



Jednota

THE UNION

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

Volume 121

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012

NUMBER 5855

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary



The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce the winners of its 2011 Scholarship Program.

The Scholarship Committee was tasked with awarding up to ten one- time \$500 scholarships to candidates who best satisfied the following award criteria:

- Applicants who are of Slovak descent and Catholic faith and are attending an Approved Post Secondary Educational Institution.
- Applicants who describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service to school, church and community.
- Applicants who provide an official college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved, as well as a letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor.

Based on these criteria, the Scholarship Committee has chosen the following to receive the 2011 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarships:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Anthony DiMarino | Columbus, Ohio |
| Dane M. Farrell | Leechburg, Pennsylvania |
| Caitlin M. McCoy | Apollo, Pennsylvania |
| Shawn E. McCoy | Apollo, Pennsylvania |
| John F. Patula | Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania |
| Nikki Rodgers | Bradenville, Pennsylvania |
| Melissa C. Sadowski | Orland Park, Illinois |
| Jessica Salley | Andover, Massachusetts |
| Katherine R. Staley | Whiting, Indiana |
| Rebecca A. Wald | Portland, Oregon |

On behalf of the Trustees and Officers of the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. congratulations to all recipients and much success to all applicants who applied this year.

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary
Trustee for the Jednota
Benevolent Foundation, Inc

Andrew M. Rajec
President



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Adoration of the Magi by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, 17th century (Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio.)

Epiphany, from the ancient Greek, means "vision of God", which falls on January 6, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.75% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	3.50% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.25% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New "Park 2 Annuity"	2.50% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee (new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	2.15% APY
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.00% 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



Insights and Viewpoints



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

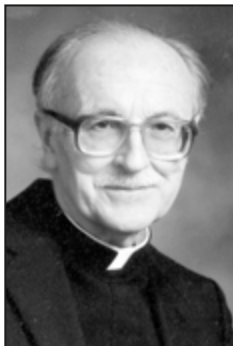
January 8, 2012

Epiphany

Matthew 2: 1-12

Gospel Summary

The Epiphany gospel is a continuation of the Christmas story in Matthew's prologue to his gospel (chapters 1-2). The prologue is a theological masterpiece in narrative form through which Matthew anticipates the major historical events he will present in his gospel to explain the significance of Jesus for us.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

The names of Jesus are revealed: Messiah, King, Son of David, Son of Abraham, Emmanuel (God with us). As Son of Abraham, Jesus fulfills the divine promise that in Abraham's seed "all the nations of the earth would be blessed" (Gn 22: 18 and Mt 28: 10). The miracle of the virginal conception heralds the beginning of the climactic end-time of sacred history. The gentile nations as foretold by the prophet Isaiah come to the New Zion with their treasures to praise the Lord. Jesus will be rejected by many, will suffer persecution and death, but will ultimately triumph through the Father's providential care in the resurrection.

In today's gospel reading, Matthew tells us that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem looking for the newborn king of the Jews so that they might do him homage. When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and asked the magi to bring him word of the child's whereabouts so that he too could pay him homage. When the magi found the child with Mary his mother, they did him homage and offered him their gifts. Warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another way.

Life Implications

The good news of Epiphany is that Jesus is the revelation of God as one who offers himself to us in love. Jesus is the epiphany of the invisible God in all the events of his life: as a helpless child lying in a manger, as a young man dying on the cross -- the ultimate revelation that God's glory is love. This feast reminds us that each Sunday's liturgy with its gospel reading is an epiphany of the Lord to be reflected upon in the quiet of faith.

As in every offering of love, the Lord awaits the response of our heart. Will it be that of Herod who perceives it as a threat to his own autonomy and power? Will it be that of the magi who perceive this offering of love as the fulfillment of the human quest? Epiphany is the revelation of the purpose of the Incarnation: that God and we, God's creatures, might enjoy each other in the embrace of love. Who could be afraid of a God like that?

The church anticipates the good news that the mutual exchange of divine and human love is the deepest meaning of the Incarnation by giving us a reading from the Song of Songs at an Advent Mass a few days before Christmas. This "greatest of songs" is a love poem describing the wonder and excitement of the divine-human exchange of love in beautiful erotic images. The poem can help us realize a bit of the astonishing mystery we celebrate. The Lord says to each of us: "Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come" (Song 2: 10). One is also reminded of Christina Rossetti's lovely epiphany poem "In the Bleak Mid-Winter."

What can I give him, Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring him a lamb;

If I were a wise man I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him Give my heart.

The epiphany of the Lord is actualized in every celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus reveals

himself and identifies himself as the bread of life. One could not imagine a more powerful sacrament or symbol to reveal that the ultimate meaning of Jesus is to give himself to us in love. Bread has no meaning by existing for itself. Bread exists in order to give life to those who receive it as food. The prayer after communion for the Mass of Epiphany expresses this mystery of faith: "Help us to recognize Christ in this Eucharist and welcome him with love."



January 15, 2012

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 1: 35-42

Gospel Summary

John the Baptist, standing with two of his disciples, upon seeing Jesus exclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God." When Jesus notices that John's disciples are following him, he says to them, "What are you looking for?" They reply, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus responds, "Come, and you will see." Andrew, one of the disciples, goes to find his brother Simon, tells him they have found the Messiah, and introduces his brother to Jesus. Jesus looks at him and says, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas (Peter)."

Life Implications

There is a true story about a professor who was invited to give a lecture at a major conference on religion. The subject of his lecture was the nature of God. His many hours of research were rewarded by the enthusiastic response he received upon completion of the lecture. On the flight back to his university, however, his euphoric satisfaction about his work was shattered when it dawned on him, as he later reported: "I talked to everyone about God, but God."

We can easily have an experience similar to that of the professor as he was preparing his lecture about God. With a little research we can discover many interesting, even beautiful things about Jesus and his disciples.

Thus, in today's gospel passage, we discover that when the two disciples ask Jesus where he is staying or dwelling the question isn't simply about a street address. John uses the same Greek verb (translated as "staying or dwelling") when Jesus at the Last Supper tells his disciples that he "dwells" in the Father and the Father "dwells" in him (Jn 14: 10-11). We also discover that when Jesus says "Come, and you will see," the essential meaning of "seeing" is the seeing of faith (Jn 9). Only with that seeing can the disciples know where Jesus truly dwells, with-in the Father.

Thus far there is no life-implication for us beyond appreciation of a narrative about Jesus and his disciples. A life-changing implication occurs only when we realize that Jesus is addressing each of us today in as personal a way as he addressed the two disciples. The gospel is essentially about an encounter with the Risen Lord now, not about historical knowledge, however orthodox, about Jesus. The historical-critical method of scholarship (like John the Baptist) can give us valuable information about Jesus, but this knowledge cannot enable us to see Jesus in faith -- that seeing is a gift of the Spirit.

Because faith means a personal union of friendship with Christ through his Spirit, life implications will be unique and particular for each person. Nevertheless, from the life of Christ and the lives of the saints, certain patterns emerge that are actualized in the particularity of each person's life. Union with the Risen Lord means to share his relationship with the Father. It means that each of us is able to hear with Christ "You are my beloved" and to say with Christ "Thy will be done."

To be in communion with Christ means to pray, always and everywhere. The second reading of today's Mass (1 Cor 7: 32-35) shows us that a disciple's personal union with Christ through his Spirit is the foundation of choices about moral behavior. Finally, we see that through union with Christ the saints are not defeated by the setbacks of life. Saint Paul speaks for them all when he wrote: "What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us" (Rom 8:35-37).

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 JANUARY 18	MONDAY, JANUARY 9
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1	MONDAY, JANUARY 24
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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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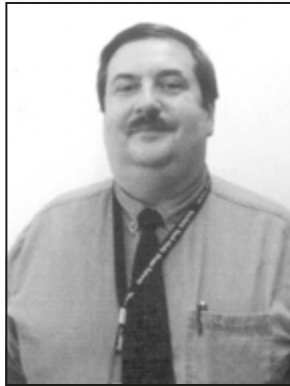
Top Guns Thru December 2011



Dorothy J. Petrus
First Place



Michael E. Lako
Third Place



Michael J. Slovenkai
Second Place



Robert J. Kopco
First Place



Cluey Sandy
Second Place



Rose A. Froncek
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance Amount
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	370,000
Lako, Michael E.	2	265,000
Slovenkai, Michael J.	382	200,000
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	175,000
Matta, Florence K.	38	135,000
Froncek, Rose A.	401	130,000
Rura, Joseph Edward	484	130,000
Tisak, Jeffrey Howard	313	100,000
Marmol, Dolores	162	95,000
Rimarcik, Joseph C.	743	90,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

Name	Branch	Total Points
Kopco, Robert J.	24	610
Sandy, Cluey	322	486
Froncek, Rose A.	401	352
Lako, Michael E.	02	341
Scavina, Joseph T.	682	322
Jurcenko, John A.	153	290
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	223
Rajec, Andrew M.	89	221
Farcosky, Agnes C.	181	200
Kelchak, George J.	581	189



Robert J. Kopco
Frist Place



Cluey Sandy
Second Place



Joseph T. Scavina
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Kopco, Robert J.	24	613,822.38
Sandy, Cluey	322	486,614.65
Scavina, Joseph T.	682	316,623.78
Jurcenko, John A.	153	281,206.28
Rajec, Andrew M.	89	221,422.29
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	218,704.52
Farcosky, Agnes C.	181	200,000.00
Brunetti, Frederick	764	151,635.00
Koval, Michael Leo	03	140,551.22
Yuros, Joseph J.	35	136,000.00

FCSU LIFE

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Newborn Male
\$5000 for \$290
\$10000 for \$580

Newborn Female
\$5000 for \$250
\$10000 for \$500

Male - age 5
\$5000 for \$340
\$10000 for \$680

Female - age 5
\$5000 for \$290
\$10000 for \$580

Male - age 10
\$5000 for \$400
\$10000 for \$800

Female - age 10
\$5000 for \$340
\$10000 for \$680

Male - age 15
\$5000 for \$480
\$10000 for \$960

Female - age 15
\$5000 for \$405
\$10000 for \$810

Male - age 20
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\$10000 for \$1090.00

Female - age 20
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\$10000 for \$940.00

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- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren



Check out the redesigned FCSU website @ www.fcsu.com.

Same great resource – now with a great new look!

Let us know what you think. We want to hear from you.

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



Sarisan Folk Ensemble Honored In 2011

The Sarisan Folk Ensemble based out of St. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. On December 6, 2011 The City Council and Mayor of Sterling Heights, MI recognized and honored six organizations for their efforts in promoting diversity in the City. Accepting the award on behalf of Sarisan is Milan Straka (center). On the left with his back to the camera is Mayor Richard Notte. The Ethnic Community Committee Chairwoman Susan Kattula said "All of these honorees strengthen Sterling Heights quality of life through their dedication to making Sterling Heights a community of inclusion and cultural understanding." Congratulations from Branch 743, its Officers and members, to Sarisan, to Milan and Eleanor Straka (members of Br 743) for their 40 years of service in promoting our Slovak culture.

Joseph C Rimarcik
President & Fin. Secy. Br 743



Macie Ann Bobo is the newest member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, IL. Macie was born in Winfield, IL, on August 7, 2011, to parents Edward and Jenny Bobo. Her father, sister Maya Lilly, grandmother Melody Bobo and aunt Kelly Bobo (an FCSU Scholarship winner) are all members of Branch 493.



Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk
www.travelguide.sk
kosice.region.sk
www.slovakia.org
www.vtaty.sk
www.tatry.net
www.hotel-net.sk
www.skonline.sk
www.kultura.sk
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Slovakia Travel Guide
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Kosice-City Travel Guide
Bratislava-Information about the City
Useful Information about the High Tatras
Complete Information on Tatra Region
Tourist Accommodation
Slovakia On-Line (general information)
Slovak cultural calendar
Slovak National Museum
Slovak Academy of Sciences
Government of the Slovak Republic
Slovak National Theater
Slovak Television
National Bank of Slovakia

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Radio host/producer for The Christophers

The Only Way to Understand Love

Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Sarah Hart has a gift for music and lyrics, so it's a good thing she didn't follow through on her initial career goals of becoming an archaeologist or pediatrician. During an interview with me on Christopher Closeup, Hart laughingly recalled a conversation she had with her band director in high school. He asked her what her career aspirations were and she responded, "I might want to be a doctor." He just looked at her and said, "Honey, you're not gonna be a doctor."

While some might interpret the band director's response as harsh or condescending, Hart appreciated him "speaking vocation into my life... I think it's something we need to be able to give our young people a little more – to say, 'Here are the gifts I see in you and here's a path that you can carve to use these gifts.'"

Hart's gift for music and love of God have led her to a successful career in Christian music, where she's written songs for artists like Matt Maher, Audrey Assad, and Amy Grant, whose hit "Better Than a Hallelujah" earned Sarah her first Grammy nomination for songwriting. But she also enjoys stepping behind the microphone herself to perform songs she's written. She's released a number of popular albums including the country-flavored "Road to Ohio" and the more recent Christmas album, "This Winter's Eve."

Hart's connection to her faith goes back to her "cradle Catholic" childhood. She was raised across the street from a church that she used to sneak into to pray because she knew a side door that was always kept unlocked. She says, "For me, Christ was always present and the Incarnation was a very real thing. Even as a child, I didn't question it – and I know that's a huge gift... I feel that God's always walked with me and never let me go."

The importance of connecting young people to their Catholic faith in this era of people who say they're "spiritual, not religious" has led Hart to talk with and perform for that generation, specifically at the National Catholic Youth Conference this past November in Indianapolis, Indiana.

When I asked her why she thinks some youth remain practicing Catholics while others drift away, Hart responded, "I have to give an unbelievable amount of kudos and credit to the people who are in the trenches: parents and youth leaders. If parents are committing themselves to getting their kids to religious ed, to praying with them in the home, to loving them with the love of Christ – and if they get them to those religious educators who are faithfully there every week to pray with those kids and teach them about Christ, I think the combination of that compels these kids to be excited about their faith. That is where it has to begin... Kids who are loved at the parish level and the home level, those are the kids that understand the love of God. The only way you can really understand love is if you are shown love."

