



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! Šťastlivý Nový Rok!

I hope the New Year finds you and your loved ones safe and ready to experience 2010.

We have all heard reports that the days and weeks right before and after Christmas see an increase of deaths and illnesses especially among older people.

Maybe we can attribute some of that to the cold weather, especially in the Northern climate. But there are probably other reasons as well.

People without close families feel the loneliness at Christmas time or can more easily feel the longing for happier days past or the pleasant memories of Christmas' past.

Feelings of depression can be heightened during this festive season. It is important for all of us to support family members in need and also to keep our own spirits positive, no matter the circumstances.

As we see many of the life's changes pass before our eyes and as we get older and face the challenges of change in ourselves, in our family, in our Church, we must try to understand God's creation, no matter how hard it is to accept sometimes. We can and should try our best to influence change for the better, however, often we feel we can do little or nothing about it.

Recognizing that a holy life and good works are not always rewarded in this life, my old pastor, Fr. Austin Matej, often ended his sermons (homilies) saying: "You may not be rewarded in this life, but you will surely be rewarded in the next". And after all, isn't this what we are all working for in this life?



Andrew M. Rajec

Speaking of Change – The New Year brings change in the Jednota Editorship.

The Jednota is starting 2010 with a change. Mrs. Teresa Ivanec has been appointed as the newspaper's new Editor, while Dr. Anthony X. Sutherland begins his retirement after many years of excellent service to this readership. In the summer of 2009 Dr. Sutherland informed me that he would be reaching age 65 and wanted to retire. He agreed to stay until the end of 2009.

After Dr. Sutherland informed me of his wish to retire, with Dr. Sutherland's assistance, we prepared a notice which was published for several months in the Jednota newspaper. I felt that



Mrs. Teresa Ivanec

there was a wealth of talent we could tap within our Society first before searching outside. We received resumes from six professionals from a cross-section of our Society. The depth of talent and related skills was excellent. I personally interviewed all the applicants and Ken Arendt and I jointly

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Representing the FCSU at the anniversary banquet were, L-R noted JEDNOTA columnist John Karch and his wife Loretta, and former FCSU National President Thomas Hricik and his wife Geraldine.

Velvet Revolution Anniversary Celebrated in Washington, D.C.

The 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism in Slovakia was celebrated in our nation's capital of Washington, D.C. during the week of November 16-20, 2009. Several events were planned by the Slovak Embassy along with the Friends of Slovakia and the Heritage Foundation of Washington.

On Tuesday evening, November 17 an exhibit "Memories of Slovakia, Slovak Paintings in American Collection," was opened in the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. The exhibit contains more than 30 works. The exhibit can be viewed weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Slovak Embassy.

On Wednesday, November 18, the Slovak Heritage Foundation hosted a symposium entitled, "The Velvet Revolution, Twenty Years of Freedom in Central Europe: Slovak-U.S. Partnership through the Eyes of Ambassadors." Presenters included former Slovak Ambassadors Branislav Lichardus and Rastislav Kacer, and former Minister of International Relations of Slovakia Pavol Demes. Moderators were Lee Edwards and Helle Dale of the Heritage Foundation.

The highlight of the week's activities was the reception and dinner on Wednesday, No-
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From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

MARCH FOR LIFE

JANUARY 22, 2010

Friday, January 22, 2010 at noon is the 37th Annual Right for Life March in Washington DC. The Annual March for Life Theme this year is "Stand Up Now – Unite for the Life Principles – No Exceptions! No Compromise!" FCSU along with FCSLA are offering free transportation for this very important event. Our goal for this March is to fill two buses with individuals who will march alongside the many Pro-Life Organizations and American citizens who support this mission.

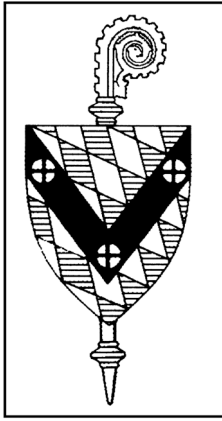


Please join us in supporting this very important March for Life. If you wish to reserve a seat please contact Sue Ann Seich, Fraternal & Youth Director of FCSLA at 1-216-468-1051. Please call as soon as possible, seating is limited.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Insights and Viewpoints



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

January 17, 2010

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 2: 1-11

Gospel Summary

There are several unusual features about this story in today's gospel. First of all, it is not customary for Jesus to perform a miracle merely to help friends avoid embarrassment. Secondly, this is the only time in John's gospel that we see the mother of

Jesus intervene to ask a favor of her Son. Finally, Jesus addresses his mother as "woman," which is not the way one addresses one's mother, then or now.

All of these features warn us to be alert for symbolic meaning in this story. This should not surprise us, for symbolism has always been the language of religion. It gives wings, as it were, to earth-bound words so that they can rise to the level of divine meaning.

Thus, contrary to what many suppose, symbolic interpretation is not opposed to what is "real" or "historical;" it is opposed to what is spiritually meaningless!

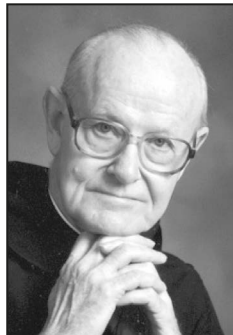
And so, when Jesus calls his mother "woman," he is recognizing in her the role of new Eve, "mother of all the living" (Gen 3:20), because she is his mother and he represents a new creation. When Jesus resists her request because his "hour has not yet come," we are reminded of the only other place in John's gospel where Jesus addresses his mother as "woman," and that is when his "hour" has in fact arrived (19:26-27). At that time, Mary, suffering now with her son on Calvary, becomes mother of all who are inspired by the new life of faith and who accept the wisdom of Jesus about unselfish living.

Life Implications

We can accept as historical fact that Mary gave birth to Jesus. However, she bore him again on the spiritual level when she stood by his cross and became the spiritual mother of the whole Church, whose members are united with him in faith and in the Eucharist, sacrament of love. Thus, although Jesus is willing to respond to the family crisis at that wedding feast, John needs also to remind us that Jesus did not really come to make wine out of water but to save us by the kind of love that includes suffering and death. And his mother will be forever our model as she stands by her Son's cross and embraces his wisdom.

This new life is symbolized by zesty wine and is therefore so much better than the colorless and "watery" life that we experience before conversion. Faith enables us to begin already to experience this new life as we embrace the wisdom of Jesus and Mary. This will mean embracing the cross also because unselfish love is always a little dying, just as it is also learning to live in a "divine" way.

When the gospel tells us the "the disciples began to believe in him," it means that they began to see that Jesus alone could offer them the new life that is symbolized by the "good wine" that is saved till the end of the feast. In fact, Jesus has come in these latter days to save us all from the embarrassment of a meaningless existence as he offers us the secret of a truly festive life of gentle sacrifice and generous trust.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

January 24, 2010

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Gospel Summary

With this passage Luke introduces his two-volume work--Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. Luke's work continues the narrative of God's liberation of humanity from the mess it had gotten itself into, alienated from its creator and alienated within itself. It is a narrative of the creative, divine action of the Spirit beginning with Israel, continued through Jesus, and now through the Church.

After linking the birth of Jesus to the fulfillment of God's promise of blessing for all nations given to Abraham and to Israel, Luke tells us that Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. He teaches in the synagogues to the acclaim of all. Then Jesus goes to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and as was his custom goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath. He stands to read the scroll from the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor..." (a combination of Is 58:6d and 61:1d). Rolling up the scroll, Jesus hands it back to the attendant and sits down. The eyes of all in the synagogue look intently at him. He says to them: "Today this passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Life Implications

Writing during the fifth decade of the Church's life, Luke wants us to understand that the same Spirit that was upon Jesus also came upon the Church at Pentecost. Peter said in his Pentecost speech: "Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you see and hear" (Acts 2:33). All that Jesus began to do through the power of the Spirit during his earthly life he continues to do now as Risen Lord in the Church. It is through the power of the Spirit of Jesus that the Church brings glad tidings of liberation and new life to all the peoples of the world.

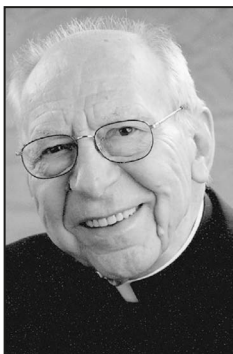
Today's gospel passage begins this liturgical year's cycle of readings taken principally from Luke's gospel. I would suggest a reading of Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles comparing how Jesus acted through the power of the Spirit during his earthly life and how he is acting now through the Spirit in our own lives and in the life of the Church. Gerard Manley Hopkins provides a word of encouragement with his observation: "To hear of him and dwell on the thought of him will do us good."

There is an immediate life-implication of today's passage that is easy to overlook. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Jesus and comes upon the Church in order to bring glad tidings. The presence of the Spirit means joy. In the 21st century we're OK with entertainment and pleasure, but are suspicious of joy because it might be a pie-in-the-sky illusion. How can we talk about joy, or even allow ourselves to experience joy, when there is so much false hope, so much suffering, so much serious work to be done?

Luke and other writers of the New Testament, certainly as aware of suffering as much as we are, did talk about glad tidings and joy. When the holy Spirit came upon her at the Annunciation, Mary sang "My spirit rejoices in God my savior for he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness" (Lk 1:47-48). Repeatedly Luke tells us that Jesus was filled with the Spirit. He reports this reaction when Jesus recognized that though many people were rejecting him, Satan would finally be defeated: "At that very moment he rejoiced in the holy Spirit and said, 'I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and learned you have revealed the to the childlike'" (Lk 10:21). At the Last Supper when his own suffering was at hand, Jesus spoke of returning to his Father

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Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The First Epistle of Peter

The greeting in 1:1 identifies Peter as the author and "those who live as strangers scattered throughout..." are gentiles (non-Jewish) Christians.

Peter writes, "There is cause for rejoicing here. You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many trials; but this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears.

"Although you have never seen him, you love him, and without seeing you now believe in him, rejoice with inexpressible joy touched with glory because you are achieving faith's goal, your salvation." (1 Peter 1:6-9)

Peter goes on: "live soberly" (1:13), "conduct yourselves reverently during your sojourn in a strange land" (1:17), "love one another constantly from the heart" (1:22).

These Gentiles have a made real, willful, conscientious decision to accept a faith in which they have no foundation, as do the Jews. Theirs is a "rebirth" (1:23) in which they must turn completely from their former pagan ways of life, ingrained in them from their birth.

"So strip away everything vicious, everything deceitful; pretenses, jealousies, and disparaging remarks of any kind. Be as eager for milk as newborn babies- pure milk of the spirit to make you grow unto salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (2:1-3)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dr. Anthony X. Sutherland

interviewed the two finalists a second time. I then made the decision. Mrs. Ivanec accepted the position.

A Fond Farewell

The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) has had the good fortune to be associated with Slovak scholar, author and specialist Dr. Sutherland since 1987 when he became the assistant curator of the Jednota Museum formerly located on the grounds in Middletown, Pennsylvania. His writing talents soon were put to good use as a Jednota contributor. He was appointed editor in 1995.

Dr. Sutherland was born in Stony Point, New York, to an Irish-descendant father and a Slovak mother. He was educated at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, where he received a Bachelor of Arts. He went on to receive a Master of Arts from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, majoring in European history. He subsequently achieved a Ph.D. in Eastern Central European history from The Ohio State

University in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Sutherland taught at The Ohio State University as well as Ladycliff College in Highland Falls, New York, prior to his employment with the FCSU.

Throughout his career, Dr. Sutherland's scholarly interest in Slovakia has produced many fine works. In 1978, his book *Dr. Jozef Tiso And Modern Slovakia* was published (Middletown). In 1984, his book *The Canadian Slovak League: A History 1932-1982* debuted. He has written numerous articles in other publications including "Slovak Studies" (Cleveland-Rome), "Narodny Kalendar" (Pittsburgh), "Slovakia" (Middletown), "Furdek" (Middletown), "Karpatenjahrbuch" (Stuttgart), and "South Of The Mountains".

Jednota readers may best remember Dr. Sutherland for his article series respectively entitled "From Our Slovak American Life" and "From Our History," which ran weekly, 1987 through 1992. One of the many projects he will be pursuing in his retirement is compiling these 150+ articles into a book. He also plans to enjoy time with family and friends in the United States and Slovakia. He and wife Anna (who was born in Spisska Nova Ves) continue to reside in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where they raised three children, and which is near the FCSU property in Middletown, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Sutherland will continue overseeing the Slovak-language section of the Jednota from that location.

A Warm Welcome

Incoming Editor Teresa (Terri) Ivanec is thrilled to combine her lifelong interest in Slovakia with a career in writing. Terri brings to the Jednota more than 20 years of experience handling all aspects of newsletter and magazine writing and editing for organizations in Cleveland, nationally, and internationally.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Terri's Orava-born grandmother lived with the family and instilled in them a love of all things Slovak. Terri first visited Slovakia (then Czechoslovakia) with her mother and grandmother in 1969, and has had the welcome opportunity to return many times since. For example, she participated in an educational exchange program between John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH and Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, in 1994. In 1998, she served as a part of an USAID cooperative venture with Cleveland Metro Health Systems and the cities of Banska Bystrica and Martin, Slovakia.

Terri holds a Master's degree in English from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

After graduation, she spent a decade in Atlanta, Georgia, where she honed her skills as an in-house magazine editor and senior writer for Dun & Bradstreet Software. Returning to her hometown of Cleveland in the 1990s, she worked as an article writer, newsletter editor, and magazine contributor for some of the Midwest's premier manufacturers, healthcare organizations, advertising and public relations agencies, and community leaders.

Terri resides in the Cleveland-Ohio suburb of Parma, with her husband Tom, the founder and honorary director of the folkdance ensemble Lucina. Both are members of FCSU Branch 24.

The Society and I personally wish Dr. Sutherland all the best in his retirement and thank him for his years of faithful service to the FCSU and for his strong editorial stewardship of the Jednota.

Our newly appointed Editor Terri Ivanec can be reached by mail at the FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 100, Independence, Ohio, 44131, by phone at: 216-642-9406 or 1-800-533-6682 or by e-mail at fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. She looks forward to her new assignment, and to hearing from all of you.

Welcome Terri.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Homily

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and sending their Spirit: "I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete" (Jn 15:11).

The supreme paradox of Christian faith is the cross of Jesus. The cross symbolizes the pain and sorrow that Jesus and we know so well. At the same time, the cross of Jesus is the symbol of joy because it is the ultimate revelation of the love of his sacred heart for us. "For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2). The joy that lay before him was not only that God would wipe away his every tear, but that through his self-giving love, his joy might be in us and our joy might be complete.

At our Eucharist today we pray for the gift of anointing in fullest measure by the Spirit so that even in this valley of tears we might share the joy of Jesus' heart. We pray too that as individual Christians and as Church, through the power of the Spirit, we will have the courage to bring glad tidings of great joy to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

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"Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once there was no mercy for you, but now you have found mercy." (2:10)

"Beloved, you are strangers and in exile; hence I urge you not to indulge your carnal desires. By their nature they wage war on the soul. Though pagans may slander you as troublemakers, conduct yourselves blamelessly among them. By observing your good works they may give glory to God on the day of visitation." (2:11-12)

These Gentile converts not only must be reborn regarding their formerly pagan personal, ethical and moral behavior, they must endure the taunts, the rejection and the condemnation of those pagans among whom they live, including members of their own families.

Their conversion to Christianity poses within them a spiritual struggle and a public condemnation.

"Live as free men," Peter writes, "but do not use your freedom as a cloak for vice." (1 Peter 2:16)

"In a word, live as servants of God. You must esteem the person of every man. Foster love for the brothers, reverence for God, respect for the emperor." (1 Peter 2:16-17)

A bully, a person who uses strength or power to coerce others by fear, or persecute others by force or threats, does not enjoy the friendship of God. This is true whether the bully is in the classroom or school yard or if he/she is some kind of superior in rank. "You must esteem the person of every man."

"Respect for the emperor," by whatever his title today, is dependent upon that emperor's personal and official conduct. God does not command us to bow to ethical licentiousness or immoral behavior, nor to abuse of power or theft of coin.

Obedience can be commanded, but respect can only be merited.

In Chapter 3 of this letter, hear these words of Peter regarding wife and husband.

"Your (Wife) adornment is rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the unfading beauty of a calm and gentle disposition. This is precious in God's eyes.

