



# Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly

# Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furdek  
Our Founder

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Attending the symposium at St. John Nepomucene Church on Saturday evening were L-R: National President Andrew Rajec, former Slovak Foreign Minister Dr. Eduard Kukan, Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko, Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer, FCSU National President Emeritus Thomas M. Hricik, and Regional Director Joseph Minarovich.

## Slovak League Celebrates Centennial at Festive Banquet

The year 2007 marks the centennial of the Slovak League of America, the leading Slovak American civic and political organization. Supported by individual donations and the fraternal organizations, the Slovak League of America was founded in 1907 under the leadership of Peter Rovnianek and Rev. Stephen Furdek. Since then, the League has been an advocate for Slovakia and the Slovak people in the United States. At one time the League had over 400 branches or assemblies scattered across the United States from the Midwest to the East Coast. The spirit that first motivated the leaders in 1907 still exists today among many of its faithful members.

To mark the historical anniversary, the Slovak League of America sponsored a Centennial Tour of Slovakia in May meeting with Slovak government officials and stopping at important historical sites, such as the birthplace of Father Furdek in Orava. It was a memorable trip to all those who participated.

The culmination of the centennial activities took place during the weekend of June 9-10. On Saturday, June 9, a symposium was held at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall in New York City. Several Slovak government officials and dignitaries from Slovakia were present along with a crowd of people from the New York area. In the Slovak delegation were Deputy Prime Minister Dusan Caplovic, Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer, Peter Burian, Ambassador of Slovakia at

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## Scranton Seminar

The Membership and Marketing Committee held a seminar on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at Holy Family Church Hall in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Thirty members of the SS. Cyril and Methodius District attended the seminar. Among those present were National President Andrew Rajec, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., and representing Region 3 was its Regional Director Carl Ungvasky. Also attending was President Emeritus Stephen J. Kavulich. The very informative seminar centered on the Society's insurance and annuity products.

Generally, life insurance must be actively promoted. People will go the bank to deposit money, a grocery store to buy food, a department store to buy clothes, but they will not often contact an insurer to buy life insurance. One reason lies in the fact that most people find the thought of death, especially their own, disturbing. Such feelings can cause a psychological block to discussions regarding the purchase of life insurance. Furthermore, most healthy people do not believe that they will die in the immediate future, therefore the need for financial protection does not appear so immediately pressing to them as does the need to satisfy a desire to purchase a new car, a stereo system, or a vacation trip. It often seems convenient to these people to defer the purchase of financial protection where there are so many other needs and wants competing for their attention and dollars.

If each individual member of the Society would examine his or her own family's insurance portfolio, I am sure there is an uninsured or underinsured family member, and if you look at your circle of friends, you will find more prospects. If you remember this is how our Jednota grew and became great. Local branch officers sold to family, friends and neighbors.

It would be marvelous if more of the recommenders attended the seminars that are scheduled in their area. The only sure way of learning about our portfolio is to sit on our sales training sessions.

Always remember what Will Rogers said, "It isn't what you don't know that hurts you, it's what you know for sure...that just ain't so."

Hope to see you at the next seminar.

Until Then,  
Good Luck and God Bless  
**Andrew R. Harcar Sr.,**  
Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee

*See seminar photos on page 7*

## Greetings From Our National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

While on retreat not too long ago, I began reading a book by Blessed Columba Marmion, a Benedictine priest in the first half of the twentieth century. There were a couple of sentences in the book that stand out. He wrote:

Priests are instrumental causes in the hands of Jesus Christ for the sanctification of the world. The priest is to accept his status as a humble, docile instrument in the hands of God and never attribute to himself what the Lord accomplishes through him.

As I mark 25 years in the priesthood, the words of Blessed Columba are so true. The priesthood that continues to teach me and every other priest the virtue of humility, a teaching that is reinforced every time a priest approaches the baptismal font, the confessional or the altar.

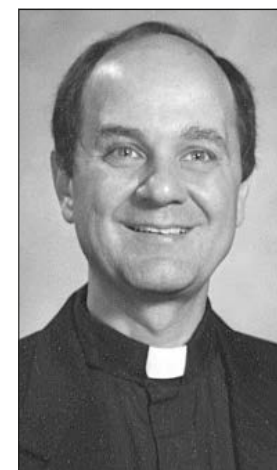
"I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

"This is my body. This is my blood."

"I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

When a priest says these words, the eternal God becomes present in the here and now. The grace of God becomes manifest here on the earth. Christ saves his people, drawing them to himself.

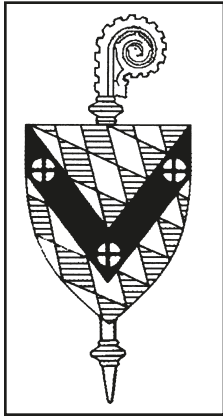
How awesome, how humbling is the priesthood of Christ. Pray that more young men may respond favorably to the call of the Lord.



Fr. Thomas Nasta

Sincerely,  
**Fr. Thomas Nasta**  
National Chaplain

# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**July 22, 2007 (Year C)**

### Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **Luke 10:38-42**

#### Gospel Summary

Two sisters named Martha and Mary extend hospitality to Jesus as he stops for a visit while on his journey to Jerusalem. Mary sits beside Jesus as a disciple talking with him. Martha, burdened by much serving, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus instead tells Martha that while she is needlessly worried about many things, there is need of only the one thing that Mary has chosen.

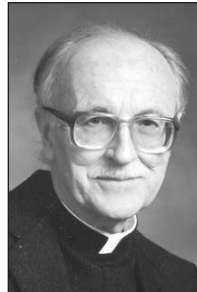
#### Life Implications

The first reading of this Sunday's Mass is the story of Abraham and Sarah, who offer hospitality to three strangers. Their generosity in meeting the needs of the strangers knows no bounds: rolls made from fine flour, meat from a choice steer, curds and milk. Martha, a true child of Abraham and Sarah, wants to extend the traditional generous hospitality of her people to Jesus by preparing an elaborate meal for him. Jesus tells her that just one thing will be enough--perhaps a dish of yogurt (no need to prepare a tender choice steak). Jesus then uses this simple incident to talk with his two friends about a deeper level of human need and hospitality.

Jesus, also a true son of Abraham and Sarah, certainly would affirm Martha's generosity in meeting his very human need for food. So that we do not miss this point, Luke places the present passage immediately after Jesus' parable about the Good Samaritan, who responds with generosity to the needs of a man who had fallen victim to robbers. To be a disciple of Jesus does mean to respond with generosity to people in need of the basic necessities of life. That's what Jesus himself did, and the Good Samaritan parable remains an essential part of his teaching. The incident of Jesus' visit and his conversation with Martha and Mary became part of the gospel tradition, however, for another reason.

Jesus knew from his own experience about the basic human needs to which Martha with traditional hospitality was responding. However, he was also aware of a deeper human hunger that things like food, drink, shelter, and health cannot satisfy. It is the hunger for personal encounter--the hunger to be in personal communion with another in mutual self-giving. This deepest of all human hungers is satisfied to some degree in human friendship; ultimately, only in friendship with God. Saint Augustine prayed, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Julian of Norwich, like so many saints, expressed the same truth, "For by nature our will wants God, and the good will of God wants us. We shall never cease wanting and longing until we possess him in fullness and joy. Then we shall have no further wants." Is it any wonder that Jesus said that Mary had chosen the better part?

How are we to understand the complementarity of Martha's generous hospitality in meeting Jesus' need for food and Mary's longing for personal communion with him? In response, we might follow the way of Jesus. He fed the hungry, cured the sick and expelled demons



*Campion P. Gavaler,  
O.S.B.*

of every kind as an expression of love. In other words, our love must also become incarnate in whatever we do to meet the needs of others. Thus, our good work--whether cooking a meal or voting for a bill in congress--becomes a sacrament or an effective sign of our self-giving love. Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish woman who died at Auschwitz, expressed a similar understanding when she wrote that in prayer "God can enter you, and something of 'Love' too...the love you can apply to small, everyday things." Today in our Eucharist we might join in her prayer: "Let me perform a thousand daily tasks with love, but let every one spring from a greater central core of devotion and love" (An Interrupted Life).



**July 29, 2007 (Year C)**

### 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Luke 11:1-13**

#### Gospel Summary

Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer is shorter than the more familiar version found in Matthew's gospel. However, all the essential elements are there. We are asked to address God as "Father" because that word, in normal circumstances, suggests to a child both strength and love. This leads us to the rather astounding conclusion that God's supreme power is not an arbitrary force, so often found in our world, but is rather at the complete service of his love.

We are then told to pray for the coming of God's kingdom--the fulfillment of God's loving plan for us--which comes only at the end of time. In the meantime, we will need daily spiritual nourishment so that we may be strong enough and free enough to forgive others as we await in trust the final challenge of faith at the moment of death.

Jesus then makes all this even more explicit by offering us examples of the power of prayer, especially when it is fervent and persistent. We should note, however, that what God promises in response to our earnest prayers is not necessarily the answer that we seek, but rather the "holy Spirit." This reminds us that the best answer to all prayers is the powerful gift of the Spirit who enables us to love and trust in the most difficult situations of life.

#### Life Implications

We do not usually find it too difficult to acknowledge the power of God. Creation is proof enough of that. Jesus now asks us to address this all-powerful God as One whose irresistible power is guided by his love. This is difficult for us because we experience power so often as domination and violence. Nonetheless, we must continue to call God our loving Father with the sure conviction that eventually our experience will match our words. For we cannot remain hopeful unless we hear, with Jesus, that God's love offers us all of his immense power for our salvation and happiness.

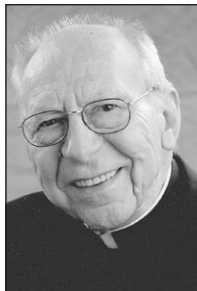
Praying for the coming of God's kingdom does not mean asking God to come and "shape up" all those other folks who are not as upright as we think we are. Rather, it means that we trust God so much that we want his dream for us to be fulfilled--something that will come about only at the end of time. It is therefore the victory of God's love for which we pray...and that may very well mean forgiveness of our own self-righteousness.

We are asked to pray also for our daily bread. We are on a journey and, like all travelers, we need sustenance. Mostly we need the nourishment of courage and hope, lest we succumb to cynicism and despair. Then we ask our heavenly Father to lift from our shoulders the burden of sinfulness and guilt so that we may make this spiritual journey with wings on our feet. This petition is followed by a solemn pledge to turn our sense of confidence and joy into forgiveness of all our fellow travelers. For only those who are willing to forgive can expect to be forgiven.

The Lord's Prayer is so central to our Christian experience that St. Teresa of Avila is supposed to have said, when asked how to be a true contemplative: You must simply say the Lord's Prayer...but you must say it very, very slowly! The implication is that we will never exhaust the wisdom found in this wonderful prayer which is so special because it was given to us by Jesus himself.

## Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

### The Equestrian and the Priest Article 5



*Msgr. Edward V. Rosack*

Pilate made these remarks: "I have examined him in your presence and have no charge against him arising from your allegations. Neither has Herod, who therefore has sent him back to us; obviously this man has done nothing that calls for death. Therefore I mean to release him, once I have taught him a lesson." (Luke 23:14-16)

The Jews present wanted Barabbas released and Jesus crucified and insisted, their shouts increasing in violence.

"Pilate then decreed that what they demanded should be done. He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown in prison for insurrection and murder, and delivered Jesus up to their wishes." (Luke 23:24-25)

Who killed Jesus Christ? This question continues to be asked even in our own day. Certainly, this killing involved the High Priest, Caiaphas, and together with him those who made up the Good Friday crowd. This particular crowd was the not the Palm Sunday crowd for they "spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from trees and lay them along his path. The groups preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21 8-9) They listened to him all week, following Palm Sunday, as he cleansed the temple a second time, as he spoke of his lament over Jerusalem, about the end of the world and the coming of the Son of Man, about the ten virgins, and the last judgment.

This Good Friday crowd was the Caiaphas one, driven by a single phrase, "Crucify him!" The first plot to kill Christ is written in Matthew 12:14, Mark 3:6, and Luke 6:11, early in the ministry of Jesus Christ. They took up stones against him. (John 10:31-39) Jesus predicted his passion and resurrection three times. (Matthew 16:21-23, Mark 8:31-33, Luke

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# Slovak League Celebrates Centennial

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the United Nations; Ivan Surkos, Consul General of Slovakia in New York; Lubomir Sisak, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister; Stefan Komjaty, Protocol Officer, Office of the Government of Slovakia; and Peter Zelenak, First Secretary of the Embassy of Slovakia.

On Sunday, June 10, a reception and dinner was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey. Over 250 people took part in this festive celebration. Present were government officials and representatives from the Slovak fraternal organizations, as well as many other organizations and societies. It was an impressive assembly that gathered to commemorate this anniversary.

Following a reception, the crowd assembled into the dining area for the dinner and program. The Honorary Secretary John A. Holy called the banquet to order. President Daniel Tanzone, who also served as toastmaster for the afternoon, then welcomed all who attended. The invocation was given by Msgr. John J. Demkovich, pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church in Passaic, New Jersey. Ann Marie Kulhan and Renata Jurasi led in the singing of the national anthems. During the dinner, remarks were offered by FCSU National President Emeritus Thomas M. Hricik, Slovak Catholic Sokol Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, Dr. Mark Stolarik, chairholder of the Chair of Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa; Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer, and other fraternal leaders. The main address was presented by Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Dusan Caplovic. He extended greetings from Prime Minister Robert Fico and the government in the Slovak Republic. He expressed his government's appreciation for the League's support of Slovakia's entry into NATO and for all the work done on Slovakia's behalf for the past one hundred years. Deputy Prime Minister Caplovic's complete remarks follow this article.

Following Caplovic's speech, remarks were given by Dr. Vilma Privarova, Director of the Slovak Government's office for Slovaks living abroad, and also by Jozef Markus, President of the Matica Slovenska. Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko of Pittsburgh was then introduced, who then extended greetings on behalf of the Friends of Slovakia organization. He also presented the League a gold medal on the occasion of its centennial and announced that in September 2007 the Pittsburgh Pact will be formally presented to the John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

## Insights and Viewpoints

### Reflections on Our Christianity

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9:22. Second: Matthew 17:21-22, Mark 9:29-31, Luke 8:44-45. Third: Matthew 20:17-19, Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-34) It was no secret that the Caiaphas crowd wanted Jesus Christ dead.

#### Why did Pontius Pilate behave as he did toward Jesus Christ?

His patron back in Rome, the regent Lucius Aelius Sejanus, the anti-Semite, was gone from the scene. Pilate, too, had already been in trouble with Rome three times and could not risk another incident.

Pilate's wife, Claudia Procula, is recorded in Matthew 27:19, "While he was still presiding on the bench, his wife sent him a message: 'Do not interfere in the case of that holy man. I had a dream about him today which has greatly upset me.'" Husbands do listen to their wives. It's called, "Pillow talk."

"Pilate was eager to release him." (John 19:12) However, Pilate was facing civil unrest and a riot and this he did not want. This time, Caiaphas, was not on his side and could not be counted upon to calm the crowd. Now, the noise was deafening and his soldiers were becoming hard pressed to keep the crowd under control. He reasoned that this entire situation could be resolved by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, just one man. Then, everyone would go home.

"He called for water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, declaring as he did so, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just man. The responsibility is yours'." (Matthew 27:24).

Pilate ruled in conjunction with Caiaphas and the Jewish temple officials, whose culture Tiberius ordered him to respect. The Jews depended upon the Romans to keep their own rebels under control. In this, the two men had an excellent working relationship even though the Jews hated Pilate. This relationship changed, however, when Caiaphas pressured Pilate to crucify Jesus even though Pilate regarded Jesus as innocent of the charges Caiaphas insisted upon.

The Jews reacted to Jesus at first with indifference, then curiosity, then with fear and this increased to the point where they felt threatened that their comfortable, well-structured, divine system of faith and worship would collapse, their followers abandoning them for this itinerant preacher who cured the sick, raised the dead and even attacked them personally.



At the Centennial Banquet are L-R former Slovak Foreign Minister Dr. Eduard Kukan, Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko, Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Dusan Caplovic, Albina Senko, National President Andrew Rajec, and Slovak League President Daniel F. Tanzone.

There were many prominent individuals present for the celebration. Among them, were former Foreign Minister of Slovakia Dr. Eduard Kukan, and Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, SS.C.M., General Superior of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Representing the First Catholic Slovak union were National President Andrew Rajec and Regional Director Joseph Minarovich.

During a musical interlude noted soloists Jozef Ivaska of Slovakia entertained the audience with a selection of songs. The Jozef Jurasi orchestra provided music during the dinner.

Slovak League Secretary Nina Holy thanked all who attended the festivities and everyone who had a part in making it a success. The program concluded with benediction by Msgr. Francis J. Beeda, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.



Dr. Vilma Privarova, Director of Slovaks Living Abroad made a presentation to the League officers at the banquet. L-R are: Daniel F. Tanzone, Nina Holy, Vilma Privarova, and Jan Holy.



Deputy Prime Minister Dusan Caplovic delivering the main address at the banquet.