One of the human embodiments of God's love in Hart's life is her husband of 18 years, for whom she wrote the song "Bethlehem" on her Christmas album. She especially wanted to highlight the importance of seeing their marriage as a sacrament: "I wanted to paint that picture of... bringing our sacrament back to the manger year after year, turning to Christ with our brokenness in our hands and saying, 'Lord, continue to help us. Bless us and walk with us on this path of marriage. We come here to remember where love comes from. It comes from You. Please bless us with one more year of love for each other in our love for You.'"

That's a wise prayer for any time of year.

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



Mike Kopanic (Top, left) with his family at Christmas, including his dad who is 93

Jednota Contributor Michael Kopanic Honored at University of Maryland University College

Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr. is the winner of the Teaching Recognition Award for 2011 at the University of Maryland University College, History Department. Each year, the faculty recognizes one of its members for a job well done, demonstrating the level of academic excellence in the History Program, and embodying the entire faculty's dedication and skill. Earlier in the year, Dr. Kopanic also was promoted to the status of full professor in the History Department, the school's highest rank possible.

Congratulations, Mike!

Successful Sales Seminar Held by the Membership & Marketing Committee in New Jersey



President Andrew M. Rajec welcomes attendees and gives a report on the state of the Society

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a sales seminar on Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 1 PM at St. Joseph's Church Hall, 16 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey. Recommenders from the Msgr. John E. Rura District were invited to attend. Among those in attendance were National President Andrew M. Rajec, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt and representing Region 1 was Regional Director Joseph F. Minarovich. Many thanks to Branch 290 for hosting the meeting and seminar. The seminar was well received and centered around FCSU's insurance and annuity portfolio.

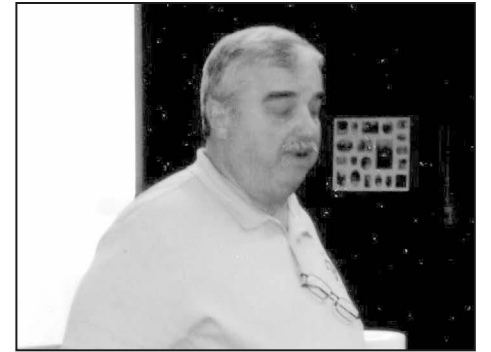
The event started with a mass at St. Joseph's Church in Raritan, N.J. After a brief district business meeting and sales seminar was conducted for all attendees, there was a buffet after the seminar and door prizes were given out.

It is the branch recommenders who play a key role in our life insurance business. People who buy insurance need to understand what they are buying and why. This is the responsibility of our recommenders. The knowledge we gain at seminars will become a practical sales tool. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we will become as recommenders.

Please attend the next seminar scheduled for your area.

Until then
Good Luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President



Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt goes over our annuity products and home office procedures



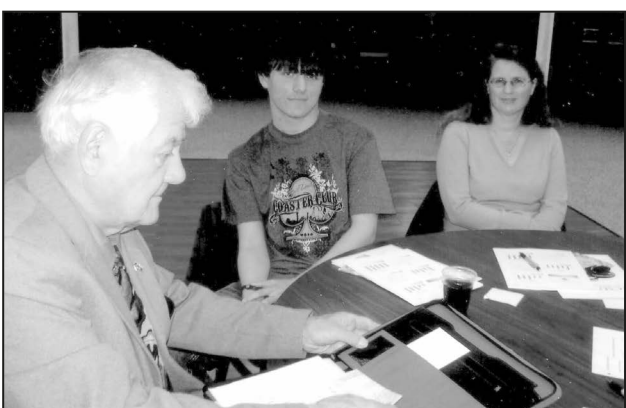
National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. goes over our insurance portfolio



Branch 290 hosted the sales seminar for all attendees, shown here



District 4 Officers conduct the meeting before the sales seminar (L - R): Treasurer Stephen Minarovich, Vice President Mary Karch, President Sabina Sabados, and Financial/Recording Secretary Mary Kapitan



MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2011 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING

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

ANTHEMS

President Rajec asked Fraternal Activities Director, Susan Ondrejco, to lead the Board in singing the United States, Canada and Slovak anthems; followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:

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

All were present and accounted for.

READING OF THE CALL

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2011

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol to accept the minutes of the July Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting which had previously been sent to all the Board members and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Rudolph Bernath to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order if necessary. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rajec stated he and Executive Secretary Arendt along with the Regional Directors are working on merging active branches with the inactive branches.

The Executive Secretary stated all applicants have received a letter and their awarded check for the FCSU 2011 Scholarship program. Applications for the 2012 FCSU Scholarship Program have gone out and are available on our website. The deadline for the applications to be returned to the Home Office is February 28, 2012.

Executive Secretary stated we will be sending information to all branches concerning our FCSU Branch Agreements which are available to all branches. We want to encourage them to deposit their excess funds with the FCSU to gain better interest rates for their branches.

The President led a lengthy discussion on our current interest rates credited to our Annuity-tants. We will continue to review our rates and the Executive Committee will get investment input from Mr. Larry White of AQS, and we will make any adjustments needed for the future.

President Rajec updated the Board on the listing agreement for our Printery Building in Middletown, Pennsylvania.

AQS – ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC.

Larry White, of AQS Asset Management Company, LLC, presented his report to the Board via Web ex. A copy of his presentation was distributed to each Board Member prior to the meeting. Following his report, he answered all the Board's questions.

The President asked Mr. White to investigate the possibility of investing in Canadian dollar denominated securities.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2011

Executive Secretary's Report

Secretary Arendt presented the summary of the Financial Report for the Second Quarter of 2011. After his report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2011 second quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

ADJOURN MEETING

At this time the Board adjourned for Mass and Lunch.

MEETING RESUMED

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

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

The Vice President asked the Executive Secretary to lead a discussion on the new State of Ohio enacted and proposed requirements. The Executive Secretary stated the State of Ohio has directed insurance companies to now require an Annuity Suitability Questionnaire to be added to the annuity applications and an Addendum to Life Insurance Document to be added to all insurance applications. All new applications must have these forms attached and signed by the applicant.

The Vice President also stated that we are still in process of recruiting independent agents to sell our products.

The Vice President further led a discussion regarding seminars for 2012 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region. The Vice President will update the Board of Directors with the dates of scheduled seminars for 2012.

MIDDLETOWN MONUMENT MEMORIAL PROJECT

The Regional Director James Marmol gave a detailed report on the Middletown Jednota Estates Monument Project as requested by the President. He provided drawings and estimated costs. Following his report he answered the Board's questions. After further discussion it was decided that he review and refine the estimated costs based on the Board's suggestions.

MATLIN PATTERSON ASSET MANAGEMENT (MPAM)

President Rajec introduced Chris Welker, Chief Operating Officer, and Craig Ruch, Chief Executive Officer, of MPAM; they presented their report and answered the Board's questions.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented the Auditor's Report and answered the Board's questions. She stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit and everything was in proper order.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco presented her report on the National Picnic held at Wiegand's Lake Park on Sunday August 14, 2011. There were 411 members in attendance in spite of the bad weather. All comments received at the Home Office were very favorable. The President has directed the Fraternal Activities Director to search for sites for possibly another National Picnic in 2012.

The Fraternal Director stated there will be a joint Bowling Tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol, National Slovak Society and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union on May 4-6, 2012. This tournament will be held in Eastlake, Ohio.

Fraternal Director Ondrejco further stated plans for a joint golf tournament in 2012 with the Slovak Catholic Sokols will now be delayed until 2013 because of scheduling conflicts. She will inform the Board as details become available on the FCSU Golf Tournament for 2012.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Executive Committee

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

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the directives adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

Scholarship Committee

The Jednota Benevolent Scholarship Applications are now available and have been sent to all branches and available on the website. The Scholarship Committee will make their selection following the deadline of September 28, 2011. Once the selections are made, applicants will be notified and the winners will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota, Inc. The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report to the Board of Directors and, after answering the Board's questions, he turned the meeting over to the President of Jednota Properties, Inc., Regis Brekosky, who presented his report to the Board.

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

continued on page 7



**Branch 731
elected officers
for 2012**

**Members and
guests attended
the Annual
Meeting of
Branch 731**



Annual Meeting of Branch 731

Members of Branch 731 participated at Mass devoted to the memory of our deceased members on Sunday, December 18, 2011. Monsignor Peter M. Polando was the Celebrant at Saint Matthias Church, Youngstown, Ohio. Following the Liturgy, we conducted our annual meeting which included the election of officers for 2012. The officers elected are Grace Kavulic, President; Irene Makovec, Vice-President; Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary; Jackie Bobby, Financial Secretary; John Kavulic and Ed Walko, Auditors. (see attached photos of officers, members and guests).

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

Quarterly Meeting

continued from page 6

DISTRICT BYLAWS

Executive Secretary Arendt presented to the Board the new District Bylaws. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol to accept the District Bylaws as amended. Motion carried. The new District Bylaw Books will be distributed once they have been printed.

PAYMENT FOR MEETING

A motion was made to pay all bills associated with the Board Meeting by Damian Nasta and seconded by Father Thomas Nasta. Motion carried.

DONATIONS

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

It was announced the next Board Meeting will be at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio on December 17, 2011 by teleconference.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Spitkovsky District Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

District II, the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District for Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory in Oak Forest, IL, a suburb of Chicago.

District II President John Jurcenko welcomed FCUS National Vice President Andrew Harcar and Regional Director Rudy Bernath to the meeting. Twenty-five delegates, representing 7 branches, were in attendance. After the opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call, Art Fayta talked about his honor flight for WWII veterans to Washington, DC, to see the World War II Veterans Memorial. Financial Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Fayta gave the financial report. Chairman of Auditors Jo Bugel gave the auditor's report, and Regional VII Director Rudy Bernath read his report. National Vice President Andrew Harcar gave a 30 minute presentation on insurance and annuity sales, to increase membership in the Jednota.

Slovak Christmas Tree Committee Co-chairman Amber Miller reported on the district's Slovak Tree at the upcoming annual "Christmas Around the World" display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak discussed activities planned for 2012, and Financial Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Fayta reported on the district's 2011 Easter Coloring Contest for children.

National Vice President Andrew Harcar chaired the Election of Officers for 2011. Those elected were: Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurcenko, President John Jurcenko, Vice President Rudy Bernath, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Fayta, Recording Secretary Robert Ľapák Magruder, Chairman of Auditors Joe Bugel, Auditor Bob Elias, Auditor Shirley Uram, Sgt. At Arms Pete Turner, and Director of Fraternal Activities George Kelchak. National Vice President Andrew Harcar administered the oath of office.

Attendees then enjoyed a scrumptious, catered Thanksgiving meal arranged by Dorothy Jurcenko. Robert Ľapák Magruder conducted the house raffle. Ed Uram led a closing prayer in Slovak.

Robert Ľapák Magruder, District II Recording Secretary

Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/ Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour in 2012



Bratislava is one of the many cities featured on the 15th Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour

Join us as we host the 15th Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia in July 2012, visiting such cities as Bratislava, Piestany, Trnava, Presov, Banska Bystrica, Nitra, Sliac, Spisska Nova Ves and more. Spend time in the Tatra's, raft ride on the Dunajec River, visit historical sites, see many beautiful churches and castles while enjoying cultural performances. Discover your roots—side trips to ancestral villages available with advance notice.

For more information contact:

Jim and Kay Bench
428 West 4th Ave.
Derry, Pa. 15627

Phone 724-694-5101---cell phone 724-858-5843
e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

or

Adventure International Travel
PO Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Phone 216-228-7171 (Toll free 800-542-2487)
e-mail paul@aits.webmail.com

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

The Monks of St. Andrew's Abbey in Cleveland, OH, Host Dec 4 Vilija

On Sunday December 4, 2011, the Monks of St. Andrew's Abbey in Cleveland, OH, hosted a traditional Vilija (Christmas Eve) supper. The event began with a noon Mass at the Abbey Church, celebrated by Abbot Christopher Schwartz. At 1:00PM doors to the cafeteria of Benedictine High School, which is also on the Abbey grounds, opened to welcome guests to a full course Vilija supper, from soup (kapustnica s hubamy or cabbage soup with mushrooms, to nuts (orechy). The traditional meatless meal of bobalky, pirohy, and ryby (fish) began with a prayer by the monks and the breaking of oplatky.



Mass before the Vilija was celebrated at the Abbey Church by Abbot Christopher Schwartz

Later in the afternoon, the crowd was entertained by the John Pastirik Band, the Lučinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble, the Slovenske Mamičky Singers, and a special treat for the children – a reading of the Slovak Night Before Christmas (Janošik style) and a visit from St. Nicholas.

The monks of St. Andrew Abbey are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 24, and the event was well attended by our members, including members of Branch 1, Branch 450, Branch 228, and Branch 24.



The monks of St. Andrew help serve a traditional cabbage soup as the first course of the Vilija supper



Entertainment at the Vilija was provided by: (from the top left, counter clockwise) the John Pastirik Band(with special guest artist on drums, Branch 24 President Bob Kopco), the Lučinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble, and the Slovensky Mamičky



Two tables of Branch 24 members and guests enjoyed the Vilija



St. Nicholas (played by Father Joachim Pastirik) delights the children with an appearance, bringing with him his "traditional" companions of the devil (played by Brother Gabriel) and an angel (played by George Terbrek)



Member of Branch 228 and Lučinka Director for 2012 Michele Mager treats the kids to a special, Slovak-style rendition of T'was the Night Before Christmas



Scenes from two annual meetings in Dec, 2011

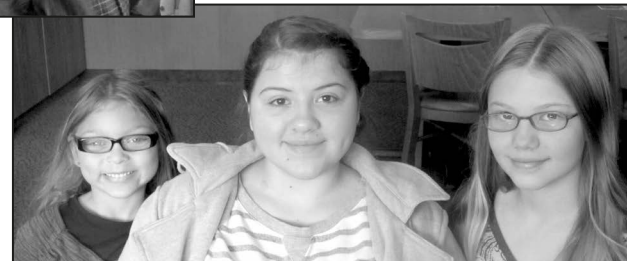


Members of Branch 670, St. Anthony of Padua, deep in discussions during their Annual Meeting for the election of officers.



Members of Msgr Andrej Hlinka District 12 gather for their annual meeting. At this meeting the members elected officers and joined in a Christmas celebration for lunch.