"You husbands, too, must show consideration for those who share your lives. Treat women with respect as the weaker sex, heirs just as much as you to the gracious gift of life. If you do so, nothing will keep your prayers from being answered." (1 Peter 3:4 & 7)

"He who cares for life and wants to see prosperous days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from uttering deceit." (1 Peter 3:10)

"Keep your conscience clear, so that, whenever you are defamed, those who libel your way of life in Christ may be shamed. If it should be God's will that you suffer, it is better to do so for good deeds than for evil ones." (1 Peter 3:16-17)

1 Peter 4:2-5- "you are not to spend what remains of your earthly life on human desires but on the will of God. Already you have devoted enough time to what the pagans enjoy, living lives of debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and wanton idolatry. It is no wonder that those blasphemers are surprised when you do not plunge into the same swamp of profligacy as they. They shall give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and dead."

This admonition is as valid today as it was when Peter wrote these words. Human nature does not change.

There remains in man's senses and in his freedom of choice the allure of sin, so readily available today and so "protected" by the media of our day; print, radio, television and the computer. The doors to our home are no longer protected by civil laws; indeed our governments beat them down and pour in the "swamp of profligacy."

Parents today are challenged as never before to keep their homes fortresses against the abandonment of ethical and moral values.

Their affiliation with their parish church is more important than ever for there, hopefully, they find the grace of the sacraments, hear the word of God, and bond with believers like themselves.

The parish priest has the obligation to fortify his congregants against the sins that would destroy him and his parish family.

Every day, the ordained shepherd and the mothers and fathers need to keep this text before their eyes. "If you find that the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. But I chose you out of the world... You must bear witness as well." (John 15: 18-19 & 27)

"Do not be surprised, beloved, that a trial by fire is occurring in your midst. It is a test for you, but it should not catch you off guard. Rejoice instead, in the measure that you share Christ's sufferings. When his glory is revealed, you will rejoice exultantly. Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God's spirit in its glory has come to rest on you." (1 Peter 4:12-14)

Peter has this advice for the Lord's priests: "Be examples to the flock, not lording it over those assigned to you, so that when the chief Shepherd appears you will win for yourselves the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:3-4)

Remember, there's a final exam. Keep in mind, too, that past performance determines future residence.

Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for January 2010

General Intention

Young People and Media. That young people may learn to use social communication media for their personal growth and in preparation to serve society.

Last May Pope Benedict said that we should not be surprised by the popularity of the new communication technologies. Our human desire to extend our friendship by any and all means reflects our participation in the "unifying love of God, who desires to make of all humanity one family" (Message for World Day of Communications, 2009).

This month the Holy Father asks us to pray especially for the young people who use the new communication media, like mobile phones and computers connected to the Internet. The Pope's approach toward these technologies is overwhelmingly hopeful, not fearful.

What an opportunity for young people all over the world to grow in holy love for one another! What an opportunity to promote a worldwide "culture of respect, dialogue, and friendship." What an opportunity to engage in a genuine and mutual searching for truth...to promote understanding and tolerance." And what an opportunity to proclaim the "Good News of a God who became man, suffered, died, and rose again to save all people."

For "life is not just a succession of events," the Pope continues, "it is a search for the true, the good, and the beautiful." Only in them do we find happiness. "We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by those who see us merely as consumers in a market of undifferentiated possibilities, where choice itself becomes the good, novelty usurps beauty, and subjective experience displaces truth."

So, while we pray for the good the new media can do, let us also pray against evil. We ask that our young people will not use these media to lie, abuse, or exploit others. We ask too that they will be protected from the lies and abuse of peers and predators.

May the new media enable young people to grow in wisdom and grace as they prepare to serve society in this challenging new century.

Reflection

How do you and will you use social communication media to reflect God's unifying love?

Mission Intention

Christian Unity. That every believer in Christ may understand that unity among all Christians is necessary for effective proclamation of the gospel.

During the month of January the Pope often asks us to pray for Christian unity. When we do so, we Catholics are joining with other Christians in celebrating an annual octave from January 18 to 25 for unity among Christians. The tradition is more than 100 years old.

This year the theme is "You are Witnesses of These Things." The phrase comes from the words Jesus spoke to his disciples just before he ascended into heaven: "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24: 45-48).

This month the Pope emphasizes that Christian unity is essential for the proclamation of the gospel. Disunity among Christians undermines the credibility of our witness to the world. How can we preach reconciliation through Christ if we who are baptized oppose one another? Our message of one Lord, one faith, and one baptism cannot abide the scandal of our divisions.

Our divisions generally originated in doctrinal differences, but they are often perpetuated

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date

WEDNESDAY, JAN 20

WEDNESDAY, FEB 3

WEDNESDAY, FEB 17

Copy Date

MONDAY, JAN 11

MONDAY, JAN 25

MONDAY, FEB 8

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

Anthony Sutherland, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com
"JEDNOTA"

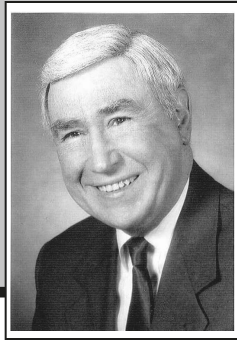
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MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

By Joseph T. Senko

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



Five Easy Cost-Cutting Tips

During difficult economic times, everyone searches for ways to cut back on spending. Maybe you've already started brown-bagging your lunch and stopped buying \$5 lattes, but there's no reason to stop there.

Stop Paying Credit Card Interest

If you do not pay off your credit card bills each month- or pay only the minimum balance- the credit card company is charging you interest that gets added to your outstanding balance each month. That means you end up paying interest not only on the purchases you've made but also on the previous interest charges for those purchases. If at all possible, pay off your entire balance- or pay as much as possible- each month. If you don't have the cash to do that now, the next step is to look for lower interest rates. Begin by asking your credit card company if they will reduce your current interest rate.

Many are willing to do so if they think they will lose your business. If that doesn't work, find another credit card provider with lower rates and transfer your balance to one of its cards. Read the fine print on any credit card agreement to be sure that the new credit card company does not charge transaction, activation, or other fees that might make it more costly than your old card.

Get a Better Price on Internet Service

Are you using the lowest-priced Internet service provider? A quick Web search will tell you if there are options with more attractive rates. Getting information about competing offers is a good idea, even if you would prefer not to change your service. That's because you can call your own provider armed with information about the competition and ask if they are willing to match the lowest prices out there. There's a good chance they will.

Slash Your Cell Phone Costs

Are you making full use of all the cell phone services that you are paying for? This is a good time to reread your contract to see if you truly need all the bells and whistles that come with your current plan. If you don't do a lot of phoning or texting, don't pay for unlimited options. Instead, choose the least expensive plan. Remember, the fanciest phones also come with the most expensive plans. Consider whether you really need the latest gadget or if a reliable, but less-elaborate phone with a cheaper plan makes more sense. Also, consider a prepaid cell phone since they allow you to pay only for the service you actually need.

Reconsider Your Land Line

If you find that you are actually using your cell phone most of the time, it might be a good idea to cut off an unnecessary cost by getting rid of your home land line. If you're reluctant to do so, look into cheaper options, including voice over the Internet protocol or cable phone services.

Reduce Your Bank Fees

Don't keep paying monthly bank fees when you could be getting free checking. Many banks offer attractive deals on checking and other services, so it's smart to shop around. If you pay for checking, find out what services are included and decide whether you really need them. Also ask about ATM and other added fees so you can judge who has the best deal.

[IRS Circular Disclosure: In order to ensure compliance with IRS Circular 230, I must inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this transmission and attachments hereto is not intended or written to be used and may not be used by any person for the purpose of (1) avoiding any penalty that may be imposed by the Internal Revenue Code or (2) promoting, marketing or recommending to any other party any tax-related matter (s) addressed herein.]



Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for January 2010

continued from page 4

by prejudice, ignorance, fear, and other attitudes which should have no part in a Christian's life. These are things we can change, but we cannot abandon true doctrine.

Urging Christians to unite, Pope Benedict reminds us of St. Paul's admonition to "hold fast to the traditions you were taught" (2 Thessalonians 3:15). We should strive to agree on "normative apostolic teaching." All Christians should seek communion with the Church in every age. We should embrace objective truth that relies neither on subjective experience nor empirical science, but is founded on the "teaching which indeed underlies the inspired word of God and sustains the sacramental life of Christians today." (Homily at an ecumenical prayer service, New York City, April 18, 2008). Let us join the Holy Father in praying that we will all obey the Spirit which calls us to be one in the Lord.

Reflection

How might you join with a non-Catholic Christian to witness to the truth of Jesus Christ?

Velvet Revolution Anniversary Celebrated in Washington, D.C.

continued from page 1

November 18, at the Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. Over 200 guests attended the gala affair. Edward Zelenak, Slovak Honorary Consul in Michigan and former FCSU General Counsel, served as Master of Ceremonies during the program. During the program remarks were given by Slovak Ambassador Peter Burian, Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko, Florida Congressman John L. Mica, Pennsylvania Congressman Joseph Sestak, U.S. Steel Corporation Chairman John P. Surma, and Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak.

The events of the week did much to remind everyone of the progress Slovakia has achieved since the fall of communism. It also served to strengthen the ties between Slovakia and the United States and the Slovak community in particular.

Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

Hardware

Paints and brushes	Farby a štetky	(farbi a shtYetki)
Knives	Nože	(nozYe)
Hammer and hatchet	Kladivo a sekerka	(kladYivo a sekerka)
Axe and file	Sekera a pilník	(sekerka a pilnYeek)
Shovel and rake	Lopata a hrable	(lopata a hrablYe)
Wheelbarrow	Táčky, "virbár"	(tÁchki, virbÁr)
Lock and nails	Zámok a klinec	(zÁmok a klYintse)
Key, keys	Kľúč, kľúče	(klYooch, klYooche)
Door and Window	Dvere a okno	(dvere a okno)
Scissors	Nožnice	(nozYnYitse)
Screws	Šrôby	(shrWObi)
Plane and chisel	Hoblík a dlátko	(hobleek a dlÁtko)
Spade and hoe	Rýl a motyka	(reel a motika)
It is too dear	To je veľmi drahé	(to Ye veLYmi drahÉ)
It is too cheap	To je lacné	(to Ye latsnÉ)
We have good stoves	Máme dobré pece	(mÁme dobrÉ petse)

Publication Schedule for 2010

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

National "You Can Make a Difference Day" Observed in Bridgeport

Members of the Rev. Matthew Jankola District of the First Catholic Slovak Union were among an association of Slovak organizations who took part in the 2009, "You Can Make a Difference Day" in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Other organizations taking part included the First Plavecky Society of The Holy Trinity, National Slovak Society, Slovak Catholic Sokol, Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, and the Pistey Funeral Home.

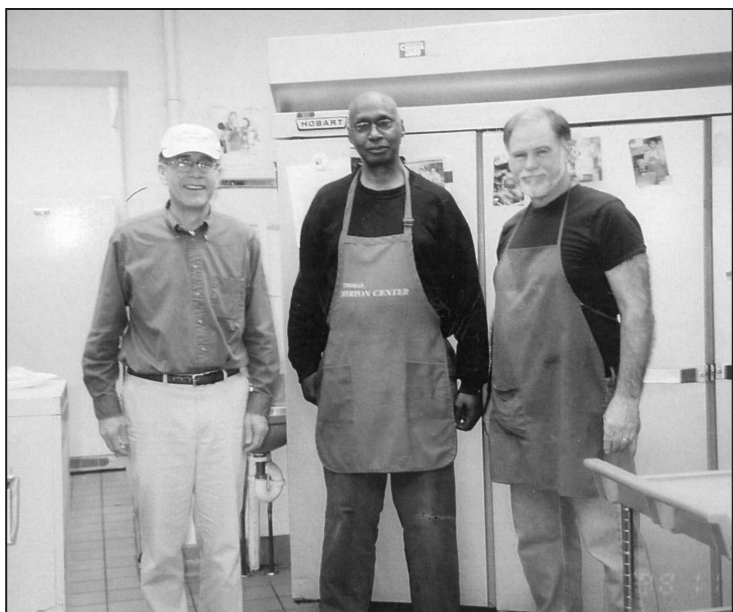
This year members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the other societies *made a difference* by making a monetary donation in the amount of \$650.00 for the sponsorship of two luncheons and one breakfast at the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport. In addition, the fraternalists volunteered to assist the staff with the preparation and serving of a lunch.

The Thomas Merton Center is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of the local community. The following thank you was received from the director of the Thomas Merton Center Mark W. Grasso: "The staff and guests of the Thomas Merton Center wish to thank you for your donations from "You Can Make a Difference Day". Please be sure to pass along our sincere thanks to everyone involved. Your generosity helps us to assist the less fortunate in the greater Bridgeport area."

Eileen Salamon Wilson, Coordinator



Eileen Wilson (left) presents a check to Mark W. Grasso, Director of the Thomas Merton Center. Also present were volunteers L-R John Kamenitsky, Kevin Sabovik, Judith Salamon, John Golias, Mary Kuruc, and Gene Kuruc. All helped the staff with the preparation and serving of a lunch.



Members of the staff at The Thomas Merton Center, L-R Dick Tunstall, Michael Jones and Jorge Shopis.

Lord, Another Year

Alas, Lord, another year
giving to us in holy fear-
as we kneel before Thy
Eucharistic Throne in adoration
gazing upon Mary's holy child...
O teach us true humility .
Alas, Lord, another year
giving to us by Eternal Love,
make haste to open our hearts

to Thy Holy Will most clear.
Through Thy Divine Mercy, Master
we ask forgiveness for all sins-
guide us from Bethlehem now
to Calvary's heights-blessing
your children with Thy Precious
Blood-
purifying our souls with grace.

Francis X. Markley, O.P.L.



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

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
24 PUBLIC SQUARE
CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

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- *10 Year Level Term
- *20 Year Level Term
- *Term to age 25
- *Annuities

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

News From Slovakia

Slovakia Posted Foreign Trade Surplus of €225.3 million in October

Slovakia's foreign trade recorded a surplus of €225.3 million in October, €158.9 million higher than the surplus posted in the same month last year.

Export of goods in October reached €3.81 billion, down by 18.1 percent. Total imports fell even more, however, by 21.8 percent.

Between January-October 2009, meanwhile, a foreign trade surplus of €1.01 billion was recorded. Exports fell by 24.6 percent to €32.22 billion, while imports were down by 27.3 percent to €31.22 billion.

TASR

Employment Fell in All Sectors but Communications in October

The sector of information and communications activities was the only area in which employment grew in October, the Statistics Office reported.

Employment information and communications activities rose by 1.5 percent when compared with October 2008. Conversely, the number of employees continued to fall in wholesale- 26.7 percent, in restaurants - 21.7 percent, in industry- 17.9 percent, in the sale and maintenance of motor vehicles-10.6 percent, in selected market services- 8.1 percent, in accommodation- 4.6 percent, in retail- 4.3 percent in transport and warehouses- 1.1 percent, and in construction- 0.8 percent.

Over the first ten months of 2009, the biggest employer was industry (502,000 people). Other employment figures were: in construction-184,900, in retail-155,800, in selected market services-123,500, in transport and warehouses-112,200, in wholesale-109,100 people, information and communication activities-37,800, in restaurants-31,300, in the sale and repair of motor vehicles-22,900, and in accommodation-10,300.

TASR

Total of 17 People with (H1N1) Flu Virus in Slovakia

A total of 17 people who contracted A (H1N1) flu have died in Slovakia so far according to a report from the Public Health Office (UVZ).

"A connection between these fatalities and pandemic flu cannot be ruled out," said UVZ.

All together, 92 new flu cases have been confirmed over the week of December 6. Most of the total number of cases (814) have occurred in the Bratislava region (393) and Nitra region (117), with the fewest in the Trenčin region (37) and Košice region (40). Most people have contracted the virus in Slovakia.

A total of 75,259 acute respiratory illness cases have been reported.

TASR

European Commission Grants Registration of Tokaj Wine to Hungary

The European Commission registered and granted the brand name 'Tokaj' to Hungary, and not to Slovakia, said Agriculture Minister Vladimír Čech at a press conference recently.

"We can't accept that one EU member state was granted the registration and the other wasn't. Our mission is now to secure that the brand name 'Tokaj' gets acknowledged under the same conditions for both states," said Čech.