## Speech of Deputy Prime Minister Dusan Caplovic at the Slovak League of America Centennial Celebration

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, Consul Generals, Distinguished representatives of the Slovak League of America, Distinguished members of other Slovak organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Just a few weeks ago in Bratislava I had the pleasure to welcome on behalf of the Slovak Government a large delegation of the Slovak League of America that was also received by President Ivan Gasparovic. This was at a meeting in the Hotel Borik. The meeting was held in a dignified but also very friendly atmosphere. I expressed my heartfelt pleasure that your delegation came to the capital of Slovakia. We spent valuable and wonderful moments related to the current centennial anniversary. These uplifting feelings of celebration are still with me. However, today's celebration makes those moments even more memorable.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Let me be very frank speaking to you, honorable assembly. I am very happy that, as your Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia, I had the chance to come and join with the members of the Slovak League of America, the most important organization of Slovaks on the American continent. I am happy to be here and be part of this celebration.

Dear friends, brothers and sisters: Please allow me to give you the best regards and

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## Wesnaks Wed 50 Years

Andrew (Bucky) and Justine (Mello) Wesnak of Schnecksville, Pennsylvania observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 12, 2007. The couple was married at St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton, PA by the late Rev. Godfrey Casper.



Andrew and Justine Wesnak

Bucky is the son of the late Andrew and Helen (Goscinsky) Wesnak of Taylor. He is a graduate of Taylor High School and Johnson College; he is a 1999 retiree of Lucent Technologies. He began his 42 year career as a tool and die maker for the Bell System with Western Electric in 1957. He served on the Board of Directors of the First Commonwealth Credit Union for nearly two decades.

Justine is the daughter of the late Thomas and Margaret (Kochis) Pilosi of Scranton. She attended Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and Marywood College and was employed in the Health Office of Muhlenberg College before beginning a career as a National Officer and administrator in the insurance world of the Fraternal Benefit System. She retired in 2003 after serving for nearly two decades as National President and CEO of the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle, domiciled in Stratford, CT.

Justine is a Slovak and fraternal activist on the local and national level. She serves on the board of the Slovak League of America and she and Bucky are Directors of the New York Fraternal Congress. Justine is a Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the founding president of its Cardinal Tomko Chapter in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. In 1996 Justine was awarded a papal honor, the "Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (for the Church and the Pontiff) by the late Pope John Paul II for her assistance to Josef Cardinal Tomko; then Head of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome; with his work on behalf of the missions in Africa. The entire Wesnak family remains active in Slovak Catholic and Fraternal life. Justine is a member of Jednota's Branch 278.

The couple was honored at two separate events. On Friday, June 8, 2007, Justine's cousin Gladys and her husband, James Bowen of Fredericksburg, Virginia hosted the couple and their immediate family at a dinner held at the King George Inn in Allentown.

On Saturday, June 9, 2007, the couple was honored by their sons, their spouses and children at a party held at Nova Auxiliary Hall in Coplay. Over 100 family members and friends from Scranton, New Jersey, New York and as far west as Pittsburgh and Akron, Ohio and south from Virginia and Orlando, Florida attended the gala event.

The couple's three sons and wives; Drew and Sharon of Whitehall, Michael and Veronica of Northampton and Paul and Sue of Schnecksville; have blessed them with 14 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

The Wesnaks will continue to celebrate their 50 years together with a month long family vacation at the beach in Stone Harbor, NJ in August and a three week vacation to the Bahamas in October.



*From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:*

## OHIO FRATERNAL CONGRESS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ohio Fraternal Congress is pleased to announce that the Congress will award two (2) scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who are graduating in 2007.

Applicants must be an Ohio resident and a member of a Fraternal Society belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Congress and have been accepted to an accredited school for the 2007 school year.

Contact the Home Office for the application forms which must be submitted before July 15, 2007. The instructions are on the application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Home Office at (800) 533-6682.

## Speech of Deputy Prime Minister

*continued from page 3*

congratulations from the Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, as well as from the other deputy prime ministers and other ministers of the government. In Bratislava I said that the history of the Slovak League of America is a mirror image of our national history. Starting with the last decades of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, through the years of the First Czechoslovak Republic, the Slovak state during World War II followed by four decades of subjugation and communist party rule until January 1, 1993, the date when the democratic and independent Slovak Republic was born.

During its entire existence the Slovak League of America fought for statehood, sovereignty and independence of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak League of America contributed to the self-determination of the Slovak nation. It was its guardian, protector, advocate and thanks to you Slovakia has many links to the United States of America. These are links that we want to promote and develop for the benefit of Slovakia and the U.S.

We owe a great gratitude to the great personalities among the Slovaks in America, such as Stefan Furdek, Peter Rovnianek, Albert Mamatey and many others. We owe our gratitude also to the current leaders among the Slovaks in the United States, committed, supportive and enthusiastic members of the Slovak League of America.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I would like to express on behalf of the Slovak Republic and in my name the deepest respect, recognition and a sincere thank you. Also, I am very happy that the National Council of the Slovak Republic- as the supreme constitutional and legislative body- adopted on the initiative of the Slovak National Party a Declaration marking the Centennial Year of the Slovak League of America. I am satisfied that this declaration of the Slovak Parliament will be set in stone in a commemorative plaque made of Tatra granite and displayed in a prominent place in the parliament building, together with the motto, "For our Slovak language" and with the historic symbol of the Slovak League of America. On the occasion of the meeting in Bratislava at the Hotel Borik we announced the release of a new Slovak stamp by the Slovak Post Office with the symbol and motto of the Slovak League of America. Last but not least, I am happy that the capital of Slovakia has finally commemorated Stefan Furdek with a bust.

Dear friends and distinguished guests: Having heard people at home, be it the public at large or politicians, members of Parliament, public officials, I came to the conclusion that people in the country between the Danube and the Tatras in Slovakia have deepest respect and gratitude for the Slovak League of America. They have this gratitude and respect for what the League has done during its existence for the benefit of the Slovak nation and Slovakia. I fully agree with the words of the honorary President of the Slovak League of America, Ludovit Pavlo in one of his many interviews: "The Slovak future is in our hands."

Let me once again emphasize that it is an immense honor for me to be present at this celebration together with you, dear Slovaks from the United States of America. Please allow me to wish you on behalf of Prime Minister Robert Fico, on behalf of other government ministers and in my own name, once again and many more times success, health, happiness, satisfaction, energy and creativity.

I am convinced that through mutually beneficial cooperation between the Slovak Republic and you, Slovaks in the United States of America we can accomplish our noble goals to strengthen and promote the spirit of Slovak national and cultural identity and unity.

God Bless the Slovak League of America! God Bless the Slovak Republic!  
Thank you very much for your attention.

## FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Spring Special

**Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren now through December 31, 2007 and receive a \*FREE GIFT to present with the certificate.**

Pay one premium and have fully paid-up insurance. Issued in any amount (\$5,000 or more) subject to current FCSU Life non-medical limits. Excellent gift for children or grandchildren.



Example – Newborn Male		Example – Newborn Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$500
Example – Age 5 Male		Example – Age 5 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$290
\$10,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$680	\$10,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$580
Example – Age 10 Male		Example – Age 10 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$400	\$5,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$340
\$10,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$800	\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$680
Example – Age 15 Male		Example – Age 15 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$480	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$405
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$960	\$10,000 paid-up insurance .....	\$810

**Contact your branch office or to learn more call the FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682**

\*Children 8 and under receive a stuffed Jednota Bear. Children 9-18 receive a gift card!

# Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Conducts Semiannual Meeting

On April 29, 2007, the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky conducted its Semiannual Meeting at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, Oak Forest, Illinois. Delegates gathered at 1:30 p.m. at the meeting room at the Benedictine Priory for refreshments and fraternal fellowship. District President John Jurcenko called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Nine branches were represented with a total of 27 officers and branch delegates in attendance. The delegates voted to have District representation at the Indiana Slovak Day on July 1 and the Wisconsin Slovak Picnic on July 22. Fraternal activities approved by the delegates included a dinner/theater outing to see "Grease" and a baseball outing at the minor league park in Gary, Indiana on August 26.

After a scrumptious dinner, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

**Robert Tapak Magruder, District II Recording Secretary**



**Rudy Bernath with Slovak American activist George J.E. Michuda**



**Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky presents his report.**



**Vice President Barbara Fayta reports on the District's Easter Coloring Contest**



**District II President John Jurcenko (left) and District II Financial Secretary/Treasurer Art Fayta.**

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Branch 3— MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, will hold its Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 22, 2007, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Kordiak Park, 49th Avenue, northeast of Central Avenue N.E., Columbia Heights, Minnesota. A luncheon will be served at no charge. There will also be games and races along with treats for the children. Come and enjoy an afternoon of socializing and fellowship.

**Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman**

### Branch 75— SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday, July 15, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of the president and financial secretary, Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of mid-year business topics. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

**Ronald M. Anderson, President & Financial Secretary**

### Branch 233— BROCKPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. George Society, Branch 233, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, July 15, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the residence of Irene Halko, Route 219 by the Brockport Post Office, Brockport, Pennsylvania.

Meetings will also be held on Sunday, August 19, 2007 and on Sunday, September 16, 2007.

**Irene Halko**

### Branch 240— TAYLOR, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 240P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, July 8, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Stephen J. Kavulich, 41 Hedge Row Run, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome to attend.

**Stephen J. Kavulich, President**

### Branch 686— NORTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 686, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, July 22, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Mark Davis, 505 Walworth Avenue, Genoa City, Wisconsin. Members are invited to attend and learn about the new insurance and annuity offerings and the new lower 2001 CSO rates, which are especially relevant to those 55 and older. For directions to President Davis' home, call 262/279-9648.

**Rudolph Glogovsky, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 735— PORTLAND, OREGON

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 735, will hold its Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 29, 2007, from 12:00 noon until dusk at Picnic Area Number 11 at the Oaks Park Amusement Park in the Sellwood area of Portland.

We invite members, guests and visitors who are of Slovak descent to meet for good food and fellowship. Bring your favorite picnic basket and friends for an enjoyable afternoon. Food and beverages are available at a nominal cost. Amusement ride bracelets and tickets can be purchased from President Herb Hirst.

Meetings are held in April and December at St. Patrick's Church Hall, N.W. 19th and Savior Streets in Northwest Portland.

**John Kovach, Recording Secretary**

### Branch 746— LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

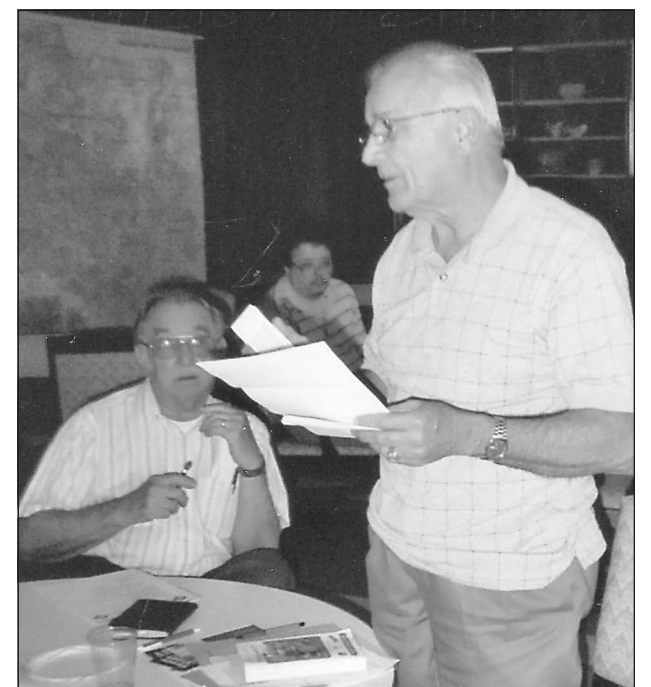
The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, cordially invites you to a picnic on Sunday, August 5, 2007, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Linden Memorial Park, South Wood Avenue, Tremley Point, New Jersey. There will be a \$10.00 charge for nonmembers. For reservations and more information, please call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331.

Branch 746 is also sponsoring a bus trip on Saturday, October 6, 2007, to see "In the Beginning" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Call Mary Karch for information and reservations.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**



**Barbara Fayta displayed the winning entries from the District's first Easter Coloring Contest for children.**



**George Kelchak discusses future fraternal activities for District II members.**

# THE BEST OF THE BEST!

## The Society's Top Guns Thru May 2007

### TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS



**Dorothy J. Petrus**  
First Place



**Frances Tarquinio**  
Second Place



**Michael E. Lako**  
Third Place

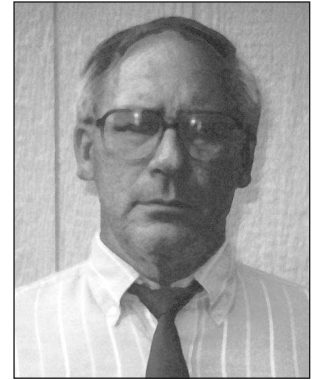
### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD



**Roger T. Soltis**  
First Place



**Thomas M. Hricik**  
Second Place



**Michael E. Lako**  
Third Place

### TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

	Branch	Total Points
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	525
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	266
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	161
Lisa Ann Trifiletti-Palos, Lorain, Ohio	228	152
Mary J. Kapitan, Edison, New Jersey	746	146
Mary Ann Eckard, Cumberland, Maryland	333	121
Grace Jewell Bacot, Youngstown, Ohio	682	110
Elizabeth M. Pisarcik, Simpson, Pennsylvania	430	106
Roger T. Soltis, Massillon, Ohio	410	93
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	83

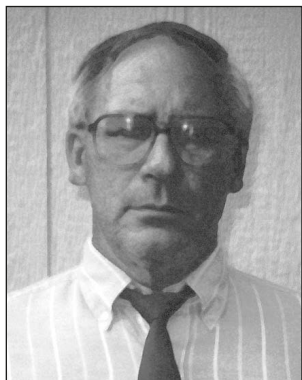
### TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD

	Branch	Amount
Roger T. Soltis, Massillon, Ohio	410	\$93,800.00
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$80,903.59
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$43,451.43
Mary Lou Krna, Binghamton, New York	166	\$40,000.00
Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$35,000.00
John S. Goliass, Brecksville, Ohio	1	\$20,000.00
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	\$17,500.00
Steven G. Luca, Lorain, Ohio	228	\$17,098.76
Julius Paul Remenar, Bannister, Michigan	721	\$15,417.11
Jeanette M. Guidish, Munhall, Pennsylvania	738	\$12,217.43

### TOP PROPOSERS BY INSURANCE SOLD



**Dorothy J. Petrus**  
First Place



**Michael E. Lako**  
Third Place



**Frances Tarquinio**  
Second Place

### TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$693,000
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$336,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$328,000
Mary Ann Eckard, Cumberland, Maryland	333	\$180,000
Grace Jewell Bacot, Youngstown, Ohio	682	\$175,000
Margaret M. Perla, McKeesport, Pennsylvania	60	\$155,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$105,000
Karianne R. Barnes, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	628	\$105,000
Jean M. Marzen, Allentown, Pennsylvania	293	\$100,000
Dorothy A. Torretti, Stump Creek, Pennsylvania	322	\$90,000

## Slovak Day at Kennywood

The 84th annual American Slovak Day will be celebrated on Thursday, July 19, 2007, at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. There will be cultural displays, folklore performances and much more. The main program at the Main Pavilion # 5 includes children's games and treats at 12:30 p.m.; folk dancing at 2:00 pm.; guest introductions at 3:00 p.m.; Eucharistic celebration at 4:00 p.m.; and Slovak folk entertainment at 5:00 p.m. Slovak national costumes will also be exhibited. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and \$10.00 for seniors. For more information and tickets call 412/351-2381 or 412/466-6545.

The Kennywood Park Slovak Day is the oldest and largest Slovak festival in Western Pennsylvania. Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun at Kennywood Park.



### FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

Effective April 1, 2007, the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

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

Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

**THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2007.**

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
National Secretary

### FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PENNSYLVANIA FRATERNAL CONGRESS 2007 SCHOLARSHIP

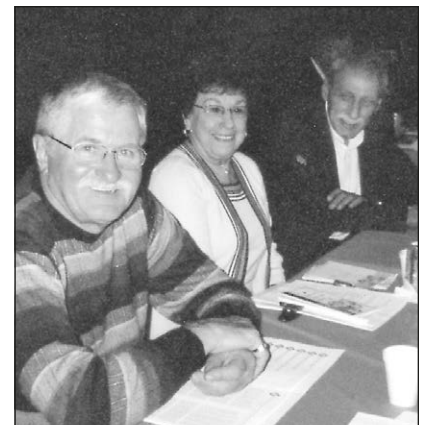
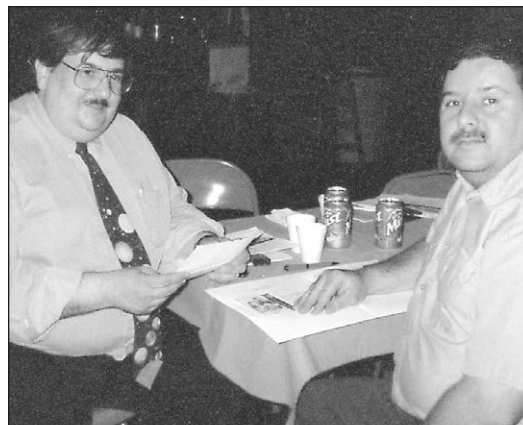
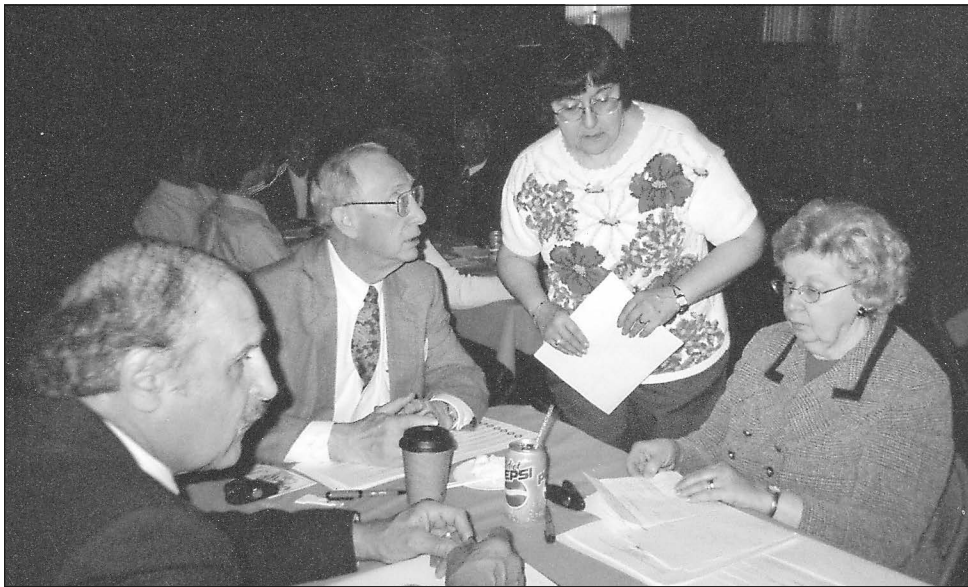
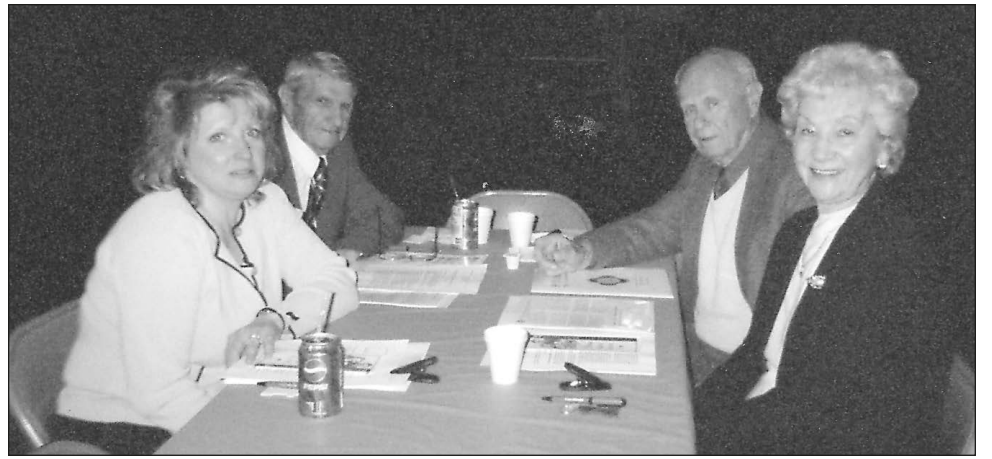
Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress Scholarship Program is again offering at least one (1) \$500 scholarship to a deserving young student from a member society. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

The following are the rules and requirements:

#### Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress.
- Be a 2007 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2007 as a full time student (twelve semester credits). Proof of attendance must be submitted with application.
- Obtain a recommendation letter from your Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "How has your life been influenced by your Fraternal Benefit Society and what has the experience taught you?"
- Sign the Statement of Application on the bottom of the application page.
- Return the completed application, proof of acceptance from your university and postmarked no later than September 10, 2007.
- Contact the Home Office for an application by calling, (800) 533-6682.

# Scenes from the Scranton Seminar



## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT— Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, July 15, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, North Mt. Vernon Avenue, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of district and branch activities. All members are invited to attend.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

### PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT— Montreal, Quebec

The Prince Rastislav District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, July 15, 2007, at 12:00 noon at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. Members are urged to attend.

**Anthony S. Makovsky, President**

### REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT— Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 9, 2007 in Washington, D.C. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Crypt Church (lower level) in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The lunch and meeting will take place after the liturgy in the Basilica Executive Conference Center. The donation for the lunch is \$20.00 per person. Please send your check with your credentials by September 2, 2007. Make checks payable to host Branch 856.

**Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary**

### MICHIGAN DISTRICT— Michigan

The Michigan District invites all District branch members to celebrate with us on Sunday, September 9, 2007, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sterling Heights, Michigan. We will be holding our District Picnic as part of the church festival. The 11:30 a.m. Slovak Mass will be offered for all the living and deceased members of the Michigan District. Mark your calendars for this Mass and picnic.

**Victor Jiomkowski, President**

### REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT— Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be a discussion of the St. Matthias Slovak Fest. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of plans for a special Slovak meal and a late summer or early fall casino bus trip.

**Carlie Peschek, President**



## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25	MONDAY, JULY 16
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8	MONDAY, JULY 30
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22	MONDAY, AUGUST 13

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  
 "JEDNOTA"  
 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835  
 FAX: (717) 944-3107

## Jednota Members Participate in Slovak League Centennial Tour

As part of its centennial celebrations, the Slovak League of America sponsored a tour of Slovakia from May 5 to May 16, 2007. During the tour, participants met with the mayors of three cities and Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic. FCSU members on the tour included our National President Andrew Rajec and his wife Idka Rajec, Robert Tapak Magruder, Daniel Tanzone, Eileen Wilson, Vince Rosick, Bill Potenko, and Jim Potenko.

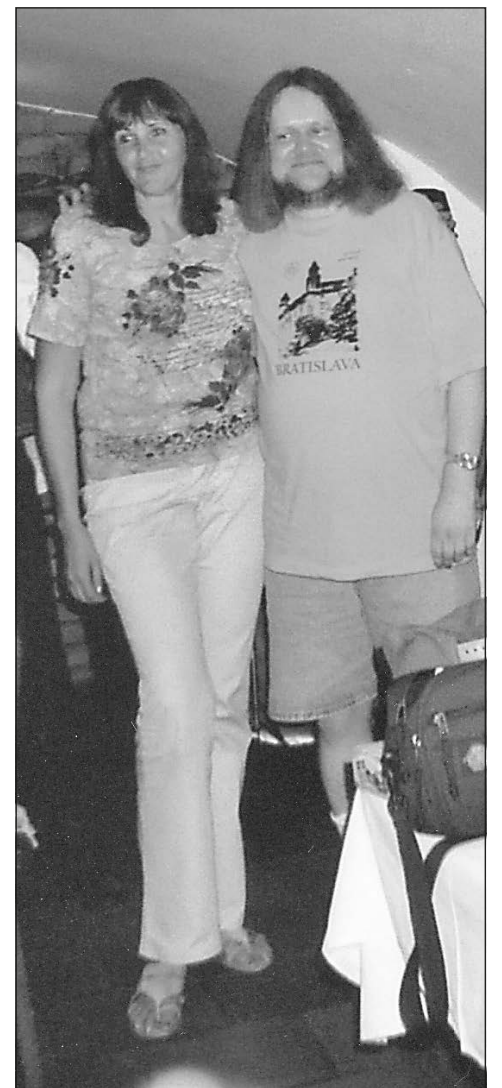
**Robert Tapak Magruder**



FCSU National President Andrew Rajec, Robert Tapak Magruder and Idka Rajec with the Mayor of Michalovce.



A woman in a traditional folk dress sang a song from Orava at the Matica Slovenska reception in Bratislava.



Robert Tapak Magruder with the group's delightful tour guide Jana.

## Slovak Catholic Federation Mid-Year Annual Appeal Report

Since 1978 the Slovak Catholic Federation has been conducting the SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal, which begins each year in the month of February during the closest weekend to the Feasts of SS. Cyril and Methodius. To date, I am happy to report that a little more than \$29,000.00 has been collected. In its 29th year, this appeal has primarily been taken up in parishes in the United States and Canada of Slovak heritage. The appeal continues during the entire calendar year 2007. As we are all very much aware, the days of "ethnic parishes" are becoming a thing of the past. More and more Slovaks reside in different parts of the country and no longer claim to belong to a parish of Slovak heritage. For this reason many Slovaks may not have the opportunity to hear about, let alone participate in this annual appeal. If it were not for the Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies and their publications, communication to American and Canadian Slovaks would not be possible. In recent years we have seen an increase in individual donations apart from the parish collections. Also most of the Slovak Fraternal Societies have also been making contributions to this collection from their National Board of Directors, along with a number of local branches, wreaths, assemblies, and lodges.

For as you know, this appeal assists the Church in Slovakia by supporting the training mission of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS.

Cyril & Methodius in Rome, Italy (formerly known as the Slovak Institute or Ustav). In addition, funds are distributed to those Religious Communities of both men and women, which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Conference of Religious. These Communities being: Vincentian Sisters of Charity (Ruzomberok); Dominican Sisters (Dunajska Luzna); School Sisters of St. Francis (Zilina); Daughters of St. Francis (Bratislava-Prievoz); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (Secove and Presov); Franciscan Friars Minor (Bratislava); and House of St. Benedict (Bacurov).

As various groups will be holding summer picnics along with several Fraternal National Conventions, I ask that consideration be given to the kindly taking up a collection in support of the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. In 2006 this Annual Appeal totaled around \$60,000.00.

Individuals, groups, picnics, etc are all welcome to make a donation to this appeal. Make all checks payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation and send directly to Dolores Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.

I pray that Almighty God reward all of us who participate in the support of the Church in Slovakia through the Slovak Catholic Federation 29th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

**Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic**



A brass band greeted our tour group in Trstená.

### St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746

*Cordially invites you to a*

**PICNIC**

**Sunday, August 5, 2007**

**1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

At Linden Memorial Park

South Wood Avenue

Tremley Point, New Jersey

For reservations and information call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331



## FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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

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

#### Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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



## "PARK 2 ANNUITY" – NOW PAYING 4.75%

Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

#### Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

**Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.**



## Coming Events

### JULY

15 – The Frank T. Holly Jr. District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, North Mt. Vernon Avenue, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

17 – A meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

### SEPTEMBER

9 – The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Annual Meeting at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the Crypt Church followed by lunch and the meeting in the Basilica Executive Conference Center.

9 – The Michigan District's annual Mass at 11:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Sterling Heights, Michigan.



On Saturday, June 23rd, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius celebrated the Sisters' 70th and 50th Jubilees of religious profession in Danville, PA. Pictured seated are, from left to right: Sisters Yolanda Lederleitner, Baptista Drdak, Henrietta Jacobs and Grace Yaneka. Standing, from left to right: Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, General Superior; Sisters Anna Marie Flesher, Jane Pavlovic, Karen Wilson, Rosaline Drab and Elizabeth Ann Matonak.



First row L-R: Sister Theresa Podlucky, Sister Mary Jude Milko, and Sister Mary Vincent O'Neill. Second row L-R: Sister Mary Kenneth Hrbal, Sister Charlotte Gambol, and Sister Mary Michael Baksi.

## Vincentian Sisters of Charity Observe 60th Anniversaries

On Sunday, June 24, 2007, six Sisters of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Pittsburgh observed the 60th Anniversary of their Religious Profession by renewing their vows at a Liturgy of Thanksgiving in the Motherhouse Chapel. Rev. Reginald Russo, OFM Cap. Chaplain for the Sisters officiated at the Liturgy.

The Jubilarians are: Sister Mary Michael Baksi, Sister Mary Kenneth Hrbal, Sister Mary Vincent O'Neill, Sister Theresa Podlucky, Sister Charlotte Gambol and Sister Mary Jude Milko.



## Annual Milwaukee Slovak-American Day

The 77th Annual Slovak-American Day will be held on Sunday, July 22, 2007, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th Street, Franklin, Wisconsin. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by Rev. Louis Luljak. There will be Slovak food, a bakery, refreshments and live Slovak music provided by the Gazdove Band. Admission is free. For more information, call Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ralph at 262/893-2972.



## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

We are now offering the Jednota newspaper (English and Slovak sections) to anyone interested in receiving the paper through E-mail. Please send your request and E-mail address to the Home Office. Remember you may still visit the website and find the last 4 issues plus the current issue of the newspaper for your convenience.

## Youngstown Branch 731 Plans Baseball Outing

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, is planning a baseball outing to cheer on the Mahoning Valley Scrappers.

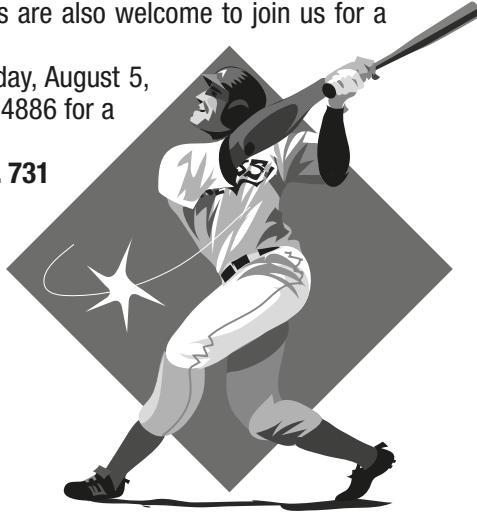
On Sunday, August 26, 2007, the Scrappers will host the Jamestown Jammers at 6:00 p.m. at the Eastwood Field in Niles, Ohio. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. It is cartoon night with a salute to the Simpsons and fireworks will follow the game.

Branch 731 members attending will receive a complimentary box seat ticket, hot dog, chips, and soft drink. Nonmembers are also welcome to join us for a cost of \$12.00.

The deadline for ticket orders is Sunday, August 5, 2007. Please call Grace Kavulic at 330/539-4886 for a reservation.

**Jim Bobby, Secretary, Br. 731**

## Celebrate Slovak Day with the Pirates



Join the Pittsburgh Pirates for Slovak cuisine, music and entertainment during the Slovak Day at PNC Park on Sunday, August 19, 2007, when the Pirates take on the Philadelphia Phillies. For \$25.00, you will receive a discounted outfield reserved ticket and early entry to Riverside events. (Gates open at 11:00 a.m.). While there, enjoy Slovak music and receive a Pirates Slovak Day cap along with a voucher for Slovak cuisine.

To order tickets by phone, please call Joe Senko at 412/531-2990. You may also write to WPSCA, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. If you wish to order tickets by mail, make sure to include your name, address and daytime telephone number and how many Slovak Day Packages you wish to purchase (\$25 per person). In order to be guaranteed a seat in one of America's most beautiful ballparks, be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible.

## Excellent Opportunities

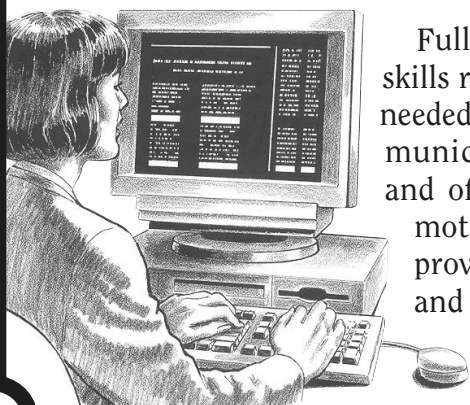
### COMPUTER TECHNICIAN/CLERICAL for Fraternal Benefit Society

Full-time position- Excellent computer skills required. Must have knowledge and experience in software and computer maintenance. Software Configuration knowledge a plus. Typing and clerical skills needed. Detail oriented with good communication and organizational skills and office experience- Must be highly motivated and dependable. Benefits provided-Salary based on experience and education-Send resume to P.O. Box 31813, Independence, Ohio 44131.

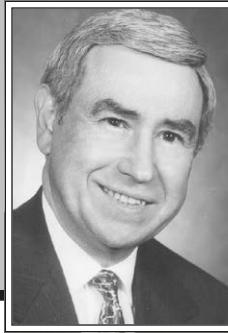


### CLERICAL for a Fraternal Benefit Society

Full-time position- Strong Computer skills required. Typing and clerical skills needed. Detail oriented with good communication and organizational skills and office experience- Must be highly motivated and dependable. Benefits provided- Salary based on experience and education. Send resume to P.O. Box 31813, Independence, Ohio 44131.

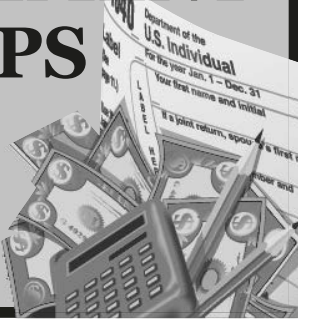


## MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



**By Joseph T. Senko**

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



### Make Retirement Saving a Goal for 2007

Money can't buy happiness, but it can help fund a comfortable retirement. Now is an opportune time to start getting serious about saving for retirement, and the best way to do this is by setting specific goals.

The first step is to estimate how much savings you'll need for retirement. This requires considering when you plan to retire, your income sources, and how much money you will need on a monthly and annual basis to live comfortably. You also will need to consider the factors presented below.

#### Pay Off Debt

Saving for retirement is difficult when you're paying more interest on your credit card debt than you earn on your retirement investments. Unless you can come up with a plan that allows you to reduce and save for retirement at the same time, it makes sense to pay off your credit card debt first. Be aggressive. If you only pay the minimum payment due, it could take years before your debt is fully paid off.

#### Spend Less than You Earn

This is critical for generating funds to put aside for retirement. Set a goal for cutting your monthly expenses by 10 percent or 15 percent a month, then set that money aside for retirement savings.

#### Contribute to Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan

If your employer offers a 401 (k) plan, contribute as much as you can. Contributions to a 401 (k) are made with pre-tax money and grow tax-deferred, which means you'll reduce your current tax liability while building your retirement fund. As an added bonus, many employees match a portion of your contribution, which makes your retirement fund grow even faster.