(L to R): Three youth members of Branch 670, St. Anthony of Padua, attend the meeting: Kendyll Wiggins, Nicole Hyatt and Destyni Murray



- Submitted by Cheryl Hyatt, Branch 670, District 12

CBSC Christmas Party Celebrated December 11

On SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011, starting at 2:00PM, the Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities hosted a Christmas party for members and guests in the Activities Center of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Brecksville, OH. Attendees enjoyed holiday food and refreshments, including assorted party trays and homemade Slovak specialties, including sauerkraut soup. Holiday music along with a Christmas sing along in Slovak and English was provided by the Dolina Slovak Folk Ensemble.



Members and guests of Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities – many of whom are also FCSU members – enjoyed a beautiful Christmas get-together at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church.



(L- R) Bob Kopco and Andy Rajec from the FCSU home office shared issues of Jednota with fellow party goers.



Music and a sing-along was provided by Dolina Slovak Folk Ensemble, with help from some of the youngest attendees.



Branch 743's Dec Annual meeting and Christmas party



St. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, Sterling Heights, MI

Joseph Kovac (age 11) plays a Christmas song for the members. All children attending received a bag of Christmas candy and school supplies



St. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church mural of Slovakia outside the Social Hall



Joseph C Rimarcik, Branch President, introduces Regional Director Rudy Bernath to the membership of Br 743



(L - R) Robert Kristofik (MI District President) Rudy Bernath (Regional Director) Joseph C. Rimarcik (Br 743 President/ Fin. Secy) Anna Magusin (Br 743 Treasurer)



Regional Director Rudy Bernath administers the Oath of Office to: (L-R) Jozef Kovac (auditor), Robert Kristofik (MI District President), Joseph C Rimarcik (President & Fin. Secy.), Anna Magusin (Treasurer). Stefanie Gervais (auditor), Daniela Grisak (auditor) absent and not pictured Milan Straka (auditor)

Branch 738's Gala Dinner Party

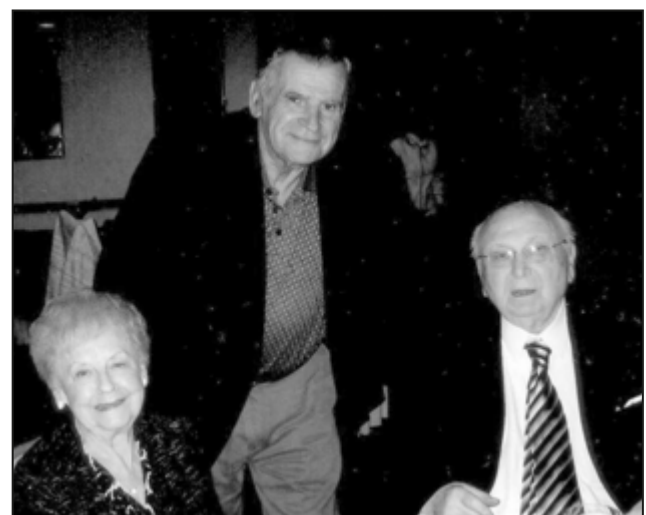
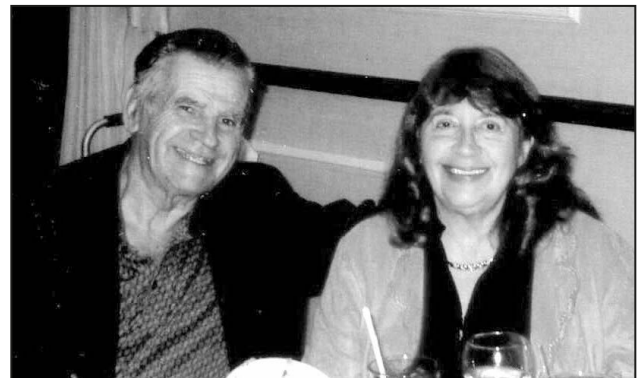
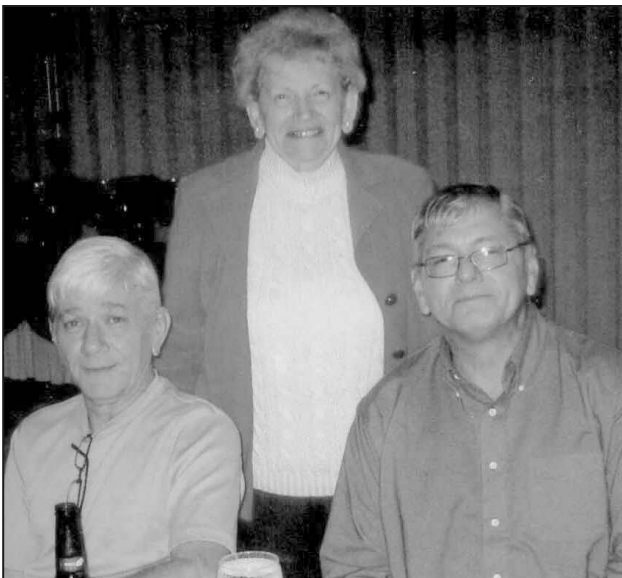
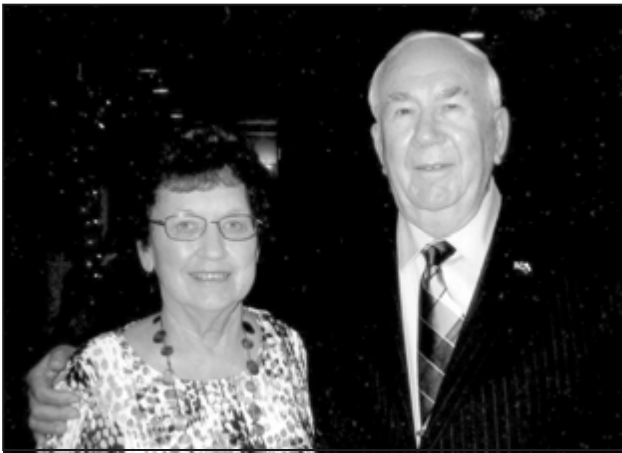


Branch 738 and the membership celebrated our 2011 Gala Dinner Party on October 16, 2011, at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA.

Our membership, along with honored guests FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka, FCSU Treasurer George Matta and his wife Florence, helped start the festivities at 5:30PM with refreshments and dinner following at 6:30PM.

There were talks by our Supreme Officers, prizes for everyone, and a good time was had by all.

Submitted by Barbara C. Brekosky, Branch 738 Director of Fraternal Activities



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
20					21				22	23					
			24	25					26						
27	28	29				30	31	32		33		34	35	36	
37					38		39		40			41			
42				43		44				45		46			
47					48				49		50				
51			52	53		54		55		56					
			57		58			59	60						
	61	62						63				64	65	66	67
68						69	70					71			
72						73						74			
75						76						77			

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Across

- 1 Mud dauber, e.g.
- 5 Ham it up
- 10 Equal
- 14 Aweather's opposi
- 15 Morning prayer service
- 16 ___ Godiva
- 17 Den din
- 18 Zodiac sign
- 19 Craving
- 20 Branch headquart
- 21 Before "a boy"
- 22 Kinsman
- 24 Grotesque
- 26 Comics scare wor
- 27 Hot rod propellant
- 30 Gr. letter
- 33 Looney Tunes coy
- 37 Food, e.g.
- 39 Veneration
- 41 Author Beattie
- 42 Succeed
- 43 Curtain
- 46 Genetic material
- 47 Raiment
- 48 Adder
- 49 Young bird
- 51 Footfalls
- 54 Affirmative vote
- 56 In what place
- 57 Water (Fr.)
- 59 Ancestry
- 61 Defects
- 63 Newspaper workers (Abbr.)
- 64 Chafes
- 68 Lager
- 69 Suite spot
- 71 Foresaw
- 72 And others (Lat.)
- 73 Delete

Down

- 1 Alert
- 2 Health-giving plant
- 3 Salty septet
- 4 Vex
- 5 Spam medium
- 6 Thomas a Becket, e.g.
- 7 Elevator man
- 8 Dead heat
- 9 Result
- 10 Feisty
- 11 Above a Viscount
- 12 Boundary
- 13 Cereal grass
- 23 Current
- 25 Precious metal
- 27 Salamanders
- 28 Doofus
- 29 Shade
- 31 Euphoric
- 32 Be obliged
- 34 Scoop
- 35 Type of circle
- 36 Maternal
- 38 Geological period
- 40 Before (Poet.)

- 44 Botanist Gray
- 45 Open wide
- 50 Pickle
- 52 Gems
- 53 Adage
- 55 Firstborn
- 58 Guide
- 60 Man and Wigl
- 61 Salad cheese
- 62 Skinny
- 63 Terminal info
- 65 Change
- 66 Social affairs
- 67 Rock
- 68 Put one's two cents in?
- 70 Norse coin

See Solution on Page 19

Part 1 of the 2011 P

Part II to be published in the

People



First Place – Melissa Garris
Matawan, NJ, Branch 746

“Bradley Beach, NJ”



Second Place – Graham Joiner “On the Beach, near Paraty, Brazil”
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785



Third Place – Sarah Garris
Matawan, NJ, Branch 746

“Girl Jumping on Beach”

Nature or Environment



First Place – Andrew Silay
Pittsburgh, PA, Branch 2

“Allegheny National Forest”



Second Place - Graham Joiner
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“near Paraty, Brazil”



Third Place – Sarah Garris
Matawan, NJ, Branch 746

“Umbrellas and Man on Beach”

Photo Contest Results

January 18 issue of Jednota

Travel or Destinations



First Place – John Dzurec “Chief Crazy Horse, Black Hills, SD”
Avon Lake, OH, Branch 754



Second Place – Rachel Chadwick “Nossa Senhora de Peneda Church”
Mississauga, Ontario, Branch 785



Third Place – Graham Joiner “Rio de Janiero, Brazil”
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

Overall Winner – Ages 12 - 18



Liam Joiner “On the Shores of Hudson Bay, Churchill”
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

Overall Winner – Over 18



James Marmol “Hibiscus with a Bee”
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 4 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 4, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 3PM at the home of Financial Secretary Anna Marie Hanlon, 2338 Lucina Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15210.

Election of officers and other Branch activities will be discussed.

Fraternally,

Anna Marie Hanlon, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10 K. J., held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 4 at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River St., Olyphant, PA.

Officers for 2012 were elected as follows: President, Daniel Spegar; Vice-President, Gaza Mika; Secretary-Treasurer, William Spegar, Recording Secretary, William A. Nalevanko, and Auditors, Carol Spegar, Mary Ann Spegar and Florence M. Nalevanko.

Donations in the amount of \$6,500 were approved for distribution in 2012 to the following: La Salle Academy, Jessup, PA; Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, and the Mid Valley Senior Center, Olyphant, PA; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund, Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, PA; Valley Community Library, Peckville, PA; and, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, PA.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast, to follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, PA, on Sunday, June 24, 2012. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Fraternally,

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch #40, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday January 29th at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting and dinner at no cost. On the agenda will be scholarships and elections of officers. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 26, 2012.

**Maria Harcar,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2012, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012. Please join us for our meeting and election of officers, with a luncheon to follow. Social time: 12:30PM to 1:00PM; meeting from 1:00PM to 2:00PM (approximate); lunch to be served at 2:00PM.

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

Reservations with the number attending must be made by January 18, 2012 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is a requirement in order to reserve seating at the restaurant.

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

Some topics of discussion will be: election of officers, donations, 2012 activities.

Thank you,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

All meetings will be held the second Sunday of the month at 1:30PM on every second month throughout the year. Meetings are held at the home of President Susan Salko. Please phone Susan at 973-906-1145 if you plan on attending.

Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, will begin holding their monthly meetings again at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held.

Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current and future activities.

See you at the Club!

**Thomas B. Zuffa,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 254— PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2012, at noon at Panera's restaurant in the Galleria mall located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads, Mt. Lebanon, PA. Lunch will be provided. The agenda will include election of officers and other branch activities. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312 – BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at 1:00PM at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Labtrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of officers. For more information, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

Fraternally,

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its annual meeting at the home of Jozef Valencik on Saturday, February 11, at 2:00 pm. The address is 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, OH. The election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

RANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Monthly meetings are held at Tatra Hall, Sixth Street and Sherman Blvd., on the third Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. (September through May).

As always, you can call 231 733 7525 for additional information of current events.

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 769 – ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its semi-annual meeting on January 9, 2012, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily at 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY. The meeting will provide information on annuities and their value as investments in this current financial climate. All members are encouraged to attend to become more aware of their branch activities.

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCH 780 - SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday January 24, 2012, at 7:00 pm at the home of Financial Secretary Catherine Karlsen, 2280 Taft Street, Saginaw, Michigan. Election of officers will be held. Members are invited to attend.

Fraternally,

Catherine Karlsen, Secretary

Branch 162 Elect Officers for 2012



Newly elected officers for the St. Wendelin Branch 162 (L – R): Frank Marmol, auditor; Patty Marmol, treasurer; Dolores Marmol, Secretary; Joanne Marmol, Vice President and Mark Marmol, President. Regional Director, James Marmol, performed the swearing-in.

Branch 670 Announces 2012 Scholarship Program for Members

Branch #670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2012 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the award criteria. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had 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. 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 FEBRUARY 29, 2012

Branch 200 Members: We Need Your Help!

I am currently updating our beneficial membership list. I need information for any member that has a change of address, name, and/or phone number. I also would like to obtain email addresses and cell phone numbers. There may be policy holders that are deceased and the beneficiaries are entitled to life insurance proceeds. You may want to make beneficiary changes to existing policies or purchase additional insurance.

You can contact me by mail, email or phone. My mailing address is: Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA, 16226. My email is vshaub123@gmail.com. The phone is 724-763-9229 (Monday-Friday, between noon and 5PM).

Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Branch Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES, is the following:

14.01 General Rules

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



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members



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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Thomas C Ondrejch	122K	Paul E Pass	373K	Elsie P Kirlik	615K	James T Milnar
002K	Rita S Collins	152K	Violet Poremba	381K	Catherine Anne Vancho	624K	Daniel J Zembruski
002K	Stephanie Lucas	157K	Monica L Deutsch	388K	Paul M Iannuzzo Sr	628K	Marian T Bowman
005P	Bernard W Stofik	162K	Cecelia Wrabel	393K	John J Mahoy	670K	Elizabeth E Vlcek
023K	Sister Theresa Podlucky	163K	Charles J Gura Jr	404K	Adeline M Dobrovich	682K	James J Jarvis
024K	Eleanore C Beno	173K	Carl Remchow	419K	Leonard J Blihar	682K	Joseph Charles Pavlick
024K	Charles J Buynak	181K	Christopher Paul Mcclanahan	429K	Anna Turowski	706K	Helen Andrusck
024K	Carol F Knapik	200K	Cheryl L Taleff	454K	Michael J Tonecha	706K	Martin R Javorka Jr
035K	Joseph S Jurinko	228K	Mary B Fulton	472K	Stella P Durichko	721K	Martin J Galecka Jr
038K	Jean E Kubala	233K	Kyle Patton Adams	484K	Mary Ann Nordby	743K	Rebecca E Dinardo
038K	David E Matthews	240P	Gertrude Jurnak	553K	Stephen Dennis Adam	769K	Anthony J Vojtisek
040K	Dora Maniglia	276K	Judith A Krall	553K	William P Adams	888K	Francis E Maloney
055K	Joseph F Novak	280K	Joseph A Michalek	581K	Daniel M Shudick Jr		
090K	Barbara Ann Uhrin	282K	Anne Katherine Fitzgibbons	595K	Dorothy Mae Carnes		
098K	Robert J Matava	356P	John J Samsel	595K	Theresa M Hanis		

* Processed in the month of Nov. 2011



**JOHN J. SABOL
BRANCH 580 –
WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA**

JOHN J. SABOL, 86, of West Mifflin, PA, died peacefully at home on Friday, December 16, 2011. Born in Terrace (Munhall) September 25, 1925. Son of the late John and Veronica (Nones) Sabol. Member of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, West Mifflin K. Of C. Council 4210, FCSU Branch 580, parish usher and a U.S. Army veteran WWII. Loving Husband of Mary (Spirnak) Sabol; cherished father of Eugene Sabol, Sr. of West Mifflin, Marian (Michael) Gross of Dumfries, VA and Audrey (Frank) Steiner of West Mifflin; five grandchildren, Eugene Sabol, Jr., Rachael (Bill) Fike, Jonathan, Caitlyn and Bethany Steiner; two great-grandchildren, Aidan and Ashton Fike; also nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters, Edward, Francis R., George A. Sabol, Veronica Cline, Helen Parnahay, and Elizabeth Yevick. Friends were received Sunday, December 18, and Monday, December 19, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. in the WILLIAM S. SKOVRANKO MEMORIAL HOME, Duquesne, PA. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tues., December 20, at 10 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, PA. Burial with military honors took place in Holy Trinity Cemetery. Mr. Sabol was a self employed excavator and was honored to dig hundreds of graves at area cemeteries for those who have gone on before.



- Submitted by Virginia A. Jasek, Branch 580 Secretary

**JOHN C. KASPER
BRANCH 856 –
WASHINGTON, DC**

John C. Kasper, 90, passed away peacefully at Emilia Assisted Living on November 18, 2011. He flew 29 missions as a navigator in Europe during WWII. Saw combat in Korean War and flew Weather Recon over the Pacific and also served in the Vietnam War. Among his many awards are the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star and five Air Medals. He served 30 years in the

Air Force. Preceded in death by his wife of 33 years, Dolores Marilyn Kasper, and son, John Anthony Kasper. He is survived by two sons, Stephen (Regina), James (Jeanie); Two daughters, Sr. M. Cyril Methodius, O. Carm., and Anne (Habib) Ahdoot; sisters, Anne Francik, of Roscoe, IL and Mary Kapitana of Crown Point, IN. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and friends. Relatives and friends were received at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, Alexandria, VA on that Friday from 2-4 & 7-9pm. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 1PM the following Saturday at St. Lawrence the Martyr Catholic Church, Alexandria, VA. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors at a later date.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856 Financial Secretary/Treasurer

**FRANK JOHN LYSY
BRANCH 856 –
WASHINGTON, DC**

Frank John Lysy, age 95 of Delaplaine, VA, died peacefully on Monday, November 7, 2011. He is survived by his children, Dusan (Janet) Lysy, Frank (Sue) Lysy, Jr., Daniel (Helen) Lysy, and Peter (Mary) Lysy; Grandchildren, David, Kara, Erin, Sherri, Chris, Emma, Edward, Eleanor, George; and one Great-Grandchild, Trey.



He was born in rural Slovakia and spent a career in government service, first as a primary school teacher in a one-room school in a small town in Slovakia, later in the Foreign Ministry of the then Czechoslovakia, and then in the US Government, principally as the head of the Slovak desk in the Czechoslovak service of the Voice of America. He retired in 1991, at the age of 75.

Frank was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and served as Vice President of Branch 856 for many years.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, the late Edith L. Lysy as well as his siblings, Zofia Skutova, Frantiska Feckova, Maria Lysa, Jozef Lysy, Anton Lysy, and Jan Lysy. A Mass of Christian Burial was cel-

ebrated Friday, November 11, 2011 at 1:00 PM at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Herndon, VA. Interment was private, and took place Saturday, November 12, 2011 at Wes-

ley Chapel Cemetery, in Free Union, VA. - Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856 Financial Secretary/Treasurer



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- * The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- * Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'Beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
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Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications or visit our web site at FCSU.com

Name Days in Slovakia

As we enter the new year, Jednota thought it appropriate to look forward to 2012 in the Slovak tradition of name days.

In Slovakia, each day of the year corresponds to a personal name (the original list was the Roman Catholic calendar of saints). People celebrate their name days (in Slovak, *meniny*) on the date corresponding to their own given names. Slovak culture has accorded similar importance to a person's name day to his or her birthday, and children in Slovakia usually have names from this list.

Here is a list of names assigned to each corresponding date in the year in the official Slovak calendar (although more names may be assigned to that date).

January

- New Year Day
Independence Day (1993)
- Alexandra
- Daniela
- Drahoslav
- Andrea
- Antonia
Epiphany
- Bohuslava
- Severin
- Alexej
- Dasa
- Malvina
- Ernest
- Rastislav
- Radovan
- Dobroslav
- Kristina
- Natasa
- Bohdana
- Drahomira
- Dalibor
- Vincent
- Zora
- Milos
- Timotej
- Gejza
- Tamara
- Bohus
- Alfonz
- Gaspar
- Ema
- Emil

February

- Tatiana
- Erika, Erik
- Blazej
- Veronika
- Agata
- Dorota
- Vanda
- Zoja
- Zdenko
- Gabriela
- Dezider
- Perla
- Arpad
- Valentin
- Pravoslav
- Ida
- Miloslava
- Jaromir
- Vlasta
- Livia
- Eleonora
- Etela
- Roman, Romana
- Matej
- Frederik, Frederika
- Viktor
- Alexander
- Zlatica
- Radomir

March

- Albin
- Anezka
- Bohumil, Bohumila
- Kazimir

- Fridrich
- Radoslav, Radoslava
- Tomas
- Alan, Alana
- Frantiska
- Branislav, Bruno
- Angela, Angelika
- Gregor
- Vlastimil
- Matilda
- Svetlana
- Boleslav
- Lubica
- Eduard
- Jozef
- Vitazoslav
- Blahoslav
- Benadik
- Adrian
- Gabriel
- Marian
- Emanuel
- Alena
- Sona
- Miroslav
- Vieroslava
- Benjamin

April

- Hugo
- Zita
- Richard
- Izidor
- Miroslava
- Irena
- Zoltan
- Albert
- Milena
- Igor
- Julius
- Estera
- Ales
- Justina
- Fedor
- Dana
- Rudolf
- Valer
- Jela
- Marcel
- Ervin
- Slavomir
- Vojtech
- Juraj
- Marek
- Jaroslava
- Jaroslav
- Jarmila
- Lea
- Anastazia

May

- Labor Day
- Zigmund
- Galina
- Florian
- Lesana
- Hermina
- Monika
- Ingrida
- Victory over Fascism Day (1945)

- Roland
- Viktoria
- Blazena
- Pankrac
- Servac
- Bonifac
- Zofia
- Svetozar
- Gizela
- Viola
- Gertruda
- Bernard
- Zina
- Julia
- Zelmira
- Ela
- Urban
- Dusan
- Iveta
- Viliam
- Vilma
- Ferdinand
- Petronela, Petrana

June

- Zaneta
- Xenia, Oxana
- Karolina
- Lenka
- Laura
- Norbert
- Robert
- Medard
- Stanislava
- Margareta
- Dobroslava
- Zlatko
- Anton
- Vasil
- Vit
- Blanka
- Adolf
- Vratislav
- Alfred
- Valeria
- Alojz
- Paulina
- Sidonie
- Jan
- Tadeas, Olivia
- Adriana
- Ladislav, Ladislava
- Beata
- Peter, Pavol, Petra
- Melania

July

- Diana
- Berta
- Miloslav
- Prokop
- Cyril, Metod
(their arrival into Great-Moravia's Empire in 863)
- Patricia, Patrik
- Oliver
- Ivan
- Lujza
- Amalia
- Milota
- Nina
- Margita
- Kamil
- Henrich
- Drahomir
- Bohuslav
- Kamila
- Dusana
- Ilja, Elias
- Daniel
- Magdalena
- Olga
- Vladimir
- Jakub

- Anna, Hana
- Bozena
- Kristof
- Marta
- Libusa
- Ignac

August

- Bozidara
- Gustav
- Jergus
- Dominik, Dominika
- Hortenzia
- Jozefina
- Stefania
- Oskar
- Lubomira
- Vavrinec
- Zuzana
- Darina
- Lubomir
- Mojmir
- Marcela
- Leonard
- Milica
- Elena, Helena
- Lydia
- Anabela
- Jana
- Tichomir
- Filip
- Bartolomej
- Ludovit
- Samuel
- Silvia
- Augustin
- Nikola
- Slovak National Uprising (1944)
- Ruzena
- Nora

September

- Drahoslava
Constitution Day (1992)
- Linda
- Belo
- Rozalia
- Regina
- Alica
- Marianna
- Miriama
- Martina
- Oleg
- Bystrik
- Maria
- Ctibor
- Ludomil
- Jolana
- Our Lady of Sorrows
- Ludmila
- Olympia
- Eugenia
- Konstantin
- Luboslav, Luboslava
- Matus
- Moric
- Zdenka
- Lubos, Lubor
- Vladislav
- Edita
- Cyprian
- Vaclav
- Michal, Michaela
- Jarolim

October

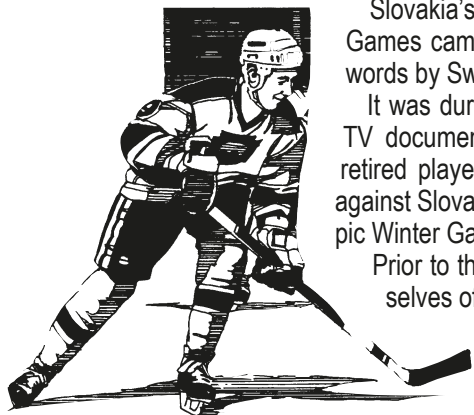
- Arnold
- Levoslav
- Stela
- Frantisek
- Viera



Slovak Victory Denigrated?

IIHF accepts explanation about 2006 Olympic game

By Stephen Reistetter



Slovakia's victory over Sweden at the Turin Winter Games came under suspicion thanks to some ill-chosen words by Swedish Star Peter Forsberg.

It was during a teaser-announcement for an upcoming TV documentary about Forsberg's career that the now retired player said that Team Sweden "threw" the game against Slovakia in the preliminary round of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Slovakia won the game 3-0.

Prior to the game, Sweden had already assured themselves of a spot in the quarter-final and the cross-over playoff format would present the Swedish team with, on paper, a less eminent opponent in case of a loss against the Slovaks. Sweden went on to win the men's

Olympic ice hockey gold medals after defeating Switzerland in the quarter-final, the Czech Republic in the semi-final and Finland in the gold medal game.

When reminiscing about the road to the gold medal, Mr. Forsberg referred to the encounter with Slovakia as a "throw-game" ("läggmatch" in Swedish). When made aware of the comment, the IIHF contacted the Swedish Ice Hockey Association and asked for a clarification and explanation with regards to Mr. Forsberg's statement in the TV-documentary.

On December 21, Peter Forsberg and the Swedish Ice Hockey Association issued a statement where the player explained that he erred in his choice of words. "I chose the wrong word to describe the situation [prior to the game against Slovakia]," said Forsberg. "What I wanted to say was that even for a fierce competitor like me, it is sometimes difficult to find full motivation prior to a game which doesn't necessarily have to be won.

"It is obvious that one always gives everything for the team and we did our best given the special preconditions, but of course the mental state we were in influenced our performance. I think that all elite athletes can relate to such a situation.

"This is my personal view and it doesn't refer to any other players on our team. Neither the head coach, nor any of the players talked prior to the game about not doing our best," concludes Peter Forsberg.

After internally reviewing the statements and furthermore discussing the issue with the

Swedish Ice Hockey Association and its president Christer Englund, the IIHF decided to accept the explanation from Mr. Forsberg. "After carefully reviewing Peter Forsberg's initial statement in the TV documentary and later his clarification, we came to the conclusion that Peter made an unfortunate choice of words when trying to describe the situation his team was in," said IIHF President René Fasel, who also is a member of the IOC Executive Committee.

Fasel concluded: "It is important to add that the IIHF and the tournament directorate in Turin were of course aware of the special pre-conditions prior to the game and that we decided to dedicate a special game supervisor to the Sweden-Slovakia game with the specific task to monitor and report about any irregularities. The game supervisor didn't report any wrongdoing - for the IIHF, this case is closed."

Slovakia finished a respectable fifth at the Turin Games.

- information from www.iihf.com was used in the writing of this article

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 2012 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, 2008 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 2012 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, 2012.**

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 2013).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2012. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

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News From Slovakia

Slovak Defense Ministry Views Operation in Iraq as Successful

Bratislava, December 20 (TASR) - The Slovak Defense Ministry views the international operation in Iraq linked to the deploying of armed forces as successful, ministry spokesperson Ivan Rudolf has told TASR.

