrate both our Catholic faith and Slovak heritage. We hope that, if you plan to join us, you will allow yourself to experience the richness of faith and culture that we hope to offer through the various places we will visit, people we will meet and fun that we hope to have together.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Should you have any difficulties receiving a reply to your inquiry, please let me know. Both myself and Danube International Travel are expected to get back you as soon as possible, in regard to your inquiry.

THANK YOU and God bless you!

CONTACTS:

Rev. Philip A. Altavilla
National President, Slovak Catholic Federation
Cathedral of Saint Peter
315 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
(570) 344-7231 or frfrosty@gmail.com

Danube International Travel
286 Route 59
Central Nyack, NY 10960
Phone: (845) 353-7792 and Fax: (845) 353-4798
e-mail: Danube@danubeintravel.com
(contact person: Anna Korcak)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage itinerary details as well as accommodations and costs, go to www.fcsu.com/fraternalevents



Attention: FCSU Mobile Members!



Use your smart phone to download a QR-code reader. Then take a photo of this icon for more information on our Society wherever you are - at home or on the go.

OBITUARIES

ANDREW A. HUSOVSKY BRANCH 173K – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Andrew A. Husovsky, 69, a former resident of Swoyersville and currently a resident of San Diego, CA, passed away peacefully on Friday afternoon, December 07, 2012, at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Diego, CA.



Born on July 22, 1943 in Wilkes-Barre, Andrew was a son of the late Andrew and Betty (Fialko) Husovsky.

Raised in Swoyersville, Andy was a graduate of the former West Side Central Catholic High School, Kingston, Class of 1961. Following high school, Andy went on to further his education at King's College, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry in 1965.

In 1968, while pursuing a doctorate degree from Georgetown University, Andy was involved in a car accident in Washington, D.C. when the vehicle he was driving was struck by a falling tree. Andy was paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. Andy endured months of physical therapy, and persevered to earn his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Georgetown a few years later.

Upon completion of his doctoral studies, Andy began working for the American Chemical Society in Washington, D.C. as Associate Editor of its magazine, Analytical Chemistry. In 1980, he relocated to Southern California, where he continued to work for Analytical Chemistry as a consultant for several more years. In the late 1980s, Andy changed career paths and obtained his real estate license, and began working in that profession.

Many people knew Andy as a talented artist. He began painting as a means of therapy following his accident and continued for most of the remainder of his life, producing many amazing works that grace the homes of family and friends across the country.

An avid traveler, he saw most of the United States and made several trips to Europe, including a visit to the Vatican where he met Pope John Paul II. He was an ardent supporter of the arts, and enjoyed the Broadway stage, the silver screen, listening to music, and reading. He was also a big sports fan, and a loyal follower of the Washington Redskins and the Georgetown Hoyas college basketball team.

Andy will always be remembered as a selfless, giving, and loving brother, uncle, and friend. While his physical presence will be deeply missed, his wonderful spirit will live on forever in the hearts of his loved ones.

In addition to his parents, Andy was preceded in death by his aunt, Mary Husovsky, who passed away in 2007. She accompanied him on many of his travels.

Andy is survived by his brother, Daniel Husovsky and his wife Charlene, of San Diego, CA; his sister, Betsy Perone and her husband Carmen, of Swoyersville; his nephews, Daniel Husovsky and his wife Shannon, of San Diego, CA and Andrew Husovsky and his wife Paula, of Murrieta,

California; his nieces, Crista Husovsky, of Murrieta, CA, and Michelle Perone, of Swoyersville; his great-nieces, Gillian and Jaclyn Husovsky, of Murrieta, CA.

Relatives and friends called on Sunday, December 16, 2012, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, at the Wroblewski Funeral Home, Forty Fort, PA funeral home and later attended the funeral which was conducted on Monday, December 17, 2012, at the funeral home at 9:30 AM, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10:00 AM in Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville, with the Reverend Joseph J. Pisaneschi, Pastor, officiating.

Interment with the Rite of Committal followed in Mount Olivet Roman Catholic Cemetery, Carverton.

EDWARD JOSEPH KEDZUCH BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Edward Joseph Kedzuch, President of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, passed away on November 2, 2012, at age 89. Ed was born the youngest of 13 kids in 1923 to Slovak immigrant parents in Chicago. His family belonged to Sacred Heart Slovak Church at Oakley & Superior Streets in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood on Chicago's west side. He served his country in WWII, and married the late Lillian Cihlar. A carpenter, Ed built his own house in suburban LaGrange Park, IL, where he and his wife were blessed with six children: Timothy, Donna, Thomas, Gregory, Philip, and John. He was the grandfather of thirteen, and great grandfather of eight; he had many nieces and nephews.

Ed joined Jednota Branch 687, the Cadets of St. Andrew Society, when he was a boy. He took over as president when his brother-in-law, Emil Derma, passed away. When Branch 687 merged with Branch 493, Ed agreed to become the president of the merged, stronger branch. Ed served as a delegate at past FCSU conventions, attended District 2 meetings, and participated in district activities. He loved the Chicago White Sox. The Catholic Mass of the Resurrection took place on November 5, 2012 at St. Louise de Marillac Church, in La Grange Park, IL, where Ed had served on the funeral choir. Interment was at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL. Ed was a long time member of Carpenters Local Union #1889 and the (Slovak) American Legion Post 1110.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary

JOSEPH D. CIBIK BRANCH 600 – VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph D. Cibik, 87, of Gilpin Township, died Monday, Jan. 7, 2013, at the Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights. He was born Oct. 19, 1925, in Gilpin Township, a son of the late Vincent Andrew Cibik and Anastasia (Vican) Cibik. He was employed as a roller on the Tandem Mesta Mill at Brackenridge Works of Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp. for 37 years and one-half years until his retirement in 1987. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the South Pacific Theater. He was a member of Christ the King Parish in Gilpin Township, the American Legion Post in Vandergrift and the

Retirees of the USWA in Brackenridge. Mr. Cibik enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, his pet dog, Jodi, and feeding wild game. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Leona (Wudkwyh) Cibik, who died Feb. 25, 2009; and his brothers, Milton S., John C., Vincent J. and Charles Cibik. Survivors include his son, Dr. Ted J. Cibik (LuAnn), of Gilpin Township; a brother, James M. Cibik (Sylvia), of Sarver; two sisters, Pauline Mravintz, of Valencia, and Mary Venis, of Lower Burrell; and a sister-in-law, Lucille Cibik, of Riverview, Parks Township. Friends were welcomed by his family from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 2, 2013, in CLAWSONS Funeral Home, Leechburg (724-842-1051), where parting prayers of transfer were held at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, January 3, 2013, followed by a Christian funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Christ the King Parish, Gilpin Township. Officiating was his pastor, the Rev. Joseph V. Trupkovich. Interment followed in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell.

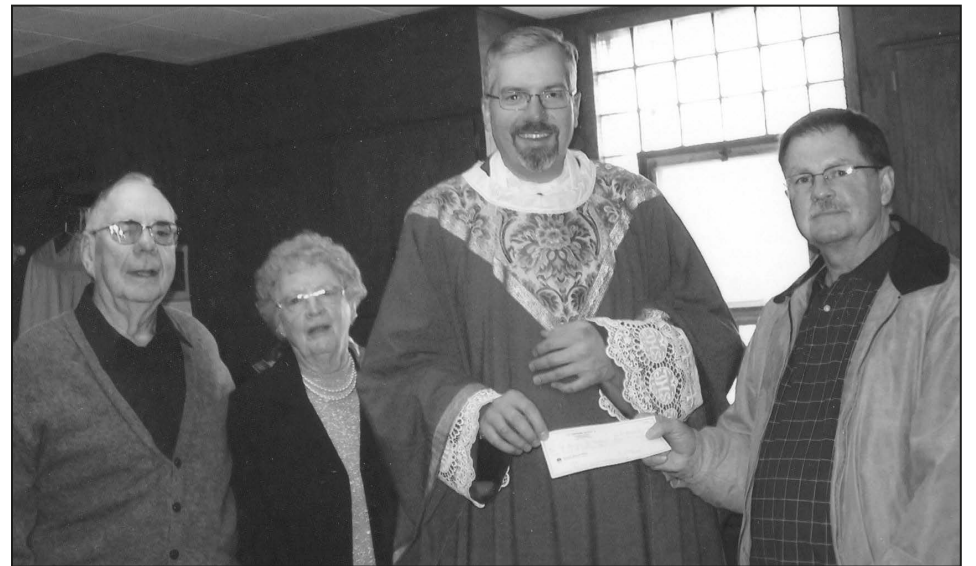
- Submitted by John Mago, Branch 600 Financial Secretary

SISTER BEATRICE BRUNNER, SCN

Sister Beatrice Brunner, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, died peacefully at Vincentian Home on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 at the age of 86. Sis-



ter was in the 68th year of her religious life. Sister Beatrice was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and entered the Vicentian Sisters of Charity from St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Perrysville, PA. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Mt. Mercy College, and a Master of Education degree from Duquesne University. Sister taught for 20 years in both elementary and secondary education in the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Mobile and Birmingham, Alabama. In 1967, Sister Beatrice was assigned to Fonthill, Ontario, Canada where she taught Science at Notre Dame High School for 24 years. After retiring from teaching, Sister Beatrice continued her ministry of service as Pastoral Minister to the people of Star of the Sea Parish in St. Catherine, Ontario, Canada until 2009. Sister then returned to Pittsburgh, PA, where she was part of the Sisters' prayer ministry. Sister had a zest for life and a quick wit. She enjoyed a good joke, and others would delight in the joy of her humor. Sister Mary Beatrice was predeceased by her parents, Anthony and Matilda; and a sister, Catherine. She is survived by her sisters, Rose and Loretta; and her brothers, Raymond and Andrew; and all her Sisters in community. Friends were received at St. Louise Convent on Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 2-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 9-10:15 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Louise Convent Chapel. Burial followed in the Sisters' cemetery on the convent grounds.



L – R: Branch 6 Officers Robert Elias, Sr., Stella Elias, and Paul Chismar flank St. Michael Pastor Msgr. Halfacre.

Branch 6 Supports St. Michael the Archangel in Streator, IL

The St. Stephen's Society, Branch 6, of Streator, IL, presented Msgr. Philip Halfacre, pastor of St. Michael The Archangel Parish in Streator, with a \$200 check for its Annual Diocesan Appeal goal.

Address Changes?

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

Sand Castle Winery Reflects Dreams of Slovakia

Gail A. Sisolak

In many respects Joseph Maxian, co-owner of Sand Castle Winery in Bucks County Pennsylvania, enjoys dreamlike childhood memories of Bratislava, Slovakia. Imagine sun drenched days wandering through rows of verdant vineyards hunting for ripe Muscat grapes; then sitting on the warm earth and eating, with sweet juice running down your chin.

This glimpse, while accurate, belies the hard work the Maxian family endured in mid-20th century Czechoslovakia and the strife which brought some members to the United States.