For 2007, the maximum you can contribute to a 401 (k) is \$15,500. If you are age 50 or older, you can contribute an extra \$5,000 under an allowable "catch-up" provision.

#### Pay Yourself First

If your company doesn't offer a retirement plan, you should open a traditional or Roth IRA. Workers who are eligible to establish traditional or Roth IRAs may contribute up to \$4,000 for 2007 (\$5,000 for individuals age 50 or older).

Arrange to have a regular amount per month deposited directly to your IRA. Automatic deductions are an easy way to make the maximum contribution, since you're less likely to miss money you don't see.

If you are self-employed, look into a simplified employee pension (SEP) plan or a Keogh. These plans allow for deductible contributions that grow tax-deferred.

#### Put Retirement Savings Above Saving for College

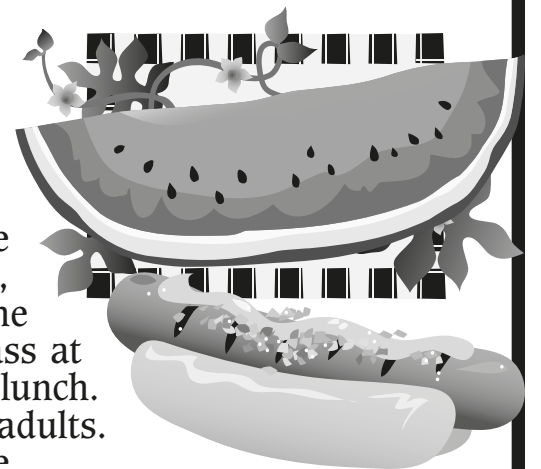
Saving for your child's education is important, but you shouldn't put it ahead of your retirement savings. There are many options to help with tuition payments, but there are no scholarships or loans for retirement. Since most schools do not factor in retirement assets when determining financial aid, saving for retirement can work in your favor.

#### Invest Wisely

Learn all you can about investing so you can maximize the returns that your retirement investments earn. Diversify your portfolio, and keep in mind that, over the long term, stocks generally outperform other investments, making them ideal for growth. Review your retirement portfolio regularly, and make any necessary adjustments. Financial planners suggest a portfolio that is aggressive- more stocks than fixed income investments- for someone in their 30s, moving to a more conservative portfolio- more fixed income investments than stocks- as one nears retirement.

## Annual Slovak Picnic in Ontario

The Monsignor Shuba District cordially invites you to their Annual Slovak Family Day Picnic on Sunday, July 29, 2007, at Creditvale Park, Barbertown Road, Mississauga, Ontario. The day will begin with a Mass at 12:00 noon followed by lunch. Admission is \$6.00 for adults. Children under 12 are free.



# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA MARCH 16 –17, 2007 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

## FIRST SESSION

Friday Morning, March 16, 2007

### OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Director, to lead the Board in singing the National Anthems of the United States, Canada, the Slovak Republic and the Pledge of the Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

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

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

### PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President read his welcome to the Board of Directors.

### READING OF THE CALL

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

### ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEMIANNUAL BOARD MEETING JULY 6, 2006

A motion was made by Father Thomas Nasta and seconded by George Sprock to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky to accept the agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda if necessary. Motion carried.

### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The President appointed the following committees for the meeting:

#### DONATIONS COMMITTEE

George Matta  
Joseph Minarovich

#### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Reverend Thomas Nasta  
Gary Matta  
Carl Ungvarsky

### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

President Rajec turned the meeting over to Vice President, Andrew Harcar. Vice President Andrew Harcar recognized President Rajec. President Rajec read his annual report. At the conclusion of the President's report, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Joe Minarovich to accept the President's Annual Report as presented. Motion carried.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2006

#### Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth A. Arendt presented the 2006 Financial Report and answered the Board Members' questions. He stated that his report would be published in our Jednota newspaper. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried.

#### OUTSIDE AUDITOR'S REPORT

On behalf of the Accounting Firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, Mr. Ed Mertz presented (by teleconference) a written report and answered any of the Board of Directors' questions. At this time the acceptance of the report was deferred until Saturday, so the Board can review the report. Mr. Ed Mertz stated that he found all financial reports in good order and that he received an excellent cooperation from the Home Office staff. He stated he would give a clear statement on behalf of the FCSU.

Mr. Edward Mertz presented a one year, two year and three year proposal to the Board of Directors. A motion was made by George Matta, seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky to accept the three year old contract with the outside accounting firm. Motion carried.

### HOME OFFICE BUILDING

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion regarding the maintenance of our Home Office Building. He called in Marcie Gorfido (our Building Manager) and an outside contractor with the lowest bid for repainting the outside of our Home Office Building. The contractor answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Rudolph Glogovsky, seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to approve the painting of the outside of our Home Office Building. Motion

carried.

### RECESS OF SESSION

At this time the Board of Directors broke for Mass and lunch.

### SECOND SESSION

Friday Afternoon, March 16, 2007

### OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec opened the afternoon session with a prayer and call to order. The Executive Secretary stated that all members are present.

### ACTUARIAL REPORT

Mr. Edward DePersis of the actuarial firm of Bruce and Bruce presented the actuarial report for 2006. Mr. DePersis stated that since each Board Member received a copy of the report, he will not read the entire report but will just give some highlights.

#### 2006 Annual Statement

Mr. DePersis stated that the Annual Statement reflects growth for the FCSU, especially in surplus and assets. Mr. DePersis stated that 2006 was a very profitable year for the First Catholic Slovak Union.

#### Dividends

The Actuary recommends that a dividend be paid to the members.

#### Board Action to Pay Dividend

A motion was made by Joseph Minarovich and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to pay a dividend with a maximum of \$320,000.00. George Matta led a discussion concerning this motion. After a lengthy discussion the Executive Secretary was asked to go back to the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 2006. At this time Joseph Minarovich withdrew his motion and Carl Ungvarsky withdrew his second motion. The Executive Secretary stated that a motion was made by George Matta, seconded by Carl Ungvarsky at our March of 2006 Board Meeting to increase the dividend payment for 2007 by 25%. Motion carried.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTUARIES FOR 2007

President Rajec recommended that the firm of Bruce and Bruce be retained for another year. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Joseph Minarovich that the firm of Bruce and Bruce be retained for another year. Motion carried.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer George F. Matta presented his report. After Mr. Matta's report, he answered all of the Board's questions. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt, seconded by Father Thomas Nasta to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer led a discussion regarding bringing in brokers to meet with the Executive Committee in the future.

### CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka, presented a report of the National Auditors and answered questions. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by George Matta to accept the Chairman of Auditor's Report as presented. Motion carried.

### APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE LAW FIRM FOR 2007

The President led a discussion concerning the outside law firms. He stated that he will retain Bill Leahy at the Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs, LLP and Debbie Read at Thompson, Hine and Flory.

### ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2006

#### Chaplain's Report

Reverend Thomas Nasta read his report to the Board and answered all questions. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt, seconded by Henry Hassay to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

#### Director of Fraternal Activities Report

Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco read her report to the Board and answered all questions. A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky, seconded by Father Thomas Nasta, to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

There was a discussion regarding exploration of possible joint ventures not only with other fraternal but also with our own regions and districts. Susan Ondrejco will prepare a report for a future date.

#### Regional Directors

President Rajec led a discussion regarding the new Bylaw – 9.05 Regional Directors. At this time he asked the Directors what they thought their duties and responsibilities should be.

They all agreed they should:

- attend Branch meetings
- get good directions concerning their duties and responsibilities from the Home Office
- make 4 visits/year to Branches and Districts
- submit a report to the Home Office.

There was a discussion about having meetings at personal residences. It was decided that our General Counsel, Gary Matta, will look into general liability in this matter.

#### Branches

Regional Director Damian Nasta passed out a written report that he was working on

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*continued from page 11*

concerning placing branches within their correct Districts and Regions. This will be given to Executive Committee to review and he will answer questions.

## ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct for today, a motion was made by Henry Hassay, seconded by Joseph Minarovich, to adjourn. Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

## THIRD SESSION

Saturday Morning, March 17, 2007

## OPEN

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Father Thomas Nasta led a prayer.

## ROLL CALL

The Executive Secretary stated that all members are present and went over the Meeting schedule.

## Vice President's Report

The Vice President Andrew Harcar read his Annual Report and answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt, seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

## MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

### Membership

The Vice President passed out a written report to the Board of Directors. The report began with the top proposers of insurance and annuity sales. The Vice President gave a detailed report of sales production by districts. At this time Henry Hassay asked if he can have a breakdown of annuity and insurance sales that are produced by the Home Office. The Executive Secretary said he will prepare it for the next meeting.

The Vice President also gave a five year comparison report broken down by districts and presented to the Board of Directors. He also stated that we will be using a direct mailing to market our single premium products in the near future. The Vice President also led a discussion concerning Membership meet for 2007 and answered the Boards' questions.

### Seminars

The Vice President stated that we have at least 5 seminars scheduled for 2007:

Sunday, April 22, 2007	Detroit, Michigan
Saturday, April 28, 2007	Allentown, Pennsylvania
Sunday, April 29, 2007	Scranton, Pennsylvania
Saturday, May 5, 2007	Uniontown, Pennsylvania
Sunday, May 20, 2007	Westfield, Massachusetts

The President led a discussion regarding our seminar presentation. The Vice President will look into different methods to improve the presentation of our seminars and report back to the Board of Directors.

### Agents

The Vice President stated we will not be hiring a National Sales Manager at this time, instead we will hire an In-House Sales Agent. The Vice President read the job description of this agent and answered the Boards' questions. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the Vice President's report as presented. Motion carried.

The Executive Secretary gave a lengthy report concerning the breakdown how much was spent on advertising (newspaper ads and radio stations ads) and answered the Board's questions. The Vice President also stated that the Home Office is mailing out questionnaire cards to all new insurance and annuity members and to any persons inquiring about our products. It is hoped the responses that are received will help our membership and marketing committee to better market our products.

## PRESENTATION OF STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Committee** Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt gave a report on the Executive Committee. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Executive Committee will meet monthly, and whenever necessary.

**Pension Committee** The Executive Secretary gave an update on the Pension Committee Report. He stated that we are in full compliance of regulations and answered the Board's questions.

**Scholarship Committee** Kenneth Arendt gave a report on Scholarship Committee. The applications for FCSU Scholarship are being processed and will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. He also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

A motion was made by Regis Brekosky and seconded by Father Thomas Nasta to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

## SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

**Jednota, Inc.** The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions.

**Jednota Properties** Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., presented his report and answered questions. A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Rudolph Glogovsky to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

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

## ELECTION OF JEDNOTA, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion regarding his recommendation of new members for the Jednota Inc. Board of Directors. His recommendation is as follows:

George F. Matta – President  
 Andrew M. Rajec – Secretary  
 James B. Bacon – Member  
 Rudolf D. Glogovsky – Member  
 James R. Marmol – Member  
 Edward U. DePersis – Member

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Sprock to approve the recommendation of new membership for the Board of Directors of Jednota, Inc. Motion carried.

## ESTATES

**Printery leasing** The President led a discussion regarding the leasing of our building. He stated that he signed a six months Leasing Agreement with a local company CIR. He will keep the Board updated as more information becomes available.

**Development of Land** The President stated that he will meet with CB Richard Ellis, Realty Company about developing a project for the use of our land in Middletown, PA. He is also in contact with other developers who, in the past, were interested in developing our property. He will keep us updated as he receives further information.

The President will also meet with the Harrisburg Area Transportation Committee (HATS) and will update the Board about his meeting.

## REPORT OF THE DONATIONS COMMITTEE

George Matta made the report of the Donations Committee. All requests were reviewed and acted upon. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the recommendations of the Donations Committee as presented. Motion carried.

## REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Reverend Thomas Nasta gave a report on the Resolution Committee.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Sprock to accept the Resolution Committee recommendation. Motion carried.

## BOARD MEETINGS

Andrew Rajec led a discussion regarding Board of Directors meetings according to new Bylaws. He stated that in 2007 we would have two face-to-face meetings and two teleconference meetings. He also stated that if the teleconference meeting will last more than 2 hours he would bring the Board for a face-to-face meeting. This method of meetings will be evaluated at the end of the year.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky led a discussion regarding having Sue Ondrejco to look into visual wear for the Officers and Board of Directors. She will inform the Board about the options.

Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky read an article from "Fraternal Monitor" about how to run successfully a meeting. It was read for informational purposes.

Regional Director Damian Nasta suggested that we use the e-mail more often while supplying the information to Board of Directors. The Executive Secretary stated that he already started the process.

The Executive Secretary stated that the approval of the Outside Accounting Firms was left out. A motion was made by Regis Brekosky and seconded by George Sprock to accept the report of the Outside Accounting Firm as presented. Motion carried.

## PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

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

## ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to adjourn. Motion carried. Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
 National President

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
 Executive Secretary

## SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST

*Please enroll me as a subscriber to the JEDNOTA*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to First Catholic Slovak Union)

*Mail To:* First Catholic Slovak Union  
 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398  
 United States **\$25** Other Countries **\$30** (U.S. Dollars)



## VISIT THE FCSU'S WEBSITE

Home page at: <http://www.fcsu.com>

Send e-mail to the FCSU at the following address:

[fcsu@aol.com](mailto:fcsu@aol.com)

## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### **Michael S. Gresko** **Branch 857** **Levittown, Pennsylvania**

Michael S. Gresko died on May 14, 2007, at his home.

He was a resident of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania for the past 52 years, and was formerly employed for many years at Philco-Ford in Philadelphia and Willow Grove as an electronics assembly supervisor. He was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Southampton.

He is survived by two sons, Richard and Michael R. Gresko; two daughters, Patricia B. and Cecilia Kerstetter; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Cecilia M. (Pomager) Gresko.

Friends were received on Friday, May 18 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 2nd Street Pike, Southampton followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m.. Interment was in Our Lady of Czestochowa Cemetery, Doylestown. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the James McGhee Funeral Home, Southampton. Memorial contributions may sent to Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 611 Knowles Ave., Southampton, PA 18966 or a charity of the donor's choice.

### **Helen B. Falkevita** **Branch 857** **Levittown, Pennsylvania**

Helen B. Falkevitz, 86, of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, May 30, 2007, at her home. She was the wife of the late Charles K. Falkevitz.

Born in Rostraver, Pennsylvania and raised in Webster, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Falkevitz resided in Fairless Hills and Levittown before moving to Langhorne ten years ago. She was a member of St. Andrew Church and was a former member of St. Joseph the Worker Church where she was active with the Sodality. Mrs. Falkevitz was a member of the Falls Township Senior Citizens and enjoyed sewing and crafts. Most important to her was caring for her family and she especially loved spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by sons, Charles M. Falkevitz of Langhorne, Richard Falkevitz and his wife Annette of Royersford, Pennsylvania Robert Falkevitz and his wife Susan of East Hartford, Connecticut, and Gary Falkevitz and his wife Annette of Levittown; a daughter, Mary Beth Tanicello and her husband Neal of Langhorne; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; a brother, John Beres of Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania; a sister, Ann Yarolin of Cleveland, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the James J. Dougherty Funeral Home, Levittown. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew Church. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 1 Plymouth Meeting, Suite 520, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1316.

### **Sister M. Carmelita Alvero, VSC**

Sister M. Carmelita Alvero, a member of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of North Hills, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died at the age of 89 on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at the Vincentian Home in Pittsburgh. She was in the 64th year of her religious life.

Sister entered the Vincentian Sisters of

Charity from Sacred Heart Parish, Quincy, Massachusetts. She attended Braddock Hospital School of Nursing and became a registered nurse in 1951. She then attended St. John Hospital School of Anesthesia in Springfield, Illinois and graduated in 1953. Before serving as an anesthetist, Sister Carmelita served as a Social Worker at Mother Mary Mission in Phenix, Alabama and in Savannah, Georgia for nine years. She served as a registered nurse at St. Jude Hospital, Montgomery, Alabama, St. Vincent Hospital, Monett, Missouri, St. John's Hospital, Pittsburgh, and Bismark, North Dakota for a total of seven years. She served as an anesthetist in Savannah, Georgia and Montgomery, Alabama for two years. Sister then became a nursing home administrator and served at Regency Hall Nursing Home for twelve years. Since 1995, Sister has been at the Vincentian Home working in various departments until she became quite ill several months ago.

Sister Carmelita is survived by one sister, Kathleen Malley from North Easton, Massachusetts, and nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Motherhouse on McKnight Road, Pittsburgh on Sunday, June 24, from 1:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Monday, June 25, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. after which a Mass of Christian Burial was offered in the Motherhouse Chapel. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Donations may be made to the Vincentian Sisters of Charity.

**Sister Raynita Kristofco, VSC**

### **Sister Rose Walter, OSF**

Sister Rose Walter, OSF, formerly Sister M. Imelda, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis, died Wednesday, June 20, 2007. She was 93 years old. Sister Rose entered as a postulant from St. Mark's Parish in McKees Rocks in 1928 and professed her vows in 1930. During her years of ministry she served in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Erie, Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg and Allentown, Pennsylvania; the Diocese of Metuchen, Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey; and the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas. She spent most of her years in the field of education. After retiring from teaching Sister Rose spent many years welcoming Sisters and visitors to the motherhouse in her ministry of hospitality.