He added that Slovakia has registered the brand name in its national legislation since 2005, while Hungary has taken this measure only in July 2009. "We regret that the European Commission has adopted this approach, but we'll address the problem at the diplomatic level," claimed Čech.

To this end, Čech has sent a letter to European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mariann Fischer Boel and asked for help regarding the registration of the 'Tokaj' brand name, which has been a bone of contention between the two countries for several years. The matter had seemingly been settled by the fact that the Hungarian and Slovak spellings for this type of wine differed. However, Hungary changed its spelling so that the distinction no longer existed.

Slovakia and Hungary have been unable to find any agreement on the issue, hence, the European Commission representatives have been invited to bilateral talks since 2008.

TASR

Slovak Economy is Rebounding

The Slovak economy has grown by 1.6 percent in the third quarter of 2009, representing the second highest increase among the EU27 during this period.

At the same time, the country's economy fell in the third quarter of this year by 4.8 percent in fixed prices.

UniCredit Bank analyst Lubomír Korskňák said that this development confirms that the Slovak economy has bottomed out in the first quarter of 2009. "Its gradual awakening reflects mainly the revival of economies of significant business partners, such as Germany," said Korskňák.

According to VUB analyst Martin Lenko, the slight increase in household consumption was surprising- 0.3 percent. A more significant downturn was expected due to the falling retail revenues and growing unemployment. Korskňák predicts that the economy should continue rising in the 4th quarter of 2009 as well.

In the beginning of 2010, the economy should further take advantage of the revival of the economies of the most significant Slovak trading partners- even though this renewal is still tentative, reflecting only this year's stimuli that will gradually fade out. Another risk is that of a domestic and foreign household consumption decrease due to still growing unemployment and slower increases of salaries, said Korskňák.

Despite the expected overall weakness in 2H10, UniCredit Bank analyst estimates that the Slovak economy could grow by 2.6 percent in 2010. Lenko estimates that the economy will grow by 2.4 percent in 2010.

TASR

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

ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

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

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

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

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

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

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

HOME OFFICE INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

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

ROLL CALL

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary – via telephone
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer
 Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Region 7 & 8, by invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the October 2009 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer submitted a written monthly report which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer answered all questions of the Committee. The President led a review of our current annuity rates. A decision was made by the Executive Committee to keep the current annuity rates and review the current rates again at the December Executive Committee Meeting.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CINCINNATI – VICTORY ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments with Key Bank Corporation and reviewed all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in the different regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President led a discussion regarding our 8-year annuity product. It was decided by the Executive Committee that the first year bonus will be 1% on deposits of \$10,000.00 and greater. Additional deposits may be accepted after the first year, with no cap. This new annuity program will start on January 1, 2010.

The Vice President stated that we will have a mailing sent out from the Home Office in the second week of December to advertise our JEP Policies. The Vice President further stated that he will contact the Regional Directors regarding sales seminars to be held in 2010. He also stated that he is in process of interviewing more independent agents.

The Vice President also reviewed the Presidential Campaign which is ongoing until the 2010 Convention. He further stated that the First Catholic Slovak Union will reintroduce our senior program starting February 2010. A notice will be sent to Branches thirty days before this product is advertised in the Jednota newspaper and on our website. The Executive Secretary will send more information after January 1st, 2010.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC. REPORT

Mr. Larry White from AQS Asset Management, LLC gave his report and presented to the Executive Committee the following agenda:

- Portfolio metrics and distribution
- Cash on hand and projections
- Transactions
- Credit Actions
- Portfolio Reinvestment vs. Projected Annual Yield
- Market Data

Current Markets
 Fed Fund Futures
 FOMC Calendar

- NAIC 4 Preferred Stocks
- Commentary

The Executive Committee believes the investment program is showing the positive results as planned.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President informed the Executive Committee of the letter he received from our Fraternal Activities Director, Susan Ondrejco, regarding past fraternal activities and the 2010 Bowling Tournament. He stated that he will be in contact with Susan Ondrejco regarding a possible joint tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol in 2010. The President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

2010 CONVENTION

Executive Secretary Arendt stated that the Home Office sent out letters to Branch Officers concerning the 2010 Convention. He also stated that a letter was sent to National Officers concerning the Convention dates and travel dates to the Convention. Each branch that is eligible to attend the convention will receive a letter in the near future stating the estimated number of delegates it may send.

JEDNOTA, INC. AND JEDNOTA PROPERTIES, INC.

The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, updated the Executive Committee on the dividend to be paid to the FCSU. He stated that he will be in contact with the President of Jednota Properties, Inc., Regis Brekosky, regarding this matter.

JEDNOTA ESTATES

The President stated that some work (winterizing, painting, clean up) needs to be done in order to make the Printery building more presentable for perspective tenants and presented to the Executive Committee a proposal for this work from a company in the Middletown, PA area. The proposal has been accepted and the work will start immediately.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Secretary stated the Home Office will continue to advertise our products through the monthly branch mailings and insert advertisements in the monthly billing as well as in the Jednota newspaper.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report the month of October for the Committee's review and answered questions. He informed the Executive Meeting of the IRA Annuity deposits and stated that we will start with advertisement on our website and in the Jednota newspaper.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of October 2009:		
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	126,901.27
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	44,691.78
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Vice President stated that all Single Premium JEP Policy holders will be eligible to apply for the First Catholic Slovak Union Scholarship program as long as they meet all other requirements of the Scholarship Program rules.

ADJOURN

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

The Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Address Changes?

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

USPA'S CLINT VINCENT HONORED WITH STEFAN BANIC SILVER MEDAL

By John Karch

As Board Member and Secretary of the Stefan Banic Parachute Foundation (SBPF) I was driven by my wife Loretta—I have macular degeneration-- from Falls Church, Virginia (VA) to the U.S. PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION (USPA) Headquarters in Fredericksburg, VA to perform an important and welcome event—to award the SBPF's Silver Medal and a Certificate to a worthy recipient—Clint Vincent, Director of Membership, with impressive achievements.

Leading up to the presentation, I maintained contact with Slavo Mulik, founder and Chairman of the SBPF, and Ed Scott, Executive Director of USPA, coordinating with the latter the precise date and time and certainty of Clint's presence. This worked perfectly. Shortly after our arrival, Mr. Scott called his entire staff to their conference room and introduced me—as SBPF Board member—and Loretta, saying that I would make some comments. Thus, I thanked them for the privilege of visiting their headquarters and presented a brief sketch of Slovakia, my own birth there, and of Stefan Banic. I cited his birth in 1870, employment problems with his Hungarian supervisor, inability to obtain higher education, nor opportunity to satisfy his inquiring mind, and his 1907 emigration to the U.S., to Greenville, Pennsylvania (PA). There he worked in mines, studied at a technical school, and had freedom to pursue his inventions, including a workable parachute, his invention by 1913. He tested it from a high building in Washington in front of the Patent Office with its officials and military observers, later from an airplane, and obtained the first official patent for his parachute in 1914, saving lives in World War I. He returned to Slovakia in 1921 and died there 20 years later.

A decade ago, with Slovak GEN. Emil Vestenicky (Ret.), now SBPF Deputy Chairman, I visited Stefan Banic's descendent, to see the Inventor's original patent.

As thanks to the U.S., Stefan Banic donated his patent rights to the Army Signal Corps—later Army Air Corps, and U.S. Air Force. He was named honorary member of the Army Air Corps (now USAF). His Memorial is displayed in Slovakia.

The Honoree

Following my remarks, I picked up the Certificate and asked Ed to read it. Only then, the staff knew I came there for another reason: "The Certificate of Recognition" was for "contribution to and support of the sport of skydiving, signed by John Karch, Board of Directors and Slavo Mulik, Chairman of the Board, and the awardee is CLINT VINCENT." I placed the Silver Medal around Clint's neck. Genuine applause and congratulations followed.

Also, a large, beautiful cake was savored by everyone, originally for Clint's birthday. Many photos were taken by Travis Walchle, Graphic Artist. USPA's attractive PARACHUTIST carried an item on the award, with a photo of Clint Vincent, Ed Scott and me, in its January 10, 2010 issue.

Vincent's Skydiving

Clint's first jump was in 1975 with the U.S. Army and soon after he began jumping with civilians and still does, albeit less frequently as he is involved with his kids and a grandkid. During these years, however, he has achieved enormously: Participation in several Virginia State Parachute Records; State accuracy champion several times; participant in a World Record, a 200-person formation in 1992; 2 Bronze medals in 1989 and 1990 at the U.S. National Skydiving Championship 8-way; and in 1991 and 1992 Bronze medals in 20-way.

His awards are numerous: USPA Gold Wings, presented for 1,000 jumps; USPA Diamond Wings, for 2,000 jumps; 12 Hour Badge, for accumulated freefall; 24 Hour Badge; USPA Lifetime Achievement Award; and now the SBPF Silver Medal.

His License and Ratings are: Holder of all USPA & FAA licenses A, B, C. & D; Instructor in Static Line and Accelerated Freefall; Instructor/Examiner in both; FAA Master Rigger; and FAA Designated Parachute Rigger Examiner (DPRE).

However, there is life outside skydiving—employment. Clint has been with USPA during 1984-1994 and again since 2007 to the present. During these years, his responsibilities were as Director of Special Projects, Safety and Training, Government Relations, Membership, and Executive Director (Acting). He was also Office Manager (2005-08) of the National Skydiving Museum which is raising funds for its realization

Clint's Personal Profile



Photo by Travis Walchle

L-R: John Karch, Clint Vincent, and Ed Scott, Executive Director

He was born in Richmond, VA in 1953, attended George Wythe High School, competed with the track and cross country team, was the District and Regional Champion, and was ranked in the top 5 in the State half mile. He received a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Richmond. Clint was a 4-year ROTC student (1972-76). He again ran track in college. Their two-mile relay team was ranked 10th in the nation.

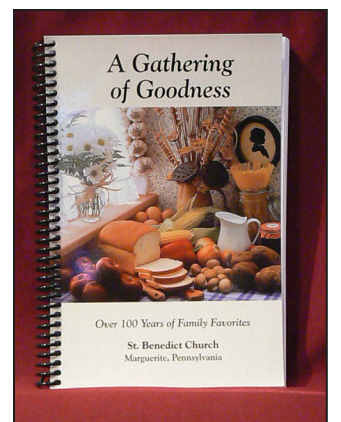
Clint was married in 1985 to an FBI agent who was one of the students he was teaching to skydive. Now, she has about 1,500 jumps and participated on a State and one world record. Clint has no children of his own but due to the tragic death of his sister Lisa he and Kenyne were awarded two children in 1990. It was "quite a shock" to go from no children to one- and two-year olds. These children are now 20 and 21 and two years ago the parents became grandparents. His wife retired from the FBI but is back with them as a contract worker. Due to the FBI, they moved to Illinois for five years. When they returned to Virginia, Clint became a contract worker for the FBI, DEA and ATF for three years.

NOTE: By asking about a possible Slovak American among the USPA staffers, I was rewarded with a "YES." She is Laura Sharp, on her Grandmother's side, in N.J., the Managing Editor of USPA'S outstanding Official Publication PARACHUTIST.



Book Corner

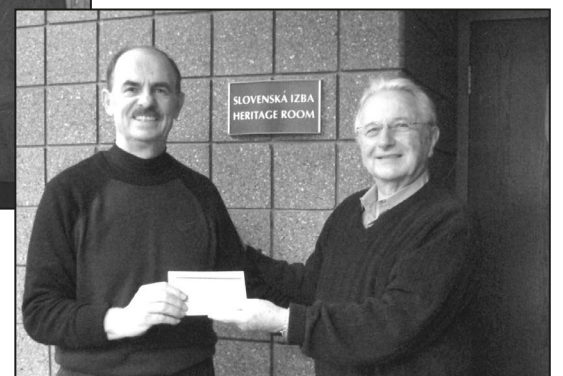
St. Benedict Church of Marguerite, PA is selling a parish cookbook featuring over 450 recipes. Included are recipes for appetizers, beverages, salads, soups, vegetables, main dishes, breads, desserts, canning and a special ethnic section with a description of the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner and the Blessed Easter Basket, along with numerous ethnic recipes. The cookbooks can be purchased for \$13.00, which includes shipping and handling within the U.S. Orders can be sent to St. Benedict Church, 260 Bruno Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Make checks payable to St. Benedict RAS. If you need additional information, please call Dolores Mehalic at 724-423-5813.



Donation

On Sunday, December 13, 2009, President Joseph Rimarcik and Treasurer Anna Magusin of Branch 743 of Detroit, Michigan, presented Rev. Ben Kosnac, Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, with a check for \$250.00 towards fund raising for the Sister Parish Adoption in Africa. Branch 743 has supported financially previous parish fund raising with \$3,000 for the Church Building Fund and \$500 for the Slovak Heritage Room.

On Sunday, December 13, 2009, Joseph Rimarcik, President of Branch 743 in Detroit, presented a check to the Slovak Heritage Room at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Branch 34 of the Slovak League of America also made a donation. Accepting the check on behalf of the Slovak Heritage Room was Milan Straka, Director of the Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble.



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YEARLY!**

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- Enrollees become eligible to apply for the Societies fraternal benefits at no additional cost.
- Annual premiums are eligible for scholarships

CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

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



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



Montreal Branch 784 Hosts Traditional Christmas Dinner

Jednota Branch 784 sponsored a traditional annual Slovak Christmas Dinner on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall in Montreal. As always, the dinner was well organized. About 115 people attended this year. There were members from Branch 784 and Branch 810, Jednota bowlers as well as nonmembers.

The dinner began following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Alexander Dobrik, President of the Prince Rastislav District welcomed all the participants and expressed word of appreciation for all who attended and for their ongoing support. He also expressed appreciation to all who were involved in the preparation and serving of the dinner. As always, the food was excellent and complimented with the traditional bobalky (also called opekance) prepared with sauerkraut and poppy seeds. Mike Micak, one of the senior members, shared his memories reminding us of various past events and the good old days.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and a reminder that Christmas was just around the corner.

Vince Bystrican
Financial Secretary of 784 branch



View of the hall before dinner



Serving food



View of the hall during dinner.

Alice Dobrik, President of Branch 784 and Alexander Dobrik, President of the Prince Rastislav District addressing the people



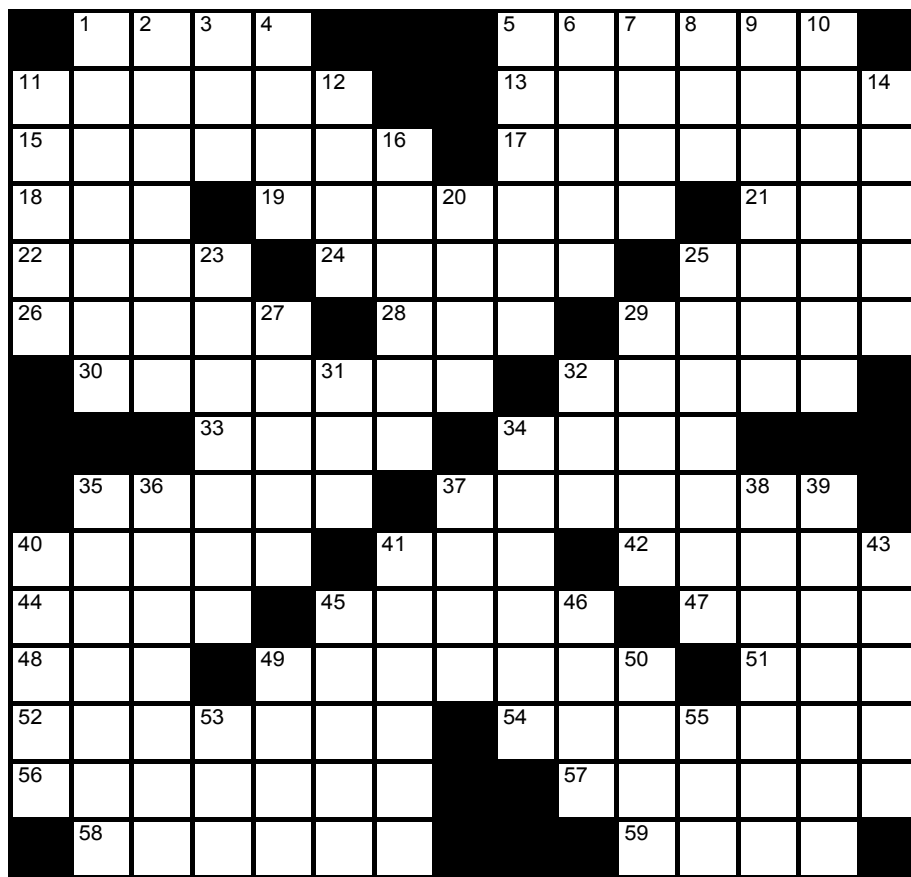
Alice Dobrik with kitchen help.