Joseph Maxian learned to grow grapes and make wine while living in Czechoslovakia. When Maxian's father was 56 years old, he lost his job as an attorney because he refused to join the communist party. In order to make enough money to support his wife and children, he sought work tending vineyards for local land owners. It was traditional in Czechoslovakia, for families to own small parcels of land on which they grew grapes, fruit trees or bushes. As the owners aged, or if they lost a spouse, they often found it difficult to keep up with the work necessary to make their land productive, said Joseph Maxian.

Using his training as a lawyer, Maxian's father traced the owners of run down; non-producing vineyards. He went to each owner and told them he would bring the plants back into good condition, one in which the owners could once again enjoy the grapes, if they would be willing to split the vineyard's yield with him. It took two to three years to get the vines back in best shape.

They had to work hard. After every rain, his father and two of Joseph Maxian's older brothers went out with backpacks; hand sprayers and treated the grapes with a fungicide. They had no weed killers, only a special hoe which runs just below the surface of the topsoil and cuts the roots of the weeds. They clambered up steep hills and over sharp rocks. Over time, the family acquired the management of several vineyards.

Hard work often makes for great wines, said Joseph Maxian. When grown in hardship, or under stressful conditions, grapes pull more minerals from the soil. This gives both the soil and grapes complexity.

In Slovakia, all of the wines made are white wines; Welschriesling, yellow Muscat and Gewerstermeiner said Joseph Maxian. The land owners mixed the vines together, the Muscat with the Riesling. As children, they quickly learned to tell the difference between the acidic Riesling grapes and the sweet Muscat.

By the 1960's the political climate in Czechoslovakia worsened for the Maxian family, and two brothers, Paul and Joseph, left due to the rise of communism. In 1968, said Joseph Maxian, the Russians invaded Czechoslovakia but the country was able to hold the borders open for about one year with minimum control efforts by the Russian government. By July 4th of 1969 that relaxed attitude was finished.

Fortunately, Maxian completed his college degree in geology in time. He and his wife married on the second of August, 1969. On August 13, Maxian and his wife left Czechoslovakia and by September, 1969 the government closed the border and prohibited emigration.

Paul and Joseph Maxian worked a variety of jobs in the construction industry in several states before landing in Pennsylvania. Like many immigrants before him, Joseph Maxian took one look at the rolling Bucks County countryside and thought of home. Paul and Joseph Maxian, by then joint owners of a construction company, decided to open a winery built in the style of Bratislava Castle as a salute to their homeland.



The Maxian brothers' vines are *Vitis Vinifera*, special seedlings cloned from European stock and chosen by master winemakers. Fifty-six young plants were painstakingly hand planted. Until 1990, all of the vines were pruned and buried in the winter, then uncovered each spring to ensure survival during the cold Pennsylvania winters. Their varieties of grapes included Chardonnay, Johannisberg Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir. All vines were selected from the Mosel Valley of Germany and the Burgundy and Bordeaux regions in France.

They produced their first vintage 1987 which yielded roughly 2,000 cases of Chardonnay and Riesling. In 1988, they sold the first bottle of Sand Castle wine. Sand Castle relies entirely on its own harvest to produce its world class wines, one of the few wineries exclusively growing European vines on the East Coast.

A visit to the Sand Castle Winery gives visitors an education in wine tasting without being stuffy. Joseph Maxian said one of their most popular wines is the non-vintage Alpine Spice made of Chardonnay and Riesling with a secret blend of herbs and spices. It can be served warm, ideal for chilly winter nights, and paired with smoked meat, smoked cheese or Virginia ham as a main course, or apple pie and vanilla ice-cream for dessert.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact:
 Sand Castle Winery
 236 Bridge Street
 Phoenixville, PA 19460
 (484)924-9530
<http://sandcastlewinery.com/>

Writer's Bio: Gail A Sisolak has been traveling the world and writing about her adventures professionally since 1999. You can find more of her stories at <http://midatlantictravel.wordpress.com/>.

February Fašiangy Dance in Milwaukee

The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI is hosting its traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street (103rd and Oklahoma Avenue). Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will be provided music for dancing and listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance at 7:30 p.m. We are inviting all Knights of Sts. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 of Milwaukee members to attend. For more information, contact Betty Valent at 414-425-6137 or Ellen Tavela at 262-893-7483.

Branch 670 Awards 2012 Scholarships, Accepting Applications For 2013

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is proud to announce the winners of the 2012 Scholarship program. Rachel Wald of Portland, OR is a freshman at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. She is the daughter of Ruth and Barry Wald.

Andrew L. Hyatt of Freedom, PA is a freshman attending the University of Pittsburgh, Titusville, PA. He is the son of Cheryl and Gregg Hyatt.

Branch 670 is also excited to announce that it is accepting applications for it's 2013 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three, one-time \$1000.00 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the award criteria. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had a policy, other than JEP, for at least 5 years, is current in their premiums, and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship. The applicant must be a senior in high school to qualify for this scholarship.

For applications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following officers, or you may email your request to 1 of the following addresses: Dorothy Petrus, 585 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033; Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net); Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: hyattfamily@comcast.net) ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2013

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (Teleconference)
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director (Byinvitationof the President via teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the November 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

The President updated the Executive Committee on the joint activities planned with the other Slovak Fraternal. He reminded everyone of the FCSU Bowling Tournament on May 3-5, 2013, in Buffalo, New York, and the Golf Tournament which will be held July 20-21, 2013, in Canton, Ohio.

The President announced that the National Picnic will be held on August 11, 2013 at FROGBRIDGE Picnics & Special Events Entertainment Park in Millstone Township, New Jersey. The President gave a brief description of the features that will be available to all our members attending the picnic. The park facility is large enough to accommodate our membership and provide a fun filled day of food and activities.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation by Teleconference and WebEx and the Executive Committee each had a copy of the presentation. Mr. White presented an extensive monthly transactions report and briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio. After the report, Mr. Larry White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led an extensive review on the current annuity interest rates and it was decided the rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the January Executive Committee Meeting.

SALES AND MARKETING:

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

The Vice President reviewed the 2013 seminar schedule. He is asking the Regional Directors for their assistance in setting up the seminars for 2013.

ADVERTISING:

The Executive Secretary stated he will continue advertising our products and annuity rates in our Jednota newspaper, mailings, and on our website. The Executive Secretary stated we plan to use more social media such as Facebook and Twitter so that our products may reach and be advertised to a wider market. The Executive Secretary further stated we will continue using the current e-mail addresses we have on record to advertise our products and inform our members of updated information. He also said that beginning in January, we will use e-mail as a means of notifying members of branch news, meeting dates, and encourage the branch officers to also access e-mail as a way to communicate.

The Executive Secretary reported it is mandatory for all independent agents to receive prior approval from the Home Office on all advertising.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**INVESTMENT UPDATES:**

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

The Executive Secretary further reported to the Committee on the Matlin Patterson (MPAM) Fund and gave a written report on the complete transactions for the month.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

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 2012:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 208,503.73
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 26,363.23
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 2,898.02

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

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



SS Cyril and Methodius Sister Honored For Commitment to Social Justice



Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M., a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius from Danville, PA, was recently part of a delegation of Women Religious who traveled to El Salvador to be honored for their commitment to social justice and to mark the 32nd anniversary of the martyrdom of 4 US missionaries who were assassinated by the Salvadoran military for their advocacy on behalf of refugees and the poor.

Thirty-two years ago on December 2, 1980, Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Ursuline lay volunteer Jean Donovan were martyred in El Salvador where they were living and working with the most vulnerable Salvadoran communities, especially children orphaned by the violence of the war.

The delegation, from November 29-December 6, 2012, was sponsored by SHARE Foundation and co-sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). The SHARE foundation is an international non-profit organization that accompanies poor communities of El Salvador as they work for economic justice and sustainable development. SHARE's work includes projects in El Salvador that support women's empowerment, providing access to education and opportunities for development to women and girls; leadership development, cultivating the skills of women and young people so that they can become leaders and empower others; and environmental sustainability, advocating and raising awareness about environmental justice. The delegation included 50 members including 40 women religious from 30 congregations, many of whom had served in Central or South America as missionaries. The SHARE Foundation presented the women religious with an award at the tomb of Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Discovering Our Slovak Roots

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.
The University of Maryland University College

Some of us know where our ancestors originated from in Slovakia, but I find that many people of Slovak origin, especially younger people, have little to no idea. Sometimes they may know their ancestors came from Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, or Slovakia, but have little clue about much else.

It is important to know our family's past, for it helps us to realize who we are and gives a greater sense of where we stand in terms of our much larger extended family. Finding one's family can also lead to discovering more about where they lived, and how they lived, what their town was like, and this in turn helps us to appreciate who we are, how much we have, and how we arrived at this point in our family's history. Here I will share my quest to discover my family's history and the long process involved.

My Personal Journey into Family History

I always knew that my mother came from Czechoslovakia, because she was born there and occasionally talked about the hard life she lived there during the interwar years of the 1920s and 1930s. We ate traditional Slovak foods at home, like *halušky*, *pirohy*, *holubky*, and *koláče*, but we did not talk Slovak. My mother only spoke Slovak with my American-born father when she did not want us to understand something. They both knew the eastern Slovak *Spiš* dialect.

My mother's parents, Baba and Dzedo (grandfather in *Spiš* dialect), were still alive when I was a child, and hearing Slovak when we visited them, but not understanding it, piqued my curiosity and led to further questioning. Most important was finding out what village the family came from, and in the case of my mother, she came from *Richnava*. I started trying to learn some Slovak on my own, but found it to be very difficult without formal instruction. Unfortunately, my grandparents passed away before I reached the level of fluency I would later acquire.

Getting only some answers to my many questions, I ultimately decided to pursue graduate studies in Slovak history, with the goals of learning the Slovak language and getting to know Slovakia itself. That is how I wound up studying history and Slovak at the University of Pittsburgh, where I pursued my doctorate degree.

When I first visited Europe as a young man in 1978, I went backpacking with my wife on a grand tour of the continent. To go to Czechoslovakia, which was communist at the time, we had to obtain visas, which were both expensive and time-consuming. We also needed to provide precise dates on when we would be traveling and the number of days. When finally entering the country after having spent four days in the beautiful and colorful Austrian capital, we were saddened to see how gray, dirty, and run-down everything seemed in Bratislava. No one spoke English, so I had to get by with broken Slovak and a little German, which some older folks knew. It was my first taste of communism, and I realized how fortunate my mother was to have left the country before World War II and the subsequent communist takeover in 1948.

After visiting Bratislava, we took the trip out east to visit the villages of our ancestors. One of my greatest experiences was visiting *Richnava* for the first time, and walking the ground where my mother and ancestors had lived, played, worked, and prayed. I count it among the most inspiring experiences of my life. I was able to meet my mother's girlhood friends, *Anna Čarnoka* and *Mária Kurillová*. During the same trip, we also met my father-in-law's cousin, *Ján Filip*, whose aunt (my wife's *baba*) had come to the United States in the early



(L- R) Front row: Erika Milenka, Maria Grondzakova; Back row: Milan Emil Dr Michael Kopanic Grondzak's

20th century from *Velbachy* (today *Bystrany*). Everyone welcomed us with open arms, and it felt very much like we had come home. Almost everyone in Slovakia seems to have some relatives that went to the USA or Canada.