The daughter of the late Anna Vasilik and Frank Walter of McKees Rocks, she was preceded in death by her brothers, John and Michael Walter and a sister, Anne Glaser.

Friends were received at the Mt. Assisi Convent on Friday, June 22 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, June 23 at 11:00 a.m. at Queen of Angels Chapel, Mount Assisi, Bellevue, Pennsylvania. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Lawrence T. Miller Funeral Home Inc., Bellevue.

### **Alois Klemanovic** **Branch 493** **Chicago, Illinois**

Alois "Louie" J. Klemanovic, a lifelong member of Branch 493, died suddenly February 17, 2007. He was 84 years of age.

Louie grew up in the neighborhood around Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Catholic Church in the Ukrainian Village section of Chicago's West Town neighborhood. He was the beloved husband of Virginia, loving father

of Daniel and Michael (Kathleen), dearest step-grandfather of Matthew (Kelsey) and Andrew Gillenwater, cherished step-great-grandfather of Malia Gillenwater, fond uncle of Deacon John Klemanovic, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister.

Louie was a member of American Legion Post 1110 Kurdel-Cigoi for 61 years. He was one of the few remaining Slovaks in the old neighborhood, which is now populated by affluent young urban professionals who work in Chicago's Loop.

Friends were received at the Muzyka Funeral Home in Chicago on Wednesday, February 21. At the wake service, Branch 493 President Ed Kedzuch expressed condolences to the grieving family. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, February 22 at St. Helen Church. Louie joined the Polish Roman Catholic Parish after Sacred Heart closed in 1990. Interment was in St. Adalbert Cemetery, Niles, Illinois.

May he rest in peace.

**Robert Tapak Magruder**

### **Stephen "Pep" Cibira** **Branch 493** **Chicago, Illinois**

Stephen "Pep" Cibira of Antioch, Illinois and lifelong member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, died March 17, 2007. He was 89 years of age.

Pep grew up in the neighborhood around Assumption Slovak Parish in the South Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest Side. He was the loving father of Randall Cibira, Carol (David) Rench, Deb (Louis) Kent, and David Cibira; grandfather of Becky, Adam, Tamara, and Louis Jr.; great-grandfather of Moss, Finley, Indiana, Leah and Jenna. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Evelyn Machacek Cibira.

Friends were received at the Strang Funeral Home in Antioch. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Peter Church in Antioch. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Antioch.

May he rest in peace.

**Robert Tapak Magruder**



## A Slovak boy's growing-up days in the Buckeye neighborhood

By Frank M. Stipkala

*Continued from last issue*

As I mentioned, at St. Benedict School we were taught by the very discipline-minded Sisters of Notre Dame. For example, when we exited the building at lunch time and day's end, we had to line up two abreast outside our classroom and wait for the school bell to ring. Once it rang, we marched out silently to a spirited march, usually a John Phillips Sousa rendition. My favorites were "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean." We were allowed to hum along to Len Valko or Ed Valko's playing, but it was taboo to talk to our marching partner.

Another form of discipline was the scout's slip. The good nuns appointed select students as "scouts" with the purpose of keeping fellow students in line with scout's slips. If a student committed an infraction during recess, or the lunch hour, the scout pulled out his pad, like a good cop, and wrote up the lawbreaker by citing him with a scout's slip. The penalty? In most cases, it meant staying an extra half hour after school or writing the Lord's Prayer, or Hail Mary, 100 times in a composition pad.

During recess or lunch hour, we indulged in games such as pitching pennies or baseball cards against the school wall. If you got a leaner (perpendicular position), the opponents rewarded you with an extra card or penny. Some wise guys discovered that putting wax on one corner of the card increased the chance of getting a leaner. If a guy had too many leaners, he was suspect of waxing his shooter card and was banished from the game.

Since I valued my baseball cards and had quite a large collection of Bowman and Topps cards, I refused to get involved in the craze of taping baseball cards between the spokes of a bicycle, so when you pumped the pedal, the result was a thump, thump, thump sound, which sounded cool.

Since I prized my DiMaggio, Feller, Keller, Ott, Mize, Reese, Lavagatto and Fox cards, I could never ruin them by placing them on my Roadmaster bike. In subsequent years, they became good investments, rising from one penny to a couple hundred dollars in some cases. A better investment than the stock market.

Many of our evenings were spent at Woodland Hills Park watching baseball games or men pitching horseshoes. Since the TV had not yet been invented, it was a common sight to see up to 200 people rooting on their favorite hardball or softball teams.

The best players competed in the Class A League, on teams like Fisher Foods, Bartunek and Rosenblums. In fact, Hall of Fame pitcher, Rapid Robert Feller, toiled for Rosenblums as a 16-year old before signing a contract with the Cleveland Indians.

Shopping back then was unlike today's ventures to malls and "box" stores. Since our family didn't own a refrigerator, my mom would send me, or my brother and sister, to Lindway's or Kluch's Meat Market for soup meat, luncheon meat, butter, eggs, milk or bread. For drugs or medicines, we visited Baskind's Drugstore, which was owned by a pharmacist named Mr. Baskind. Since CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aide and Marc's had not yet arrived, every neighborhood had a family-owned pharmacy. If we had a taste for ice cream, gum or candy, we always patronized Ma Fletchers. Her ice cream had no chemical preservative, unlike today's ice creams, and would melt off your cone faster than one could lap it up into the mouth.

Wintertime on Lamontier Avenue meant sled riding. Each December we brought our sleds from the basement and went riding down our street's steep hill. Because there were

# A Slovak boy's growing-up days in the Buckeye neighborhood

*continued from page 13*

few cars on the road, we could ride unimpeded down the hill. The greater danger came from the coal ashes that some people scattered in the street to give car drivers better traction going up Lamontier. If your sled hit a patch of ashes, your body would sail forward, off the front of the sled (centrifugal force). But we learned quickly where ashes might be strewn and steered our sleds around them.

We looked forward each summer to the start of the St. Benedict Church bazaar, which was the brain-child of Pastor Fr. Leo Rehak, O.S.B. Without doubt, it was the biggest and best-planned bazaar in Cleveland. Had Fr. Leo not become a Benedictine monk, he could have had a successful career as a Disneyland or Las Vegas promoter.

Each church organization manned its own booth. I can still remember the voice of Mrs. Mary Farkas in her stand trying to entice people to try their luck by chanting over and over, "penny chance, penny chance." If you were lucky, you might walk away from her stand with a can of corn, peas, or green beans. The Junior Rosary Sodality ladies prepared homemade hamburgers, hot dogs and kolbasy/kraut sandwiches.

If you felt lucky, you could try your luck at "penny pitch" and try to throw your penny on the small circle in the middle of the board, which would reward you with one dollar. Most people preferred trying to land their penny on the bigger and closer-in circles that would reward them with a nickel, dime or quarter.

Each day at the crack of dawn, I visited the bazaar grounds to look for coins that had fallen to the ground inside the many booths. On a good day, I might have found 50 cents worth of pennies, nickels or dimes, before the night watchman, named "Drunken Andy," discovered us and gave chase.

Nowadays, most every church has a summer carnival, but back in the 1940's and '50's, St. Benedict Church was the only one to tackle such a huge undertaking which for seven straight days allowed parishioners to ride a Ferris wheel, a merry-go-round or take a ride on the "loop over loop." The bazaar was our version of Euclid Beach Park or Disneyland.

Those of us who had a sweet tooth looked forward to Halloween, because we could visit every house in our neighborhood and expect to receive a bag full of candy, gum, donuts, apples and oranges. People who refused our "trick or treat" exhortation were candidates for having their porches pounded or their front windows waxed. This was mischief at its best, with no harm intended. We never found razor blades or nails in our apples or oranges, since Slovaks are well-intentioned people.

My mom loved to can fruits and vegetables. She and my dad would take the streetcar to the downtown market, some 30 minutes from home. My assignment was to take my wagon to the streetcar stop and await their arrival some two hours later. I was always on time, but unfortunately, the streetcars weren't. When my parents arrived at the East Boulevard stop, they unloaded up to ten baskets of tomatoes, pickles, beets, onions, cauliflower and yellow peppers from the car. My wagon could only hold six baskets, so mom and dad had to carry two baskets each, while I pulled my wagon the quarter mile to our home. My mom canned about 100 jars of veggies, which lasted through the winter months.

Walking was a way of life for all the neighborhood kids. Since I lived across the street from St. Benedict School, it took me all of 30 seconds to reach my classroom. But most students had to walk up to a mile to school. I went home for lunch every day, but the kids who lived further out packed a lunch and ate in the school's basement. Many of my friends lived on the other side of Woodland Hills Park and to take a shortcut, they trudged through a foot of snow to cut the distance in half.

Today, kids are driven to school by a parent or they ride a school bus. But we walked everywhere. This habit carried over to my caddie days when I had to walk 1½ miles to the rapid transit stop. This I did for eight months, totaling 12 years. That is why when I was drafted into the Army in 1953 and sent to Ft. Knox, Kentucky, I could out walk everyone in my company. At Ft. Knox, there were two steep hills that we had to traverse daily during basic training: agony and misery. Where my colleagues wilted around me, I actually enjoyed the walk, which proved easier than carrying two 30-pound golf bags 6½ miles, twice daily, for a dozen years. For me, walking up misery and down agony was like a walk in the park.

Mondays were known as washdays in our Slovak community. After washing the clothes on a scrub board and running them through a hand-crank ringer, the women would carry their wash to the backyard and hang the garments on the clothesline using clothespins to anchor them against the wind. When it got gusty, you could hear bed sheets flapping mightily, much like the sails on old-time sailing boats flapped loudly as they passed by. If some backyard was void of clothes hanging on the line, you sensed that the lady of the house was either ill or had gone on vacation. Tuesdays were ironing days. It took Ma Stipkala about six hours to iron the family's clothes.

Of all the modern conveniences introduced since my youth, the best one, in my opinion, is the gas furnace. Each winter, my father had to get up an hour early in order to get a fire started in the furnace. First he had to shake the grate to get rid of yesterday's ashes, then came the paper and kindling wood. Once the flame started, he piled on about 10 lumps of coal. The last step was filling up the damper container to add moisture to the house. This morning ritual took about 20 minutes. Now with the turn of the thermostat dial, you can get the same result in three seconds. Most important, in our 1940's homes, we had to tie up one quarter of our basements to store a ton of coal in a coal bin.

Anyone who lived in the Buckeye neighborhood in the 1940's and 1950's will never forget the terrific assistant pastor at St. Benedict's Church, Fr. Joseph Karaba, O.S.B. He organized the parish youth canteen which was a place for high school boys and girls to meet Thursday evenings for dancing, ping pong and good conversation. Guys sat, or stood, on one side of the hall and the gals sat on the other side. Once the 78 r.p.m. records started spinning,

the guys would pick out a dance partner and do a jitterbug or foxtrot. Many engagements occurred, followed by a trip to the altar. To my knowledge, every couple who met at the St. Benedict's Canteen had a long-lasting marriage. No divorce ever.

Fr. Joe and I became good friends because, as an altar boy, I served about 100 Masses for him. One Saturday afternoon, before Christmas, I went to church in order to confess my sins. Since the line was shortest in front of Fr. Joe's confessional, I chose to go to him. Soon my turn came to enter the confessional. It was dark, as I said, "Bless me Father, for I have sinned." I recited my sins, said my Act of Contrition, and heard Fr. Joe give me my penance. As I was getting up to leave, Fr. Joe said: "Have a Merry Christmas, Frank." I was flabbergasted!!! How did Fr. Joe know that the boy kneeling in the dark, opposite him, was Frank Stipkala? My anonymity was gone.

My dad had a green thumb and, with that, came a decent-looking front lawn, which he sprinkled every evening, so that it would look good to all the passers-by going to church on Sunday mornings. But no one in the entire Buckeye community had a better lawn than George Durjak who lived on lower Lamontier. His lawn was comparable to a country club green, and I can attest to that because for two summers, I cut greens at Shaker Country Club. His lawn was so immaculate that it made all the other lawns look like the rough at a public golf course.

Every Saturday afternoon, my mom would drag out her pots, pans and bread board to start preparing a variety of Slovak bakeries, notably poppyseed and walnut rolls, and small kolachkis filled with lekvar, apricots, cottage cheese and more poppyseed and nuts. Anyone entering our home on Saturday afternoons might have thought he or she was entering a bakery, because the air was filled with the sweetest scent this side of heaven!

In closing, I'd like to comment on the dating process we all had to go through. First of all, all phones had a party line, which means that of the two or three people sharing that line, only one could talk at a time. Invariably if you told your girlfriend you'd call her Monday at 7 o'clock, someone would be on the party line. If you got desperate, or tired of waiting, you might pick up the phone and blurt out, "Look, you've been on the line for half an hour already, how about giving someone else a chance to talk?" Once the line was free, you faced the problem that your girlfriend's party line was filled with yackers and you got a busy signal. When both phones were finally open, you had the problem of trying to sound romantic in front of your parents and brothers and sisters. You see, the phone was in the living room where the entire family gathered nightly to listen to Lowell Thomas give the news, followed by Amos and Andy, Lum and Abner, and Fibber McGee and Molly.

If I didn't feel secure in this crowded environment, I'd walk half a mile to the drugstore and try to find a phone booth that was unoccupied. Kids today, with their cell phones, cannot appreciate what their parents or grandparents had to go through each week just to make a date with their girlfriends!!!!

Sure, life was more difficult for us because we didn't have cell phones, microwaves, computers, CD's, malls and electric garage door-openers, but you know what? If I have to choose between the then and now eras, it's no contest. Give me the simpler times, the 1930s and 1940s. Materialism and greed are leading the charge today, and God and religion have been shunted to the back seat. Give me the good old days when we all ate dinner together, slept two or three in the bed and wore hand-me-down clothes. Our main worry was hoping the Big Ben alarm clock would ring every morning so we'd be on time for school or work!

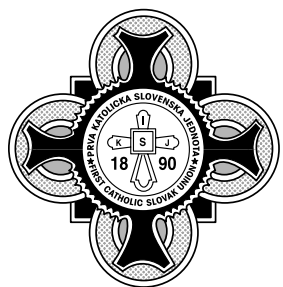
The happiest days of my life were as a kid growing up in my Slovak neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio. Most everyone today has more wealth, more cars, a bigger house and five credit cards, but what they don't have is a proportionate amount of happiness!!!

Our frugal Slovaks, with limited assets, had a love of God and country. Church came first in their lives. Earthly possessions were secondary. As a first-generation Slovak, it was my good fortune to have been raised in this kind of environment.

Fortunate for me, my mom has reached the ripe-old age of 101 ¾, and to this day she leads by example: God first, earthly possessions second! Thanks, Ma, for setting such a great example for brothers, Joe, John, sister Ethel and me. You did us proud!

## More Useful Websites

<a href="http://www.skonline.sk">www.skonline.sk</a>	Slovakia Travel Guide
<a href="http://www.travelguide.sk">www.travelguide.sk</a>	Hotel and Spa Guide
<a href="http://kosice.region.sk">kosice.region.sk</a>	Kosice-City Travel Guide
<a href="http://www.slovakia.org">www.slovakia.org</a>	Bratislava-Information about the City
<a href="http://www.vtaty.sk">www.vtaty.sk</a>	Useful Information about the High Tatras
<a href="http://www.tatry.net">www.tatry.net</a>	Complete Information on Tatra Region
<a href="http://www.hotel-net.sk">www.hotel-net.sk</a>	Tourist Accommodation
<a href="http://www.skonline.sk">www.skonline.sk</a>	Slovakia On-Line (general information)
<a href="http://www.kultura.sk">www.kultura.sk</a>	Slovak cultural calendar
<a href="http://www.snm.sk">www.snm.sk</a>	Slovak National Museum
<a href="http://www.savba.sk">www.savba.sk</a>	Slovak Academy of Sciences
<a href="http://www.government.gov.sk">www.government.gov.sk</a>	Government of the Slovak Republic
<a href="http://www.snd.sk">www.snd.sk</a>	Slovak National Theater
<a href="http://www.stv.sk">www.stv.sk</a>	Slovak Television
<a href="http://www.nbs.sk">www.nbs.sk</a>	National Bank of Slovakia



# Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



O. Štefan Furelek  
Náš zakladateľ

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

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## Pápež: Západný spôsob života ohrozuje tradíciu Slovenska

Vatikán (TASR) – Západný spôsob života čoraz viac ohrozuje Poľsko a Slovensko, ktoré môžu prísť o tradičnú katolícku charakteristiku. Naznačil to pápež Benedikt XVI. v príhovore k slovenským katolíckym biskupom, ktorých prijal v polovici mája na spoločnej audiencii vo Vatikáne. Pápež uviedol, že vývoj na Slovensku sa z nábožensko-kultúrneho hľadiska čoraz viac podobá vývoju typickému pre ostatné európske krajiny s kresťanskou tradíciou, ktoré silno poznačil rozsiahly proces sekularizácie. Podľa jeho slov môžu teraz typické lákadlá Západu podkopať to, čo sa nepodarilo zničiť predtým komunizmom.

Benedikt XVI. sa podľa vlastných slov dozvedel, že v otázke rodín začína aj Slovensko pociťovať krízu manželstva a pôrodnosti, a to na prvom mieste pre ekonomické dôvody. Znížila sa však aj sociálna vážnosť manželstva a ďalším destabilizujúcim faktorom je "systematický útok na manželstvo a rodinu, vedený v prostredí určitej kultúry a masmédií". Podľa pápeža sa katolícka cirkev musí brániť neustálemu ideologickému tlaku, ktorý sa

snaží kresťanstvo zredukovať len na "súkromný" rozmer. Zdôraznil tiež, že je potrebné venovať sa mládeži a rodinám.