Mike Micak shares his memories with the help of his daughter.



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2010 puzzlejunction.com

Across

- 1 Itemize
- 5 Consume
- 11 Boated
- 13 Avoided
- 15 Egypt. water lili
- 17 Dizziness
- 18 Follower (Suffix)
- 19 Former female aristocrat
- 21 Cat hangout
- 22 Intellect
- 24 Leg joints
- 25 Gall
- 26 More immoral
- 28 Idiot boxes, for s
- 29 Labyrinths
- 30 Clouds
- 32 Appointments
- 33 Brews
- 34 TV's *Batman* Ad
- 35 Hastened
- 37 Oil source
- 40 Head coverings
- 41 Father figures
- 42 Strayed
- 44 About (Abbr.)
- 45 Expenditures
- 47 Noel
- 48 Actor Kilmer
- 49 Maidens
- 51 Police investigat (Abbr.)
- 52 Simulate
- 54 Get together aga
- 56 Inhabitant
- 57 Damper
- 58 Great Sandy or I Rock, e.g.
- 59 Outbuilding

Down

- 1 Vientiane native
- 2 Extreme
- 3 Old Fr. coin
- 4 Exam
- 5 Hearst find, actress Marion
- 6 Levels out
- 7 Actress Ralston or Miles
- 8 Food particle
- 9 Employ
- 10 Supplies abundantly
- 11 Ascend
- 12 Workspace
- 14 Saps
- 16 Christmas storefront collectors
- 20 Guns the moto
- 23 Fiasco
- 25 Car starter
- 27 Regulations
- 29 Billiards shot
- 31 Guided
- 32 Family room
- 34 Season
- 35 Used a new titl

- 36 Passenger carrier
- 37 Fewer
- 38 Scholarly
- 39 Erased
- 40 Graphic or colorful
- 41 Point in time
- 43 Dissuade
- 45 Supply food
- 46 Murdered
- 49 Stupor
- 50 Litigates
- 53 Poetic contraction
- 55 Greatest degree

See Solution on Page 18

2009 Photo Contest Results

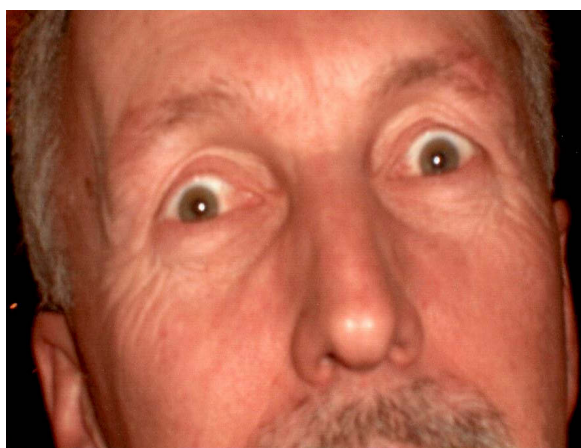
PEOPLE



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



Second Place – Danielle MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290



Third Place – Maura Vrabel
Boiling Springs, PA, Branch 796

NATURE OR ENVIRONMENT



First Place – Jamie Salazer
Slatington, PA, Branch 3

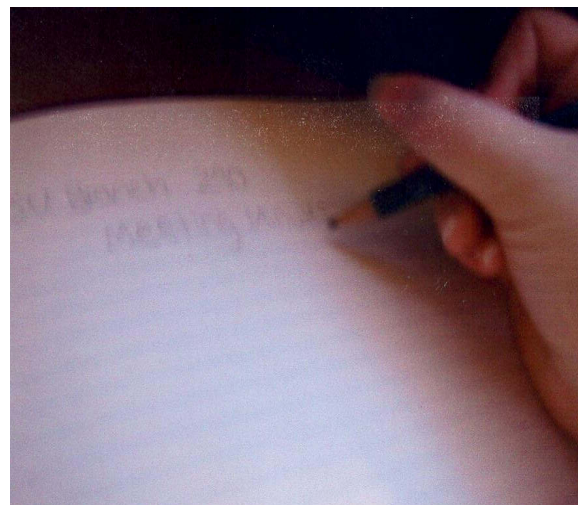


Second Place – Patrick Sullivan
Pittsburgh, PA, Branch 35

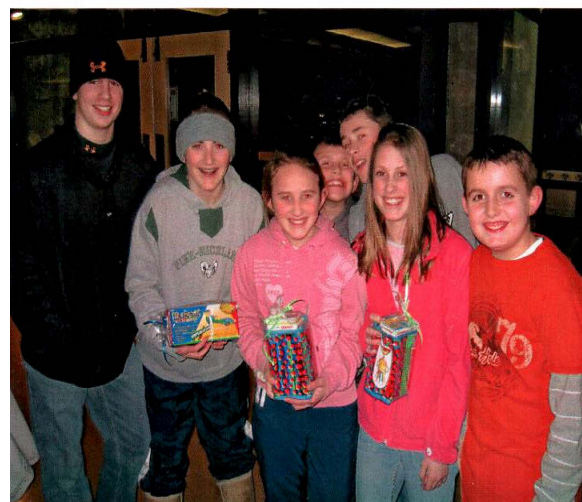


Third Place – Kevin Bakalar
Poland, OH, Branch 731

FCSU FRATERNAL ACTIVITY



First Place – Danielle MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290



Second Place – Olivia Todorowski
Gibsonia, PA, Branch 2



Third Place – Jared Todorowski
Gibsonia, PA, Branch 2

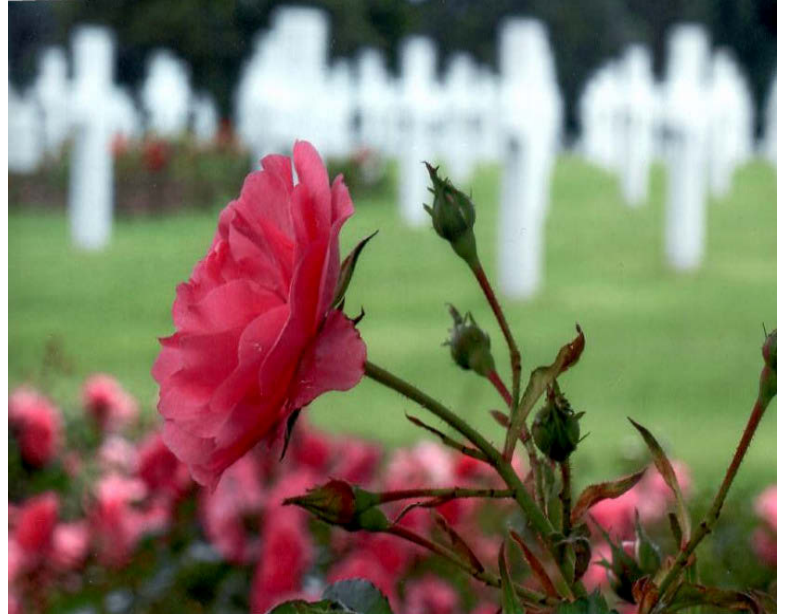
2009 Photo Contest Results

TRAVEL OR DESTINATIONS

First Place
Melissa Colbaugh
Trafford, PA
Branch 35



OVERALL WINNER



Rachel Popovich
White Oak, PA, Branch 276



Second Place – Graham Joiner
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

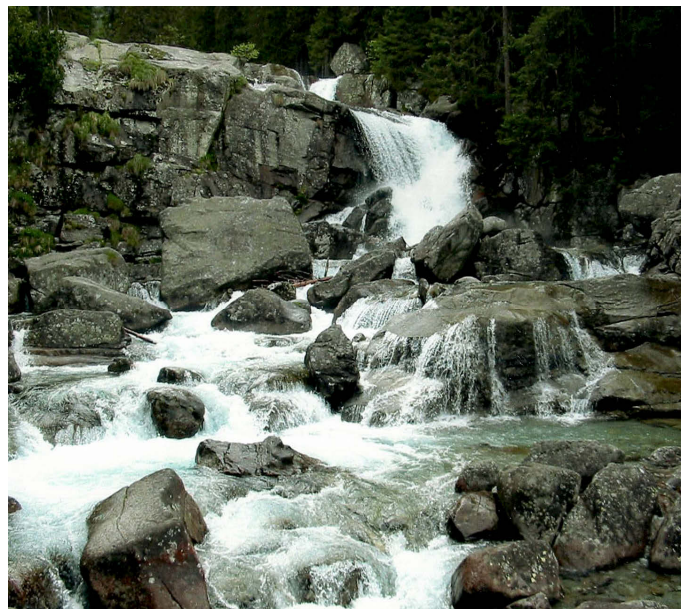
HONORABLE MENTIONS



Veronica Brodnansky
Glen Cove, NY, Branch 716



Third Place – Derek MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290



Graham Joiner
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

NEW FROM FCSU

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

4.75%

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

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

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

FCSU LIFE

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

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

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

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

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



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



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING

The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR* ANNUITY AND IRA

AVOID STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY

EFFECTIVE 10/1/2009

4.25% (APR 4.162%)

***Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years**

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

Our **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR** annuity offers you the following benefits:

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

The **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR** annuity has the following features and terms:

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

COMPARE OUR **FIXED RATE 6-YEAR ANNUITY RATE** TO YOUR LOCAL BANK RATES

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT-BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District held its annual meeting on October 25, 2009, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall in Windber, Pennsylvania. President Edward Surkosky opened the meeting with a prayer at 2:20 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. President Edward Surkosky of host Branch 292 welcomed the delegates and guests to Windber. President Surkosky then introduced special guests National President Andrew Rajec and his wife Idka and National Vice President Andrew Harcar. The roll call of officers was then held with 33 delegates present representing six branches. Chaplain Reverend Andrew Stanko was absent. The minutes of the semiannual meeting were read by Recording Secretary Joseph Rura. They were approved on a motion by Leonard Fenimore, seconded by Joseph Hovanec. Treasurer Joseph Slivosky gave the treasurer's report which was accepted and approved on a motion by Joseph Hovanec and seconded by Diana Mical. Theresa Cassat gave the financial report, which was approved on a motion by Joseph Pison and seconded by Joseph Hovanec.

National President Andrew Rajec said he contacted Father Stanko regarding the funds from dissolved St. Francis Society, Branch 677. He then contacted the bank and the funds are being held by the Home Office to be distributed in accordance to the bylaws. He also commented on the number of Slovak parishes closing and thus many branches do not have meeting locations.

Leonard Fenimore moved to retain the present officers, seconded by Thomas Pison. There being no nominations from the floor it was approved. The officers for 2010 will be: Rev. Andrew Stanko, Chaplain; Edward Surkosky, President; Lawrence Fenimore, Vice President; Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary; Joseph Slivosky, Treasurer; and Joseph E. Rura, Secretary. Joseph Slivosky was chosen as the district delegate to the 49th Convention on a nomination by Joseph Rura, seconded by Rose Ann Rura. There were no other nominations.

Shirley Kovach made a motion to close the meeting. Leonard Fenimore seconded the motion. The Semiannual Meeting will be held in Carrolltown hosted by Branch 96.

Following the meeting, an informative Sales Seminar on our products was presented by National Vice President Andrew Harcar and National President Andrew Rajec. A delicious meal prepared by Agnes Elias, Betty Pison and Ethel Slinar was served.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. The agenda will include a discussion of the upcoming convention, casino bus trips and the year's activities. The main topic will be on any Bylaw changes and additions.

Nominations will take place at the meeting for District Representative to the Convention. Persons wishing to be nominated must do so in person.

Carla Peshek, President

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio. The meeting is being held to discuss the upcoming convention. Delegates will be elected to attend the convention. Please take an active role in your district and attend this meeting.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

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

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

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

Obituaries

Emery E. Stanchin Branch 682 Youngstown, Ohio

Emery E. Stanchin, 93, of Youngstown, Ohio, died Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at his home.

Emery was born October 21, 1916 in Campbell, Ohio, a son of the late John and Frances Kostarich Stanchin, and was a life-long area resident.

He was a 1935 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School, and worked at Youngstown Sheet & Tube for 45 years, retiring in 1982 as a supervisor in the seamless mill.

Mr. Stanchin was a member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Youngstown, where he belonged to the Cy Me Club, was a church usher, and active in a variety of church projects. He was a member of the Youngstown Eagles Club No. 213, a member of Croatian Fraternal Union, and was a volunteer with his wife, Kay at the former Woodside Receiving Hospital. He was also a volunteer at various nursing homes in the area.

His first wife, Kay C. Fajos Stanchin, whom he married July 29, 1939, passed away October 15, 1988. His second wife, Irene Schultz Stanchin, whom he married in 1992, passed away in 2002.

He leaves twin sons, Emery J. (Sue) Stanchin of Louisville, Kentucky, and John E. (Judith) Stanchin of Struthers, Ohio; four grandchildren, John William, Kimberly, Carrie and John; eight great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson. In addition to his wives, he was predeceased by four brothers, John, Joseph, Steve, and Thomas Stanchin.

Emery will be truly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Friends were received at the Kinnick Funeral Home, Youngstown. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Youngstown.

The officers of the St. George Society, Branch 682, offer their deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Joseph Scavina

Joseph J. Poll Branch 324 Carteret, New Jersey



Joseph J. Poll, 80, of Carteret, New Jersey, died December 5, 2009, at St. Mary Ann Hale Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, Edison.

Born and raised in Carteret, he worked in Carteret ordinances such as Raritan Arsenal, Foster Wheeler, and General American. He was a veteran of the Korean War where he received a commission from OCS as 1st Lieutenant. Mr. Poll served in the Korean infantry as an officer and upon discharge he was 1st Lieutenant and received two bronze stars.

Joe went into the glass business as co-owner with a friend. In 1964, he purchased his own business in Bayonne, New Jersey which he operated for forty years. He retired in 2003.

Joe was president of the Holy Name Society for many years and had a good group of members which held

spectacular holiday parties for the children. He was a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Church, Carteret. He was president of Jednota Branch 324 for twenty-five years and president of the Msgr. John E. Rura District for four years. He was also a member of the Private Nicholas Minue Star Landing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2314 Carteret.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ida Poll; four children, Darlene Poll Vlachakis of New Jersey, Joseph Poll of Florida, Daniel Poll and his wife Kimberly of New Jersey, and Nancy Gardner and her husband Ron of New Jersey; seven grandchildren, Jason, Kristen, Leah, Griffin, Brittany, Austin, and Mariah; four sisters, Michelle Kraus, Maryann Halek, Eleanor Goldman and Patricia Lehotsky; and many nieces and nephews. Joe was predeceased by a brother, William.

Funeral services were conducted from the Chubenko Funeral Home, Port Reading followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Sacred Heart Church. Interment was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia, New Jersey.

FCSU LIFE SINGLE PREMIUM INSURANCE

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

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

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

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

Features:

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

Address Changes?

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

Philipsburg Seminar

The Membership and Marketing Committee of the First Catholic Slovak Union held a seminar on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at Bocks Dining and Tea Room in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Members of the Jozef Cardinal Tomko District attended the seminar.

The seminar was administered by National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. The seminar was well received and centered around FCSU's insurance and annuity portfolio.

There was a dinner after the seminar and door prizes were given out. Many thanks go to district officers Joseph Cervenak and Rosemary Deliman for setting up the seminar and arranging the dinner.

The purpose of a seminar is to acquaint our recommenders with the society's products. If one is scheduled for your area, please attend.