When I returned home with stories about meeting people, it led to my mother writing letters to her childhood girlfriends, and she and my father would take the trek to Slovakia in 1981. I achieved one of my lifelong dreams of living in Slovakia and learning the language when I obtained an International Research Exchange grant to do research there in 1982-83. Living there at a time when virtually no one spoke English provided me with the opportunity to acquire fluency in the language and get acquainted with the country, the culture, and its people. The love affair has never ended.

After returning home in 1983 to finish writing my dissertation and start a family, I realized that I knew very little about our family origins on my father's side. *Dzedo Kopanic* had died when I was only 6 years old. My father said my grandfather told him that had come from Austria. But even though *Dzedo Kopanic* knew German, he spoke Slovak, as did my *Baba Juliana Kovalčíková*, who had died when I was only two years old. As a student of history, I asked further questions and figured out that they had really come from Slovakia, which was part of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. Studying the history, I found out that many Germans had lived in eastern Slovakia, particularly in the *Spiš* region, which the Germans called *Zips*.

I would not travel to Slovakia again until 1990, after the Velvet Revolution that overthrew communism. After attending a conference in Germany and visiting the Berlin Wall, I headed by train to newly organized Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. Euphoria was still in the air, as Czechs and Slovaks looked forward to a free existence and a return to Europe.

On this trip, I went to the village where paternal grandparents, *Baba* and *Dzedo Kopanic*, had lived - *Harichovce*. Before changing his surname after coming to the USA, it had been spelled, *Anton Kopaničák*, so I inquired from the local priest if there were any *Kopaničáks* in the village. Instantly he knew that *Mária Grondžáková* had been the daughter of *Ján Kopaničák*, and showed us where she lived. *Mária* welcomed us with open arms, and cried as she knew she had relatives who had long ago emigrated to America, but the family had lost all contact with them. Distance, wars, language barriers, and communist governments do that. We began discussing family history and found that our relatives all came originally from *Ruskinovce* and she knew that my *Dzedo* and his only sister had moved to America. In comparing family history, we found that our grandfathers were brothers, which meant that we were cousins. A long relationship has ensued to this day, and I visited her again in 1995. *Mária* and her husband visited us for three weeks in America in 1998, thus solidifying our ongoing relationship.

My father, mother, Aunt *Helen Firment*, and I also made a memorable trip together to Slovakia in 1997. It was the trip of a lifetime. My father got to learn more about his Slovak roots and meet his cousins. My mother and *Mária Kurillová* hugged and cried in each others' arms as *Mária* remembered how she and *Hanka* (a diminutive of *Anna*) had played and watched cows together as children. This was the human side of finding one's roots. We also visited my maternal *baba's* nearby village of *Hrišovce*, where we found even more long-lost relatives.

My mother passed away in 2000, but I continued to visit her girlhood friend *Mária Kurillová* until she also died in October 2011. She became the *Baba* in Slovakia for my two daughters, who accompanied me on four of my trips to Slovakia. We continued to keep in regular contact with the *Kurilla* family and with *Mária Grondžáková*, whom my girls view as their Slovak aunt who makes them feel at home and cooks some great *pirohy*!

My father accompanied my girls and me on one more trip to Slovakia in 2002. Although the intention was to visit relatives, this also served to help my daughters get to know their *Dzedo* that much better. The trip helped cement family ties both in Slovakia and here. Taking grandchildren to Slovakia has untold benefits.

We were finally able to visit my paternal ancestral village, *Ruskinovce*, which was nothing but an abandoned field. The communist regime had forced all citizens to evacuate with no compensation after the communist takeover. The whole heavily forested *Javorina* region

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Ruskinovce

Ruskinovce
coat of arms



Discovering Our Slovak Roots

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was turned into a military zone, and the Soviet troops used the former quaint village for target practice, obliterating its beautiful Catholic and Lutheran churches as well as all the houses. The end of communism and the endless efforts of some former village residents to seek just restitution led to the gradual reopening of the military area, and we were able to visit the small wooden chapel where Mass is celebrated during the summers. Two years later, I was fortunate to attend a Mass and enjoy a goulash lunch with other former Ruskinovce residents, who shared many of their stories and photos with me.

During my 6 trips to Slovakia during the first decade of this century, I learned more and more about my family. I met a distant uncle, Laci Kopaničák, who has since passed away. For several weeks, I spent some time doing research on my family and other historical interests at the State Archives in Levoča, a most charming town just 9 km from Harichovce. I was able to trace my family back to the early 1800s, and found no Kopaničáks prior to that date. The 1867 Hungarian census registered our family name in its German form, Kopanitsch. This information led to the discovery that my maternal great-grandmother, Elizabeth Schmidt, who hailed from a small Spiš German village, Zakovce, which sits just beneath the towering High Tatra Mountains. We visited Zakovce but could not find any relative remaining, and searches in some local town archives came up empty. But my work in the Levoča archives enabled me to pinpoint where my relatives lived, and even found property records about their home, stable, and livestock.

Using Technology

My quest to rebuild a picture of our family's past is ongoing, and new technology has helped facilitate the process. For instance, Ruskinovce has its own Facebook page, and its own website (<http://www.ruskinovce.sk/>). Members can post information, upload old photos, and exchange ideas about family, history, or any matters related to the village. Many former residents of Ruskinovce are still fighting for a restitution of their properties, and just commemorated in 2012 the 60th anniversary of the forceful evictions from their village. Their struggles form a part of the current history.

A family can also build a homepage for members to post and share information on Facebook.com or through Ancestry.com. We recently started a Kopanic family website and are using it to learn about our past. It is refreshing to see photos of my grandparents and other relatives which I did not know existed. Ancestry.com also offers links to U.S. Census data with valuable details that one used to have to pour through microfilm at a library to view.

The coming of the internet has greatly improved our ability to find where our ancestral homes are, and even to obtain some contemporary and older photos. Google searches will turn up some helpful websites if one has a village name, and it is spelled correctly. Google maps can show where one's ancestral village is located, and even a satellite view of the landscape. Wikipedia.com also offers some very brief information in English, even on small Slovak villages. If one searches with Google.sk, yet more sites will show up, though they will invariably be in Slovak. Wikipedia also has its own Slovak site, Wikipedia.sk, and it usually offers much more detailed information about a village. Many villages have also published their histories in short books, and frequently, a digital copy may be found online.

For instance, one may find through internet sources that Ruskinovce was called Rissdorf in German, and Ruzskin and Ruskinoc in Hungarian. Before the communists demolished the village, it had a population of 540, and 422 of these were ethnic Germans (78%). The village was founded in 1317 and was one of the original 24 Spis towns that went over to Poland as a mortgage to the Polish king from 1412 to 1772.

The Ellis Island Foundation also has an excellent website where one can check for information about one's relatives who entered in that port (See the website <http://www.ellisland.org/>). But one must be careful in seeking relatives, for spelling is often in the Magyar (Hungarian) form for both surnames and village. Thus my grandfather's name was entered as Anton Kopanicsak, using Hungarian orthography. The document lists the ship he arrived on the Slavia on September 20, 1906, and registers that it sailed from Fiume, an Adriatic seaport.

I should also mention the invaluable source that the Mormons, the Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints, now offer for public use on the internet. The Mormon Church collected a wealth of genealogical resources, which one may access through its set of regional libraries and via its website: <https://familysearch.org/locations/saltlakecity-library>.

Finally, I would encourage anyone interested in seriously pursuing their family history to join the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI). The society promotes genealogical research, offers tips to research one's family, sponsors national conferences (Chicago in October 2013), keeps a library, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, Naše rodina (Our Family). The newsletter contains well-researched articles about Slovaks, Czechs, Carpatho-Rusyns, Germans and all descendants of ethnic groups which belonged to the former Czechoslovak state. One may find more information at its website: <http://www.cgisi.org/>.

Hopefully, this summary of my own quest to find my family's story and the several websites mentioned will assist you our readers in your own journey of self-discovery.

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News From Slovakia

Zilina Welcomes European Commission's Approval of Motorway Stretch

Zilina, January 8 (TASR) - Zilina Self-governing Region Chairman Juraj Blanar on Tuesday welcomed the decision of the European Commission in December to approve the construction of the long-delayed Turany-Hubova (Zilina region) D1 motorway section - a project aimed at resolving the alarming traffic congestion on existing roads in the area.

"We're particularly interested in launching construction work on this section, because the traffic load on this corridor of European importance is unbearable. Around 25,000 cars pass through it every day," said Blanar, adding that Brussels has approved Slovakia's approach to assessing the environmental effects of the road on the environment.

"The fastest possible completion of a traffic artery within Slovakia's road network will certainly significantly improve the quality of life of people living in Zilina region, support industry and trade, and undoubtedly bring new investments and more jobs. This decision made by the European Commission will enable the construction to be financed with the use of EU Funds," said Blanar.

The Commission in December accepted Slovakia's method of environmental-effects assessment related to the Turany-Hubova D1 section. The report states that the construction of the motorway stretch between Martin and Ruzomberok (both Zilina region) won't have any significant negative influence on the integrity of territories defined as Natura 2000, and that the construction work can be financed from EU Funds.

STU Plans to Build Research Parks in Bratislava and Trnava

Bratislava, January 3 (TASR) - The Slovak University of Technology (STU) in Bratislava has presented to the Education Ministry draft projects aimed at setting up university science parks in Bratislava and Trnava, TASR learnt from STU PR manager Andrea Hajduchova on Thursday.

The call for projects came from the Education Ministry within the Operational Programme Research and Development. The parks are expected to become 'Slovak Silicon Valleys', in other words, hubs of technological innovation and first-class research that will bring together new innovative companies. The projects could be launched this year, and the ministry has set the deadline for their completion at 2015.

"The creation of a university science park will pave the way for better conditions for first-rate research, university education and effective co-operation with enterprises. STU already has excellent results and experience, even with establishing start-up and spin-off companies, but what's been lacking are finances," said STU head Robert Redhammer.

The draft project involves two regional centres. The first one in Bratislava's Mlynska Dolina should focus on information and communication technologies, electrical engineering, automation, control systems, nanoelectronics and photonics. Another site on Radlinského Street in Bratislava should serve as a branch for chemistry, industrial biotechnologies, environment and construction safety and reliability.

Meanwhile, the second regional centre in Trnava should be aimed at research into the spheres of material engineering, ion and plasma technologies, automation and the informatization of industrial processes.

The project is also expected to come up with a business incubator to search for innovative ideas for the creation of start-up and spin-off firms in the university environment. "It's important for Slovakia for young engineers to begin engaging in business activities by themselves. Otherwise, we'll remain a country with only subsidiary companies," said Redhammer.