"The NATO Training Mission has trained more than 5,000 [Iraqi] soldiers and more than 10,000 [Iraqi] police officers since 2004, by which it has contributed significantly to the development of the capacities of the Iraqi security forces. We view the termination of the activities of the international community in Iraq after eight years positively, as these were in accord with the aim of transferring full responsibility for the situation in the country into the hands of the Iraqi people," said Rudolf.

The last convoy of U.S. armed forces left Iraq on Sunday. Slovakia participated in the operation between 2003-07. "The Slovak armed forces cleared almost 890,000 square meters of mines mechanically and another 185,000 square meters manually. Around 660 tons of ammunition were destroyed during the demining work, said Rudolf.

Slovakia also suffered losses during the operation, as four its soldiers were killed.

Slovakia Officially Mourns Havel's Passing

Bratislava, December 19 (TASR) - Slovakia held state mourning on Friday, December 23, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the wake of the passing of Czechoslovakia's last president Vaclav Havel. This follows from a decision to this effect by the Slovak Government.

This will be Slovakia's seventh instance of state mourning.

Havel became the symbol of the Velvet Revolution and fundamental political changes in then Czechoslovakia that brought about the demise of Communism in 1989. He went on to become the Czechoslovak head of state (1989-1992) and Czech President (1993-2003).

According to Czech media, Havel, exhausted from working on his recent film debut as a director and from a respiratory illness, began cancelling his engagements recently, and appeared frail at the premiere of the film, ironically entitled 'Departure'. He died at the age of 75 at his cottage in Hradecek pri Trutnove on Sunday morning.

Slovakia Enters into Official Diplomatic Ties with South Sudan

Bratislava/Juba, December 12 (TASR) - Slovakia officially established diplomatic ties with South Sudan on Monday, Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Mikulas Dzurinda told TASR later in the day.

"We've signed a declaration on an official establishment of bilateral relations," Dzurinda said during his visit to the South Sudan capital of Juba.

"By signing the declaration we're committing ourselves to developing bilateral relations and to cooperating intensively on the international stage in the dissemination of peace and stability," said Dzurinda.

"We want to continue in developing good relations with Slovakia," said State Secretary at South Sudan's Foreign Affairs Ministry Charles Manyang D'Awol, who inked the document on behalf of his country.

The South Sudanese official also acknowledged Slovakia's assistance in the areas of health care and education. "We're grappling with a number of problems ... we're in need of development, education, better health care and infrastructure. Our country is wealthy, it has much oil, but it needs technologies and human resources, and this is the area where I believe Slovakia can help," he said.

U.S. Steel Cutting Working Week to Four Days

Kosice, December 15 (TASR) - U.S. Steel Kosice will be operating on a limited regime as of January.

Management of the company and its trade union have agreed on the four-day working week, TASR was told by U.S. Steel Kosice spokesman Jan Baca.

"Employees will get 60-percent compensations of their salary on the day when they stay at home. This measure will enable us to adjust our expenses regarding the complicated economic situation in Europe," said Baca, adding that this solution also minimizes the negative impact on the employees and their families.

"This new regime will make the company sufficiently flexible with respect to the requirements of our customers," said Baca.

Manpower: Willingness to Employ People Down, But Still Present

Bratislava, December 12 (TASR) - One in ten Slovak employers are thinking about hiring some new employees during the first quarter of 2012, while 9 percent of companies expect a reduction in their labor force, according to the Manpower Index published on Monday.

The number of employers planning to provide jobs to new people in the first three months of 2012 is 1 percentage point higher than the number of those who are planning to lay someone off.

"The net labor market index stands at +1 percent," said general director of Manpower Ceska a Slovenska Republika Jaroslava Rezlerova at a press conference on this date, adding that the index stood at +2 percent three months ago.

This means employers are expecting a relatively stable recruitment environment. Around 70 percent of the 750 companies approached by Manpower don't expect any changes in their employment levels in the given period of time.

In terms of individual regions, the best results were reported in Bratislava region, with the index at +6 percent. Companies in central Slovakia recorded +2 percent. Conversely, a negative trend is expected in the east of Slovakia, where the index dropped to -6 percent.

AmCham Presents Ten Steps Aimed at Gaining Foreign Direct Investment

Bratislava, December 13 (TASR) - The American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia (AmCham) in co-operation with experts from various economic spheres defined the ten steps needed to make Slovakia a sought-after destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) by the year 2020 at a conference in Bratislava on Tuesday.

The first step is to set up an FDI team. This means that key participants in the process from the state and commercial sphere have to come together, lead activities and implement the vision of foreign direct investment in the given time-frame.

Creating an assertive sales pitch for the "Slovakia" brand to foreign investors is viewed as another necessary step. This requires engaging in a pro-active communications campaign aimed at specific target markets.

Among the other necessary measures, AmCham highlighted the need for investment in education. Investors must be provided with a labour force with relevant skills in all sectors. The education of children has to be brought in line with the future needs of the business sector.

According to AmCham, state assistance is one of the key elements in the strategy of individual states competing for new investments. As a result, state-provided stimuli are among the basic requirements of supra-national companies looking for suitable destinations for investments. The stimuli have to be flexible, transparent and well-targeted, therefore.

AmCham experts also assume that approaching the Slovak diaspora abroad may help a great deal. Slovaks have travelled a lot in recent decades, often settling down in various places around the world. Some of them are in top posts in supra-national companies and so can help to communicate what Slovakia has to offer in a better way.

Slovak Scientists Contribute to Discovery of 57 New Isotopes

Bratislava, December 13 (TASR) - Slovak physicists were part of the international team that managed to discover 57 new isotopes, TASR learned from the Education Ministry's press department on Tuesday.

"Slovak physicists developed and are operating new and extremely precise TPC detectors for FRS spectrometer, by virtue of which the accuracy of the spectrometer has increased significantly," reads the statement released by the department. Thus, the scientists contributed to an important discovery of new isotopes in precious elements such as platinum or osmium.

"The discovery of new isotopes holds a great importance for nuclear astrophysics ... as well as for the development of new energy sources - reactors," reads the document.

By utilising the discovery, new reactors can be built that will recycle the nuclear waste to a significantly less dangerous material.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Focus on Heritage

My New Family (Moja Nová Rodina)

By Karen Chovanec-Calhoun

All five of my grandparents (one grandma remarried years after her first husband died) were born and raised in (what was then) Czechoslovakia, yet we were never taught Slovak – except for a few words – for several reasons. First, our parents used Slovak as a “secret communication.” Second, our grandparents wanted us to be “true Americans.” So three years ago, I happily responded to an invitation in our Wisconsin Slovak publication to learn Slovak. At first we met every other Sunday during the summer. Now classes have been extended from March to September in the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society’s museum in Cudahy, Wisconsin.

I consider my classmates and teacher, Bob Richardson, as my new family. My fellow class members are: Fred Brutvari, Carrie Czech, George Evaska, Karen Jurik, Marilyn Kosut, Car Micech, Angie Pence, Dave Zagrodnick, Dennis Zemanovic, and Marty Zeman.

In fact, I’ve met an old playmate who visited her aunt and uncle across the street from me. Also, I have met a second cousin. We are quite a mix, ranging in ages from teens to nineties. Teacher emphasizes history, culture, politics, language – all gleaned from his years teaching English as a second language in Slovakia with his wife Sharon. He gladly gives his time freely to us. Classmates add their own family memories and experiences from trips “home.” Both teacher and class member Carol Micech went through arduous journeys to receive certificates of Slovak Living Abroad Identification. Carl’s trip to find and document relatives in Slovakia this last summer is fascinating. As families do, we even share news of illnesses, deaths, births, graduations, etc.

Meeting in the museum adds another level of cultural exchange. The museum is open to the public one Sunday a month and features themes. Recently, the October theme was Sokols in Wisconsin. The November theme was All Souls’ Day. The December theme was St. Nicholas and Christmas. To name just two of the museum’s collections are a new kroj (costume) room and a large collection of dolls outfitted in kroj. Meeting among all these treasurers is educational and nurturing.

I am thrilled to have found moja nová rodina.



Slovak classes are held in the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society’s museum



Slovak kroj (costumes) are among the museum’s collection.

Name Days in Slovakia

continued from page 16



- 6. Natalia
- 7. Eliska
- 8. Brigita
- 9. Dionyz
- 10. Slavomira
- 11. Valentina
- 12. Maximilian
- 13. Koloman
- 14. Boris
- 15. Terezia
- 16. Vladimira
- 17. Hedviga
- 18. Lukas
- 19. Kristian
- 20. Vendelin
- 21. Ursula
- 22. Sergej
- 23. Alojzia
- 24. Kvetoslava
- 25. Aurel
- 26. Demeter
- 27. Sabina
- 28. Dobromila
- 29. Klara
- 30. Simon, Simona
- 31. Aurelia

- Day of Fight for Democracy
- 18. Eugen
- 19. Alzbeta
- 20. Felix
- 21. Elvira
- 22. Cecilia
- 23. Klement
- 24. Emilia
- 25. Katarina
- 26. Kornel
- 27. Milan
- 28. Henrieta
- 29. Vratko
- 30. Ondrej, Andrej

December

- 1. Edmund
- 2. Bibiana
- 3. Oldrich
- 4. Barbora
- 5. Oto
- 6. Mikulas
- 7. Ambroz
- 8. Marina
- 9. Izabela
- 10. Raduz
- 11. Hilda
- 12. Otilia
- 13. Lucia
- 14. Branislava, Bronislava
- 15. Ivica
- 16. Albina
- 17. Kornelia
- 18. Slava
- 19. Judita
- 20. Dagmara
- 21. Bohdan
- 22. Adela
- 23. Nadezda
- 24. Adam a Eva
- 25. 1st Christmas Day
- 26. 2nd Christmas Day
- Stefan
- 27. Filomena
- 28. Ivana, Ivona
- 29. Milada
- 30. David
- 31. Silvester

November

- 1. Denisa, Denis
- All Saints’ Day
- 2. All Souls’ Day
- 3. Hubert
- 4. Karol
- 5. Imrich
- 6. Renata
- 7. Rene
- 8. Bohumir
- 9. Teodor
- 10. Tibor
- 11. Martin, Maros
- 12. Svatopluk
- 13. Stanislav
- 14. Irma
- 15. Leopold
- 16. Agnesa
- 17. Klaudia

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

W	A	S	P		E	M	O	T	E		P	E	E	R				
A	L	E	E		M	A	T	I	N		L	A	D	Y				
R	O	A	R		A	R	I	E	S		U	R	G	E				
N	E	S	T		I	T	S			U	N	C	L	E				
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T	O	G			A	S	P		E	A	G	L	E	T				
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Pranostiky for January

By Michael Joseph Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

Trying to predict what will happen in a new year is a common custom in many lands, and Slovakia is no exception. Slovaks have what are called pranostiky, predictions for what will happen in the New Year based on weather and signs in the sky. As noted in previous articles, the Slovak penchant for looking for clues to the future to a Farmer's Almanac. In past times, Slovak peasants always concerned themselves with trying to figure out ways to deal with a harsh life filled with the uncertainty of everything from weather to their family's health.

Here are a few of the pranostiky which were commonly used in Slovakia during the days when many of our ancestors lived there. They start with some forecasts based on New Year's Day phenomena, and continue as the month progresses to January 8.

January 1st

1. *Aký je deň Nového roka, taký bude celý rok.*

Translation: Whatever it is like on New Year's Day, expect the same all year long

2. *Na Nový rok blato, na Velkú noc sneh.*

If there is mud on New Year's Day, there will be snow on Easter

3. *Drobný hustý dážď bol predzvesťou hustých, plných klasov.*

A light and dense rain was a harbinger of plump and full ears (of corn).

4. *Červené zore ráno na oblohe na Nový rok veštili víchrice, búrky, neúrodu a biedu.*

A red morning star in the sky on New Year's portends hurricanes, storms, infertility, and poverty.

5. *Jasná a tichá novoročná noc zvestuje nám dobrý rok.*

A clear and quiet New Year's night is a sign that we will have a good year

January 2 and afterwards.

1. *Ked' je druhého jasno, bude dlhá zima, keď ale nesneží, nie je d'aleko jaro.*

If second day of January is clear, it will be a long winter, but if it does not snow, spring is not far away.



2. *Ked' je druhého januára jasno, bude veľa ovociny.*

If second day of January is clear, fruit will be abundant.

3. *Tretí deň jasný - mnohé búrky.*

If the third day is clear – many storms will follow.

4. *Štvrtý deň jasný, znamená mrákavý a nezdravý rok.*

A clear day on the fourth means a cloudy and unhealthy year.

5. *Je-li na Jména Ježiš hezký den, bude úrodný rok; je-li vítr, bude málo ovoce.* (Czech)

If Jesus' Name Day (January 5) is nice, it will be a fertile year; if there is wind, there will not be much fruit.

January 6

1. *Na Tri krále mnoho hviezd – mnoho zemiakov.*

Many stars on the Feast of the Three Kings – means lots of potatoes.

2. *Na Tri krále zima stále.*

On the Feast of the Three Kings, winter is constant.

3. *Ak je na Tri krále jasno, zdari sa pšenica.*

If it is clear on the Feast of the Three Kings, it portends an abundant wheat harvest.

4. *Trojkráľovú zimu vlk nezožerie.*

Cold on the Feast of the Three Kings means the wolf will not be voracious.

January 8

Na svätého Severína vešia sa mäso do komína.

On St. Severin Day (January 8), hang some meat to smoke by the chimney.

This is just a small sample of the many Slovak sayings and proverbs about the New Year. They are abundant in Slovakia. An article in the newspaper Slovak Spectator noted that Slovaks have over 12,000 sayings, and most of them date from an earlier period of history, when they were mainly an agricultural people.

Pranostiky shed light on the way Slovak peasants viewed the world. Superstition abounded, and they ascribed a special meaning to acts of nature and extraordinary happening. Living near subsistence, the struggle to survive and endure hardships was constant. But reading them is a window into the mindset of the ordinary people of Slovakia.



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We will see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz, as well as a visit to Schoenbrunn Place. In the Czech Republic, you can look forward to seeing Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, plus many other sights.