Benedikt XVI. na záver príhovoru poslal prostredníctvom biskupov osobitný pozdrav všetkým kňazom, ako aj ostatným veriacim na Slovensku a osobitne chorým a tým, ktorí to najviac potrebujú, uviedla TK KBS. Slovenskí biskupi odovzdali pápežovi svoj dar, ikonu Sedembolestnej Panny Márie. Predseda KBS František Tondra mu predstavil situáciu v katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku. Pripomenul, že kňazstvo sa v našej krajine omladilo: od konca totality sa priemerný vek kňazov znížil zo 60 na dnešných 40 rokov. Tondra však poznamenal, že "veľkú starosť nám robia komerčné médiá, ktoré sú zväčša liberálne. Tie formujú verejnú mienku, ktorá je následne veľmi kritická voči Cirkvi a voči kresťanským hodnotám ako sú hodnota života, dôstojnosť človeka, rodina, čistý vzťah medzi mužom a ženou. Popierajú objektívnu mravnú normu a slobodu interpretujú subjektivisticky."

## Zástupcovia SLvA na návšteve u primátora Michaloviec



FOTO: Robert Ťapák Magruder, účastník výpravy

Na obrázku sú zástupcovia SLvA na návšteve u primátora Michaloviec, kde hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrej M. Rajec odovzdal primátorovi Michalovičovi Viliamovi Zahorčákovi pamätný cínový tanier. Zľava: Predseda SLvA v Amerike, Daniel F. Tanzone; predseda IKSJ Andrej M. Rajec; primátor Viliam Zahorčák; hlavná tajomníčka SLvA, Nina Holá.

Pri príležitosti storočnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike jej vedenie usporiadalo viacero spoločenských podujatí. V dňoch od 5. - 16. mája 2007 sa oslavy začali historickou výpravou Slovenskej ligy na Slovensko a začiatkom júna pokračovali v Spojených štátoch. Účastníci výpravy sa na Slovensku stretli s prezidentom SR Ivanom Gašparovičom ako aj s viacerými primátormi miest. Počas trojdňového pobytu na východnom Slovensku výpravu poctili recepciou odbor Matice slovenskej, primátor Michaloviec Viliam Zahorčák a tiež primátor mestečka Vinné, v ktorom je pochovaný Mons. Fuga.

## Spoločenský večer 1. zboru SL s hosťami zo Slovenska



Na snímke zľava podpredseda vlády Dušan Čaplovič pri príhovore na kultúrno-spoločenskom večierku vo veľkej sieni kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v sobotu 9. júna v New York City.

V predvečer hlavných osláv storočnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, v sobotu 9. júna, 1. zbor Slovenskej ligy usporiadal vo veľkej sieni kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého spoločenský večierok. Hlavným úmyslom tohto podujatia bolo privítanie hostí zo Slovenska a neformálna beseda s nimi.

Večierok otvoril aktívny predseda 1. zboru Slovenskej ligy Milan Dait, ktorý privítal podpredsedu vlády SR Dušana Čaploviča, bývalého ministra zahraničných vecí, terajšieho poslanca a podpredsedu SDKÚ Eduarda Kukana, predsedníčku Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) Vilmu Prívarovú a predsedu Matice slovenskej Jozefa Markuša.

Potom odovzdal vedenie ďalšieho programu členovi Výkonného výboru SLvA Jánovi Holému. Ten postupne pozval hostí zo Slovenska k mikrofónu na krátke príhovory. Predtým ako sa ujali slova prehovoril aj predseda SLvA Daniel Tanzone, ktorý pozdravil hostí zo Slovenska a poďakoval 1. zboru za usporiadanie tohto pekného večierka.

Vo svojich príhovoroch slovenskí činitelia ocenili prácu Slovenskej ligy v uplynulom storočí a vyslovili želanie, aby sa spolupráca SR so Slovákami v Amerike a so Slovákami v celej diaspore ďalej zveľaďovala.

Po ich prejavoch nasledovala kultúrna vložka. Populárny spevák z Bratislavy a Viedne Jozef Ivaška zaspieval niekoľko piesní a Henrieta Daitová predniesla Beniakovu báseň.

Nasledovala živá diskusia, v ktorej všetci slovenskí hostia odpovedali na rôzne otázky a vyskytli sa aj poznámky a komentáre o práci rôznych úradov na Slovensku a o ich prístupe k rôznym problémom, ktoré sa týkajú najnovších prisťahovalcov do Spojených štátov.

Diskusia mala pozitívny a informačný priebeh. Po diskusii nasledovalo "slovenské" občerstvenie.

Večierok usporiadal 1. zbor v New Yorku v spolupráci so Slovenskou ligou v Amerike. 1. zbor Slovenskej ligy je jej najstarším zborom. Bol založený v roku 1917. Tohto roku sa dožíva 90. výročia svojej existencie. Do jeho založenia bola SLvA len organizáciou, ktorá zastrešovala iné slovenské organizácie, časopisy, farnosti a združenia. Zbory s individuálnymi členmi začali organizovať až v roku 1917.

## Noví veľvyslanci SR vo Vatikáne a Grécku

Bratislava (TASR) – Novým slovenským veľvyslancom pri Svätej stolici so sídlom v Ríme bude kariérny diplomat Jozef Dravecký. Na poste vedúceho zastupiteľského úradu nahradí Dagmar Babčanová. Dravecký dosiaľ pôsobil ako riaditeľ druhého teritoriálneho odboru Ministerstva zahraničných vecí (MZV) SR. Veľvyslanec v Grécku sa stane doterajší šéf prvého teritoriálneho odboru rezortu diplomacie Ján Voderadský. V Aténach vystrieda ambasádora Jána Chleba. Hovorca MZV SR Ján Škoda potvrdil, že obaja designovaní veľvyslanci už dostali od prijímajúcej strany súhlas s diplomatickou činnosťou.

# Krátke správy zo Slovenska

O približne 16-tisíc vzácných technických exponátov v 11 stálych expozíciách a štyroch vysunutých pracoviskách sa starajú pracovníci košického Slovenského technického múzea (STM), ktoré si nedávno spolu s hosťami zo zahraničia pripomenulo rôznymi spoločenskými podujatiami 60. výročie založenia. STM je celonárodnou inštitúciou a jediným slovenským múzeom pre dejiny vedy, techniky a výroby na Slovensku. Len za posledných 10 rokov v ňom pribudlo osem expozícií, medzi ktorými dominuje napríklad Múzeum letectva v Košiciach, ale pyšní sú múzejníci aj na Solivar pri Prešove a Múzeum dopravy v Bratislave.

Medzi občanmi SR prevládajú určité obavy a nedôvera k zavedeniu eura. V tomto duchu sa vyjadrili viac ako dve pätiny respondentov (43%) v prieskume, ktorý od 1. do 10. mája 2007 realizoval Ústav pre výskum verejnej mienky (ÚVVM) pri Štatistickom úrade (ŠÚ) SR. Na otázku: Čo pre vás bude znamenať zavedenie spoločnej meny euro na Slovensku?, odpovedalo 1,083 respondentov vo veku 18 a viac rokov. Výberový súbor respondentov bol reprezentatívny z hľadiska pohlavia, veku, národnosti, vzdelania, veľkostných skupín obcí a krajov Slovenska. Opačný názor, že zavedenie spoločnej európskej meny bude určitým osobným prínosom, zastávala tamer tretina opýtaných (31%). K odpovedi "nič podstatné sa nezmení" sa v súčasnosti priklonilo 19% respondentov a odpoveď "neviem posúdiť" si vybralo len 7% oslovených.

Desiatky rómskych sirôt zo Slovenska si našli náhradných rodičov v ďalekej Amerike. O ich medzištátnom osvojení rozhodli v minulých rokoch slovenské súdy. V USA sa deťom z východoslovenských osád darí. Takmer každé druhé prejavuje umelecké nadanie, najmä hudobné. Ďalšie dosahujú pekné výsledky v športe a všetky sa riadne učia. Zistil to prieskum, ktorý uskutočnilo košické Združenie za sociálnu reformu.

Na Slovensko môže prísť štvrtá automobilka. Starosta obce Kechnec pri Košiciach Jozef Konkoly rokuje o investícii s nemenovanou automobilkou. Podľa informácií Hospodárskych novín ide o americkú Ford Motor Company, ktorá už pred rokom potvrdila, že uvažuje o závoде v tomto regióne. Ford už zastúpenie v Kechneci má. Spolu s partnerskou spoločnosťou Gertrag tam montuje prevodovky.

Novým riaditeľom Opery Slovenského národného divadla (SND) je od 1. júla dirigent Oliver Dohnányi. Dohnányi (52) vo funkcii vystrieda popredného sólistu Petra Mikuláša (53), ktorý stál na čele súboru od septembra 2006 a viedol ho v čase náročnej sezóny 2006-2007, počas ktorej Slovenské národné divadlo otvorilo svoju novú budovu. Peter Mikuláš požiadal o uvoľnenie z funkcie riaditeľa Opery SND, aby sa mohol naplno venovať svojej profesii operného speváka. Oliver Dohnányi si stanovil vo svojej novej funkcii dve hlavné priority - naplno hrať v novej budove, čo najviac využiť možnosti nových priestorov, zdokonalenie prevádzkového systému v historickej budove a stabilizovať súbor opery tak v kompetenciách jej členov, ako aj v umeleckej prevádzke.

V Tatranskej galérii v Poprade otvorili výstavu Slovenské eurové mince. Výstavu výtvarných návrhov slovenských strán eurových mincí návštevníkom predstaví okrem základných faktov o Európskej únii a eurozóne aj súbor najzaujímavejších nerealizovaných návrhov na slovenské eurové mince od popredných slovenských výtvarníkov a tiež víťazné návrhy budúcich slovenských eurových mincí. Výstava je určená predovšetkým širokej verejnosti, koncipovaná je ale tak, aby uspokojila aj záujemcov z radov odborníkov - numizmatikov, historikov a pedagogických pracovníkov. Výstava bola v priebehu minulého roka okrem Bratislavy inštalovaná v Kremnici, Banskej Bystrici a v Košiciach.

Obyvatelia Slovenska sa naďalej demograficky približujú k spoločnostiam západoeurópskych krajín. Postupne pribúda podiel starších ročníkov, ľudia viacej oddaľujú sobáš, častejšie sa rozvádajú. Po náraste sobášov v rokoch 2002 až 2004 sa v nasledujúcom období potvrdil ich klesajúci trend. V roku 2004 pripadlo 5.2 sobáša na 1000 obyvateľov, vlni to bolo 4.8. sobáša na 1000 obyvateľov. Postupne sa zvyšoval priemerný vek pri sobáši - muži sa miný rok sobášili v priemere ako 31-roční, ženy vo veku 27.9 roka. Vyplývalo to z údajov za minulý rok, ktoré nedávno zverejnil Štatistický úrad.

Všetky dôchodky na Slovensku sa od 1. júla zvýšia o 6.25% mesačnej sumy dôchodku, na ktorú má poistenec nárok ku dňu, od ktorého sa dôchodok zvyšuje. Percento zvýšenia vyplýva z opatrenia rezortu práce, ktorým sa určuje percento zvýšenia dôchodkovej dávky v roku 2007. V zmysle toho, valorizácia sa bude týkať starobných dôchodkov, predčasných starobných dôchodkov, vdovského, vdoveckého a sirotských dôchodkov, invalidných a sociálnych dôchodkov. Priznané zvýšené dôchodky budú prvý raz vyplatené už vo výplatnom termíne dôchodku v júli 2007.

Závod Johnson Controls v Lučenci zamestnával v júni 245 pracovníkov. Do konca roku by sa tu však zamestnanosť mala zvýšiť na 300 ľudí. Johnson Controls poskytuje nielen multikulturálne pracovné prostredie v medzinárodnej firme s dobrými kariérnymi príležitosťami, ale svojich pracovníkov podporuje aj individuálnymi kurzami a možnosťami ďalšieho vzdelávania. Závod na výrobu peny do automobilových sedadiel pre automobilky produkujúce na Slovensku i v zahraničí začal v Lučenci vyrábať v auguste 2006, kedy zamestnával asi 100 ľudí. Okrem nového závodu v Lučenci má firma na Slovensku ešte ďalšie štyri závody, a to v Bratislave, Martine, Žiline a Námestove a vývojové stredisko v Trenčíne.

Bratislavčania si koncom júna mohli prvýkrát vychutnať vlastnú mestskú piesočnú pláž, ktorá vyrástla na pravom brehu Dunaja. Návštevníci sa tu môžu pod slnečníkmi nielen chutne najesť v drevenom bare pri rieke, ale aj aktívne oddychovať. Okrem plážového volejbalu si môžu zahrať bedminton a futbal. Nechýba bezdrôtové pripojenie na internet. Na opaľovanie je vyše sto ležadiel, schladieť sa dá v sprchách. V areáli sa nachádza množstvo atrakcií hlavne pre malé deti.

Za prvých päť mesiacov tohto roku prešlo popradským letiskom 25,520 cestujúcich, čo je približne 33% viac ako v rovnakom období minulého roku. Naraste sa podieľali nielen pravidelné linky, kde sa zvýšilo obsadenie a frekvencie letov do Londýna a otvorila sa nová pravidelná denná linka do Prahy, ale aj zimné charterové lety z Kyjeva, Moskvy a Tallinu. Nárast zaznamenali aj lety všeobecného letectva, ako sú aerotaxi a privátne lety, informoval o tom riaditeľ Letiska Poprad-Tatry, a.s. Peter Polerecký.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## Svetový kongres Rusínov

Medzilaborce (TASR) – Poukázat na problémy, s ktorými sa stretávajú Rusíni ako národnostná menšina na celom svete, bolo cieľom Svetového kongresu Rusínov v rumunskom Sighet. "Za najpálčivejšie označil jazykové problémy dotýkajúce sa ochrany životného prostredia," povedal predseda Rusínskej obrody na Slovensku Vladimír Protivňák. Dodal, že účastníci kongresu prijali rezolúciu, v ktorej žiadajú rozšírenie počtu tried s rusínskym vyučovacím jazykom. Zároveň chcú pripraviť obyvateľstvo na sčítanie ľudu v roku 2011 tak, aby sa nebáli prihlásiť k rusínskej národnosti. Kongres tiež poukázal na skutočnosť, že Rusíni sú v jednotlivých štátoch oficiálne uznaní ako národnostná menšina s výnimkou

Ukrajiny. "Ukrajina doposiaľ túto národnostnú menšinu neuznáva a pokladá ju len za vetvu ukrajinského národa," doplnil Protivňák. Ďalší, v poradí už 10. Svetový kongres Rusínov sa uskutoční o dva roky v Chorvátsku a Srbsku.

Svetový kongres Rusínov vznikol v roku 1991 v Medzilaborciach na základe združenia rusínskych organizácií zo Slovenska, Ukrajiny, Poľska, Česka, Maďarska, Srbska, Rumunska a Severnej Ameriky. Nosnou myšlienkou kongresu je obrodzenie Rusínov "ako zabudnutej národnosti". Na Slovensku sa k nej hlási viac ako 24-tisíc obyvateľov, rusínskym jazykom však rozpráva viac ako 50-tisíc ľudí. Na svete žije vyše 1.5 milióna Rusínov.



FOTO TASR - Lýdia Vojtaššáková, Podbiel 3. júla 2007

Sochy svätcov - Cyrila a Metoda, ale i pastiera a hrabačka, všetky v nadväzujúcej veľkosti, vyrezali z topolového dreva hornooravskí rezbári v Podbieli. Vierozvestcovia budú od sviatku sv. Cyrila a Metoda (5. júla), "strážit" dvor miestneho kostola, pastier a hrabačka, ku ktorým postupne pribudnú ďalšie sochy, majú pri drevenciach znázorňovať minulé časy. Na snímke Rezbár Stanislav Ondrik z Tvrdošina vytesal z topolového kmeňa sv. Cyrila.

# Predsedníčka ÚSZZ na pracovnej ceste v USA

Vilma Prívarová, predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí bola v júni 2007 na zahraničnej pracovnej ceste v USA, ktorá sa uskutočnila na pozvanie Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Vilma Prívarová pri príležitosti osláv 100. výročia založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike pozdravila predstaviteľov najvýznamnejších slovenských organizácií v Amerike, ako aj mnohé významné slovenské osobnosti, ktoré v súčasnosti pôsobia na americkom kontinente.

Počas návštevy krajanov vo východnej časti USA rokovala s predstaviteľmi Jankolovej knižnice a Slovenského archívu v meste Danville v Pensylvánii, s vedením Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a s predstaviteľmi Slovenského katolíckeho sokola v Passaicu, N.J. Počas svojej pracovnej cesty v Los Angeles, ktorú spoluorganizoval Generálny konzulát SR v tomto meste, rokovala s predstaviteľmi Slovensko-amerického centra v Los Angeles, v ktorom sú združené najvýznamnejšie slovenské organizácie západnej časti Spojených štátov amerických. Na dvoch

samostatných podujatiach mala možnosť stretnúť sa so širšou krajskou členskou základňou a informovať Slovákov žijúcich v Los Angeles a v okolí o činnosti ÚSZZ a o štátnej politike starostlivosti o slovenské menšiny a komunity žijúce v zahraničí. Na pozvanie Slovenskej záhrady vo Winter Parku navštívila krajskú komunitu žijúcu a pôsobiacu na Floride v meste Orlando a v jeho okolí. Krajania, ktorí navštívili Slovenskú záhradu pri príležitosti návštevy V. Prívarovej, vysoko ocenili záujem Slovenskej republiky o krajskú komunitu žijúcu na americkej Floride a prejavili veľký záujem o ďalšie návštevy predstaviteľov zo strany Slovenska, ktoré by Slovákov žijúcich v tejto časti USA povzbudili pri rozvíjaní ďalších aktivít.