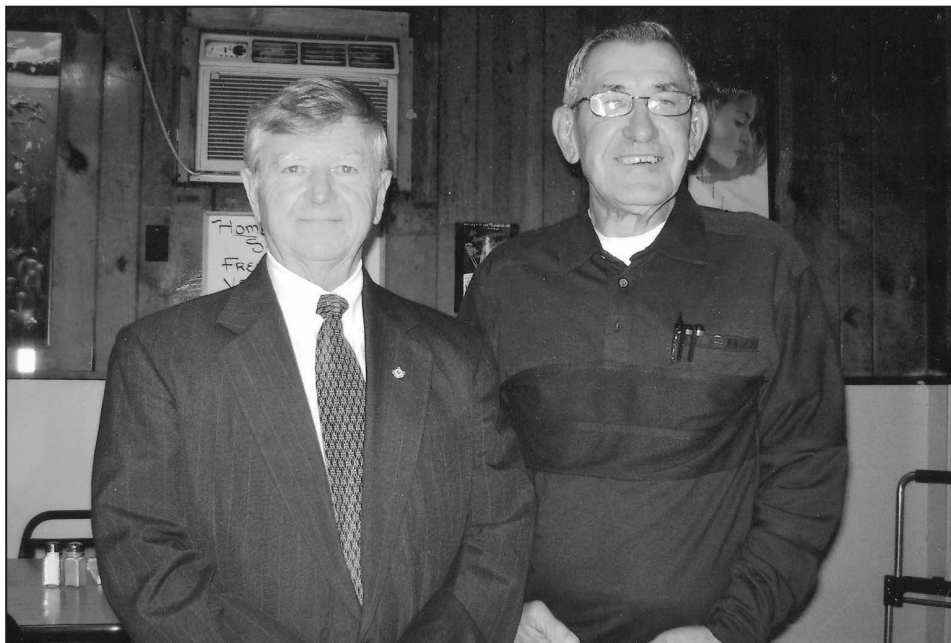
Hope to see you at the next seminar.

Until next time... Good Luck and God Bless!

Andrew R. Harcar Sr., National Vice President and Membership & Marketing Chairman



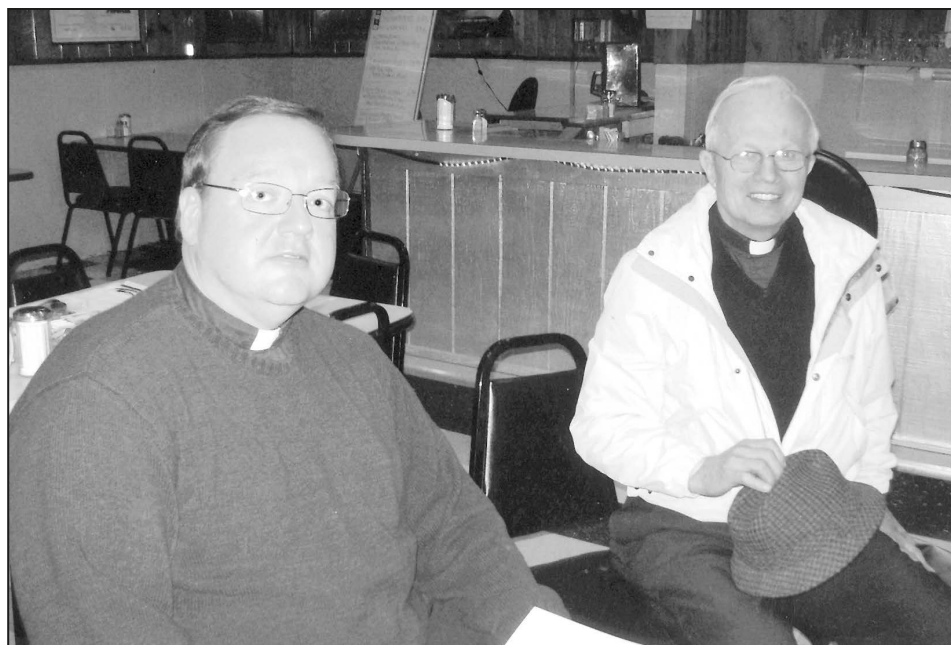
District President Joseph Cervenak and District Secretary Rosemary Deliman



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. and Joseph Cervenak, President of the Jozef Tomko District



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. going over FCSU's insurance and annuity portfolio.



Rev. Robert J. Horgas and Rev. Sylvester Vendzilla



Seminar attendees

New Edition of The Good Shepherd is off the Press

This year's edition is edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M. of Danville, Pennsylvania. This year the volume is dedicated to His Eminence, Jozef Cardinal Tomko, retired Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, on the occasion of his 85th birthday and 30th anniversary of Episcopal ordination, and to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius on the occasion of the congregation's centennial. This year's edition is replete with an array of interesting and informative articles in English and Slovak from a host of contributors on topics of interest to Americans and Canadians of Slovak ancestry. Included in the volume are articles by Paul Berish, Anna and Joseph Biros, Andrew R. Fabian, Rev. George M. Franko, Nadezda Halkova, Dr. Mikulas A. Halko, Dr. John Karch, Ivan Kralik, Joseph Neslusan, Virginia Parobek, Cecilia Novotny Rahl, Jozef Rydlo, Dr. M. Mark Stolarik, Daniel Tanzone, Sister Teresa Urda, SS.C.M., Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., and Sister Deborah Marie, SS.C.M. among others.

This year's edition, which celebrates its 90th anniversary, is one of the best ever. The 269-page volume printed by Triangle Press of Harrisburg, PA belongs in the home of every American who treasures his or her Slovak heritage and faith. Cost of the volume is just \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and send same to the national secretary, Dolores M. Evanko, 183 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.



Detroit Branch 743 Celebrates the Christmas Season

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, held its 88th Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Members attended the celebration of the Slovak Mass in the church. The annual meeting and Christmas party followed in the church hall.

In addition to a discussion of branch activities and officers' reports, the election of officers for 2010 and delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention took place. The new officers were sworn in by Paul Magusin.

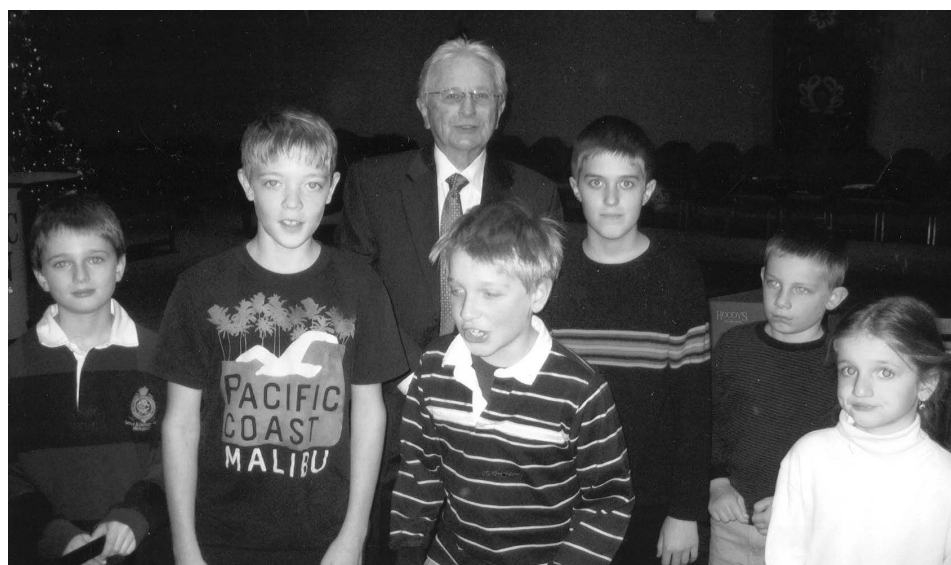
Members and guests enjoyed a delicious catered lunch with dessert and refreshments. Children entertained everyone with Christmas carols. A great time was had by all.



Members enjoying a catered lunch.



Paul Magusin, (right) administered the oath to the newly elected officers, L-R Milan Straka, Joseph C. Rimarcik, Anna Magusin, Stephanie Gervais, Daniela Grisak, and Martin Kamensky.



President Joseph C. Rimarcik with children Andrew Elliot, Tony Miller, William Elliot, Andrew Gervais, Joe Kovac, and Victoria Kovac

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Trustees of the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc., congratulations to the 2009 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award recipients. Each student will receive a one-time check for \$500.00. The following is the list of the students selected:

Matthew G. Bench
 Katelyn R. Brozak
 Amelia C. Krajsa
 Lisa M. Laboskie
 Bradley A. Matta
 Connor E. Mitchell
 Alexandria C. Muzika
 Phoebe C. Nixon
 Nicole A. Sardella
 Brianna K. Trifiletti

Derry, Pennsylvania
 Streator, Illinois
 Allentown, Pennsylvania
 Sunbury, Pennsylvania
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Perrysburg, Ohio
 Uniontown, Pennsylvania
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Coplay, Pennsylvania
 Lorain, Pennsylvania

We want to thank all the applicants who participated in the program and most especially the scholarship committee for their efforts and support in making the difficult decision of selecting the winners. We wish each and every participating applicant the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Notice

On January 20th, 2010 at 10:00 P.M. the Public Access Chanel # 45 – COX Communications in Cleveland, Ohio area will show the acclaimed story of nuns in Eastern Europe, including Slovakia, persecuted by the Communists after 1945. Also, on January 27, 2010 at 10:00 P.M. the same Channel #45 will show the program titled "Currents" hosted by well known Sister John Vianney from Danville, PA. Information provided by FCSU member Jerry Martin.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

	L	I	S	T			D	E	V	O	U	R		
C	A	N	O	E	D		A	V	E	R	T	E	D	
L	O	T	U	S	E	S		V	E	R	T	I	G	O
I	T	E		T	S	A	R	I	N	A		L	A	P
M	I	N	D		K	N	E	E	S		B	I	L	E
B	A	S	E	R		T	V	S		M	A	Z	E	S
		N	E	B	U	L	A	S		D	A	T	E	S
			A	L	E	S		W	E	S	T			
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Anniversary

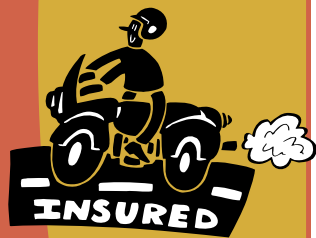
Joanne Tkach Polt and Eugene Polt of Colonia, New Jersey celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on November 18, 2009. Congratulations!

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Open to all members of FCSU!

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

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*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years
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 - Change in Existing Coverage

Please print clearly

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Your Loss of Life Beneficiary

Relationship

Name of Spouse

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 - Member & Family

Your Signature

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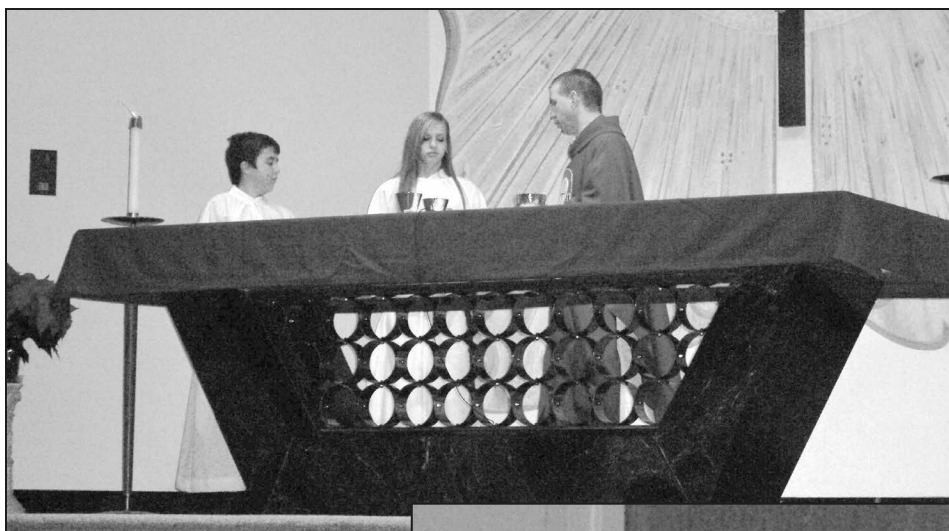
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**YOUTH
ROUND-UP**



Jack Logan Shelton of Chicago, Illinois, recently celebrated his first birthday. Extended family members gathered at Chuck E. Cheese for the birthday party. Jack, the son of Adam Shelton and Raquel Cano, is a member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493.



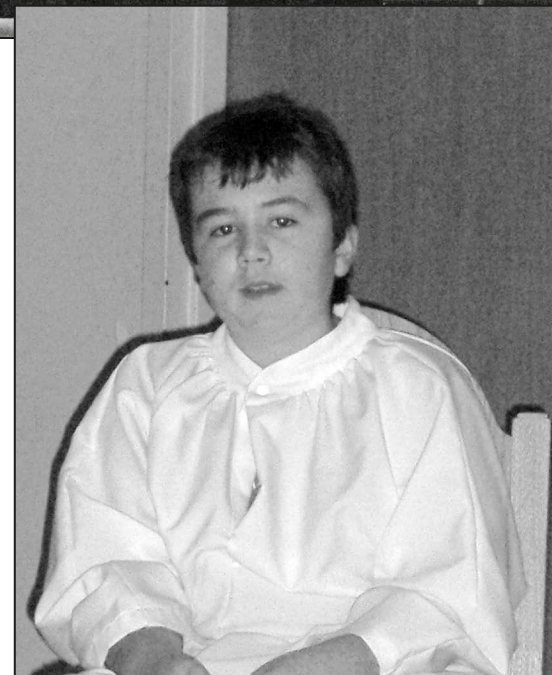
Charles Boone, age 10, of Branch 853, served at his first Mass on December 6, 2009.

Charles was alter server to celebrant Rev. James Bachner at St Catherine of Siena Church in the Beechview section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

At the end of the Mass, when Father Bachner announced that it was Charles' first Mass, the congregation clapped.

Charles is the son of Monica Rodacy Boone former National Auditor and and former Pension Board Trustee and Ronald Boone. .

Charles is in the fourth grade at Trinity East Elementary School.



Address Changes?

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



FOTO TASR – Milan Kapusta

Michal Bosák, prvý americký bankár zo Slovenska, sa narodil 10. decembra 1869 (140. výročie narodenia) v obci Okružle, okres Svidník. Zomrel v roku 1937 v USA. Jeho podpis ako prezidenta First National Bank je na desaťdolarovej bankovke vydanéj 25. júna 1907, ale aj v Pittsburskej dohode z roku 1918. V roku 1920 sa vrátil na Slovensko, kde sponzoroval viacero aktivít. V rokoch 1923 – 24 dal postaviť Bosákov dom v Prešove, novú budovu americko-slovenskej banky známu ako Bosákov banka. Postavil ju architekt Viliam Glasz v secesnom slohu. Bosákov dom sa zrekonštruoval v r. 1997 – 2001, jej rekonštrukcia bola ocenená cenou Európskej únie za zachovanie kultúrneho dedičstva "Europa Nostra 2002". Budovu vlastnila skrachovaná IRB banka. Teraz 80% vlastní OTP banka NBS (Národná banka Slovenska). Na snímke exteriér banky. A photo of the reconstructed Bosak Bank in Presov.

Biskup Galis požehnal 700 koledníkov

Koledovanie slovenských detí DOBRÁ NOVINA prebiehalo v tomto roku už 15. rok. Počas týchto dní prebiehali vo farnostiach nácviky piesní a scénok, ktoré deti v príbytkoch predstavovali a tak hlásali radostnú novinu o narodení Ježiša Krista.

Na tretiu adventnú nedeľu sa vo všetkých diecézach uskutočnili sväté omše s rozposlaním malých koledníkov. Vo farskom kostole v Pruskom sa zišlo 700 detí z celej Žilinskej diecézy. Priniesli krásnu atmosféru spevu a radosti, ktorá bola cítiť počas celej svätej omše. Na záver otec biskup Tomáš Galis deti požehnal a prejavil veľkú radosť, že popri mnohých ťažkostiach, ktoré máme, sa tisíce detí okolo Vianoc rozchádzajú na návštevu našich rodín a že prinášajú ľuďom troška ľudského pokoja.

Minulý rok sa do koledníckej akcie Dobrá novina v Žilinskej diecéze zapojilo 3,282 detí a dospelých a vyzbierali 4,567,89.13 korún. Výťažok zbierky je aj v tomto roku určený na misijné projekty v afrických krajinách.

Ivan Kňaze, TK KBS



Svetová premiéra baletu M. R. Štefánika v Košiciach

Košice (TASR) – Svetová premiéra baletu M. R. Štefánik režiséra Ondreja Šotha a libretistky Zuzany Mistríkovej je podľa autorov pokračovaním národného repertoáru v našťudovaní baletného súboru Štátneho divadla v Košiciach. A ako sami povedali, ide o jedinečnú udalosť v histórii divadla.