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John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA, 15690

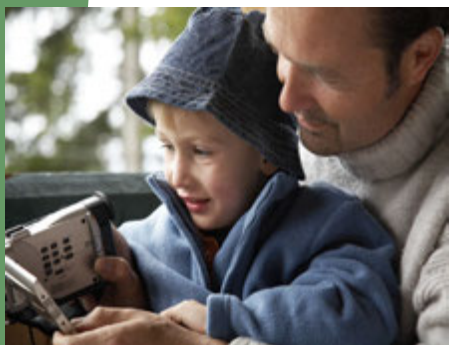
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Zomrel bývalý československý a český prezident Václav Havel

Vo veku 75 rokov zomrel 18. decembra Václav Havel, posledný československý a prvý český prezident, ktorého zdravotný stav sa v ostatných rokoch výrazne zhoršoval. Havel už od marca rušil svoj program, na verejnosti sa objavil len niekoľkokrát. Nezúčastnil sa ani osláv 17. novembra, snažil sa skôr odpočívať v kúpeľoch a na vidieku. Havla vyčerpaná práca na jeho režijnom filmovom debute, snímke *Odchod*, ktorý vstúpil do kín v marci 2011. Po prvýkrát po dvoch rokoch začal rušiť program, dokonca ho hospitalizovali so zápalom dýchacích ciest. Slávnostnej premiéry filmu sa zúčastnil už značne zoslabnutý, vychudnutý a opieral sa o palicu. Havlova rekonvalescencia prebiehala pomalšie, než lekári čakali. Sily zbieral na chalupe na Hrádečku pri Trutnove, kde aj podľa medializovaných informácií 18. decembra ráno zomrel.



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Občania sa mohli na Úrade vlády SR v Bratislave podpísať do kondolenčnej knihy k úmrtiu bývalého československého prezidenta Václava Havla. Kondolenčná kniha bola vystavená vo vestibule historickej budovy Úradu vlády SR v pondelok 19. decembra 2011 od 10. hodiny.

V októbri bývalý prezident oslávil 75. narodeniny. Pri oslavách sa zveril, že sa necíti dobre. Zostával ďalej v ústraní, akcií pri výročí 17. novembra sa nezúčastnil. V decembri sa stretol s dalajlámom, s ktorým sa priatelil už roky. Najvyšší duchovný predstaviteľ Tibetu priletel do Prahy.

Problémy s dýchacím ústrojenstvom trápili Havla dlhé roky. Zdravie mal podlomené z komunistických väzení i fajčenia. V roku 1996 mu lekári odobrali polovicu pravého pľúcneho laloku kvôli zhubnému nádoru.

Za zvuku zvonov a minútou ticha sa 23. decembra na poludnie začal pohreb bývalého prezidenta Václava Havla, ktorý sa konal v pražskej katedrále sv. Víta. Telegram od Svätého Otca na začiatku bohoslužby prečítal kardinál Giovanni Coppa, ktorý bol po novembrovej revolúcii – po obnovení diplomatických vzťahov Českej republiky a Vatikánu, a za éry prezidenta Havla apoštolským nunciom v ČR. Pohrebnej svätej omši predsedal pražský arcibiskup Dominik Duka. TASR, TK KBS



Premiére prvého slovenského filmu Jánošík tleskali aj v Chicagu

Plány na natočenie prvého slovenského, hraného a nemého filmu *Jánošík* vznikli v americkom Chicagu. Jeho americká premiéra sa tam konala pred 90 rokmi 1. decembra 1921 v Atlantis Theatre. Režisér film bol zakladateľ slovenskej kinematografie Jaroslav Siakel'.

V novembri 1920 založili americkí Slováci v Chicagu firmu Tatra Film Corporation. Spoločnosť vznikla za účelom natáčať filmy v starej vlasti. Po vojne poverila skupina Slovákov žijúcich v USA Jaroslava Siakel'a, aby s bratom Danielom urobili film. Obidvaja sa preto ešte v roku 1920 vrátili na Slovensko, aby nakrútili s americko-slovenskou spoločnosťou Tatrafilm prvý dlhometrážny nemý film - *Jánošík*. Daniel bol kameramanom a Jaroslav sa ujal réžie. Scenáristom bol literát Jozef Žák-Marušiak. Do hlavných úloh obsadili Theodora Pištěka a Máriu Fábryovú. Exteriéry filmovali v Gaderskej doline, Šútove, Prahe, ako aj v ich rodnej Blatnici. Natáčať začali začiatkom leta roku 1921. Náklady na film sa vyšplhali do výšky asi 14,500 dolárov. Premiéra filmu sa konala 25. novembra 1921 v Prahe, 1. decembra 2011 v Chicagu a 3. januára 1922 v Žiline. Tento film sa však "stratil" na celých 50 rokov.

Filmová značne poškodenú "americkú" kópiu *Jánošíka* z roku 1921 vlastnil neskôr jeho pôvodný producent Ján Závodný, ktorý ju v roku 1970 priviezol na Slovensko a venoval ju Slovenskému filmovému ústavu. Napriek jej zlému stavu sa podarilo režisérovi Ivanovi Rumanovskému v roku 1975 dôkladne ju zrekonštruovať a ozvučiť.

Vďaka Siakel'ovmu *Jánošíkovi* sa Slovensko zaradilo medzi prvých desať krajín sveta, ktoré vyrobili dlhometrážny nemý hraný film. V roku 1995 ho UNESCO zapísalo do svetového kultúrneho dedičstva. Jednu z dobových kamier, ktorými filmár Jaroslav Siakel' a jeho spoločníci natáčali *Jánošíka* Slovenská liga v Amerike darovala v roku 2000 bývalému slovenskému prezidentovi Rudolfovi Schusterovi.

Do dnešných dní boli natočené aj ďalšie verzie filmov o *Jánošíkovi*. Okrem bratov Siakel'ovcov ho nafilmovali aj režiséri Martin Frič /1935/ a Paľo Bielik /1963/. Slávnostná premiéra najnovšieho filmového spracovania *Jánošíka* s podtitulom *Pravdivá história poľskej režisérky Agnieszky Holland a jej dcéry Kasie Adamik sa uskutočnila 4. septembra 2009*. V tom roku film patril medzi najnavštevovanejšie filmy v slovenských kinách. Zdroje: <http://www.czsk.net/>, Encyklopédia Slovenska. Bratislava. Veda 1981

TASR



Vianočný bazár medzinárodného klubu žien v Bratislave

Na medzinárodnom Vianočnom bazáre, ktorý sa konal v nedeľu 21. novembra v bratislavskej Starej tržnici sa podarilo na charitatívne účely získať „rekordných“ 88,000 eur. Informovala o tom Zora Grohoľová z Medzinárodného klubu žien v Bratislave. Celkovo sa tu rôznymi výrobkami a špecialitami prezentovalo 38 krajín, charitatívne organizácie a ďalší účastníci.

Podujatie, ktoré pravidelne organizuje Medzinárodný klub žien v Bratislave pre širokú verejnosť, otvorila manželka prezidenta SR Silvia Gašparovičová. Na tohtoročnom bazáre nechýbali exotické štáty ako Kórea či Brazília, ale aj tradiční vystavovatelia ako stredo-európske krajiny, Izrael, Francúzsko, Španielsko, Kanada, Chorvátsko, Rusko či Srbsko. Slovenskú republiku zastupoval oficiálne stánok Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR.

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Východoslovenský Novoročný vinš



Generálny konzulát SR čoskoro otvorí vo Veľkej Británii

Slovensko bude mať vo Veľkej Británii svoj generálny konzulát. Zriaďiť sa má do konca mája 2012 v Manchestri. Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí (MZV) to zdôvodňuje dôsledným zabezpečením konzulárnej a prezentačnej prípravy účasti SR na letných Olympijských hrách v Londýne v roku 2012.

Počet Slovákov žijúcich v Spojenom kráľovstve sa v súčasnosti odhaduje na 150,000 až 200,000, čo predstavuje po Českej republike druhú najvyššiu koncentráciu slovenských občanov v členských krajinách EÚ. Veľká časť žije práve v priemyselných zónach Manchestru a Liverpoolu. Veľvyslanectvo SR v Londýne patrí z hľadiska objemu konzulárnej agendy k najvyťaženejším slovenským zastupiteľským úradom v zahraničí. "To implikuje potrebu posilnenia dostupnosti konzulárnych služieb občanom SR prostredníctvom zriadenia konzulárneho úradu mimo hlavného mesta," konštatuje MZV.

Manchester označil rezort za významné politické, priemyselné, obchodné, vzdelávacie a kultúrne centrum severozápadného Anglicka s vysokou koncentráciou občanov SR. Konzulárne zastúpenie z členských štátov EÚ tam majú napríklad Francúzsko, Holandsko, Nemecko, Poľsko, Portugalsko, Španielsko, Švédsko a Taliansko.

Konzulárny úrad SR vytvorí podľa rezortu diplomacie vhodné podmienky na skvalitňovanie poskytovania konzulárnych služieb a pomoci občanom SR, ktorí žijú v daných regiónoch i pre praktickú ekonomicko-obchodnú spoluprácu.

TASR



Sviatok - Traja králi

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

my sme prišli k vám zďaleka. Zďaleka je cesta naša, od Betlema ku Ježišu, do Betlema pospiechali, Ježiškovi dary dali."

V mnohých oblastiach Európy sa novoročné vinše vinšujú práve na Troch kráľov. Tak je to napríklad aj v alpskej oblasti Montafon (rakúska spolková republika Vorarlberg). Ako sme spomenuli, v tento deň sa v kostoloch svätí voda, kadidlo a krieda, no okrem vody niekde aj soľ. Posvätená soľ sa v alpských krajinách pridávala do masla proti začarovaniu. Posvätená krieda sa používala na nápis iniciálok G.M.B., ktoré vyjadrovali požehnanie domu. Tieto opatrenia sa spájali s význačným charakterom tohto dňa, ktorý bol, ako sme povedali, určitý čas považovaný za začiatok kresťanského roka.

Tak, ako silvestrovská noc, tak aj noc pred Trojmi kráľmi bola magická a vhodná na veštenie. Ludových spôsobov veštenia bolo neúrekom. Najobľúbenejšie však bolo liatie olova, ako ho poznáme aj z ondrejských zvykov, hádzanie čižmou (či topánkou), rôzne spôsoby losovania (napríklad vyťahovanie halušiek, v ktorých boli lístočky s menami) apod. V západnej Európe sa piekol trojkráľový koláč z fazule, do ktorého sa zamiesili tri predmety: snubný prsteň, minca a náprstok. Koláč sa rozkrájal a kto našiel prsteň, toho čakal sobáš, kto mincu, toho malo čakať bohatstvo a náprstok znamenal, že náležca ostane na ocot. Tento zvyk sa rozšíril z anglického Cornwallu. No nielen veštbý sa dostávali ku slovu. Na Troch kráľov si mal odrezať prútkár svoju virgulu. V Nemecku, kde bolo prútkárske umenie od nepamätí veľmi rozšírené, sa prútk na Troch kráľov aj krstil, a to menom jedného z troch mudrcov. Meno Gašpar sa dávalo prútku vtedy, keď mal vyhľadávať zlato, Baltazar, ak striebro a Melichar, ak ním mal prútkár hľadať vodu.

Pútnici

Modlitba na sviatok Troch kráľov

Pozdravujem Ťa, Ježišu, dávnym pozdravom svätých troch kráľov. S akou nábožnosťou a radosťou sa dívali na Teba, Božské dieťa, v náručí panenskej Matky. Kto by netúžil po ich šťastí? I ja teraz môžem zažívať také šťastie. I mne svieti radostná a spásonosná hviezda. Skrze Teba som dieťaťom svätej Cirkvi. Ty prebývaš medzi nami v preveľbej Svätosti oltárnej, preto sa Ti klaniam s tou láskou a vŕcnosťou, s akou sa Ti klaňali traja králi.

A Ty, môj Ježišu, pozri na mňa tak milostivo, ako si pozrel na nich a prijmi odo mňa dary: zlato, kadidlo a myrhu – moju myseľ, srdce a vôľu, ktoré Ti darujem v živej viere, nádeji a láske. Dobrotivý Ježišu, prijmi moju obeť a daj mi milosť, aby som žil(a) a umrel(a) ako verné dieťa Tvojej Cirkvi. Amen.

Oznámenia Spolkov a okresov

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 29. januára, 2012 o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová – pokladníčka

Výročná schôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku

Vážení priatelia, I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku pozýva všetkých svojich členov ako aj hostí na svoju Výročnú schôdzu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 15. januára 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpolednia v Osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City.

Na programe schôdzi je vyhodnotenie práce I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy za uplynulé obdobie, finančná správa, voľba výboru na rok 2012 a plán podujatí na rok 2012. Očakávame, že sa na tejto schôdzi v hojnom počte zúčastníte. Po schôdzi bude podané občerstvenie.

Dovoľujeme si vám všetkým zaželať Šťastný Nový rok 2012.

Milan R. Dait

predseda I. Zboru SLvA v NYC

Výročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Dňa 23. októbra 2011 sa konala Výročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty na fare Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojice v Yonkers, NY. Pripravovanému podujatiu predchádzala najprv slovenská svätá omša v kostole Najsvätejšej Trojice, ktorú odslúžili otec František Čonka a otec Roman D. Polaski. Organizátor Stephen Knobloch so spevokolom spievali krásne príležitostné slovenské chrámové piesne. Vďaka vyslovujeme zvlášť hlavnému duchovnému tohto kostola otcovi George Oonnoonymu, ktorý nám umožnil využiť priestory ako aj odlúžiť slovenskú omšu. Podujatia sa zúčastnili v hojnom počte členovia Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, hostia a iní farníci Slovenského kostola.

Nový výbor Okresu č. 16 Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu na rok 2012

Robert Lutz – predseda; Anna Korčák – podpredsedníčka; Henrieta H. Daitová – tajomníčka a pokladníčka; Jozef Bilik – revízor; Jozef Juráši – revízor.



Na snímke účastníci výročnej členskej schôdze Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ spolu s kňazmi, ktorí slúžili svätú omšu zľava: otec Roman D. Polaski a otec František Čonka.



Počas slovenskej svätej omši zľava čítajúca Henrieta H. Daitová; otec Roman D. Polaski a pri ňom sprava otec František Čonka.

Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716



Výbor Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ zľava: Mária Božeková, Jozef Bilik, Anna Bilik, Henrieta H. Daitová, Milan R. Dait, Ján Škrkoň, Veronika Packová.

Dňa 30. októbra 2011 sa konala Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 hneď po slovenskej svätej omši v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Výročnú schôdzu otvoril otec Štefan Chanas modlitbou a potom predseda Spolku Jozef Bilik privítal všetkých prítomných členov a hostí. Počas schôdze si členovia zvolili nový výbor Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ.

Nový výbor Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ na rok 2012

Jozef Bilik – predseda; Ján Škrkoň – podpredseda; Milan R. Dait – pokladník; Henrieta H. Daitová – tajomníčka a zapisovateľka; Anna Bilik – revizorka; Mária Božeková – revizorka.

Henrieta H. Daitová,
tajomníčka spolkov

Tradičný Slovenský ples v NYC bude 4. februára

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku (AKS) pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na tradičný reprezentačný Slovenský ples, ktorý sa bude konať v sobotu 4. februára 2012 v priestoroch prestížnej new-yorskej spoločenskej inštitúcie The New York Athletic Club na adrese 180 Central Park South.

Na tomto plese bude poctený Dr. Zoltán Meško, ktorý pred 15 rokmi zorganizoval v spolupráci so SAKS-om akciu Srdec k srdcu (Heart to Heart), v rámci ktorej bolo založené Detské kardiocentrum v Bratislave a viacerí slovenskí lekári dostali možnosť študovať v Londýne a USA na zdokonalenie ich odbornosti.

Ples sa začne recepciou o 6. hodine a bude pokračovať večerou o 7. hodine. Tanečná hudba bude hrať od 7. hodiny. Na programe je aj krátky zábavný a spoločenský program a bohatá tombola, v ktorej bude možné vyhrať (na vstupenku) letenky na Slovensko a iné hodnotné ceny.

Pozvánky na ples alebo ďalšie informácie si možno vyžiadať od Zuzky Krčmár - tel 973-357-1209. Do videnia na 20. výročnom Slovenskom plese v New Yorku. - Výbor SAKS-u

Slovenské vianočné programy v New Yorku

Slovenské vianočné programy pri slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého sa tradujú už mnoho rokov. Počas slovenských omší v adventnom období, ktoré sa konajú každú nedeľu a sviatkov o 11. hod. ráno sa spievajú slovenské vianočné piesne a kostol je vyzdobený podľa slovenských a amerických tradícií.

Každoročným podujatím v predvianočnom čase je Mikulášsky večierok. Tohto roku sa konal v nedeľu 4. decembra. Veľká spoločenská miestnosť bola zaplnená a sv. Mikuláš mal dosť práce rozdávať darčeky desiatkam detí, ktoré sa naňho tešili a niektoré mu aj zarecitovali básničky alebo zaspievali, či zahrli vianočné koledy.

V nedeľu 11. decembra sa konalo v spoločenskej hale vianočné spoločenské posedenie bohatou večerou, počas ktorej sa podávali tradičné slovenské štedrovečerné jedlá. Posedenie otvoril vhodnou modlitbou o. Štefan Chanas a Henrieta Daitová vysvetlovala symboliku a tradované zvyky v súvislosti s jedlami ako boli podávané, počnúc oplátkami a končiac slovenskými koláčmi. Nechýbal ani spev vianočných koledí.

Kostol sv. Jána bol už od začiatku decembra vhodne vyzdobený a poskytoval typickú slovenskú vianočnú atmosféru. Aj návštevy na slovenských omšiach v čase vianočnom boli hojnejšie ako v inom čase.

Osemdesiatka Ety Jendrekovej

Dobre známa kultúrna pracovníčka v oblasti New Yorku, Eta Jendreková sa dožila osemdesiatky. Toto vzácne životné jubileum oslávila v prestížnej reštaurácii v kruhu svojej rodiny a veľkého počtu priateľov a spolupracovníkov.

Jubilantka je kultúrnou referentkou Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v New Yorku (SAKS) a v tejto funkcii organizovala slovenské plesy a hlavne kultúrne programy SAKS-u. Medzi významnými podujatiami, ktoré iniciovala a organizovala boli výstavy umeleckých diel uznávaných maliarov Kolomana Sokola, Violy Motyl-Palffy a Daniela Brogyanyiho. Jej ďalším významným podujatím boli koncerty a prezentácie tvorby slovenských skladateľov Mikuláša Schneidera Trnavského a Eugena Suchoňa.

Eta Jendreková pochádza z Michaloviec na východnom Slovensku, kde vyštudovala gymnázium a hudobnú školu. Tam sa vydala za Dr. Valentína Jendreka. Po komunistickom prevrate v roku 1948 režim skonfiškovoval rodinný hotel, ktorý vlastnili rodičia a rodina musela zápasíť o prežitie v nepriaznivom prostredí a v podozrení. V roku 1969, v čase Dubčekovho odmäku, Eta s manželom opustili rodnú vlasť a po krátkom pobyte v Bruseli emigrovali do Winnipegu v Kanade. O tri roky neskoršie sa usadili v Spojených štátoch, kde sa Dr. Jendrek stal anesteziológom. Ich trvalým domovom sa stalo mestečko Englewood Cliffs v New Jersey, v blízkosti New Yorku. Vychovali dvoch synov, Petra a Pavla a dcéru Kathy. Všetci traja sú profesionálmi s univerzitným vzdelaním. Dr. Jendrek zomrel v roku 2004. Napriek tomu jubilantka vedie aktívny spoločenský život s morálnou podporou svojej rodiny a mnohých priateľov. Ad multos annos! - JH



3. ročník Slovensko-amerického galavečere vo Washingtone

Vo Washingtone, DC sa 17. novembra 2011 konal tretí ročník Slovensko-amerického galavečere. Hlavným hosťom slávnostného podujatia, organizovaného slovenským veľvyslanectvom v USA v spolupráci s mimovládnu organizáciou Friends of Slovakia, bol predseda Zahraničného výboru Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky František Šebej. Cieľom podujatia je osláviť dlhodobé pevné spojenecké a priateľské vzťahy Slovenska a USA a zároveň oceniť osobnosti, ktoré sa významne pričinili o rozvoj slovensko-amerických vzťahov a o propagáciu Slovenska v USA. V tomto roku boli ocenení predseda zahraničného výboru NR SR František Šebej (politika/diplomacia), hlavná predsedníčka Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Ženskej Jednoty Mary Ann S. Johanek (Slovenský Američan roku), spoločnosť Honeywell International, Inc. (ekonomická spolupráca), emeritný arcibiskup Washingtonu kardinál Theodore E. McCarrick (humanitárna cena), bývalý profesionálny hokejový hráč tímu Washington Capitals a reprezentant Slovenskej republiky Peter Bondra (kultúra/sport). Podujatie je zároveň pravidelnou oslavou výročia Nežnej revolúcie roku 1989.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Zatiaľ** jedinými kúpeľmi v strednej a východnej Európe, ktoré úspešne prešli certifikáciou Európskej asociácie kúpeľov (ESPA) a získali certifikát kvality Europespa sú Slovenské liečebné kúpele Piešťany (SLKP), a.s. Odborníci ESPA sa pri hodnotení v polovici tohto roku v známom kúpeľnom centre zamerali na kvalitu poskytovaných služieb. Posudzovali všetky balneocentrá SLKP - Irma, Pro Patria, Napoleonské kúpele a Balnea Health Spa. Posvietili si na procedúry – ich samotnú realizáciu a časovanie, diagnostiku, na kvalifikáciu a vzdelanie lekárov a zdravotníckeho personálu, vybavenie a štandardy zdravotníckych zariadení, bezpečnosť, hygienu i rizikový manažment. Hodnotili aj spokojnosť hostí a personálu.

• **Český miliardár** Zdeněk Bakala má záujem o kúpu slovenskej Železničnej spoločnosti Cargo Slovakia, ktorej privatizáciu momentálne pripravuje minister dopravy Ján Figel' (KDH). Rozšírenie svojich podnikateľských aktivít na Slovensku plánuje Bakala najmä kvôli kvalite podnikateľského prostredia. Vďaka reformným krokom sa Slovensko podľa neho v tomto ohľade posunulo aj pred susedné Česko. Pozitívne pritom hodnotí najmä daňový systém. Slovenský reformný program podľa neho nemá v Európskej únii (EÚ) obdobu.

• **Poľnohospodári** mali pred Vianocami hlavy v smútku. Katastrofálne sucho, ktoré na niektorých miestach trvalo aj viac ako stovku dní, im ničilo zasiaté oziminy. Stvrdnutá pôda im navyše lámala pluhy a zvyšovala náklady na jej obrábanie. Nedostatkem vody trpela najviac repka olejná. Slovenská poľnohospodárska a potravinárska komora (SPPK) odhadovala, že škody sú už nezvratné na približne desiatich tisíckach hektárov.

• **Slovensko** skončilo podľa najnovšieho vydania svetového rebríčka vnímania korupcie Transparency International (TI) na 66. mieste zo 183 hodnotených krajín. Je to piate najhoršie umiestnenie zo štátov Európskej únie. Za SR skončili horšie Taliansko, Rumunsko, Grécko a Bulharsko. Výsledok reflektuje prácu vlád z roku 2010. Z krajín Výšehradskej štvorky je na tom najlepšie Poľsko na 41. mieste. Maďarsko figuruje na 54. pozícii a Česká republika na 57. mieste. Najčistejšími krajinami sú Nový Zéland, Dánsko a Fínsko. Naopak, najskorumpovanejšími sú Severná Kórea a Somálsko.

• **Fórum** kresťanských inštitúcií (FKI), Rada pre laické a apoštolské hnutia (RPLAH), Pápežské slovenské kolégium sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme a Slovenská redakcia Vatikánskeho rozhlasu organizujú od 10. do 15. februára 2012 už tretí ročník púte zástupcov laických hnutí a združení k hrobu sv. Cyrila v Ríme. Jedným z pútnikov bude aj bratislavský eparcha Peter Rusnák.

• **Dve** slovenské vína získali 1. decembra na 7. ročníku medzinárodnej výstavy vín, vôd a destilátov Vinum Laugaricio v Trenčíne titul šampióna výstavy. Stalo sa tak vôbec po prvýkrát v sedemročnej histórii výstavy. V kategórii tichých bielych suchých vín si prestížne ocenenie odnieslo Rulandské šedé od výrobcu Vinum Kult Trenčín, medzi červenými vínami triumfoval Alibernet od spoločnosti SVV. Dvojicu slovenských šampiónov doplnil v kategórii ostatných bielych vín Rizling vlašský od Oldřicha Drápala z Českej republiky.

• **Slovenský** veľvyslanec v Iraku Miloslav Nad' prevzal vo štvrtok 1. decembra z rúk irackého prezidenta Džalála Talabániho pamätnú medailu za pomoc, ktorú Slovensko vynaložilo na oslobodenie irackého ľudu od totalitného režimu. Slovenský veľvyslanec prevzal medailu spolu s ostatnými veľvyslancami krajín, ktoré sa zúčastnili na spojeneckej operácii Iracká sloboda. Na slávnostnom obrade na počesť stiahnutia amerických síl z Iraku, ktorá sa konala na bývalej najväčšej americkej základni v Bagdade (Camp Victory), sa ako čestný hosť zúčastnil aj viceprezident USA Joe Biden. Pamätnú medailu prezidenta Irackej republiky pošlú do Siene slávy ministerstva obrany, kde sa stane súčasťou historickej expozície venovanej účasti Slovenska na operácii Iracká sloboda.

• **Spoločnosť** Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK) predlžuje nábor nových zamestnancov až do konca marca 2012. Dôvodom je okrem iného aj rozširovanie produkcie vozidiel o rad New Small Family a prípravy na prevádzku novej lisovne. Pre produkciu vozidiel Volkswagen up!, Škoda Citigo a Seat Mii hľadá spoločnosť zamestnancov s technickým vzdelaním, pričom môže ísť o absolventov i o ľudí s praxou v automobilovom priemysle. Uplatnenie nájdu v karosárni, lakovni i montáži vozidiel radu New Small Family bratislavského závodu.

• **Publikácia** pod názvom BSL3 a BSL4 Agents, Proteomics, Glycomisc and Antigenicity, zameraná na rýchlu detekciu a biomedicínsky výskum vysokoinfekčných patogénov, vyšla nedávno vo vydavateľstve Wiley-Blackwell. Editormi novej knihy sú Rudolf Toman z Virologického ústavu Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) v Bratislave, Jiří Stuchlík z Českej republiky, Patrick Butaye z Belgicka a Robert G. Ulrich z USA, informoval Tlačový odbor SAV. Nová publikácia nemá ambíciu stať sa akýmsi úplným a finálnym manuálom, nakoľko sa zaoberá problematikou, ktorá takmer denne prináša nové poznatky, techniky a metodológie. Poskytuje však čitateľovi zaujímavý pohľad na nové, rýchlo sa rozvíjajúce oblasti vedy a výskumu. Prezentované fakty a informácie môžu byť užitočné najmä pre študentov a vedeckých pracovníkov pôsobiacich v oblasti proteomiky, glykomiky, detekcie a charakterizácie vysokoinfekčných patogénov a tiež pre všetkých, ktorí sa angažujú v oblasti starostlivosti a ochrany ľudského zdravia a bezpečnosti štátu pred možným biologickým ochorením, informoval Tlačový odbor SAV.

• **Počet** liečených diabetikov na Slovensku za posledné desaťročie stúpol o vyše 77,000 pacientov. Kým v roku 2001 Národné centrum zdravotníckych informácií (NCZI) evidovalo 265,000 pacientov, v roku 2010 to už bolo 340,000. Počet diagnostikovaných stúpol z 4.9 percenta v roku 2001 na 6.3 percenta v roku 2010 z celkového počtu obyvateľstva SR. Ochorením sú viac postihnuté ženy ako muži a prevažná väčšina ochorení je diabetes mellitus typu 2. Najviac chorých žije v Bratislavskom a Nitrianskom kraji, najmenej ich je v Prešovskom a Žilinskom kraji.