Americkí Slováci počas rozhovorov s predsedníčkou ÚSZZ Vilmou Prívarovou vyjadrili svoje názory, podnety a návrhy, ktoré sa týkali najmä vzťahu Slovenskej republiky k slovenskej diaspore v zahraničí.

**Úrad Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí**



Červený Kláštor

## Červený Kláštor tichý svedok minulosti

V severovýchodnej oblasti Vysokých Tatier, sa nachádza tichá a krásna dolina Pieniny, ktorého bránou je starobylý, turistami takmer opomínaný, Červený Kláštor.

V rozprávkovom tichu starých, košatých líp a na brehu atraktívnej horskej rieky Dunajec, sa nám odryla budova starobylého pustovníckeho Kláštora zo 14. storočia. Pôvodne ho obývali členovia rehole Kartuziánov v prísnych podmienkach mlčania, pôstov a modlitieb.

V 16. storočí boli Kartuziáni nútení na nátlak Poľska, Kláštor opustiť. Po 140. rokoch, prišla do opusteného Kláštora nová rehoľa bratov Kamaldulov, ktorej poslanie a život bol svetu už prístupnejší a otvorenejší. Mnisi sa tu mohli venovať vzdelávaniu a vede.

V rokoch 1724 až 1775 tu medzi inými žil aj všestranný prírodovedec fráter Cyprián, povestný zberateľom liečivých rastlín a herbárou vedou. Nazývali ho Kláštorným doktorom. Za svojho života zostavil unikátny herbár 272 liečivých rastlín, pomenovaných latinským, gréckym i nemeckým názvom v lekárskom využití a súčasnom radou, ako ich užívať pri rôznych ochoreniach.

Po viacerých rekonštrukciách Kláštora i príhľadného kostola sv. Antona, sa stal Červený Kláštor kultúrnym centrom severného Spiša, hojne navštevovaný domácimi i zahraničnými turistami.

A takto celá oblasť Vysokých Tatier je spolu s turistami, lyžiarimi, športovcami a rekreatantami obohatená aj o kultúrne hodnoty a nové zážitky.

## Získať slovenské štátne občianstvo bude ťažšie

Podmienky na získanie slovenského štátneho občianstva sa sprísnia. Vyplýva to z novely zákona o štátnom občianstve, ktorú schválil parlament. Minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák odôvodnil navrhované zmeny ako reakciu predovšetkým na narastajúce nebezpečenstvo organizovaného zločinu a medzinárodného terorizmu.

Podľa novely môže cudzinec získať slovenské štátne občianstvo až po ôsmich rokoch nepretržitého trvalého pobytu v SR namiesto doterajších piatich rokov. Sprísnenie má umožniť úradom dôkladnejšie preveriť, ako si žiadateľ o slovenské občianstvo osvojil slovenský právny poriadok a prispôsobil sa nášmu kultúrnemu prostrediu.

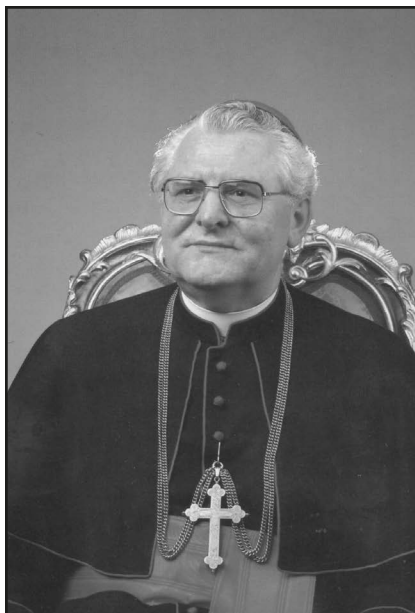
Okrem toho sa tiež sprísnia nároky na znalosť slovenčiny a predĺži sa proces schvaľovania žiadostí. Novelu zákona o štátnom občianstve ešte posúdi prezident Ivan Gašparovič. Podľa Kaliňáka udelenie štátneho občianstva nemá byť začiatkom integrácie cudzinca, ale jej zavŕšením. Materiál

predpokladá, že ministerstvo vnútra bude musieť udelenie občianstva konzultovať s políciou, prípadne s tajnou službou. Dlhšie bude trvať samotný proces, lehota na rozhodnutie sa predĺži z deviatich mesiacov na dva roky.

Rýchlejšie budú stále môcť získať občianstvo cudzinci žijúci v manželstve so slovenským občianom, lehota sa však predĺžila na päť rokov zo súčasných troch. Komplikovanejšiu situáciu budú mať tiež úspešní žiadatelia o azyl, ktorí sa po novom budú môcť o občianstvo uchádzať až po štyroch rokoch od získania azylu na Slovensku. Okrem toho sa sprísnia kritériá na ovládanie slovenského jazyka. Vyžadovať sa bude znalosť jazyka "slovom a písmom", doteraz stačilo len základné ovládanie. Žiadateľov by mala skúšať zo slovenčiny a základných údajov o Slovensku trojčlenná komisia. Pribudnú aj ďalšie povinné doklady, ktoré bude musieť žiadateľ o udelenie občianstva obsaňovať, napríklad potvrdenie o zaplatení daní či odvodov.

## 50 rokov od kňazskej vysviacky arcibiskupa Mons. Jána Sokola

Bratislava (TASR) – Presne pred 50. rokmi - 23. júna 1957 terajšieho bratislavsko-trnavského arcibiskupa Mons. Jána Sokola po skončení štúdia teológie v Bratislave vysvätil za kňaza biskup Ambróz Lazík. Toto významné jubileum oslávil Mons. Ján Sokol 23. júna 2007 svätou omšou v Konkatedrále - Dome sv. Martina v Bratislave spolu s biskupmi a kňazmi bratislavsko-trnavskej arcidiecézy. V úvode omše prečítali blahoprajný list pápeža Benedikta XVI. arcibiskupovi k 50. výročiu jeho kňazskej vysviacky. Dekan Bratislavy Ján Formánek pripomenul, že z Domu sv. Martina každoročne v tomto období vychádzajú noví kňazi. Pred 50 rokmi bol jedným z nich aj terajší bratislavsko-trnavský arcibiskup Ján Sokol. Formánek ocenil, že Ján Sokol od začiatku až doteraz s láskou a s nadšením slúžil cirkvi a veriaciom napriek útokom a obvineniam, ktorým musí čeliť najmä v posledných rokoch. Arcibiskupovi Sokolovi zblahoželal aj správca farnosti Domu sv.



Mons. Ján Sokol  
bratislavsko-trnavský arcibiskup, metropolita

Martina Ján Hudec. Arcibiskup Sokol poďakoval za blahoželania Svätého Otca Benedikta XVI. a za jeho slová povzbudení, ako aj všetkým spolubratom a veriaciom, ktorí sa za neho modlia a podporujú ho.

Mons. Ján Sokol sa narodil 9. októbra 1933 v Jacovciach v okrese Topoľčany. Teológiu vyštudoval na Rímskokatolíckej Cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulte v Bratislave v roku 1957. Prvé roky kňazskej služby strávil ako kaplán vo farnostiach v Šuranoch, v Leviciach, Bratislave a v Štúrove. V rokoch 1968-1970 pôsobil ako prefekt Kňazského seminára v Bratislave. V roku 1970 v rámci normalizácie odchádza opäť na kaplánske miesto do Serede, kde sa stal správcom farnosti a neskôr dekanom. V novembri 1987 zvolili Jána Sokola za administrátora Trnavskej diecézy a o rok neskôr za biskupa. Biskupská vysviacka sa uskutočnila 12. júna 1988 v Katedrále sv. Jána Krstiteľa v Trnave. Pápež Ján Pavol II. dekrétom z 26. júla 1989 vymenoval Jána Sokola za trnavského arcibiskupa a metropolitu. Do úradu arcibiskupa ho uviedli v septembri toho istého roku. Bol prvým menovaným arcibiskupom-metropolitom. V marci roku 1995 vznikla Bratislavsko-trnavská arcidiecéza a Dom sv. Martina v Bratislave získal titul konkatedrály. Pri návšteve Česko-Slovenska v apríli 1990 odovzdal pápež Ján Pavol II. v Bratislave-Vajnoroch Jánovi Sokolovi arcibiskupské pálium. V auguste 2000 zvolili arcibiskupa Jána Sokola za podpredsedu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska.

**NECHAJTE INÝCH VEDIEŤ O JEDNOTE**

*Zlaté zrnká*

*"Poznanie seba samých nás stavia na vlastné nohy; to je pre lásku veľmi dôležité, lebo poznanie Boha dáva lásku a poznanie seba, robí nás pokornými."*

*Bl. Matka Terézia*

## Nevšedná publikácia

Knižné publikácie sú rôzne a na rôzne téma. Táto, o ktorej je tu reč, je nevšedná tým, že je napísaná vo východoslovenskom a či hutoráckom, presnejšie zemplínskym rečovým dialekte pod expresívnym názvom Valalske balamuti abo daco PRAVDA daco ŠMIŠKA. Jej autorom je Pavol Bindas, agilný čemerniansky aktivista, prominentný kronikár a historik, ktorý už má za sebou pár autobiografických edícií. Kniha obsahuje 136 strán, 44 humoristicko-satirických anekdot z vranovského regiónu a je doplnená karikatúrnymi ilustráciami Jozefa Mihaľa.

Táto nevšedná kniha vyšla pri príležitosti 735. výročia prvej písomnej zmienky o Vranove a 725. výročia prvej písomnej zmienky o Čemernom, dnes mestská časť Vranova nad Topľou. Autor, Pavol Bindas, vypravil ju do sveta čitateľskej rodiny pripomienkou:

“Škoda, že dnes na staré príhody s príchuťou žartu ľudia už zabúďajú, alebo si dokážu spomenúť len na prezývku, alebo na jej pravú príčinu. Starší ľudia vymierajú a mladá generácia na staré a roky žité šmišky zabúda. Ako keby sa v niektorých obciach pretrhla šnúra života. Život v obci už nie je natoľko stmelý ako kedysi. Príčiny tohto stavu sú všeobecne známe. Nemyslíme si, že existuje dôvod v niektorých prípadoch hnevať sa alebo hanbiť za vyslovenú prezývku. Veď ona je obyčajne trefná a núti rozmyšľať. Aj u nás na Zemplíne je dosť príkladov, ktoré poukazujú na charakter a povahu ľudí žijúcich v niektorých dedinách okresu hlavne v podhorských oblastiach.”

Kniha končí recenziou Mgr. Martiny Ivanovej z katedry slovenského jazyka a kultúry Prešovskej univerzity a prof. PhDr. Jána Kopinu, spisovateľa.

Pri čítaní týchto vtípných anekdot nedalo sa zabrániť myšlienkovému návratu do našej dávno tu prežitej minulosti, kedy nás tunajší kolektív síce neoficiálne ale sebarovne a nerozdvojne ako slovenský celok, líčil sa nárečove na západniarov a východniarov, ľudovo rečeno na vrvákov a hutorákov z čoho vzniknul epigram -

### O hutorákoch

*Hutoráci to sú vám prefíkaní Slováci.  
Českú republiku za hutorácku vyhlásili  
a od vyhýbkárov po ministrov miesta obsadili.*

*Česi Čecha za prezidenta mať chceli:  
“Žadojsci vyhovec še neda” a im rozkázali,  
aby do hutoráckej politiky české pal'ce nepchali;  
za prezidenta už karčmarovoho sina popitali.*

Zábavné a poučné čítanie pre každého kto ešte nezabudnul na svoje zemplínske korene. Zaujímavosť knihu môžu objednať za \$10.00 US na adrese: MVDr. Pavol Bindas, Sadová 161, 093 03 Vranov nad Topľou, Slovakia.

Štefan Hreha  
Montréal, QC.

## Moskva najdrahšie mesto na svete Bratislava zaujala 31. miesto

New York (TASR) – Moskva je už druhý rok po sebe najdrahším mestom na svete, vďaka stúpajúcej hodnote rubľa a narastajúcim nákladom na bývanie. Bratislava sa spolu so španielskou Barcelónou umiestnila na 31. priečke najdrahších miest. Vyplýva to z nového prieskumu, ktorého závery zverejnili v polovici júna. Náklady na živobytie v ruskom hlavnom meste sú takmer o 35 percent vyššie než v New Yorku, ktorý slúžil v prieskume pre rok 2007 ako východiskové mesto. Londýn, podľa odhadov o 26 percent drahší než New York, sa vyšplhal o tri priečky vyššie na druhé miesto vďaka posilňovaniu britskej libry a prudkému zvýšeniu nájomného. Juhokórejský Soul sa umiestnil na tretej priečke rebríčka a tesne za ním nasleduje japonské Tókió ako štvrté najdrahšie mesto sveta. V prieskume poradenskej firmy Mercer Human Resource Consulting sa hodnotilo 143 veľkomiest po celom svete porovnávaním nákladov vo výške 200 sférach života ako bývanie, doprava,

stravovanie, obliekanie či zábava. Náklady sa týkajú ľudí, ktorí sa do týchto miest prisťahovali z iných krajín alebo oblastí.

Posilňujúce euro posunulo 30 európskych miest na vrcholné priečky zoznamu platného pre rok 2007 - medzi prvých desať najdrahších miest sa dostala Kodaň, Ženeva, Zürich a Oslo. V top 50 sa nachádza osem ázijských veľkomiest, hoci taiwanský Tchaj-pej klesol o 20 priečok na 48. miesto. New York a Los Angeles boli jediné dve severoamerické mestá, ktoré sa dostali do Top 50, aj keď obe klesli vďaka slabnúcej hodnote amerického dolára. New York klesol o päť priečok na 15. miesto a Los Angeles klesol oproti roku 2006 na 42. miesto z 29. pozície. Najlacnejším mestom na svete je už piaty rok po sebe paraguajska metropola Asuncion, kde sú polovičné náklady na živobytie v porovnaní s New Yorkom. Hlavné mesto susedného Rakúska zaujalo 19. priečku a Praha 49. priečku.



## Spoločnosť Michala Bosáka pripravila rad podujatí

100. výročie vydania americkej 10-dolárovky s podpisom Michala Bosáka

Vyhodnotenie 6. ročníka celoslovenskej súťaže Cena Michala Bosáka

Nová kniha pod názvom História Bosákovej banky

Prešov (TASR) – Spoločnosť Michala Bosáka (SMB) so sídlom v Prešove pripravila k 100. výročiu vydania americkej 10-dolárovky z roku 1907 s podpisom Michala Bosáka (1869-1937) rad akcií. Jubileum pripadol na 25. júna. Ako uviedol na tlačovej konferencii v Prešove predseda SMB Martin Bosák, hlavným podujatím je vyhodnotenie 6. ročníka celoslovenskej súťaže Cena Michala Bosáka, nad ktorým prevzal záštitu minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš. Už tradičnú akciu pre stredoškóľakov v písaní podnikateľských projektov rozšírili v najnovšom ročníku o súťaž podobného zamerania pre vysokoškóľakov a pridali aj vedomostný kvíz pre žiakov základných škôl. Do Prešovva na vyhodnotenie pozvali autorov 20 projektov z 207 zapojených stredoškóľakov. V premiérovom ročníku podali vysokoškóľáci 18 projektov, z nich 10 postúpilo do užšieho finále. Bosák teší, že k pravidelným súťažiacim pribúdajú nové tváre. Podľa neho sa súťaž už dostala do povedomia.

Na úspešných riešiteľov čakajú ako tradičná odmena pobyty v USA, Moskve, Londýne, Bruseli a v Prahe. K Bosákovmu jubileu pripravila SMB aj novú knihu pod názvom História Bosákovej banky. Budova s takýmto zľudoveným názvom sa nachádza v Prešove a v súčasnosti v nej sídli pobočka OTP Banky Slovakia a Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS). Za obnovu budovy dostal tím architektov a reštaurátorov výročnú cenu organizácie Europa Nostra. SMB vznikla na propagáciu Bosákovej činnosti v roku 1999 pri príležitosti 130. výročia narodenia bankára v obci Okružle v okrese Svidník. Okrem iného po ňom zostala spomínaná budova bývalej Americko-slovenskej banky v Prešove. Originálnu 10-dolárovku z roku 1907 s Bosákovým podpisom získala SMB ako vzácnu relikviu a drovala ju do archívu NBS.



Desaťdolarová bankovka s podpisom Michala Bosáka

## Slovenská katolícka púť do West Haverstraw, N.Y

Spolok svätého Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty pozýva slovenskú verejnosť a známych na Slovenskú katolícku púť, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu 12. augusta 2007 v Don Bosco Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, New York 10993; Tel.: (845) 947-2200.

Spoveď bude pred svätou omšou; Svätá omša o 11:00 hodine dopoludnia; Obed o 12:30 hodine odpoľudnia; Ružencová procesia o 2:30 hodine odpoľudnia.