„Štefánik ma ako osobnosť fascinoval už v časoch, keď sa o ňom nesmeli hovoriť. Zaráža ma, že takáto osobnosť našich dejín dodnes nie je Slováckmi pochopená a jeho odkaz je buď použitý, alebo zneužitý tak, ako to komu vyhovuje,“ prezradil režisér predstavenia. Podľa Šotha je zarážajúce, že tohto výnimočného človeka si vážia viac Francúzi ako Slováci. „Vstupovali sme na neznámu pôdu a neustále na nej balansujeme. Pre toto predstavenie neexistovalo libreto, hudobný podklad a historické fakty sme museli hľadať z rôznych zdrojov,“ dodal Šoth. Podľa libretistky a zároveň dramaturgičky predstavenia Zuzany Mistríkovej bolo nesmierne náročné ukázať aspoň zlomok toho, čo Štefánik prežil, čo chcel a čo odovzdal. „Zomrel mladý vo veku 39 rokov, ale jeho život by naplnil tri plnohodnotné životy,“ povedala Mistríková.

V baletnom predstavení sa v úlohe Štefánika vystrieda šesť tanečníkov. „Každý z nich stvárňuje Štefánika v inom úseku jeho života, od dieťaťa, cez študenta, vojaka, diplomata až po generála,“ vysvetlil Šoth. Uviedol, že pre lepšie pochopenie toho, čo chceli ukázať, použili v predstavení aj filmové zábery. Vystrieda sa v ňom hudba Beethovena, Smetanu, Dvořáka, Verdiho, Stračinu a ďalších svetoznámych skladateľov. „Do poslednej chvíle sme netušili, čo všetko je možné zo života Milana Rastislava Štefánika ukázať. Pochopili sme však, že jeho odkaz je jednoduchý, a to, že každý môže ovplyvniť svet, v ktorom žije,“ poznamenala Mistríková.

Premiéra baletu M. R. Štefánik bola v historickej budove Štátneho divadla v Košiciach v piatok 18. decembra.

Vydavateľstvo MS obohatilo knižný trh o 50 nových titulov

Martin (TASR) – K najstaršej slovenskej kultúrnej inštitúcii Matici slovenskej (MS) neodmysliteľne patrí už od jej vzniku v roku 1863 vydávanie kníh. „Vo vlastnom vydavateľstve v posledných rokoch vychádza ročne v priemere 50 nových titulov. Je tomu tak aj v tomto roku,“ informoval riaditeľ Vydavateľstva MS Stanislav Muntág. Už tradične sa vydavateľstvo venuje detskej literatúre. Aj v roku 2009 dodalo na knižný trh rozprávky z autorskej dielne Ondreja Sliackeho. Z najnovších prozaických diel v edícii krásnej literatúry vyšla v závere roka zaujímavá kniha Antona Hykischeho Rozkoše dávnych čias. Aktuálna je publikácia Mikuláša Kočana Totalita, moja láska. Obsahuje súbor reflexií z čias nedávno minulých a autor ju venoval 20. výročiu Nežnej revolúcie.

Z literatúry faktu je zaujímavá publikácia od Matúša Kučeru Bratislava a starí Slováci s podtitulom O počiatkoch mesta a národa. Poskytuje nové pohľady na dejiny Bratislavy od prvého tisícročia, ktoré sú v zhode aj s poslednými archeologickými objavmi na Bratislavskom hrade. Najnovším kolektívnym dielom v tomto druhu literatúry je kniha Pohľady na Andreja Hlinku. Prináša množstvo neznámych faktov o tejto osobnosti.

Z odbornej literatúry sú to predovšetkým dvojdielne v porovnaní s doterajšími najkomplexnejšie Dejiny slovenskej literatúry. Zostavil ich renomovaný literárny historik Imrich Sedlák a viac ako tri roky na tomto diele intenzívne pracoval tím univerzitných profesorov a docentov zo všetkých filozofických fakúlt na Slovensku.



Kysucké múzeum v Čadci má fotografie z návštevy E. A. Cernana

Čadca (TASR) – Kysucké múzeum (KM) v Čadci získalo tento rok 471 zbierkových predmetov a celkovo disponuje fondom takmer 25,000 zbierkových predmetov. Informovala o tom komunikačná manažérka KM Lenka Jancová. „Medzi unikáty, ktoré sa podarilo tento rok získať, možno zaradiť dva mamutie zuby, knihu kázní Františka Xavera Daniša z roku 1841, fotografie z návštevy astronauta E. A. Cernana na Slovensku, citaru Valencia, husle z roku 1910, náhrobnú kamennú dosku či predmety spojené s drotárskou tematikou,“ uviedla Jancová.

Získané zbierkové predmety nainštaluje múzeum v expozíciách kaštieľa v Radoli a v objektoch Múzea kysuckej dediny vo Vychylovke. „Na budúci rok plánujeme reinkaláciu stálej expozície Kysuce v budove múzea v Čadci. Novým záväzkom sa preto stalo vybudovanie expozície, ktorá bude pozostávať z troch častí, a to z drotárstva, archeológie a časti venovanej E. A. Cernanovi. Budú v nich mať miesto aj zbierkové predmety získané tento rok,“ dodala Jancová.



Vysvätenie dreveného betlehema v Žiline



FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

V Žiline na Marianskom námestí vysvätili 4. decembra 2009 drevený betlehem, ktorý vytvorili českí a slovenskí rezbári v rámci medzinárodného rezbárskeho sympózia. Drevený betlehem, v ktorom sa nachádza sedem postáv, domáce zvieratá a jezuličko vysvätil farár a hovorca Žilinskej diecézy Peter Holbička.

Vianočné posedenie Spolku č. 743 IKSJ v Detrote



Na snímke sú novozvolení úradníci Spolku č. 743 IKSJ zľava: Milan Straka, Joseph C. Rimarcik, Anna Magusin, Stephanie Gervais, Daniela Grisak, Martin Kamensky a Paul Magusin.

Spolok sv. Jozefa č. 743 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v nedeľu 6. decembra 2009 usporiadal Vianočné posedenie v kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Sterling Heights, Michigan. Oslave predchádzala najprv slovenská svätá omša a tak v hale kostola sa pokračovalo Výročnou schôdzou nášho spolku. Na schôdzi úradníci svojimi správami zhodnotili činnosť za uplynulé obdobie a zvolili si nových úradníkov na rok 2010, ako aj delegátov na blížiacu sa 49. Konvenciu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

Počas Vianočného posedenia sa podával výborný obed so sladkosťami a občerstvením. Vianočnú atmosféru prítomným spríjemnili rôzne vystúpenia detí či už vianočnými koledami alebo básničkami.



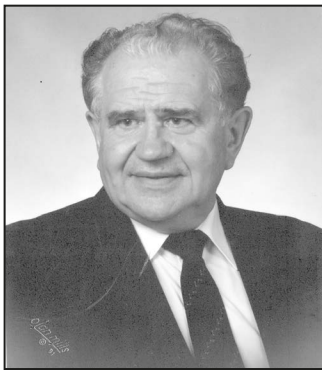
Andrew F. Hudak, Jr. je ťažko chorý

Mnohí moji priatelia, známi ako aj návštevníci si všimli, že Slovenský ústav je momentálne bez svojho riaditeľa. Dovoľte mi prosím, aby som Vám svoju neprítomnosť vysvetlil.

Po zdĺhavých vyšetreniach mi lekári oznámili konečnú diagnózu – rakovinu žalúdka. 13. apríla 2009 ma operovali. Počas operácie lekári zistili, že rakovina už bola nezvratne rozšírená po celom žalúdku a nemali inú voľbu, len mi ho celý odstrániť. Keď som sa po operácii prebudil a zistil, že nemám žalúdok, nevedel som si predstaviť ako budem ďalej žiť. Veď či aj môže človek žiť bez takého dôležitého orgánu ako je žalúdok. Na moje veľké prekvapenie som zistil, že nie som jediný, ale práve naopak. Mnoho ľudí žije kvalitný život v takejto istej situácii. Už mám za sebou 6 mesiacov intenzívnej liečby a môžem byť všetko v malých dávkach. Stratil som veľa na váhe, ale moje výhliadky sú veľmi dobré. Povzbudený úspechom ďalej pokračujem v liečbe chemoterapiou a ožiarením.

Slovenský ústav mi veľmi chýba a pevne dúfam, že sa čoskoro vrátim do práce. Ak všetko pôjde podľa mojich plánov, mal by som byť naspäť ako riaditeľ koncom roka 2009.

Prosím, pamätajte na mňa vo svojich modlitbách. Vám oddaný priateľ v Kristovi a národe
Andrew F. Hudak, Jr. s rodinou



Andrew F. Hudak, Jr.



V Košiciach otvorila galériu s originálmi Andyho Warhola

Košice (TASR) - Historicky prvú stálu súkromnú expozíciu originálnych diel Andyho Warhola na Slovensku čoskoro sprístupnia verejnosti. Skompletizovali ju nadšenci umenia z Mihal Gallery, ktorá sídli v jednom z košických hotelov, uviedol majiteľ galérie Miroslav Mihal. „Medzi tromi desiatkami diel od Andyho Warhola je unikátna Marilyn Monroe. Zastúpené sú ďalšie portréty známych osobností, ako je Wayne Gretzky, Hans Christian Andersen, Martha Graham a Teddy Roosevelt. Výnimočne atraktívne a vzácne sú v zbierke portfólia – súbory obrazov Kosáky a kladivá, Zvestovanie - podľa motívu známeho renesančného obrazu od Da Vinciho a portfólio Svätá Apollonia,“ dodal Mihal.

Galéria v hoteli je projektom, ktorý sa snaží zaujímavou formou priblížiť život a tvorbu svetoznámeho umelca, ktorého rodičia pochádzali z východoslovenskej obce Miková. S galériou vizuálne ladí pop-artovo navrhnutá fasáda objektu a taktiež jeho interiér.

„Tuto galériou chceme splatiť dlh, ktorý Slovensko má voči zakladateľovi pop-artu. Warhol bol jednou z kľúčových ikon výtvarného umenia druhej polovice 20. storočia. Chceme ho ešte viac spopularizovať a poukázať na fakt, že tento „najtypickejší Američan“, bol synom rusinských rodičov pôvodom zo Slovenska,“ poznamenal Mihal. Záujemcovia budú môcť podrobnejšie informácie o živote a diele Andyho Warhola čerpať z vytlačených katalógov a k dispozícii im budú tiež audiovizuálne projekty, ktoré uvidia návštevníci na veľkoplášnej obrazovke priamo v galérii. Oficiálne otvorenie prvej stájej súkromnej expozície diel Andyho Warhola je naplánované na začiatok budúceho roka.

List od misionára z Austrálie

NECH ŽIJE SVÄTÝ TROJEDINÝ BOH V NAŠICH SRDCIACH

Drahí moji,

pozdravujem Vás, čo najsrdečnejšie z druhého konca sveta z Austrálie.

Od augusta som dostal iba zopár listov, ale každý začína tou istou vetou: „Ste zdravý, preložili Vás niekam inam? Nemáme o Vás žiadnu správu.“ Nestrachujte sa. Ešte žijem a stále som v Austrálii v Sydney. Lenže moje zdravie je veľmi hrdzavé. Moje nohy ma nechcú nosiť a kolená mi vŕzgajú ako starý traktor. Nemôžem si kľaknúť. Keď kráčam, bolí ma chrbát, krúti sa mi hlava a bojím sa, že spadnem. Preto mi lekár zakázal cestovať ďaleko a bez sprievodu.

Môžem cestovať iba do slovenského chrámu raz za týždeň. Naši farníci musia poslať pre mňa auto a po omši ma musia zaviezť naspäť do misijného domu. Spolu s našimi farníkmi sme oslávili moje 82. narodeniny v našom kostole d'akovnou omšou a po omši bol slovenský obed vo farskej hale. Dvakrát každý mesiac slúžim omšu katolíckym cechom a maďarom. Ale ako som už spomenul, títo farníci musia prísť pre mňa do nášho kostola a po omši zase do misijného domu.

Bývam v našom misijnom dome v Sydney. Lekár mi nedovolil cestovať ani za našimi ľuďmi po druhých mestách kde žijú Slováci v Austrálii. Misionári v našej spoločnosti v Austrálii sa starajú o mňa dobre. Bývam s desiatimi staršími bezvládnymi spolubratmi našej spoločnosti. Máme osobnú kaplnku kde slúžime omše a spoločnú jedáleň. Teraz už nemám žiadne povinnosti v našom misijnom dome. Mám svoju izbu s kúpeľňou. Jedným slovom je o mňa postarané.

Spomenul som, že lekár mi nedovolil cestovať samému alebo ďaleko, pretože raz na ceste do nášho kostola ma zrazilo auto. Rozcapil som sa ako hnilé jablko, kufrík sa nepoškodil. Bolo to dva dni po Novom roku. Šofér z auta dobehol ku mne a celkom nastrašený sa pýtal: „Pánko, ste v poriadku?“ Ja som sa pozbieral z cesty, oprášil a povedal som mu celkom spokojne: „Ako vidíte ešte som celý a ešte je Nový rok tak Vám prajem požehnaný Nový rok.“ On iba pokrútil hlavou, nepovediac nič, ale som presvedčený, že si myslieť že som niečo vypil. O pár dní veľmi pršalo. Miesto na stanici, kde som mal presadať bolo šmykľavé. Spadol som rovno na kolaje vlaku. Okolo stojaci ľudia ma vytiahli z kolaje iba chvíľu pred odchodom vlaku.

Prepáčte, že som sa niektorým ešte nepodaťoval za blahoželania k mojim 82. narodeninám. Ďakovnú omšu za Vás a Vaše rodiny som odslúžil.

Šťastné a Požehnané Vianočné Sviatky a Šťastlivý Nový Rok 2010

V láske Ducha Svätého ostáva vďačný

Rev. Fr. Victor Štefko, S.V.D.

**DIVINE MISSIONARIES, Rev. Fr. Victor Stevko, SVD, 199 Epping Road, EPPING
1710, Sydney, NSW, AUSTRALIA; Phone: (+612) 9869 0174;
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Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Vianočný príhovor kardinála Jozefa Tomka

Preto sa pýtame: čo je vlastne podstata Vianoc? Ako ich máme prežiť s úžitkom a do hĺbky? Tu nám treba odpovedať veľmi priamo: prameňom vianočnej radosti je historická udalosť, ktorú evanjelista Lukáš opisuje s dôslednosťou a presnosťou kronikára: stala sa za súpisu obyvateľstva, ktorý nariadil známy rímsky cisár August, keď Sýriu spravoval Quirínus, v mestečku Betleheme, ako to dávno predpovedal prorok Micheáš; ano v tom Betleheme, ktorý mnohí z vás navštívili. Na okolitých poliach sa pastieri za noci dozvedeli ako radostnú novinu, určenú pre všetkých ľudí, túto zvest': „Nebojte sa. Zvestujem vám veľkú radosť, ktorá bude patriť všetkým ľuďom: Dnes sa vám v Dávidovom meste narodil Spasiteľ, Kristus Pán. A toto vám bude znamením: Nájete dieťaťko zavinité do plienok a uložené v jaslách“ (Lk 2, 10-12).

Toto dieťa je prameňom radosti pre celý svet, lebo je to Boží Syn, Božie Slovo, ktoré jestvuje od večnosti: „Na počiatku bolo Slovo a Slovo bolo u Boha a to Slovo bolo Boh...A Slovo sa telom stalo a prebývalo medzi nami“ (Jn 1, 1.13). To je udalosť, ktorá nemá páru v ľudských dejinách, najväčšia senzácia všetkých storočí, skutočnosť, ktorá vrhá nové svetlo na Boha, na celé ľudstvo i na existenciu každého človeka. Ak sa v tom dieťati Boh stal človekom, tak ono má čo povedať každému z nás. V ňom sa nám osobitným spôsobom prejavila Božia láska. Neviditeľný, nesmierny, všemocný, majestátny Boh sa k nám znížil a ukázal nám svoju tvár, ako nám to dosvedčuje evanjelista Ján: „Boh je láska. A božia láska k nám sa prejavila v tom, že Boh poslal svojho jednorodeného Syna na svet, aby sme skrze neho mali život. Láska je v tom, že nie my sme milovali Boha, ale že on miloval nás a poslal svojho Syna ako zmiernu obeť za naše hriechy...A my sme spoznali lásku, akú má Boh k nám...“ (Jn 4, 8-10.16).