Kia Plans to Make 290,000 cars and 490,000 Engines This Year

Bratislava, January 10 (TASR) - Car manufacturer Kia Motors Slovakia is planning to produce 290,000 cars and 490,000 engines in Slovakia this year, the company's CEO Eek-Hee Lee announced on this date.

Kia's manufacturing plant in Teplická nad Vahom near Zilina made 292,000 cars last year, reporting 15-percent year-over-year growth. The number of motors heading off their production lines reached 464,000, which represented a 29-percent increase y-o-y.

"Currently we're preparing for the production of a new three-door model 'pro_cee'd,' with plans to make 290,000 vehicles in 2013," said Eek-Hee Lee, adding that production of this model should be launched in this the first quarter of 2013.

In May, Kia is about to add a sport version of five- and three-door Kia "cee'd GT" to its model portfolio.

The company exports its vehicles all around Europe, first and foremost to Russia (22 percent), Great Britain (12 percent), Germany (11 percent), France (6 percent) and Italy (5 percent). Around 1 percent of the cars are bought by Slovak drivers.

Banska Bystrica and American Chamber to Organize Job Fair

Banska Bystrica, January 15 (TASR) - On this date, entrepreneurs from Banska Bystrica had a unique opportunity to learn more about current options concerning support for businesses from the Euro funds in the areas of innovative technology and employment for young people.

As TASR learnt from Banska Bystrica Mayor's spokesman Filip Rohacek, the Support Growth of Your Business taking place in Banska Bystrica is yet another result of the town's continuing co-operation with the American Commerce Chamber (AOK). Some twenty businessmen were in attendance.

"We've decided to make 2013 a year of regional development. We want to focus on regions where we weren't present before," said American Commerce Chamber's Kosice branch director Rastislav Puchala. "It has been central Slovakia that has slipped our attention until now. During the course of 2013, we'd be happy to organize a job fair and study visits for students in Banska Bystrica region as well as for any jobseekers."

Treasures of Slovakia Celebrates 25th Year with Fabulous 2013 Tours

Helene Cincebeaux

FCSU member Helene Cincebeaux celebrates her 25th year of leading Treasures of Slovakia Tours in 2013 by traversing Slovakia from west to east and north to south. A good portion of the cultural immersion trip will be spent in eastern Slovakia where so many American-Slovaks have roots to immerse in history, culture and traditions from folk dance, music, song and crafts to stories and legends and to learn about the life of ancestors long ago. Several days will be spent in western Slovakia and central Slovakia too.

The Treasures of Slovakia Celebration Tour, July 13 – 21, \$1,999, includes a folk festival, crafts festival, visits to grand castles, fascinating museums and heart-warming village parties. Trip leaders: Jozef Kaufmann, Slovak native and world-famed chandelier designer, and Helene Cincebeaux, Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International and editor of "Slovakia" for the past 26 years and the Slovak Pride data base with some 32,600 surnames and villages. Ancestral village visits can be arranged with an English speaking driver/guide; we're proud of our 98% success rate in finding long-lost family for our travelers.

The 2013 Slovakia Celebration Tour begins with colorful Detva Folk Festival. Enjoy music, song and dance galore and hundreds of craftspeople displaying their treasures. Something new the past few years is showcasing several folk villages with residents coming to share their local delights and traditions – providing utterly charming experiences as well as the best kolač of tour leader Helene's life (a considerable compliment from such a seasoned visitor to Slovakia). A "night lights" tour of Banská Bystrica's historic square will be included.

The tour then travels to eastern Slovakia to revel in historic Kežmarok's streets filled with craft demonstrations, folk dancers, a medieval parade and local delicacies at the International Crafts Festival. It's fun to buy treasures from the makers from wood carvings to jewelry, pottery, paintings and even musical instruments. Chair lift to magical Skalnaté Pleso in the High Tatras for spectacular views and on to a fascinating koliba, and enjoy dinner "shepherd's style" over a blazing fire served with flaming Tatra Tea and incomparable cymbal music.

Three nights in the Spiš Paradise allow for a visit to the charming walled Levoča and time to marvel at historic St. Jakub's Cathedral filled with Master Paul's exquisite life-like altars dating from the 1500s. Levoča is a lovely place to stroll the old square and learn the legends of the "White Lady" and visit the archives, a super example of Spiš architecture. A visit to Helene's favorite small museum spotlights the folk culture of eastern Slovakia.

Explore Spiš Castle with magnificent views and take a mini wildflower and butterfly walk. Top off the day with a party in a Rusyn village – we'll feast and dance! This is a trip highlight year after year!

Tour Slovakia's best skansen (outdoor museum of homes and a wooden church) at Stará Ľubovňa and on to a dramatic raft ride on the Dunajec River and hear the legends from the Górale drivers. Then a cookout with Goral foods and music!

Stroll Prešov's historic square and visit the Greek Catholic (in America - Byzantine) Cathedral with icons galore and the Roman Catholic Cathedral with its green marble decorated altar. Several nights in Košice - one of two cultural capitals of Europe in 2013. We'll explore Košice's colorful old town, marvel at grand St. Elizabeth's Cathedral and the very beloved Singing Fountain. A special treat is sampling the fabled Tokaji wine of the region.

Bardejov, the Pearl of Šaris, and another of Slovakia's walled towns, charms. St Giles Cathedral dominates the cobbled square and the tryptch altars are fabulous as well as a visit to the unique icon museum. The tour will travel through the verdant countryside to an onion-domed wooden church – a treasure from the 1700s with roses and saints painted around the low doorway and a gorgeous wall of icons. Then to Zobor where all the hosts for Slovakia are made and see its magnificent church with the sacred icon and heavenly grotto.

Stop in a Liptov mountain village to visit a craftswoman for hand-made dolls and lace. Enjoy a Celebration Party in a western Slovak village and take part in the wedding customs. Bratislava's old town is a joy with a local guide to learn the history and legends and see the quirky artworks that are making this a "must see" capital. Admire the view from newly refurbished Bratislava castle then on to Devin Castle with its Celtic roots and sample the rare black currant wine made only there. The Celebration trip farewell will take place in a historic village inn with local vintages. The trip is \$1,999 for the land portion and Helene will help travelers find a flight.

Two other tours are offered for the summer of 2013. **The 5 Countries, 5 Cultures Trip, July**



The traditional Slovak greeting of bread and salt was offered to Treasures of Slovakia tour-goer Perre DiCarlo at the beginning of a village wedding party. Note Perre also received Slovakia's most beloved drink to go with it - slivovica! He and his mother Terri found long-lost family in Zborov in the Saris area



Treasure Tours are often greeted with song at various villages. (R) Guests danced to village tunes after feasting on homemade Slovak delicacies. (L) Treasures Tour goes get serenaded by octogenarian Anton Bendik of Hrusov, an old friend of Helene's.

22 – 30, \$1,999 per person, travels the magical byways of Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria. Marvel at romantic Budapest; tour Heroes Square, Castle Hill, the historic market and stroll Vaci Utca in Old Buda. Enjoy an operetta & folk performance at our favorite carda restaurant.

Traverse Slovakia's scenic countryside to the majestic High Carpathians, locally known as the Tatra Mts. Enjoy a raft ride on the Dunajec in Pieniny Park. Eat, drink and dance Goral style in a picturesque Zdiar inn high in the Beliansky Tatra Mts.

Historic Krakow in Poland charms with the famed market of folk crafts, the flower market and grand cathedral. Board a mini-train to see Old Town sights from Wawel Castle to the Jewish Quarter plus the option to visit Auschwitz Camp and the Wieliczka Royal Salt Mine.

Follow the castle studded road along the might Vah River to Moravian Slovakia. Photo picturesque Milotice Castle with its elaborately decorated entrance, rare historic gardens and vivid peacocks everywhere. The interior looks as if the family just stepped out the door and the stories are wonderful. Watch a village vintner use a glass wine pipe to bring the wine out of the cask, then taste all the varieties and admire the neat vineyard. Dine in a Strážnice wine cellar in with local delights and magical violins.

Stroll ancient Mikulov's town square under the castle and on to see magnificent Vienna, the home of the Hapsburgs for 600 years and known for the music of Mozart and Strauss. Guided tour to Vienna's many sights, then free time to shop, visit a museum, browse the antiques quarter or tour Schonbrunn Castle. Party at a local heuriger with a traditional wiener schnitzel and strudel dinner.

The trip ends with a day in the magical Wachau Valley surrounded by wine terraces, castles and quaint villages. Cruise on the Danube on the Princ Eugen and then explore dramatic Melk Monastery and stroll the narrow lanes of medieval Durnstejn, wine and apricot heaven where you can sample apricot everything from brandy to ice cream. Dine on Austrian specialties at a family owned "gasthaus".

An Adventure Tour - Aug 2 - 15, \$2,499, travels to untouched corners of Serbia, Romania, Moldova,

Carpathian Ukraine and eastern Hungary. This trip begins and ends in Budapest.

Slovaks settled in Bački Petrovac, Serbia over 200 years ago. We'll enjoy the Slovak Festival featuring the village "naive" painters especially our friend and the most famed artist of all, Zuzana Holubekova, feasting on Slovak culinary delights including home-made sausages. Next day sight see Novi Sad's star-shaped Petrovaradin Fortress, St. George's Orthodox Church and a museum showcasing ethnographic diversity. On to leafy Sremske Karlovice to explore the winding ways, icon-filled churches and famed Four Lions Fountain. End with a wine-making family in their quaint outdoor tasting room, sampling rare Bermet.

Sibiu is the greatest of the 12th century Romanian walled citadels. A guided tour to old Sibiu includes the picturesque Bridge of Lies, 15th century Guild Towers and the fairytale Blue House, a baroque confection. We visit the lovely museum and its shop full of treasures.

On to untouristed Moldova and the capital Kishinev with its leafy lanes and the famed winery where we drive underground on streets named for wines and marvel at the wine fountains, one spouting red and one white!

Carpathian Ukraine's remote Kosiv and the nearby villages are "hotbeds" of Hutsul culture. We're invited to a small home museum in the country. The next day the Hutsul culture is on glorious display at the colorful Kosiv market. On to Kolomyja to visit the superb Egg Museum housed in a huge decorated egg, the Ethnographic Museum and antique shops. A parade of folk dress is on display at Sunday services in Kosmach's two churches.

Back to Romania's Maramures where village women sit outside their log homes to spin and weave. Photo opps galore in ancient icon-filled wooden churches dating back to the 1300s with their graveyards full of embellished crosses. The local markets are amazing and the carved wooden gates of Maramures, legendary. The unique Merry Cemetery is composed of hundreds of graves, many bright blue and painted with scenes from the deceased's life. Travel back to Hungary to swim in the amazing and unique cave pools.

Many travelers take advantage of the Prague add on. For more info on any of the Treasures Tours or the add on to Prague call Helene Cincebeaux toll free at 888 529-7150 or 585 342-9383 or write for a tour brochure to 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617. The website at www.our-Slovakia.com has trip info, click on the individual trip name for day-by-day itineraries, plus trip videos, photos and travel tips. For a sample copy of Slovakia send a stamped, self addressed envelope to Helene at the address above.

Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)

Gemer

Na juhu susedí s Maďarskom. Je to región hôr, hustých lesov, dravých bystrín, strmých horských lúk a pasienok, ale aj starobylej kultúry a vzdelanosti.

Jeho kultúrnym a administratívnym centrom je banícka Rožňava, rozprestierajúca sa medzi svahmi Slovenského rudohoria a planinami Slovenského krasu. V jej múzeu môžeme obdivovať a pokochať sa s technickým unikátom, tretím najstarším parným valcom na svete. V stredoveku sa v okolí ťažilo striebro a zlato.

K najväčším a najtypickejším krasovým oblastiam strednej Európy patrí Slovenský kras, zaradený do Svetového prírodného dedičstva UNESCO. Jeho územie (36.100 ha) tvoria samostatné planiny: Silická, Plešivecká, Jasovská, Koniarska, Horný vrch, Dolný vrch, ktoré sú oddelené od seba hlbokými kaňonmi. Najrozsiahlejšia je Silická planina (150 km²). Z kaňonov je najkrajší Zádielsky, ktorý púta návštevníkov vápencovou skalou Homoľa.

K jedným z mála zachovaných hradov regiónu patrí aj Krásna Hôrka. Medzi jej zbierkami môžeme obdivovať v hudobnom salóniku tri tzv. basetové rohy, ktorých je na svete iba osem.

Pre historikov a čitateľov dobrodružných či milostných románov je zaujímavá obec Ožďany so zrúcaninami hradu zo 14. storočia, ale najmä s kaštieľom zo 16. storočia. V ňom sa totiž narodila v r. 1680 pôvabná šľachtičná Juliana Geczyová-Korponayová, ktorá sa vydala za hradného pána Krásnej Hôrky Korponaya. Tam prišla podľa legendy za zradu krajiny a ľubostný bozk s príťažlivým grófom Andrassym v r. 1714 ako 34 ročná o hlavu. Sľali ju pred zrakom ľudu. Tento príbeh bol motívom pre Móra Jokaia pre napísanie populárneho románu *Levočská biela pani*, pojednávajúci o láske a zrade v časoch stavovského povstania. Atraktívny je aj chodník v Gemerskej Hôrke, ktorý má zaujímavé krasové útvary: kaňony, strmé vápencové stráne, priepasti, jaskynné otvory, planiny... a otvára pohľad na krehkú krásu ukrytú pod zemou.

Gemer je aj regiónom viacerých jaskýň: Ardovská, Dobšinská, Brezovská, Dmica, Jasovská, Ochťínska aragonitová jaskyňa (s vyše trojmetrovými brčkami sa považuje za najväčšiu podzemnú skvost na Slovensku a za ojedinelý výtvor prírody), Gombasecká, Silická (najnižšie položená v Európe), ale najmä Krásnohorská s unikátom, najvyšším stalagmitom na svete (32,7 m).

Medzi najvýznamnejšie ľadové jaskyne na svete patrí však Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa s dĺžkou 1368 m, ktorá je sprístupnená od r. 1878 a patrí k najnavštevovanejším. Všetky jaskyne na území Slovenského krasu sú zaradené do kultúrneho zoznamu UNESCO.

Rázovitá obec Rejdová je známa každoročným Gemerským folklórnym festivalom, ktorý sa vyznačuje pestrými tancami, spevmi a krojmi.

V Štítniku, starej baníckej osade, môžeme obdivovať veľký gotický kostol, ktorý patrí k našim najkrajším gotickým pamiatkam s veľmi dobre zachovalým vnútorným zariadením.

Región majú v názve aj niektoré obce ako: Gemer, Gemerská Panica, Gemerská Hôrka, Gemerská Ves...

Remeselnícky dom v Krásnohorskej Dlhej Lúke ponúka návštevníkom zaujímavé ukážky takých remesiel ako: košíkárstvo, hrmčiarstvo, tkanie plátna a koberec na krosnách, pečenie chleba v tradičných peciach...

Pozoruhodná je aj obec Klenovec, pozostávajúca z početných usadlostí a lazov nazývaných kolešne, roztratených po svahoch a dolinách ako aj každoročným folklórnym festivalom.

Občanov mestečka Ratková, ktorá bola v 15. st. sídlom husitských vojsk charakterizuje posmešný prívlastok „švaškári“, lebo v tamojšom nárečí slovo „čo“ vyslovujú „šva“.

Za pozornosť stojí aj Revúca, ktorá sa zapísala do histórie našich dejín, keď tu v r. 1862 vzniklo z dobrovoľných príspevkov občanov prvé z troch slovenských gymnázií, ktoré peštianska vláda nakoniec v r. 1874 zrušila.

Týmto regiónom opúšťame východné Slovensko.

Pokračovanie

Andrej Štelmák, Sliach



Slovensko patrí medzi najslobodnejšie krajiny na svete

Slovenská republika patrí medzi najslobodnejšie krajiny sveta. Vyplýva to zo zoznamu, ktorý vypracovala nezávislá organizácia Freedom House so sídlom v americkom Washingtone.

Organizácia hodnotila 195 krajín na dvoch stupniciach - politických a občianskych práv. Každý štát bol hodnotený v oboch prípadoch na škále číslami od 1 do 7, pričom Slovensko získalo v oboch prípadoch jednotku, čo je najlepšie možné hodnotenie. Krajiny následne organizácia rozdelila do troch skupín - slobodné (1 až 2.5), čiastočne slobodné (3 až 5) a neslobodné (5.5 až 7).

Status slobodnej krajiny za rok 2012 dostalo celkom 90 krajín, čo je 46 percent všetkých hodnotených štátov. Ďalších 58 krajín sa zaradilo do skupiny čiastočne slobodných a 47 krajín označil Freedom House za neslobodné.

Dobre v hodnotení obstála aj väčšina krajín susediacich so Slovenskom. Česká republika, Rakúsko a Poľsko dostali jednotku za občianske aj politické práva a Maďarsko dostalo od organizácie dvojku za úroveň občianskych práv v krajine a jednotku za politické práva. Status čiastočne slobodnej krajiny dostala zo susedov iba Ukrajina so štvorkou za politické práva a trojkou za občianske práva. Kyjev takéto hodnotenie dostal za rastúci tlak na politickú opozíciu či legislatívne uprednostňovanie rusky hovoriacich obyvateľov pred predstaviteľmi iných menšín.

TASR

Slovensko úspešné na nemeckom veľtrhu turizmu CMT Stuttgart

Slovensko sa stalo jedným z hlavných lákadiel pre turistov na prestížnom nemeckom veľtrhu turizmu CMT Stuttgart. S obrovským záujmom sa stretávali všetky podujatia, ktoré Slovensko ponúkalo na tomto veľtrhu.

Počas otváracieho ceremoniálu ako aj ďalších dôležitých stretnutí prvého dňa veľtrhu štátny tajomník Ministerstva dopravy, výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja (MDVRR) SR František Palko viackrát zdôraznil, že "cestovný ruch v sebe skrýva obrovský potenciál, ktorý tu v Stuttgarte chceme sprostredkovať aj návštevníkom veľtrhu. Nemecko je pre nás v oblasti turizmu jednou z kľúčových krajín," povedal F. Palko na tlačovej konferencii pre nemeckých novinárov, kde bol premietnutý aj film o krásach Slovenska. V ňom sa zástupcovia nemeckých médií dozvedeli ďalšie informácie o dovolenkových možnostiach v našej krajine, pričom počas prezentácie mohli degustovať aj viaceré lahodné slovenské vína. VIP hostia a novinári mohli na veľtrhu zároveň ochutnať tradičné gastronomické špeciality pripravené slovenskými kuchármi. Slovenský temperament a tradície priniesol do Stuttgartu zase folklórny súbor Lúčnica.

Keďže sa Slovensko stalo partnerskou krajinou tohtoročného veľtrhu, výnimočná pozornosť sa mu dostala už v rámci úvodného otváracieho ceremoniálu. Navyše v roku 2013 bude na Slovensku niekoľko prvotriednych podujatí, o ktorých sa dozvie celý svet. Najdôležitejším sú Košice ako Európske hlavné mesto kultúry ako aj Concourse Mondial - svetová výstava vín, ktorá sa po prvýkrát uskutoční v bývalom východnom bloku v máji v Bratislave. Tak ako po iné roky, aj na tohtoročnom CMT Stuttgart bolo Slovensko zastúpené Slovenskou agentúrou pre cestovný ruch. Možnosť prezentovať svoje produkty v národnej expozícii využilo v tomto roku 19 subjektov cestovného ruchu. Zvýšenú marketingovú a mediálnu pozornosť využívali MDVRR a SACR na predstavenie najobľúbenejších produktov pre nemeckých turistov, akými sú liečebné kúpele a historické mestá.

TASR

Slováci zarábajú menej ako Česi

Slováci si môžu dovoliť kúpiť zo svojho platu menej tovarov či služieb ako väčšina Európanov. Dvadsať rokov od vzniku samostatných štátov Slovenskej republiky a Českej republiky sú pritom platy na Slovensku nižšie ako mzdy v Česku. "Nezarábame ani 80 % z toho čo Česi," podotkla analytička Poštovej banky Eva Sadovská. Takýto výsledok vyplynul z prepočtov na základe údajov slovenského a českého štatistického úradu za rok 2011. "Kým Slovák zarobil v 1. polroku 2011 v priemere 786 eur, Čech až 994 eur," vyčíslila Sadovská.

Nožnice medzi platmi Slovákov a Čechov sú tak stále otvorené, aj keď menej ako pred 10 rokmi. Podľa prepočtov sa Slováci za posledných 10 rokov najviac vzdialili od českých plátov v roku 2002 a najbližšie k nim boli v roku 2009. Čo sa týka porovnania cien medzi Slovenskom a Českou republikou, západní susedia majú ceny vyššie ako sú v SR. Ale za najbežnejšie spotrebné výdavky ako potraviny, oblečenie či spotrebnú elektroniku sa platí v Česku menej. Česi tiež spravidla aj lacnejšie tankujú. V prepočte na eurá zaplatia menej za liter natankovaného benzínu aj za liter nafty.

Aj parameter počtu ľudí bez práce sa na Slovensku vyvíja horšie ako v Českej republike. Česká republika vykazuje za október 2012 harmonizovanú nezamestnanosť na úrovni 7.3 %, na Slovensku táto miera predstavuje 14.0 %. Inak povedané, kým u susedov Čechov je nezamestnaným každý štrnásty ekonomicky aktívny obyvateľ, tak na Slovensku je to už každý siedmy. Na porovnanie, priemer EÚ sa nachádza na úrovni 10.7 %.

TASR

Oznamy o konaní spoločenských podujatí

Slovenský ples v New Yorku bude 9. februára 2013

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko pre New York a okolie (SAKS) oznamuje, že nasledujúci ples Strediska bude v sobotu 9. februára 2013. Ples bude znova v priestoroch Prestížnej inštitúcie New York Athletic Club. Organizačný výbor plesu pozýva slovenskú verejnosť.