• **Aj** vo viacerých oravských obciach sa 26. decembra večer uskutočnili tradičné Štefánske zábavy. Hoci majú celkom inú konkrétnu podobu ako kedysi, ich podstata pretrvala a zostáva rovnaká. Štefánske zábavy boli odnepamäti jednou z dôležitých integračných súčastí Vianoc. V mnohých dedinách i mestách je stále zvykom usporiadať tanečnú zábavu práve na druhý sviatok vianočný. Diskotekári a kapely hrajú do tanca v drvinej väčšine už iba súčasnú populárnu hudbu. Štefánske zábavy i tak zostávajú zvykom, ktorý tu bol, je a bude naďalej existovať.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Slovensko a USA majú dohodu na boj proti pašovaniu nukleárneho materiálu

Minister zahraničných vecí SR Mikuláš Dzurinda a americká ministerka zahraničných vecí Hillary Clintonová podpísali 7. decembra 2011 v bruselskom sídle Severoatlantickej aliancie Spoločný akčný plán vlády SR a vlády Spojených štátov amerických na boj proti nelegálnemu nakladaniu s jadrovými a rádioaktívnymi materiálmi a súvisiacimi technológiami. Ako uviedol Dzurinda, Slovenská republika je prvou krajinou EÚ, ktorá takýto plán s americkým partnerom podpísala.

“Po páde Dvojčiek v New Yorku sme konfrontovaní nečakanou výzvou a tou je boj s medzinárodným terorizmom, ktorý má mnoho podôb. Jednou z najnebezpečnejších je pašovanie a obchodovanie s nukleárnym materiálom,” uviedol Dzurinda krátko po podpise dohody.

V tejto súvislosti dodal, že na Slovensku máme jadrové elektrárne a nachádzame sa v citlivej geopolitickej časti sveta, na druhej strane však disponujeme vynikajúcimi statickými a mobilnými zariadeniami na sledovanie takéhoto druhu pašeráctva, najmä na východnej hranici.

“Tak sa domnievam, že bolo veľmi dobré, že odborníci z nášho ministerstva zahraničných vecí sa dali do práce a Slovensko sa stáva prvou krajinou EÚ, s ktorou Spojené štáty podpísali Akčný plán. Teda medzivládnu dohodu, ktorá stanovuje konkrétne kroky, ktoré urobíme, aby sme v prvom rade predchádzali takémuto druhu pašeráctva a nelegálnemu obchodu, ktoré môžu viesť k zneužitiu takéhoto materiálu na terorizmus,” povedal Dzurinda o zmluve zameranej na boj proti nelegálnemu nakladaniu s jadrovými a rádioaktívnymi materiálmi.

Na otázku, či si toto slovenské prvenstvo vo vzťahu so Spojenými štátmi všimli aj ostatní jeho kolegovia, zúčastňujúci sa rokovaní šéfov diplomacií NATO, Dzurinda uviedol, že určite sa o tom dozvedia a Slovensko bude možno inšpiráciou aj pre ďalšie krajiny EÚ.

TASR



FOTO TASR

Na snímke zľava Americká ministerka zahraničných vecí Hillary Rodham Clintonová a slovenský minister zahraničných vecí Mikuláš Dzurinda.

American Foreign Minister Affairs Hillary Rodham Clinton and Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Mikulas Dzurinda signed an agreement on December 7, 2011, at the Brussels headquarters of NATO against the illegal transportation of radioactive material.

Volby do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky

Informácie k voľbám 2012 v Slovenskej republike

Vážení vydavatelia krajských periodík Slovákov v USA, v súvislosti s nadchádzajúcimi voľbami do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky, ktoré sa uskutočnia dňa 10. marca 2012, dovoľujeme si Vás požiadať o publikovanie nasledovnej informácie o možnosti korešpondenčnej voľby pre občanov SR v zahraničí. Informácie ako i postup pri voľbe zo zahraničia je tiež zverejnený na webovej stránke Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone www.mzv.sk/Washington. V mene Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone Vám ďakujeme.

Predseda Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Pavol Hrušovský vyhlásil Rozhodnutím č. 547/2011 Z.z. voľby do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky. Termín ich konania určil na sobotu 10. marca 2012. Právo voliť do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky má každý občan Slovenskej republiky, ktorý najneskôr v deň volieb dovŕšil 18 rokov veku. V zmysle Zákona č. 333/2004 Z.z. o voľbách do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky v znení neskorších predpisov je možné aj hlasovanie prostredníctvom pošty.

Prostredníctvom pošty môže voliť

- volič, ktorý nemá trvalý pobyt na území Slovenskej republiky
- volič, ktorý má trvalý pobyt na území Slovenskej republiky a v čase volieb sa zdržiava mimo jej územia

Postup pri hlasovaní poštou a vzory potrebných tlačív sú uvedené na internetových stránkach Ministerstva vnútra Slovenskej republiky: Zdroj informácií: www.minv.sk

Norbert Brada
vedúci politického úseku
Veľvyslanectvo SR
Washington DC

Fedor Roll
vedúci konzulárneho úseku
Veľvyslanectvo SR
Washington DC



FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

V pondelok 26. decembra 2011, v Druhý sviatok vianočný - na sv. Štefana - putuje už tradične stovka turistov zo Zuberca na Orave k Ťatliakovému jazeru. Na túto trojhodinovú túru neodradilo ľudí tentoraz ani sychravé počasie, dážď či hmľa.

The three hour traditional walk from Zuberec in Orava to Ťatliakovo Lake on the Feast of St. Stephen, December 26.



Sviatok - Traja králi

“My traja králi ideme k vám, Šťastia, zdravia vinšovať vám, šťastia, zdravia, dlhé leta, my sme prišli k vám zd'aleka. Zd'aleka je cesta naša, od Betlema ku Ježišu, do Betlema pospiechali, Ježiškovi dary dali.”

Aj Traja králi, ktorí uzatvárajú slávnosti spojené s Vianocami, bol istý čas spájaný začiatok nového roka. Pôvodne, ešte predtým, ako sa Vianoce stali súčasťou významných kresťanských sviatkov, sa v tento deň oslavovalo Zjavenie Pána. Šlo však o iný sviatok spojený s inou udalosťou. Zjavenie Pána sa totiž viazalo na udalosť, keď Ján Krstiteľ krstil dospelého Ježiša v rieke Jordán. Vtedy sa podľa Písma zniesol Duch svätý v podobe holubice a zaznel hlas: „Toto je môj milovaný syn, v ktorom som našiel zaľúbenie“.

Až neskôr, po tom, ako Vianoce získali dôležité miesto v kresťanskom liturgickom roku, sa z Troch kráľov stal sviatok, v ktorom prevládali ľudové predstavy a zvyky a ktorého kresťanský základ sa posunul viac do úzadia. Na Troch kráľov sa v kostole svätila voda, kadidlo a krieda, teda sväteniny, ktoré sa tak stali prostriedkom prenosu duchovnej moci. Po dedine chodievali koledníci - obchôdzkari, čiže kňaz so sprievodom, ktorí žehnali domom. Dom sa vykrápa svätenou vodou, vykiadza kadidlom nad vchodové dvere do domu sa píše kriedou iniciály C.M.B. a rok. Pôvodne je to skratka latinského požehnanie „Christus mansionem benedicat“ (Kristus nech žehná (tomuto) príbytku). Dnes sa však chápu ako iniciály troch mudrcov z Východu - Gašpara (Caspar), Melichara (Melchior) a Baltazára (Balthasar), ktorí podľa Písma prišli navštíviť Ježiša v Betleheme.

Spomenuli sme obchôdzkarov, ktorí chodili s koledou. Týchto musíme odlišiť od betlehemcov. V mnohých obciach chodili medzi Štedrým večerom a Troma kráľmi skupinky chlapcov s betlehemom. Boli to traja pastieri, bača a anjel. Anjel nosil betlehem. Chlapci hrávali hru, či už to bol ľudový text tradovaný v dedine z generácie na generáciu, alebo šlo o úryvky z hry Ferka Urbánka Vianočný ruch. Oproti tomu, koledníci - „traja králi“ - chodili s hviezdou. Boli to chlapci oblečení do bielych košiel s korunkami a hrávali trojkráľovú hru, v ktorej pripomínali túto biblickú udalosť.

“My traja králi ideme k vám, Šťastia, zdravia vinšovať vám, šťastia, zdravia, dlhé leta,

Pokračovanie na str. 21



Autor: TASR

Členovia folklórneho súboru Selčan zo Selca stvárnajú Troch kráľov počas svätej omše, 6. januára 2010 v Pruskom (okres Ilava).

Members of the folklore group Selcan from Selce in western Slovakia portray the Three Kings during Mass on January 6, 2010, in the village of Prusko.

Ó, Ježišu, buď k pomoci

Ó, Ježišu, buď k pomoci,
každému z nás v tento rok:
zostaň s nami vo dne v noci,
požehnaj náš každý krok!
S novým rokom nech zasvitne
nová zora šťastia nám,
lebo blaho len tam kvitne,
kde ho ráčiš žehnať sám.

Všetko, čo si myslím, činím,
v tebe nech sa započne;
daj, nech sa viac neprevním
proti tebe, ó, Pane!
Rozpál srdce novou láskou,
chcem sa tebe venovať;
viaž ma k sebe novou páskou,
chcem len teba milovať.

Bedli na mňa neustále,
keď ma stíha hriech a zlosť,
nech je vo mne k tvojej chvále
pevná viera, krásna čnosť.
Daj, aby sme zas prežili
šťastne tento nový rok
a len k tebe vždy riadili
za života každý krok.

Jednotný katolícky spevník, SSV

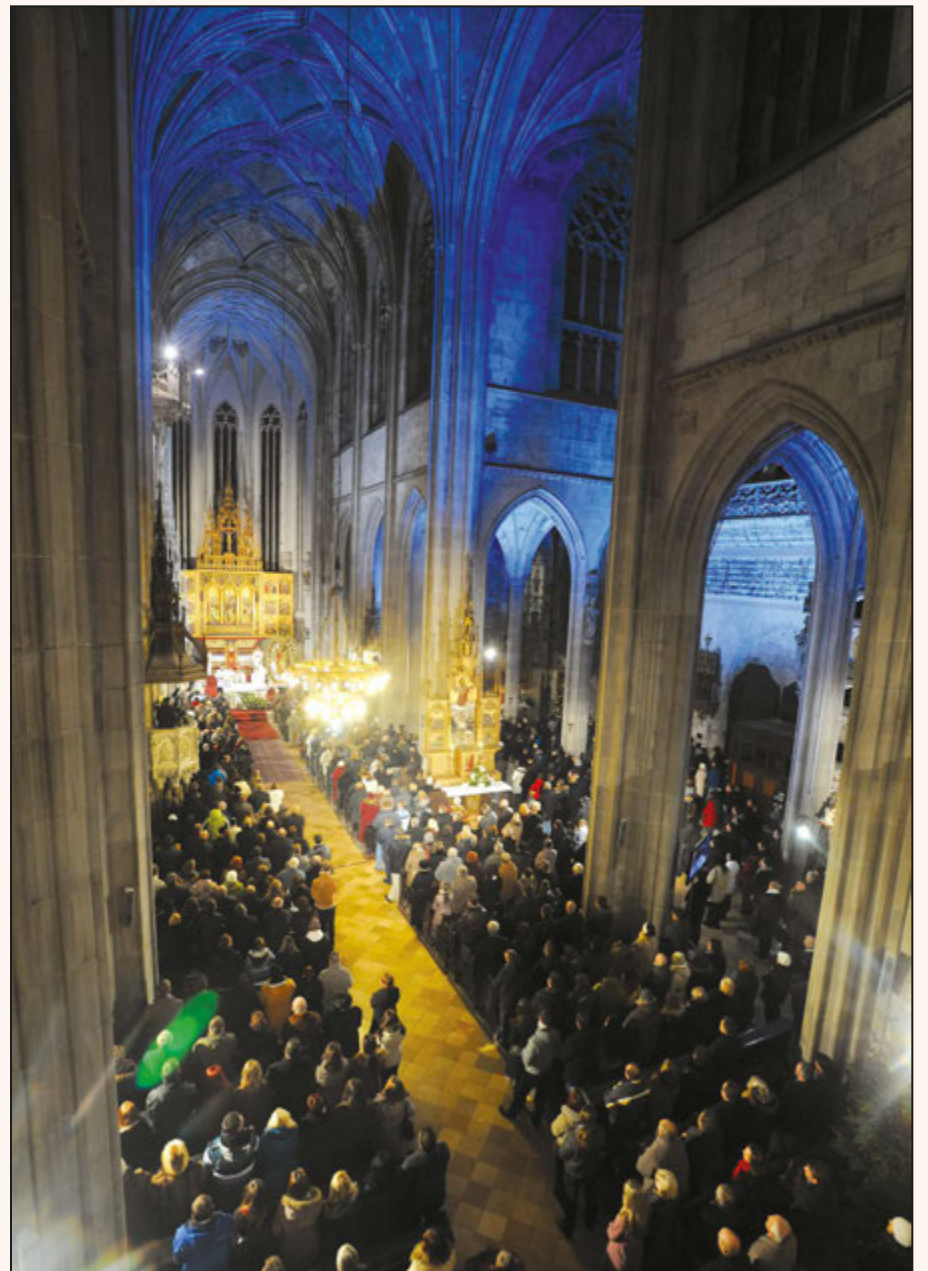


FOTO TASR - František Iván

Polnočná sv. omša 24. decembra 2011 v Dóme sv. Alžbety v Košiciach. Slávnostnú svätú omšu slúžil arcibiskup Košickej arcidiecézy Bernard Bober.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve 2011 in the Cathedral of St. Elizabeth in Kosice. The Mass was celebrated by Kosice Archbishop Bernard Bober.

Novoročný vinš zo Slovenska

Drahí krajanovia a krajančky

K sviatkom Narodenia nášho Spasiteľa, ako i do Nového roku 2012 Vám prajeme veľa zdravia, Božieho pokoja a vyjadrujeme spoločnú vďaku za vzájomnú úprimnú spoluprácu na zúšľacht'ovaní národnej identity, ducha a slovensko-slovenskej spolupatričnosti.

Vianoce 2011

Rok Matice slovenskej 2012

Daniel Zemančík, Stanislav Bajanič, Viera D. Tapalagová
Krajanské múzeum Matice slovenskej