Vianoce nám pripomínajú fakt, že v betlehemskej Dieťati sa Boh stal človekom. Viacerí nekresťania nám vyčítajú, že tvrdíme o Bohu čosi nedôstojné, že znižujeme Boží majestát. Majú pravdu v tom, že „v betlehemskej maštaľke sa stretáva nebo so zemou. Nebo zostúpilo na zem“ (Benedikt XVI.). Ale to sám

Boh sa chcel takto ponižiť, skloniť k človekovi. Tu práve ukázal svoju nesmiernu lásku: „Tak Boh miloval svet, že svojho jednorodeného Syna dal za nás...“ Boh sa nám stal nesmierne blízkym v betlehemskej dieťati a sám mu dal meno „Emanuel“- „Boh s nami“. To dieťa je už naveky náš živý brat, priateľ, spolupútnik na životnej ceste, s ľudským citlivým srdcom, ale zároveň náš Pán a Boh. On ako Boh si privzal ľudskú prirodzenosť, preto ako Boho-človek ostáva s nami naveky. Francúzsky spisovateľ André Frossard, ktorý sa obrátil, dobre pochopil tajomstvo Vianoc ako tajomstvo vtelenia, keď napísal: Ja mám stále Betlehem pred sebou, každý deň sú pre mňa Vianoce, lebo každý deň je so mnou Boh, ktorý sa stal človekom. –Naozaj hodina spasenia bije aj teraz, Betlehem je aj dnes blízky, v Ježišovi je Boh s nami vždy, keď my chceme byť s ním. Aj pre nás sa narodil, aj nám priniesol tie isté duchovné dary ako betlehemským pastierom, tú istú radosť, to isté svetlo, ten istý pokoj. Jeho dary zasahujú naše srdce a naše vnútro, preto ich nič povrchné a blýskavé nemôže nahradiť.

Malý Ježiško je aj dnes Boží Syn, ktorý sa stal človekom. Jeho vtelenie je už trvalý stav. On teraz žije a pôsobí ako Boho-človek. Toto chudobné Dieťa v jaslách je Boží dar pre nás a dôkaz, že Boh je Láska. V ňom sa všetkým ľuďom, teda aj nám, aj našej generácii „zjavila dobrota Boha, nášho Spasiteľa a jeho láska k ľuďom“, ako hovorí sv. Pavol (Tit 3,4). Toto Dieťa nás učí, ako dať náplň a zmysel každodennému kľopoteniu i celoživotnej existencii; ono kladie lásku za vrcholný zákon ľudského spolunazývania. Ba čo viac, „tým, ktorí ho prijali, dal moc stať sa Božimi deťmi“ (Jn 1,12).

Nemôžeme sa diviť, že narodenie tohto dieťaťa a sprevádzajú mimoriadne javy, ako je svetlo z neba a spev anjelov, ktorý tiež dodáva Vianociam hlboký zmysel: „Sláva Bohu na výsostiach a na zemi pokoj ľuďom dobrej vôle“. Keď uznávame v malom Ježišovi vtelenú Božiu lásku, vzdávame vďaka a slávu Bohu a zároveň dosahujeme vnútorný pokoj, duchovnú pohodu a ľudské teplo. Preto sa na Vianoce cítíme viac ľuďmi. Preto sa snažíme znovu prežiť kúzlo, ktoré sme si odniesli z detstva, keď sme vedeli ďakovať za lásku, ako dieťa v Růfusových „Modlitbičkách“: „Iba tak Ti poviem, že dar lásky – to je koruna tých darov, čo si ľuďom dal“. Preto si vymieňame darčeky, ozdubujeme si stromčeky, staviame betlehemy. Objavíme v sebe dušu dieťaťa akoby sen, ktorý sa však naozaj stal, ale pritom pretvára dodnes ako skutočnosť Boha, ktorý sa pre nás stal človekom a ostáva s nami ako náš Emanuel-Boh s nami, „Ježiš Kristus, ten istý včera i dnes a naveky!“ (Hebr 13, 8).

Také požehnané Vianoce prajem vám všetkým!

**Jozef kardinál Tomko
TK KBS**

Tri úspešné podujatia v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

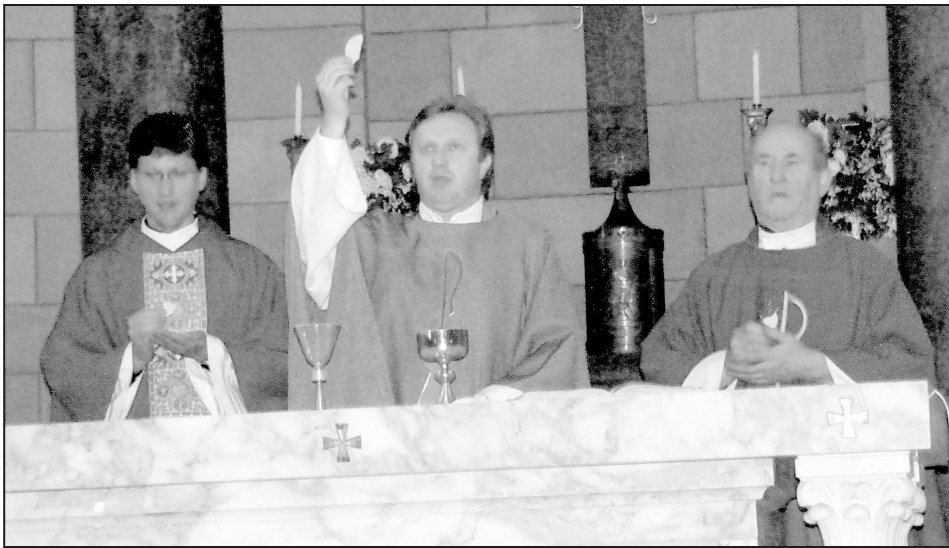
Oslava 70. narodenín otca Martina Svitana

Koncom tohto roka 2009 sa v hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC uskutočnili tri úspešné podujatia pre našu slovenskú verejnosť.

V nedeľu 8. novembra 2009 Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého pripravila pre svojho hlavného duchovného, pána farára Martina Svitana z príležitosti jeho 70. narodenín, dôstojnú oslavu. Podujatie začalo o 11:00 hodine slávnostnou svätou omšou, ktorú odslúžil dôstojný pán otec Peter Kvašňák, za celebrácie oslávenca otca Martina Svitana a otca Štefana Chanása. Po svätej omši otec Martin Svitán pozval všetkých farníkov a priateľov na slávnostný obed, ktorý pripravil Ján Škrkoň spolu s ďalšími pomocníkmi farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Za tým nasledovalo pre dôstojného otca Svitana nespočetné množstvo gratulácií a želaní ku ktorým sa i my pripájame.

„Milý náš pán farár,

prijmite ešte i touto cestou spolu so všetkými vďačnými farníkmi a priateľmi, pranie pevného zdravia, Božieho požehnania, aby ste ešte dlhé roky viedli našu Slovenskú farnosť, ktorá sa stala útočiskom a akýmsi domovom pre nás všetkých v tomto svete, ktorý je po našom rodnom Slovensku, našou novou vlasťou.“



Svätá omša z príležitosti 70. narodenín otca Martina Svitana v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Pri oltári zľava: otec Štefan Chanás, otec Peter Kvašňák a oslávenec, otec Martin Svitán.



Gratulantí zo Spolku sv. Štefana č.716 IKSJ z príležitosti 70. narodenín otca Martina Svitana.

Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ

Výročná členská schôdza na rok 2010 Spolku sv. Štefana, č.716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa konala v nedeľu 8. novembra 2009. V súčasnosti Spolok má 258 aktívnych členov a do nového výboru si zvolil nasledovných funkcionárov: predseda – Jozef Bilík; podpredseda Andrej Šulák; pokladník – Milan Dait; tajomníčka a zapisovateľka – Henrieta Daitová; revizorky – Anna Bilík, Serafína Šulák a Marienka Božeková.



Na snímke záber zúčastnených jednotárov na svojej Výročnej schôdži. Prvý rad zľava: Serafína Šulák, Anna Bilík, Mária Božeková, Henrieta H. Daitová a Nina Holy. Zadný rad zľava: Jozef Bilík, Milan R. Dait a otec Martin Svitán.

Oberačková zábava Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ

Tretím úspešným podujatím Spolku sv. Štefana bola v nedeľu dňa 25. októbra 2009 odpolednia „Oberačková zábava“, ktorú zahájil otec Štefan Chanás modlitbou, ktorou sme poďakovali Pánu Bohu za hojnú úrodu, šťastie a zdravie všetkých nás. Slovenský obed pripravil člen nášho spolku Janko Škrkoň za pomoci ďalších ochotných členov Spolku. Do tanca a na počúvanie hrala známa slovenská skupina „Kontakty“ pri ktorej si zatancovali a zaspievali nielen mladí, ale aj tí skôr narodení. Všetkým, ktorí sa akýmkoľvek spôsobom podieľali na príprave a úspechu tejto zábavy patrí vďaka za nezištnú pomoc ktorou i takýmto spôsobom prispeli k šíreniu slovenskej kultúry.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom
Henrieta H. Daitová



Na snímke z haly Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého prvý rad zľava: Milan Dait, Henrieta H. Daitová, Mária Juráši, Serafína Šulák, Melanka, Milka, Jozef Juráši a Mária Božeková. Druhý rad zľava: Jozef Bilík, Ján Škrkoň, Andrej Šulák a Jozef Juráši mladší.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 10. januára 2010 o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši, v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. Program schôdze bude zameraný na výber delegátov na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ, ktorá sa uskutoční v dňoch od 14. – 18. augusta 2010 v Clevelande. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov, aby sa na tejto schôdzi zúčastnili čo v najväčšom počte.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Oznámenie krajanom

Žiadosti o dotácie na rok 2010

Vážení krajanovia, oznamujeme Vám, že v termíne od 1. februára 2010 je možné zasielať na adresu úradu v rámci programu Projekty na pomoc Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí – rok 2010 žiadosti o dotácie na krytie aktivít Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí z rozpočtu Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Žiadosti o dotácie treba zaslať na predpísanom tlačive úradu, ktoré nájdete na internetovej stránke www.uszz.sk.

Komisií pre schvaľovanie projektov na pomoc krajanom a organizáciám v zahraničí budú predložené v stanovenom termíne len podpísané kompletne žiadosti, vrátane povinných príloh, zaslané (nie e-mailom), ale poštou na adresu Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, Radlinského 13, 817 80 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

Zároveň Vás žiadame, aby ste v prípade akýchkoľvek zmien (sídla krajanov, zmeny štatutára, zmeny čísla účtu, atď.) zaslané v rámci predkladaných žiadostí aj tieto doklady, potvrdzujúce uvedené skutočnosti. Predpokladáme, že objem finančných prostriedkov určených na vyššie uvedený program na rok 2010 bude rozdelený v rámci jedného grantového kola.

Všetky informácie a potrebné dokumenty k spracovaniu a predloženiu projektov sú uverejnené na webovej stránke Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí www.uszz.sk.

Mgr. Tatiana Orlická
Teritoriálny odbor, USZZ

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Americká** obchodná komora v SR (AmCham) v decembri vyhlásila výsledky 15. ročníka charitatívnej zbierky „AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive“ a odovzdala vybraným organizáciám symbolické šeky. Projekt sa realizuje každoročne pri príležitosti amerického sviatku Dňa vďakyvdania. V rámci „AmCham Thanksgiving Charity Drive 2009“ finančne podporili osem organizácií z rôznych regiónov Slovenska, ktorým komora prerozdelená sumu 13,000 eur (391,638 Sk). Organizácie využijú finančný dar na konkrétne projekty, ktoré majú za cieľ zlepšiť kvalitu života deťom, chorým, telesne a mentálne postihnutým, bezdomovcom a ľuďom, ktorí sa nie z vlastnej viny ocitli v ťažkej životnej situácii. Americká obchodná komora (AmCham) vznikla v roku 1993 v Bratislave ako nezávislá a sebestačná organizácia financovaná výhradne z príspevkov svojich členov. V septembri 2003 bola otvorená pobočka AmCham v Košiciach s cieľom podporiť ekonomický rozvoj vo východoslovenskom regióne. Dnes patrí medzi najaktívnejšie zahraničné obchodné komory na Slovensku.

• **Slovenská** spoločnosť Universal Media Corporation (Slovakia), s. r. o., (UMC), ktorá vyrába LCD televízory, začala spolupracovať s firmou, ktorej vlastníkom je Čínska ľudová republika. Výsledkom tejto spolupráce je rozširovanie výroby UMC v Novom meste nad Váhom a vznik spoločného podniku. Do 15. decembra mala prijať 152 nových ľudí a ďalších 150 až 200 zamestnancov do polovice júna budúceho roka, avizoval generálny riaditeľ UMC Aslan Khabliev. Výrobca elektroniky - LCD televízorov, zobrazovacích jednotiek, DVD nosičov a dátových médií, v súvislosti s rozšírením výroby plánuje výstavby dvoch výrobných hál. O názve novej čínsko-slovenskej spoločnosti rozhodnú jej zástupcovia neskôr. Spoločnosť UMC (Slovakia) vznikla v roku 2004, v Novom Meste nad Váhom pôsobí od novembra 2005. Zameriava sa na výrobu 15- a 32-palcových LCD televízorov. Na Slovensku zamestnáva 550 pracovníkov a ďalších 50 v zahraničí.

• **Univerzita** veterinárskeho lekárstva v Košiciach bude mať od 15. januára 2010 nový názov: Univerzita veterinárskeho lekárstva a farmácie v Košiciach. Návrh zákona reaguje na žiadosť vysokej školy schválenú akademickým senátom po súhlasnom vyjadrení Akreditačnej komisie. Senát schválil návrh rektora na zmenu názvu v súvislosti s uskutočňovaním študijného programu farmácia, ukončením komplexnej akreditácie činnosti vysokej školy a blížiacim sa 60. výročím jej vzniku. Farmácia je samostatným odborom orientovaným na výchovu a výučbu odborníkov pre odbor farmácie a lekárenstva. Keďže ide prevažne o medicínsky orientovaný odbor, názov školy musí byť doplnený tak, aby zodpovedal rozsahu študijných programov, ktorých štúdium vysoká škola ponúka.

• **Podľa** prieskumu, ktorý Únia uskutočnila v tomto roku, je v Európskej únii 95 miliónov mladých ľudí vo veku 15 až 25 rokov. Rodičovský dom opúšťajú najskôr mladí Fini, Francúzi a Holanďania. Slovfenski mladí muži rodičov opúšťajú v priemere vo veku 31.5 roka. Slovenky o pár mesiacov skôr, a to keď dosiahnu 29.8 roka. Prieskum sa zaoberal aj zamestnanosťou mladých ľudí. V druhom štvrtroku 2009 to mali s prácou najťažšie mladí vo veku 25 až 34 rokov s najnižším vzdelaním. Na Slovensku je bez práce až 53 percent mladých s najnižším vzdelaním.

• **Centy** zatiaľ Slovákovi v peňaženkách ostanú. Na konferencii venovanej prvému roku s eustom povedal guvernér Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) Ivan Šramko. Podľa prieskumu, ktorý realizovalo Zastúpenie Európskej komisie na Slovensku v októbri tohto roku, vyplýva, že spotrebiteľom aj obchodníkom z euromincí najviac „prekážajú“ práve jedno- a dvojcentové mince. Prezident Zväzu obchodu a cestovného ruchu Pavol Konštiak si naopak myslí, že by bolo vhodné, aby sa začalo diskutovať aspoň o možnosti zaokrúhľovania cien na 5 centov. Centy by tak nezmišli, používal by ich len ten, kto chce a ceny by boli podľa Konštiaka prehľadnejšie.