Dalšie informácie o plese a o Stredisku možno získať na webstránke strediska: www.SlovakAmericanCC.org alebo od predsedníčky Zuzky Krčmarovej, tel. 973-357-1209.

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

20. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Milwaukee, WI usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 9. februára 2013 v Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street v Greenfield, Wisconsin. Začiatok zábavy je o 6.00 do 11.00 hodiny večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 večer. Vstupné je \$ 5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty Valent – tel. č. (414) 425 - 6137, alebo Ellen Tavela- tel. č. (262) 893 -7483.

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti

Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 10. marca 2013 o 1.00 hodine odpolednia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street, New York City. Podujatie sa koná v spolupráci Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana a Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského katolíckeho sokola a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov.

V minulosti dosiahlo Slovensko samostatnosť dvakrát: 14. marca 1939 a po dlhom čase boja za slobodu opäť dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie slovenského národa na jeho ceste k sebaurčeniu a štátnej samostatnosti.

Presný program bude k dispozícii pred oslavou. Počas programu bude možnosť zakúpiť slovenského jedla a rôznych nápojov v otvorenom bare. O bližšie informácie volajte: Milan a Henrieta Dait (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084. Vstup je voľný.

Svätí Cyril a Metod

Horliví hlásatelia božieho slova a verní pastieri cirkvi

Knihu Ján Hnilica napísal pri príležitosti 1100. výročia úmrtia sv. Metoda a v prvom vydaní vyšla v zahraničí. Publikácia je výsledkom dôsledného štúdia historických materiálov. Zaoberá sa životom a činnosťou sv. Cyrila a Metoda počnúc ich rodiskom. Skúma pôvod Konštantína a Metoda, ich mladosť, štúdiá, pôsobenie, misiu na Morave, cesty do Ríma, smrť sv. Cyrila, Metodovo problematické účinkovanie ako arcibiskupa až po jeho smrť a vyhnanie Metodových žiakov. Autor dej završuje obnovením cirkevnej samosprávy v Moravskej ríši na žiadosť Mojmir II. ako dovŕšenia vývoja samostatnej slovenskej cirkevnej provincie, čo bolo sprevádzané latinizáciou liturgie a písma. Prepracovaná stať Osudy hrobu a pozostatkov sv. Cyrila podrobne dokumentuje fakty súvisiace s miestom posledného odpočinku sv. Cyrila. Nové vydanie rozširuje poznatky o hrobe sv. Cyrila pod Bazilikou sv. Klementa v Ríme, kde existuje viacero hypotéz jeho umiestnenia. Zároveň je doplnená kapitola o pôsobení solúnskych bratov v Ríme. Kniha má bohatú dokumentačnú prílohu. Uverejnené dokumenty sú rozšírené o pápežský dekrét Egregiae virtuti, ktorým pápež Ján Pavol II. vyhlásil sv. Cyrila a Metoda za spoluprátorov Európy. Na rozdiel od 2. vydania na záver je výberová bibliografia z cyrilo-metodskej problematiky. Kniha vychádza vo Vydavateľstve Spolku slovenských spisovateľov, 2012 a možno si ju objednať na adrese: www.martinus.sk



Ako sa stať členom Matice slovenskej

Bližšie či ďalej, no stále ďaleko za hranicami rodnej vlasti žije nás, Slovákov, niekoľko tisícok. Spojivkom, ktoré stieralo rozmer nekonečných diaľav bola i je Matica slovenská. Naši krajanovia sa často pýtajú ako byť s MS viac prepojení, **ako sa stať jej členom?**

Na túto otázku odpovedá riaditeľ Krajanského múzea Matice slovenskej, Mgr. Daniel Zemančík.

Otázka členstva v Matice slovenskej (ďalej len MS) je riešená v Stanovách, Hlava III, Členstvo v Matici slovenskej. Členom MS sa môže stať každý občan SR ako i občan iného štátu. Členstvo v MS môže byť **individuálne (1) a kolektívne (2)**.

Riadnym členom MS sa stane fyzická osoba na základe jej prihlášky, v ktorej svojim podpisom vyjadruje súhlas so stanovami a programom MS. Prihlášku podá príslušnému Miestnemu odboru MS. Ak v mieste bydliska a okolí Miestny odbor nie je, **môže prihlášku podať priamo v Členskom ústredí MS v Martine (aj elektronickou poštou)**.

Zakladajúcim a podporujúcim členom MS sa môže stať každý občan SR, ako aj občan iného štátu. Podmienkou je zaplatenie členského poplatku, najmenej v sume schválenej výborom MS (500€). Po zaplatení finančnej čiastky obdrží záujemca osvedčenie z Členského ústredia. U podporujúceho člena ide o čiastku 100€.

Cestným členom MS sa po schválení Valného zhromaždenia MS môže stať každá osobnosť, ktorá sa mimoriadne mierou zaslúžila o rozvoj slovenského národného kultúrneho života a MS.

Kolektívnym (2) členom MS sa môže stať právnická osoba alebo iné zastúpenie bez právnej subjektivity (napr. súbory, kluby a pod.), so sídlom na Slovensku, občianske združenia, **krajanské spolky a organizácie Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí** na základe dohody o kolektívom členstve medzi kolektívom a MS.

Bližšie informácie o členstve v MS, ako aj tlačivá, postupy a prihlášku, môžete nájsť na internetovej stránke www.matica.sk – Členské ústredie – Ako sa stať členom MS. Veríme, že sa do okruhu maticiarov pridáte i Vy a spoločne podporíme to, čo je nám vlastné, to, čo patrí iba nám, malému národu spod Tatier – Slovákom.

Mgr. Daniel Zemančík
riaditeľ KM MS

Slováci v hlavnom meste štátu New Jersey

Slovenský kostol sv. Michala Archanjela v hlavnom meste štátu New Jersey – v Trentone, bol kedysi silným strediskom slovenského života v Trentone a na okolí. Postupom času sa počet Slovákov v tejto oblasti znižoval a tiež pre nedostatok slovenských kňazov, táto farnosť stratila svoj slovenský charakter a stala sa teritoriálnou farnosťou.

Pred desiatimi rokmi však začal slúžiť v tomto kostole slovenské sv. omše o. Vladimír C.O. zo Spoločnosti sv. Filipa Néri v Tappan, N.Y., odkiaľ dochádza do Trentonu každú nedeľu. Toto 10. výročie si farníci pripomenuli v nedeľu 3. novembra na slávnostnej sv. omši a hlavne na veselom bankete po jej skončení.

Farnosť sv. Michala Archanjela bola založená v roku 1921. Vo farskom kostole (1130 Brunswick Ave, Trenton) sa konajú slovenské sv. omše každú nedeľu o 10. hodine ráno.

Stovky Slovákov sa po vstupe do Schengenu vystaňovali do Rakúska

Po zrušení hraničných kontrol medzi Slovenskom a Rakúskom odišlo za krajším bývaním do alpskej krajiny mnoho Slovákov. V obciach a mestečkách, ktoré sú len kúsok od Bratislavy, si užívajú ich ticho, bezpečnosť a cestovanie do Bratislavy bez kolapsov v doprave.

“Bývame v Nickelsdorfe už asi dva roky, starosta ponúkol pozemky na predaj aj slovenským záujemcom. A keďže to bolo za výhodnú cenu, tak sme sa rozhodli postaviť tam dom. Domáci nás prijali dobre, začlenili sme sa bez problémov, syn tam bude chodiť do škôlky,” hovorí Slovenka Eva. Do práce v Bratislave dochádza každý deň. Pochvaľuje si rakúsky sociálny a zdravotnícky systém, čisté a upravené obce, ich bohatý kultúrny život, ale aj nižšie úrokové sadzby úverov v rakúskych bankách a menej byrokracie na úradoch. Nižšie ceny pozemkov ako v ostatných “satelitoch Bratislavy” boli dôvodom sťahovania aj pre študentku Kristínu a jej rodičov, ktorí žijú v obci Wolfsthal. V Rakúsku trávili veľa voľného času aj predtým a tak pre nich nebol problém presťahovať sa.

“Ceny nehnuteľností v pohraničných obciach Rakúska a Maďarska sú výrazne nižšie ako v Bratislave,” tvrdí Daniela Danihel Rázová, riaditeľka spoločnosti BOND Reality. Druhým hlavným dôvodom je kultúra bývania. Upozorňuje však, že treba zvážiť aj nevýhody, ktoré bývanie za hranicou môže priniesť. Treba ovládať jazyk, poznať daňové povinnosti vlastníka nehnuteľnosti, problémom môže byť cestovanie za prácou, do školy, telefonovanie či televízny signál. “Nehuteľnosť v zahraničí je okrem toho ťažšie likvidná, pre prípad, že ju potrebujete rýchlo predat’. Problém môže nastať aj v prípade, že si chcete zobrať úver v slovenskej banke, ktorá nedovoľuje založiť nehnuteľnosť v zahraničí,” povedala Danihel Rázová. Eva upozorňuje na vyššie ceny služieb a poplatkov v bankách, vyššie koncesionárske poplatky aj drahšie zákonné a havarijné poistenie automobilov. Mesačne sa navyše platí aj cestná daň. Napríklad za Citroën C3 treba podľa Evy každý mesiac zaplatiť za zákonné poistenie a cestnú daň približne 52 eur.

Z centra Bratislavy do mestečka Hainburg an der Donau je to asi 20 minút cesty autom. Žije v ňom približne 6000 ľudí, podľa informácií z tamojšieho úradu je 1075 z nich Slovákov. Na konci roku 2008 tam žilo 475 ľudí zo Slovenska. O niečo južnejší Prellenkirchen hlási 120 Slovákov. Od októbra 2007, kedy Slovensko vstúpilo do Schengenu, stúpol počet Slovákov vo Wolfsthal z 32 na dnešných 223. V súčasnosti ho s Bratislavou spája aj autobus bratislavskej mestskej hromadnej dopravy. “Nemáme žiadne problémy, otázkou nie je, kto má aký pas,” hovorí o spolužití v obci jej starosta Gerhard Schödinger. Sám sa naučil po slovensky, “pretože sa chce rozprávať so všetkými obyvateľmi”.

TASR

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• V historickej budove Slovenského národného divadla sa 13. ročník Plesu v opere konal v sobotu 12. januára. Každý pár, ktorý prijal pozvanie na Ples, finančne prispel na technické zariadenie operačných sál v novom pavilóne Detského kardiocentra v Bratislave, jediného zariadenia na Slovensku pre liečbu detí s ochorením srdca. K pomoci Nadácii Detského kardiocentra sa opäť pripojilo všetkých tristo párov hostí a mnohí z nich venovali nielen minimálny príspevok 500 eur, ale rozhodli sa pomôcť ďalšími dobrovoľnými príspevkami. Slávnostným úderom na gong ples otvorila britská speváčka Sharleen Spiteri.

• **Tri** slovenské automobilky - Volkswagen, PSA a Kia - vyprodukovali za minulý rok rekordný počet vyše 900,000 automobilov. Slovensko si tak aj naďalej udržuje pozíciu medzi významnými svetovými producentmi automobilov. Napriek pretrvávajúcej svetovej kríze je predpoklad ďalšieho rastu produkcie. Zvyšovanie výroby sa pozitívne odzrkadlilo aj na raste zamestnanosti v tomto priemyselnom odvetví a pribudlo približne 3,000 nových pracovných miest. S počtom 166 vyrobených automobilov na 1000 obyvateľov patrí Slovensko k európskej špičke. Podľa predstaviteľov ZAP rozhodujúcim smerovaním tak v tomto, ale aj ďalších rokoch bude realizácia strategických zámerov, a to najmä v oblasti odborného vzdelávania. Automobilky už v súčasnosti pociťujú nedostatok odborne vzdelaných absolventov škôl rôznych stupňov.

• **Lyžovačka** na Slovensku priláka počas tohtoročnej zimy opäť veľa ruských a ukrajinských turistov. Ich počty sa v tomto roku oproti vlaňajšku ešte zvýšia. Odhad množstva návštevníkov z Ruska a Ukrajiny sa dá totiž vyčítať z vydávaných víz. Prvé charterové lietadlo s dovolenkármí pristálo na popradskom letisku 27. decembra a prvý ruský charter 29. decembra. Počas sezóny by ich malo priletieť minimálne 12. Okrem toho viacerí ruskí a ukrajinskí turisti pricestujú do slovenských lyžiarskych stredísk individuálne.

• V rámci krajín V4 majú Slováci tretie najnižšie platy. Podľa štatistik Eurostatu bol v roku 2010 priemerný plat obyvateľa SR 777 eur mesačne. Poliari zarábali 812 eur, pričom Maďari len 775 eur. Zarábali tak najmenej v regióne. Najlepšie zarábajúcimi v rámci krajín V4 sú Česi, ktorých priemerná mesačná mzda dosiahla 916 eur, informovala o tom Poštová banka. Priemerne zarábajúci Švajčiari v roku 2010 zarobil 4,601 eur, čo bolo najviac v rámci celej Európy. V prípade krajín Európskej únie sú najlepšie zarábajúcim národom Dáni. Priemerná mesačná mzda dánskeho zamestnanca predstavovala 4,276 eur. Práve Dánsko je však zároveň tou krajinou únie, kde sa žije najdrahšie. Spomedzi takzvaných nových členských krajín EÚ sa najviac zarába v Slovinsku. Priemerná mesačná mzda slovinského zamestnanca v roku 2010 bola 1,502 eur. Najmenej sa zarába v najmladších členských krajinách únie. Priemerná mesačná mzda bulharského zamestnanca predstavovala len 347 eur. O približne 100 eur viac si na výplatnej páske našli v roku 2010 pracujúci Rumuni.

• **Spojnice** západného a východného Slovenska by mala byť dokončená v roku 2018. Takýto termín dostavby diaľnice D1 z Bratislavy do Košíc odhaduje minister Ján Počiatek (Smer-SD). Hoci plán výstavby diaľnic, ktorý je v súčasnosti v medzirezortnom pripomienkovom konaní, oficiálne hovorí o roku 2019, Počiatek chce diaľnicu o rok skôr. Za svoju najväčšiu výzvu do budúceho roka tak považuje výstavbu diaľnic. V prípade diaľnice do Košíc pritom najväčší otáznik visel nad úsekom Turany – Hubová. Európskej komisii sa nepozdával vplyv diaľnice na životné prostredie. Pred dvomi týždňami ale v tejto veci definitívne rozhodla a prijala opatrenia Slovenska, ktorými sa majú zmierniť dopady diaľnice na prírodu. Pri diaľnici tak nie je nutné meniť trasu, do projektu sa majú len zapracovať úpravy. Počiatek by chcel tento úsek začať stavať v roku 2014.

• **Americká** ministerka zahraničných vecí Hillary Clintonová bola prvá, ktorá poslala svojmu slovenskému partnerovi Miroslavovi Lajčákovi blahoprajný telegram k 20. výročiu vzniku Slovenskej republiky. Podľa Clintonovej si Spojené štáty vysoko vážia silné partnerstvo medzi oboma krajinami, ktoré je založené na vzájomnom záväzku k ochrane slobody a ľudských práv, podporením rastúcimi hospodárskymi a obchodnými vzťahmi. Zároveň sú hrdé na to, že ako blízki spojenci v NATO a partneri môžu spoločne pracovať na vytváraní bezpečnej budúcnosti pre ľudí v Afganistane. Výzdvihla tiež ochotu Slovenska zdieľať svoje skúsenosti z prechodu k demokracii s inými vznikajúcimi demokraciami po celom svete. Na záver poprialala SR ďalšie úspechy.

• **Slovenská** republika by sa mala v júni tohto roku stať dejiskom vojenského cvičenia interoperability logistických systémov a štandardizačných postupov logistiky Capable Logistics 2013. Na území Slovenska by malo na tento účel pricestovať do 920 príslušníkov zahraničných ozbrojených síl a do 470 kusov vojenskej techniky. Celkom by sa malo na území Slovenska uskutočniť v priebehu prvých šiestich mesiacov tohto roka 20 cvičení za účasti zahraničných vojakov. Pricestovať by mali napríklad príslušníci českej, nemeckej, poľskej či americkej armády. Ministerstvo obrany tiež počítá s vyslaním slovenských vojakov na cvičenia v zahraničí. Najviac by sa ich mohlo zúčastniť na spoločnom výcviku roty pre operáciu Althea v Bosne a Hercegovine, a to do 125 vojakov. Ďalší príslušníci slovenských ozbrojených síl by sa mali zúčastniť na cvičení detekcie biologických zbraní či spoločných taktických leteckých operácií.

• **Tri** firmy z oblasti oceliarstva, gumárstva a elektrotechniky neprídu po zvažovaní podnikať na Slovensko. Podľa informácií ich odradila kríza a nedostatočná výška štátnej pomoci. Krajina tak prišla o tri veľké investície, ktoré mali dať prácu celkovo až 3,000 ľuďom. Podľa denníka Hospodárske noviny však malo ísť o nemecký oceliarsky gigant ThyssenKrupp, ktorý zvažoval postavenie závodu v Prešove. Druhým mal byť indický investor podnikajúci v gumárstve a tretím francúzsky pôsobiaci v obchode s elektrotechnikou. Všetci traja mohli reinvestovať 250 miliónov eur.

• **Expremiérka** Iveta Radičová potvrdila, že 10. januára začína definitívne pracovať vo Veľkej Británii. "Budem pôsobiť v rámci medzinárodného projektu Médiá a politika a že počas prvých týždňov bude prednášať aj na iných univerzitách, spresnila. Po príchode do Oxfordu odlieta na univerzitu do Mníchova, následne do Birminghamu a na iné inštitúcie. "Hosťujúci profesor sa má venovať aj prezentácii na iných školách", vysvetlila. Do 12. februára si má navyše na seminár, ktorý povedie v Oxforde, pripraviť materiál "Ako médiá tvarujú politickú agendu v prípade Slovenska".

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR – František Iván

Na snímke interiér Dómu sv. Alžbety.

The restoration project of St. Elizabeth Cathedral in Košice was completed and ready for the celebration of the Christmas holy days. The restoration was done as part of the preparation of Košice- European City of Culture (EHMK) in 2013.

Zrekonštruovaný Dóm sv. Alžbety v Košiciach

Košický Dóm sv. Alžbety sa pripravil na slávenie vianočných sviatkov, pričom sa veriacim i návštevníkom predstavil v takmer celej svojej kráse. Reštaurátori v rámci projektu Košice – Európske hlavné mesto kultúry (EHMK) 2013 dokončili v interiéri väčšinu prác, zložili lešenie a gotická katedrála tak môže ukázať svoj čerstvo zrekonštruovaný vzhľad.

Nezisková organizácia Perly Gotickej cesty zároveň v týchto dňoch dokončuje ďalší z celkovo štyroch projektov, ktoré implementuje v interiéri chrámu v rámci Programu cezhraničnej spolupráce s Maďarskom na roky 2007–2013. „Cieľom projektu, ktorý bol oficiálne ukončený 31. decembra 2012, bola rekonštrukcia severovýchodnej časti bočnej lode nad Rákócziho hrobkou a zreštaurovanie secesnej fresky Apoteóza života Františka II. Rákócziho,“ informoval nedávno novinárov riaditeľ n. o. Perly Gotickej cesty František Šándor. Uviedol, že Dóm sv. Alžbety je vnímaný ako najväčšia gotická pamiatka v metropole Košického kraja, ktorú navštívi ročne okolo 20,000 veriacich, domácich aj zahraničných turistov. „Je jedinečným dôkazom staviteľských schopností našich predkov, ale aj potvrdením hodnôt, ktoré obyvatelia mesta vždy uznávali a presadzovali. Na výstavbe Dómu sa v minulosti podieľala vtedajšia samospráva, príspevkami pomáhali majetní občania mesta, ale aj tí najchudobnejší. Ako najvýchodnejšie postavená európska katedrála sa stala symbolom historických, kultúrnych i spoločenských hodnôt západnej kresťanskej civilizácie,“ dodal Šándor, farár a zároveň dekan košickej farnosti. Celková hodnota projektu s názvom Infraštrukturálny rozvoj začiatkovej a konečnej stanice cesty sv. Alžbety v Košiciach a Sárospataku predstavuje sumu 535,306 eur. Vlastné zdroje, vložené do projektu, sú vo výške 26,765 eur.

Knieza František II. Rákóczi (1676-1735) bol vodcom posledného protihabsburského povstania (1704-1711) a stal sa najvýznamnejšou historickou osobnosťou, ktorá sa v Košiciach dlhodobo zdržiavala. Po porážke povstania žil aj v Paríži, poznal sa s francúzskym kráľom Eudovitom XIV., ruským cárom Petrom I. či tureckým sultánom Ahmedom III. Zomrel v Turecku, no pochovaný je v Dóme sv. Alžbety.

TASR

V Hejciach si uctili pamiatku obetí leteckej nehody AN 24

Pri Memoriáli obetiam leteckej katastrofy slovenských príslušníkov mierovej misie KFOR v maďarskej obci Hejce sa 19. januára 2013 uskutočnila pietna spomienka na slovenských vojakov, ktorí zahynuli počas návratu zo zahraničnej misie. Siedme výročie najväčšej tragédie v novodobej histórii Slovenska si pripomenuli pozostali, kolegovia a priatelia obetí za účasti ministra obrany SR Martina Giváča, ministra obrany Maďarskej republiky Csabu Hendeho, veľvyslanca SR v Maďarskej republike Petra Weissa, generality OS SR na čele s náčelníkom GŠ OS SR Petrom Vojtekom, náčelníka GŠ maďarských obranných síl generála Tibora Benkőa, predstaviteľov profesionálnych záchranných zložiek z Maďarska a starostu obce Hejce Gejzu Rohályho.