• **Dve** strieborné a jednu bronzovú medailu získali slovenskí žiaci na medzinárodnej olympiáde mladých vedcov (IJSO) v azerbajdžanskej metropole Baku. Obstáli tak v konkurencii žiakov z takmer 50 krajín z celého sveta. Slovenskí zástupcovia bodovali na IJSO 2009 v kategórii do 16 rokov. Dve strieborné medaily si odniesli Eugen Hruška a Dominik Štefanko, bronzovú získal Jakub Šafin, čo je v porovnaní s inými krajinami veľmi úspešný výsledok. Olympiáda sa konala 2.-11. decembra. Podľa slovenských organizátorov však mohlo na Slovensko poputovať viacero medailí, nebyť nezrovnalostí okolo jedného z experimentov, v ktorom niektoré tímy získali z nezistených dôvodov asi o 30 percent lepši výsledok. Poškodeným krajinám sa nepodarilo presvedčiť organizátorov, že išlo o chybu v príprave experimentu. Informoval o tom nedávno doc. František Kundráčik z Fakulty matematiky, fyziky a informatiky Univerzity Komenského.

• **Nezamestnanosť** by mala v nasledujúcich mesiacoch podľa analytikov vzrásť. Malo by k tomu dôjsť aj napriek tomu, že miera evidovanej nezamestnanosti v novembri stagnovala na úrovni 12.4 %, čomu zodpovedá aj postupné zotavovanie slovenského vývozu a aj priemyslu. „Netreba podceňovať riziko, že obdobie na prelome rokov môže byť sprevádzané administratívnym posunom rozhodnutí o optimalizácii nákladov vrátane zamestnanosti na začiatok januára,“ zdôrazňuje hlavný analytik Volksbank Slovensko Research Vladimír Vaňo. Existuje tak možnosť, že by po spomalení rastu nových nezamestnaných v závere roka nasledoval ich výraznejší nárastový prírastok po novom roku. Makroanalytik UniCredit Bank Slovakia Dávid Dereník sa domnieva, že podniky už viac-menej prepustili potrebné množstvo ľudí a prispôsobili sa tak zníženému dopytu. Upozorňuje však, že niektoré firmy ešte stále hlásia prepúšťanie.

• **Gréci** policajti sa pochlapili! Dokázali dostať za mreže jedného z najhľadanejších Slovákov. V Thessalonikách zadržali Daniela Hatinu z Lehoty (okr. Nitra) a v súčasnosti sa rieši jeho vydanie na Slovensko. Menovaného zatkli po spolupráci s Národnou ústredňou Interpol v Grécku na základe európskeho zatykácieho rozkazu. Daniela údajne zadržali Gréci s falošnými dokladmi, podobne ako jeho dvoch kumpánov, ktorých pred rokom chytili v Nemecku. Na všetkých troch mužov bol vydaný medzinárodný zatykač a pátral po nich Interpol. Za brutálnu vraždu a vydieranie spolu s únosom im hrozí až doživotie.

• **Po** nemeckej spoločnosti T-Systems, ktorá nedávno ohlásila na východe Slovenska prijatie asi 350 špecialistov, chystá nábor aj americká Ness Košice Development Center (KDC). Vývojové stredisko spoločnosti v Košiciach počíta na budúci rok s novými klientmi a plánuje zvýšiť počet najmä softvérových inžinierov. „Budeme potrebovať okolo sto nových ľudí. Väčšinou do Košíc, ale časť i do Banskej Bystrice,“ vysvetlil Ivan Hruška, prezident Ness Europe. Firma používa v Košiciach model softvérových laboratórií pre jednotlivých zákazníkov, ktoré pôsobia samostatne. Vo východoslovenskej metropole funguje niekoľko laboratórií, ktoré pracujú pre klientov.

• **Slovensko** opäť posilní svoju povest' „európskeho Detroitu“. Jeden z najväčších dodávateľov pre automobilový priemysel presunie svoje finančné centrum do Bratislavy. „Budeme prvá a jediná dodávateľská spoločnosť so svetovým finančným centrom v Európe,“ potvrdila Astrid Schafmeisterová, hovorkyňa spoločnosti Johnson Controls. Strategická pozícia v regióne, prítomnosť troch automobiliek aj úspora finančných nákladov viedli amerického giganta k rozhodnutiu presunúť svoje finančné centrum do Bratislavy. Doterajšia hlavná centrála sídlila v mexickom Jauareze, takmer všetky kompetencie preberie v prvej polovici budúceho roku hlavné mesto Slovenska. Podľa Schafmeisterovej vznikne na Slovensku v súvislosti s presunom vyše 130 pracovných miest.

• **Slovenské** tokajské vína svet veľmi nepozná. Čo však pozná, je dobré víno z Tokaja. A také sa vyrába aj v slovenských tokajských obciach. Na poslednej veľkej medzinárodnej súťaži vín vo Viedni na známej AWC Vienna triumfovala Tokajská výberová esencia ocenená zlatou medailou. Úspech nemohol byť lepšie načasovaný. Prišiel vo chvíli, keď sa Slovensko spori s Maďarskom o názov Tokaj. Zlato z AWC Vienna dodalo tokajskému vínu po jarnom triumfe Ostrožovičovej Saturnie v Paríži potrebný medzinárodný lesk.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Foto TASR Pavol Ďurčo, 23. december 2009

V Žiline na Mariánskom námestí rozdávali skauti Betlehenské svetlo, ktoré bolo dovezené štafetovým spôsobom a rôznymi dopravnými prostriedkami priamo z Betlehemu. Ľudia si od neho pripaľovali svoje sviečky a božie svetlo si takýmto spôsobom priniesli domov.

In Zilina's Marian Square Scouts stand by as candle light from Bethlehem in the Holy Land is passed to residents of the city. The light then was taken to homes.



Požehnanie Betlehenského svetla v Nitre

V Katedrále – Bazilike svätého Emeráma na Nitrianskom hrade bolo v nedeľu 13. decembra 2009 požehnané Betlehenské svetlo. Obrad vykonal počas svätej omše nitriansky biskup Mons. Viliam Judák za prítomnosti zástupcov slovenských skautov, ktorí ho následne rozniesli po celom Slovensku, aby si ho mohol každý priniesť do svojho príbytku. Tak ako po minulé roky bude Betlehenské svetlo prinesené do nemocníc, ústavov, penziónov, detských domovov, charitných zariadení, azylových domov či hospicov.

Nitriansky biskup Mons. Viliam Judák pri jeho požehnaní pripomenul, že tak ako sa pred mnohými storočiami šírilo evanjelium z Nitry do širokého okolia, tak „teraz sa znova akoby nadviaže a pokračuje v tomto úsilí, aby sa svetlo evanjelia, radostná zvesť o narodení Ježiša Krista, dostala práve odtiaľto ku všetkým“.

Betlehenské svetlo tento rok v rodisku Ježiša Krista zapálil 13-ročný rakúsky chlapec Binder a pri špeciálnej ekumenickej bohoslužbe vo Viedni ho 12. decembra 2009 odovzdal celej Európe.

Slovenskí skauti prinášajú toto svetlo pokoja a vianočnej radosti všetkým ľuďom dobrej vôle už 20 rokov.

Miroslav Lyko, TKKBS



Slovenskí sklári a brusiči skla opäť bodovali u britskej verejnosti

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovenskí sklári a brusiči skla svoje skvosty prezentovali na 8. ročníku výstavy Slovak Crystal Show otvorenej na Zastupiteľskom úrade (ZÚ) SR v Londýne koncom roka. Propagačno-predajnú výstavu výrobkov slovenského olovnatého skla a kryštálu s cieľom podporiť slovenský export do Spojeného kráľovstva Veľkej Británie a Severného Írska pripravilo obchodno-ekonomické oddelenie ambasády v spolupráci s firmou Rona Slovglass Co. Ltd. Bedford.

Podľa Ministerstva hospodárstva (MH) SR na slávnostnej recepcii sa zúčastnilo asi 120 pozvaných hostí z rôznych oblastí spoločenského života Londýna - podnikatelia, obchodníci, diplomati, zástupcovia slovenskej komunity a novinári. Obchodný radca v Londýne Dušan Novotný vyzdvihol prínos prezentácie slovenského skla na ambasáde, z ktorej sa už stala tradícia. Upozornil na kvality a možnosti slovenského sklárskeho priemyslu, ktorého malé prevádzky stále fungujú vďaka remeselnej zručnosti a majstrovstvu sklárov. Medzi vystavovateľmi sú okrem firmy Slovglas Poltár a Rona Lednické Rovne aj pozostatky Výrobného družstva Krištál Valaská Belá a niekoľko menších firiem v tejto obci a v ďalších sklárskych lokalitách. Výstava je snahou slovenských výrobcov o širší prienik slovenských výrobkov na náročný britský trh.

Slovak Crystal Show sa už dostalo do povedomia britskej verejnosti a záujem o toto podujatie každoročne vzrastá. Návštevníci mohli počas štyroch dní obdivovať vystavované exponáty a zhodnotiť tak profesionalitu, zručnosť a kreativitu sklárov a brusičov skla zo Slovenska. Potvrzuje sa, že priame zastúpenie slovenských producentov na britskom trhu a cielený marketing show sú najlepším spôsobom ako na náročný britský trh preniknúť a aj napriek silnej konkurencii a pretrvávajúcej kríze sa na ňom aj udržať.



Gala večer k výročiu Nežnej revolúcie vo Washingtone, DC



Pri príležitosti osláv 20. výročia Nežnej revolúcie sa na záver celého radu podujatí vo Washingtone DC 18. novembra 2009 uskutočnil vo Washington Golf & Country Club Arlington, Virginia slávnostný Gala večer pre približne 200 osobností politického a spoločenského života USA a SR. Prítomní boli aj viacerí čestní hostia ako minister zahraničných vecí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák, predstavitelia popredných krajanských a kultúrnych organizácií, bývalých veľvyslancov Slovenskej republiky v USA a veľvyslancov USA v Slovenskej republike. Slávnostné podujatie pripravilo Veľvyslanectvo Slovenskej republiky v USA v spolupráci s Friends of Slovakia, The Heritage Foundation of Washington, DC a U.S. Steel Corporation. Medzi zástupcami slovenských organizácií a spolkov bola Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota. Na snímke zľava: František Lisý; bývalý hlavný predseda IKSJ, Tomáš M. Hricík spolu s manželkou Geraldine Hricík a v pozadí stojaci honorárny konzul v Pittsburghu, PA, Jozef Senko.



Vianočný príhovor kardinála Jozefa Tomka

Zas sú tu sviatky, na ktoré sa všetci azda najviac tešíme. Majú svoje čaro pre malých i veľkých. Prinášajú nám akési slávnostné tajuplné ovzdušie: stromček, jasličky, sviečky, darčeky, hračky, pozdravné karty, rodinné návštevy, koledy a najmä spoločná večera v rodinnom kruhu. Možno sme si zachovali aj pekné zvyky, azda k nám zavítajú aj jasličkári, rozprávky a dojímavé programy môžu zanechať dojem milého sviatku pre deti, ktorý sa pohybuje na hranici čarovných snov.

Pri tom všetkom Vianoce v nás obnovujú určité vzrušenie a dojem čohosi tajomne krásneho, dobrého a veľkého. Každý z nás objaví v sebe dobrotu, cíti sa akoby povinným prejaviť milotu k iným; pocit hlbokej ľudskosti a štedrosti visí vo vzduchu, atmosféra je slávnostná, povznesená.

Celé to citové ovzdušie je pekné, ak sa z Vianoc nespraví vyháňaná legenda, ak sa neprežijú ako „fiction“, ako pekná rozprávka bez vzťahu k skutočnosti. Ešte aj veriaci ľudia môžu ľahko zabudnúť na pravý význam a na ozajstnú príčinu radostnej slávnosti a prežiť vianočné sviatky s povrchnými pocitmi, bez hĺbky. Bola by škoda, aby Vianoce prešli a nezanechali v nás stopu. Lebo darčeky sa rýchlo opotrebnú, sviečky dohoria a namiesto duchovného obohatenia by nám ostal v prázdnych rukách iba pozlátený obal. Po Vianociach by sme sa ocitli bez nových síl v každodenných starostiach o chlieb a uprostred tvrdého životného zápasu a ľudských egoizmov.



Kardinál Jozef Tomko

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Vianočný pozdrav predsedníčky ÚSZZ,

Drahí krajanovia,

Blíži sa vianočný čas, kedy sa stretávajú príbuzní, známi, keď si sadáme k spoločnému stolu, aby sme sa tešili z jedinečnej sily, ktorej hovoríme rodinné puto. Vianoce a Nový rok sú obdobím, kedy sa každý snaží byť so svojimi blízkymi, kedy si viac uvedomujeme silu priateľstva, lásky, úcty a obetavosti. To všetko sú hodnoty, ktoré znamenajú veľa aj pre našu veľkú rodinu Slovákov roztrúsených po celom svete. Pre každého človeka je dôležité, aby sa jeho dni naplňali spokojnosťou, ľudskou spolupatričnosťou a porozumením.

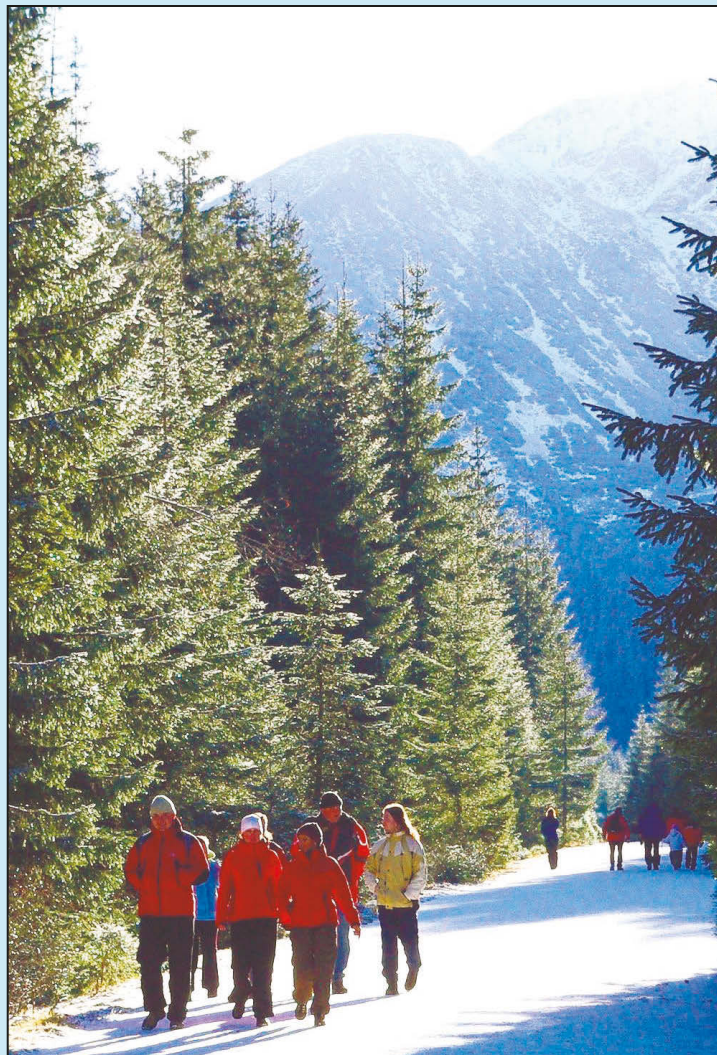
Môžem Vás ubezpečiť, že vláda Slovenskej republiky sa zodpovedne venuje krajanskej otázke, o čom svedčí aj výška finančných prostriedkov určených na podporu krajanských spolkov a organizácií v zahraničí v rámci grantového systému Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Slovenské slovo, viera, piesne, tance, zvyky, to všetko sa dedí z pokolenia na pokolenie a pretavuje sa do všetkých Vašich aktivít a akcií, ktoré organizujete a tým dokazujete, že si vážite dedičstvo predkov.

Drahí krajanovia, z úprimného srdca Vám prajem v mene svojom i v mene celého kolektívu pracovníkov Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí v spokojnosti a radosť prežiť vianočné dni a do roku 2010 veľa zdravia, lásky, životnej sily a pokoja v duši.



Vilma Prívarová

predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí



Hromadný výstup na Ťatliakovu chatu v Zubercoch na Roháčoch získal rokmi na tradíciu. Aj počas tohtoročných vianočných sviatkov si príjemnú prechádzku lesom a zasneženou krajinou nenechalo ujsť niekoľko desiatok domácich turistov, no nechýbali ani z ostatných miest Slovenska.

Foto TSAR Pavol Ďurčo, 26. decembra 2009

During the Christmas season tourists have begun a new annual tradition of walking through the winter wonderland of Rohac Mountain and enjoying the winter scenery.