Súčasťou pietneho aktu bolo kladenie vencov, príhovory ministrov, ale aj duchovné slovo tiež prítomného ordinára OS a OZ SR Mons. Františka Rábeka spojené s modlitbou za zosnulých vojakov. Spolu s ním predniesli modlitby aj generálny duchovný Ústredia EPS OS a OZ SR Miroslav Tábořský a generálny vikár Maďarského vojenského ordinariátu Mons. Tibor Berta. Po položení vencov, kytíc a zapálení kahancov od príbuzných, v miestnom chráme ordinár s vojenskými kaplánmi celebrou za účasti príbuzných obetí havárie zádušnú svätú omšu. Tak ako pri pamätníku, aj počas svätej omše sa ordinár prítomným prihovoriť s myšlienkami zameranými na večnosť a skutočnosť nádeje vo vzkriesenie. Výzval pozostalých k modlitbe za zosnulých vojakov a k takému osobnému životu vo viere a v súlade s Božou vôľou, ktorý zaručí pozostalým stretnutie so zosnulými vo večnosti.

Pred pietnou spomienkou si výstupom na vrch Borsó a priamo na mieste nešťastia uctilo svojich zosnulých kolegov 42 príslušníkov 2. mechanizovanej brigády v Prešove a 21. zmiešaného práporu v Trebišove pod vedením svojich veliteľov. Spolu s vojakmi si pri pamätníku na kopci smrti uctil pamiatku zosnulých zapálením sviečky aj vojenský kaplán 2. mechanizovanej brigády Jozef Michalov.

TK KBS



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 122

STREDA, 30. JANUÁRA 2013

Číslo 5877

V rámci Otváracieho ceremoniálu Košice, európske hlavné mesto rozsvietený aj Dóm sv. Alžbety



FOTO TASR - Milan Kapusta

Tisícka účinkujúcich, dvesto umeleckých a kultúrnych podujatí, množstvo stretnutí sprevádzalo Otvárací ceremoniál Košice, európske hlavné mesto kultúry počas víkendu 19.-20. januára 2013. Súčasťou ceremoniálu bolo aj slávnostné rozsvietenie Dómu sv. Alžbety v centre Košíc, ktoré podvečer 19. januára 2013 prilákalo podľa organizátorov zhruba 20,000 Košičanov a návštevníkov mesta. Vedľa stojaca Urbanova veža poslúžila ako projekčná plocha pre mapping, ktorý stvárnil históriu nielen košickej katedrály, ale aj ďalších významných lokalít regiónu.

The spectacular illumination of St. Elizabeth Cathedral marked the opening of the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) Kosice year during the weekend of January 19-20, 2013. The opening ceremonies featured 200 events and 1,000 performers.



Európske mesto kultúry je výsledok grécko-francúzskej iniciatívy

Iniciatíva organizovať Európske hlavné mesto kultúry (EHMK) siaha do roku 1983 ku gréckej herečke Meline Mercouriovej, ktorá v tom čase bola ministerkou kultúry, a francúzskemu politikovi Jackovi Langovi. Aj on v tom čase bol ministrom kultúry.

Cez víkend 12.-13. januára sa v Marseille-Provence slávnostne začal program EHMK 2013. Spolu s Marseille-Provence je EHMK 2013 aj slovenská metropola východu - Košice. V nej bol začiatok stanovený na víkend 19.-20. januára. Do metropoly slovenského východu mala pricestovať aj delegácia z Marseille-Provence.

Cieľom projektu európskeho mesta kultúry od začiatku je prispievať k zblížovaniu občanov vtedajšieho Európskeho hospodárskeho spoločenstva (EHS) prostredníctvom umenia a kultúry. Zároveň ide aj o zdôrazňovanie kultúrneho bohatstva v Európe. Inak a jednoduchšie povedané, ide o to, aby mestá, ktorým sa dostane česť stať sa na rok Európskym hlavným mestom kultúry, podporovali svoje dedičstvo a prispeli k jeho dynamickému rozvoju organizovaním výstav, predstavení, koncertov, festivalov a ďalších podujatí. Má sa im dostať aj primeraná mediálna podpora. Podobne ako väčšina iniciatív podporovaných Európskou úniou sa organizovanie takého projektu spája s financovaním z európskych zdrojov. Fondy prostredníctvom programu Kultúra sú v období rokov 2007-2013 dotované sumou 400 miliónov eur.

Rozhodnutím poslancov Európskeho parlamentu a Rady ministrov z mája 1999 sa vyhlásenie na roky 2005-2019 vykonáva novou procedúrou tak, aby sa predišlo tvrdej konkurencii a zároveň, aby každá členská krajina EÚ dostala šancu získať titul. Od roku 1999 sa už názov Európskeho mesta kultúry zmenil na Európske hlavné mesto kultúry.

Od roku 2009 sú za EHMK vyhlasované minimálne dve mestá - jedno zo štátov "starej EÚ" a jedno z "nových štátov" únie. Tak sa v roku 2009 stali EHMK rakúsky Linz a litovský Vilnius, v roku 2010 sa stalo mesto Istanbul spolu s maďarským Pécsom a nemeckým Essenom EHMK. Prvým európskym mestom kultúry boli v roku 1985 Atény.

Marseille-Provence je štvrtým francúzskym mestom, ktoré sa stalo EHMK. Pred ním boli v roku 1989 Paríž, 2000 Avignon spolu s ôsmimi ďalšími mestami a v roku 2004 Lille. Košice sú prvým slovenským mestom, ktoré bolo vyhlásené za EHMK. O tom, že Marseille bude spolu s Košicami v roku 2013 EHMK, oznámila v septembri 2008 v Paríži ministerka kultúry Christine Albanelová. Mesto Marseille sa presadilo v súťaži s tromi ďalšími uchádzačmi - mestami Lyon, Bordeaux a Toulouse.

Medzinárodná výberová komisia 9. septembra 2008 rozhodla, že za Slovensko budú EHMK v roku 2013 Košice. Medzinárodná komisia posudzovala projekty štyroch slovenských miest, ktoré postúpili do druhého kola súťaže - išlo o Košice, Prešov, Martin a Nitra.

TASR

Slovensko si pripomína 20. výročie vstupu do OSN

Dátum 19. január 1993 sa tak stal nezabudnuteľným dňom v dejinách Slovenskej republiky, keď bola pred budovou Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN) po prvýkrát vztýčená slovenská vlajka a Slovensko sa stalo plnoprávnym členom OSN. Toto obdobie, definovalo koniec Studenej vojny a začiatok budovania nového štátu. Bolo prirodzené, že prvé kroky Slovenska ako nového samostatného štátu viedli do Organizácie Spojených národov. Vstupom do tejto jedinečnej globálnej organizácie Slovensko potvrdilo svoju jednoznačnú oddanosť hodnotám, na ktorých bola OSN založená v roku 1945 - zachovávaní medzinárodného mieru a bezpečnosti, priateľským vzťahom medzi všetkými národmi, úcte k demokracii, princípom vlády práva a dodržiavania ľudských práv, hospodárskej a sociálnej spravodlivosti, rozvoja, prosperite a stabilite pre všetkých.



Princípy a ciele Organizácie Spojených národov sú pevným stavebným kameňom slovenskej zahraničnej politiky, založenej na hodnotách efektívneho multilateralizmu. V časoch silnejúcej integrácie a vzájomného prepojenia nemôže žiadna krajina čeliť výzvam samostatne a mala by byť súčasťou snáh o nájdenie spoločných riešení. Skutočná sila OSN spočíva práve v efektívnej súčinnosti a konštruktívnej spolupráci jej 193 členských štátov.

V priebehu 20 rokov sa spolupráca Slovenska a OSN posilňovala a prehľbovala tak, ako sa posilňovalo samotné postavenie Slovenska ako stabilného demokratického štátu a spoľahlivého, proaktívneho partnera na medzinárodnej scéne. Slovensko je neochvejným podporovateľom práce OSN a za krátkych 20 rokov svojej existencie prispelo k širokej škále jej aktivít, či už prostredníctvom práce v hlavných orgánoch OSN, formou priamej účasti vo vyše sedemdesiatich mierových operáciách alebo zrealizovaním viac ako štyristo humanitárnych a rozvojových projektov vo viac ako 20 krajinách. Vďaka dôvere svojich partnerov bolo Slovensko zvolené do všetkých dôležitých orgánov OSN, čo mu umožnilo ešte efektívnejšie presadzovať hodnoty OSN vo všetkých troch hlavných pilieroch jej práce - mier a bezpečnosť, ľudské práva a rozvoj. Slovensko preukázalo svoju oddanosť zachovávaní medzinárodného mieru a bezpečnosti počas členstva v Bezpečnostnej rade OSN v rokoch 2006 - 2007, pokroku v presadzovaní ľudských práv počas členstva v Rade OSN pre ľudské práva v rokoch 2008 - 2011 a posilňovaniu rozvojovej agendy počas členstva a následného predsedníctva v Hospodárskej a sociálnej rade OSN v rokoch 2010-2012. Slovensko je hrdé na to, že sa na jeho území nachádza dobre fungujúce Regionálne centrum Rozvojového programu OSN UNDP. Centrum si získalo výbornú povest' vďaka mimoriadne dobrým výsledkom, inovatívny prístupom a v neposlednom rade aj vďaka skutočnosti, že ide o prvú zelenú úradovňu UNDP.

Tento významný deň chce Slovensko využiť predovšetkým na prejav hlbokej vďaky všetkým partnerom za dôveru, priateľstvo a výbornú spoluprácu. Slovenská republika potvrdzuje svoju neútlmivú oddanosť OSN a bude pokračovať vo svojej neúnavnej snahe slúžiť a napomôcť naplňovaniu cieľov tejto významnej medzinárodnej organizácie.

MZV SR

Obeta 20 školských detí v Newtown, CT

20 mladých, nevinných školských anjelov, do neba letí,
To smrť vraha v Newtown, CT, kosila malé deti.
Nie, nezastavili sa pri bráne Sv. Petra ...
Tam chór anjelov ich slávnostne víta a Sv. Peter sa ich nič nepýta.

Prekrásna hudba a spev ich doprevádza, priamo pred ich Stvoriteľ'a.
A On ich do náručia berie a požehnáva.
Slzy radosti maľujú ich nevinné, detské tváre
Tam, už guľky nelietajú, tam sú už, pri pokojnej bráne.

Pomätený rozum človeka, nevie, kedy robí zle.
K jeho vražednej práci, nepotrebuje mozole
Pre neho, červená krv sa blyští, ako zlato
Sláva a TV program je jeho pánom a platí zato.
Taký človek, už nie je človekom, on už nevie čo robí,
Jeho duša je na veky stratená, nemá miesto v nebi.

Neplačte mamička, babička, otec, sestra, brat,
Tu sme v nebi s anjeli, máme sa s kým hrať.
Nebo je krása nad krásu, plné anjelov - a detí.
Každý má anjela strážcu, čo ho po nebi vodí.
Keď na nás spomínate „Neplačte. Tuná je pokoj.
My budeme na Vás tu čakať, pri Ježiškovi kľáčať“.

Jozef Smák