Kto má záujem cestovať na túto púť autobusom, nech sa prihlási u brata Jozefa Bilika! Autobus bude pristanený pri Slovenskom kostole Sv. Jána Nepomuckého v meste New York. Bližšie informácie o púti vám podajú: Jozef Bilik: (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922.

## Púť v Danville, PA

Združenie slovenských katolíkov usporiada púť do Baziliky sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, PA v sobotu 22. septembra. Celodenný program na pozemkoch Villa Sacred Heart bude bohatý.

Púť začne o 11.00 hodine príchodom pútnikov a obedom v jedálni Materského domu. O 12.00 hod. bude v bazilike sv. omša, ktorú bude slúžiť Rev. Philip Altavilla. Od 12.45 do 3.00 hod. bude pre prítomných otvorená Jankolova knižnica a Slovenské múzeum. O 3.00 hod. sestra M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M. bude mať prednášku o ženách prenasledovaných na Slovensku počas komunizmu, ktoré svoj život venovali cirkvi. O 3.30. hod. budú v bazilike spievané slovenské hymnické piesne a o 4.00 hod. bude sv. omša, ktorú bude celebrovať biskup Jozef Adamec.

Zúčastníkovia, ktorí sa na púti plánujú zúčastniť, majú svoje mená nahlásiť do 20. augusta Dolores Evanko na tel. č. 570-454-5547; e-mail: jje@intergrafix.net

**Festival slovenského dedičstva  
v Holmdel, New Jersey 24. septembra 2007**

# Vďaka Ti Bože, že si nášmu národu dal otca národa, Andreja Hlinku

**Prejav RNDr. Anny Belousovej, podpredsedníčky Národnej rady  
SR počas odhalenia pamätníka Andrejovi Hlinkovi dňa 6. júna  
2007 v Bratislave-Ružinove.**

Vaša Excelencia, pán prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič

Panie poslankyne, páni poslanci

- Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky, hlavného mesta Slovenska Bratislavy,  
mestskej štvrť Ružinov, Bratislavského samosprávneho kraja

Dôstojné duchovenstvo,

Vážení prítomní, ctení členovia Spoločnosti Andreja Hlinku, ktorí ste sa jedinečným spôsobom zaslúžili o postavenie tohto pamätníka, Slovenky, Slováci! Zišli sme sa dnes tu v hlavnom meste Slovenska Bratislave, aby sme si pripomenuli a uctili pamiatku jednej z najvýraznejších osobností slovenských dejín, akou je bezpochyby Andrej Hlinka. Na dnešný deň pripadá 69. výročie prinesenia originálu Pittsburskej dohody na Slovensko, v tomto roku si pripomenieme 69. výročie jeho úmrtia. Ale tento rok je zároveň aj 100. výročím založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike i 100. výročím hanebnej masakry v Černej, keď si civilizovaný svet všimol pôsobenie Andreja Hlinku vo verejnom, spoločenskom a politickom živote, ktorým podstatne ovplyvnil historický vývoj nášho národa v celej prvej polovici 20. storočia.

Bohužiaľ, dnes treba vysvetľovať kto bol Andrej Hlinka, pretože mnohí ho poznajú buď iba zo 1000-korunovej bankovky, alebo ho spájajú s obdobím 2. svetovej vojny, ktorú on nezažil, veď zomrel roku 1938. Jeho život, dielo i odkaz vystihujú najlepšie tieto jeho slová:

“Sloboda a blaho môjho ľudu, z ktorého pochádzam - pyšný som, že z neho pochádzam - bude mi celým mojim životom sprievodnou hviezdou. Ona ma povedie i v tých najťažších časoch života, aby som pracoval na jeho telesnom i duševnom povznesení, ona mi dá silu a nadšenie boríť sa za časné i večné poklady jeho duše: za kresťanskú osvetu a drahú našu materinskú reč.”

Toto programové vyhlásenie už desaťročnou verejnou činnosťou zoceleného kňaza, ktorého služba oltára a láska k jemu zverenému ľudu priviedli od jednoduchého katolíckeho kňaza -farára až ku politickej činnosti.

Slováci Andreja Hlinku volali “Otcem národa”, t.j. svojim otcom. Nie vždy bol tak chápaný tými, ktorí si mysleli, že vládli tomuto národu.

V druhej polovici 20. storočia režim, ktorý si Slováci slobodne ne zvolili, urobil všetko, aby sa meno Andreja Hlinku úplne vymazalo zo slovenských dejín - veď sa zmocnili aj jeho telesných pozostatkov a nechali ich zmiznúť bez stopy - slovenský národ na Hlinku nezabudol. Dokázali to nad slnko jasnejšie prvé verejné oslavy Andreja Hlinku tu v Ružomberku hneď v roku 1990, keď tisíce Sloveniek a Slovákov zaplnili nielen námestie okolo jeho farského sídla, ale aj viaceré priľahlé ulice. Už vtedy sa však ozvali aj hlasy tých, ktorým Andrej Hlinka prekážal, a doposiaľ sa také hlasy ozývajú. Žiaľ, ani po osemnástich rokoch od pádu Železnej opony a štrnást rokoch po obnovení našej štátnej samostatnosti naši tzv. profesionálni historici - okrem nepatrných výnimiek - nedokázali zrekonštruovať slobodný, nepredpojatý, nakoľko len možno objektívny ľudský, kňazský a politický profil tejto jedinečnej slovenskej osobnosti a nedokázali knižne vydať jeho články, reči a úvahy. Dnes by som tu rada vyzdvihla jednu nie príliš známu dimenziu tohto profilu. Často sa zabúda aj na medzinárodné rozmery nášho oslávenca: Sú to medzinárodné, európske odrazy a hodnotenia Andreja Hlinku.

Andrej Hlinka získal sympatie pre slovenský národ v širokých vrstvách českého ľudu. V roku 1907 po jeho prednáške v Prahe na Slovanskom ostrove nadšení študenti zo slávnostného primátorského koča, ktorý mal odviezť Hlinku do hotela, vypriahli vyzdobené kone a sami ťahali koč, kým nadšený dav na chodníkoch vyvolával heslá “Ať žije Slovensko! Sláva Hlinkovi!”

Tak černošská tragédia, ako aj Hlinkova kauza v Ríme vzbudili záujem aj v zahraničnej tlači, takže sa svet začal zaujímať aj o to, čo sa na Slovensku deje. O Andrejovi Hlinkovi a o položení Slovákov v uhorskom žalári národov vedel nielen Nór Bjornstjerne Björnson, ale aj Škót Róbert Seton-Watson, Rus Alexander Papkov, Moravan Alois Kolísek, či Švajčiar William Ritter, ktorí civilizovanému svetu pripomínali národnostný útlak Slovákov v Uhorskom kráľovstve. Na prelome 19. a 20. storočia, len za desaťročie 1898 až 1907, bolo za slovenskú vec odsúdených asi 400 ľudí a peňažné pokuty dosiahli 25,000 zlatých - tento útlak dosiahol rozmerov 27. októbra 1907, keď maďarskí žandári strieľali v Černej do bezbranných ľudí: 15 mŕtvych, 10 ťažko a 60 ľahšie zranených...

Takto aj Hlinkovo utrpenie prispievalo k tomu, aby sa situácia na Slovensku stala európskym problémom. To bolo jednou z charakteristík aj celej ďalšej politickej činnosti Andreja Hlinku až do jeho smrti.

Amerických Slovákov si Hlinkov boj za uznanie Slovákov ako svojbytného národa a za autonómiu Slovenska získal od samého začiatku. Ich publicistická aj finančná pomoc bola veľkou oporou pre Hlinkovu činnosť. Po tom, čo v roku 1926 odmietol ponúknutú finančnú podporu zo strany Nemecka, americkí Slováci ho pozvali na päťmesačný prednáškový pobyt v Spojených štátoch amerických, kde mal možnosť informovať o situácii Slovákov a získať veľa nových sympatií.

Keď Andrej Hlinka 16. augusta 1938 odovzdal v Ružomberku svoju dušu Stvoriteľovi, tak najväčšia časť informatívnej tlače, ako aj významné mienkotvorné periodiká zaznamenali túto stratu pre slovenský národ a vyjadrovali svoj obdiv k jeho životnému dielu. Tak rakúsky univerzitný profesor a diplomat Otto Forst de Battaglia v belgickom časopise La revue catholique des idées et des faits venoval tri strany hodnoteniu života a diela Andreja Hlinku, porovnávajúc ho k biblickému Mojžišovi, pričom vyhlásil, že “Hlinkovi treba ďakovať za nezmenený mravný pokrok, ktorý Slováci urobili v poslednom polstoročí.”

# Katedrála sv. Patricka v Harrisburgu 100-ročná

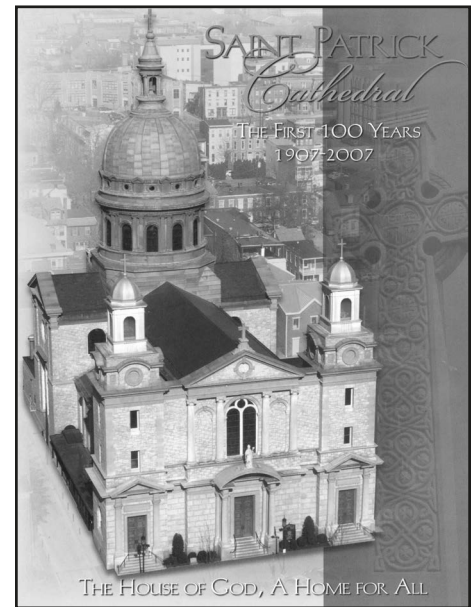
Slávnostnou svätou omšou dňa 14. mája veriaci katolíci harrisburgskej diecézy oslávili 100 rokov katedrály sv. Patricka v Harrisburgu. Jeho Excelencia harrisburgský biskup Kevin C. Rhoades slúžil svätú omšu za prítomnosti kardinála Justin F. Rigali, metropolitného arcibiskupa v Philadelphii, kardinála Williama H. Kellera, metropolitného arcibiskupa z Baltimoru a mnohých iných kňazov z harrisburgskej diecézy.

Naplnený kostol potleskom odmenil prítomnosť arcibiskupa Williama H. Kellera v poradí siedmeho biskupa z doteraz deviatich biskupov Harrisburgskej diecézy.

Nádherne obnovená katedrála, vystrojená ako nevesta privítala ľudí, ktorých Božie slovo nasycuje v tomto odkláňajúcom sa svete od Boha. Krásne hlasy chrámového zboru len umožňovali slávnostnú ceremóniu.

Daj Boh, aby tento Boží chrám a domov všetkých ľudí bol vždy magnetom pre posilnenie viery. Daj kňazov, ktorí svojim osobným príkladom a hlásaním Božieho slova budú priťahovať čo najväčší počet ľudí, hľadajúcich Boha.

Anna a Jozef Biroš



## V Prešove 760. výročie prvej písomnej zmienky

Prešov (TASR) – Poslanci Mestského zastupiteľstva v Prešove si 8. júna počas svojho zasadnutia v historickej budove Divadla Jonáša Záborského pripomenuli 760. výročie prvej písomnej zmienky o meste Na slávnostnom zasadnutí prešovský primátor Pavel Hagyari odovzdal futbalovej legende Ladislavovi Pavlovičovi Cenu mesta za celoživotné dielo, rozvoj športu a reprezentáciu Prešova.

Ale aj bratislavské Židovské noviny v deň Hlinkovho pohrebu venovali mu veľmi úctivý nekrológ, ktorý sa končil vyznaním: “Keď sa skloníme i my pred pamiatkou tohto muža a zúčastníme sa na smútku slovenského národa, dávame tým česť jeho statočnému zmýšľaniu, ktoré voči nám preukázal.”

Preto môžeme s pokojným svedomím tvrdiť, že Andrej Hlinka svojím životným dielom podstatne prispel aj k postupnému včleňovaniu slovenského národa do európskeho spoločenstva národov, ktoré dnes vyústilo do novej organizačnej štruktúry ako spoločenstvo suverénnych štátov - Európska únia. V nej máme nádej a povinnosť dosiahnuť a zachovať si to, čo bolo podstatných obsahom Hlinkových politických snažení: uplatnenie svojho prirodzeného práva na samostatný kultúrny, náboženský o hospodársky vývoj podľa našich hlboko do dejín prvého tisícročia siahajúcich národných koreňov, v súlade s plným rešpektom pre tie isté práva všetkých našich susedných i európskych národov a štátov.

Slovenská národná strana, najstaršia politická strana Slovákov, ktorá do svojho vzniku v roku 1871 bráni národné kresťanské a sociálne hodnoty nášho národa, vyvinie v slovenskom parlamente zákonodarnú iniciatívu, aby Národná rada Slovenskej republiky prijala zákon: “Andrej Hlinka sa zaslúžil o slovenský národ.” My si ctíme jeho dielo vykonané v prospech Slovenska a chceme, aby si všetky pokolenia Sloveniek a Slovákov, na Slovensku i v zahraničí uvedomovali, čo Andrej Hlinka znamenal a nik nemôže, i ten jeho najväčší politický odporca, poprieť výkon a prácu, ktorú zanechal Andrej Hlinka slovenskej histórii...

Slovenky, Slováci!

Vďaka Ti Bože, že si nášmu národu dal otca národa, Andreja Hlinku! Kiež pamiatka na tohto muža pravdy, práva a spravodlivosti vzbudí v každom z nás horúci cit pre česť a národnú hrdosť...

Tento pamätník je príspevkom k “slovakizácii” hlavného mesta Slovenska, v ktorom okato chýbajú symboly sprítomňujúce minulosť nášho národa i prítomnosť našej štátnosti. Bratislava stavia pamätníky “Šone-Náčimu”, “Čumilovi”, “paparacom”, “dobyvateľom v napoleónskych uniformách” atď. Hlavné mesto si málo uctieva alebo vôbec neuctieva velikánov nášho národa. Tento pamätník je prvým významným krokom k poslovenčeniu metropoly Slovenska. Myslím si, že nie je náhoda, že doslova v predvečer Trianonu bol tento ešte neodhalený pamätník vandalmi hanebne zneuctený. Toto nás však nesmie ani zneistiť, ani pomýliť, ani zastaviť. Cudzie nechceme, svoje si nedáme: chceme len to, čo nám patrí Slovensko Slovákom! Verím, že nielen v Bratislave, ale aj v iných slovenských mestách budú pribúdať pamätníky na počesť veľkých mužov a žien nášho slovenského národa.

Nuž nech tento pomník nám všetkým a najmä Bratislavčanom pripomína, že Bratislava je hlavným mestom celého Slovenska tak, ako Andrej Hlinka je otcom celého národa.

Nech žije Andrej Hlinka!

Nech v rodine európskych štátov prekvitá Slovenská republika!

Nech žije Slovensko!

# Závery zo Stálej konferencie Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2007

Stála konferencia Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2007 sa konala v dňoch 27.-28. apríla 2007 v Kongresovom centre City Hotel Bratislava za účasti 85 delegátov slovenských spolkov a organizácií z 23 krajín sveta.

Účastníci s uspokojením konštatovali, že problematika vzťahov Slovenskej republiky a Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí sa stáva jednou z priorit štátnej politiky Slovenskej republiky. Očakávajú, že tento pozitívny proces v slovensko-slovenských vzťahoch bude aj naďalej pokračovať.

## Na záver konferencie boli schválené nasledujúce závery a odporúčania:

Slovenské komunity v zahraničí pracujú rôznymi spôsobmi v záujme Slovenska: aktívne propagujú Slovensko a pracujú na jeho všeobecnom zviditeľnení; prezentujú kultúru Slovenska a vytvárajú veľkú časť spoločnej integrálnej kultúry; bránia slovenské záujmy vo vlastnej tlači a v médiách krajín, v ktorých žijú; propagujú turizmus; nadväzujú mnohoraké vzťahy, vrátane obchodných; organizujú rôzne finančné zbierky pre kultúrne, náboženské a charitatívne inštitúcie na Slovensku; podporujú finančne a organizačne rôzne delegácie a študentov, ako aj politické a športové návštevy zo Slovenska; spolupracujú s konzulárnymi a diplomatickými zastupiteľstvami SR atď.

Týmito aktivitami Slováci v zahraničí vytvárajú hodnoty reprezentujúce stamióny korún a sú atraktívnymi vyslancami Slovenskej republiky a jej záujmov. Sme preto presvedčení, že podpora aktivít dvoch miliónov Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na zachovanie ich kultúrnej a národnej identity je dobrou investíciou zo strany Slovenskej republiky, rovnako ako to, aby vláda Slovenskej republiky naďalej obhajovala a podporovala práva a záujmy Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, aby prispôbovala svoju politiku v danej oblasti vo vzťahu k jednotlivým štátom na základe meniacich sa podmienok a charakteristík.

## Na základe vyššie uvedeného odporúčame ako priority:

1. Pripraviť a prijať koncepciu štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí do roku 2015 tak, aby znamenala významný posun v naplňaní potrieb a požiadaviek slovenského sveta, a to v spolupráci s jeho predstaviteľmi;

2. Prioritne podporovať oblasť školstva, práce s deťmi a mládežou a rôzne formy vyučovania slovenského jazyka a v slovenskom jazyku, vrátane motivačného štipendijného systému v domovských krajinách; aj v krajinách, kde neexistuje slovenské školstvo, zvýšenú pozornosť venovať aktivitám, ktoré smerujú do prostredia detí a mládeže, aby sa u najmladšej generácie vytvorilo a upevnilo slovenské povedomie a tak sa zabezpečila kontinuita existencie slovenských komunít v zahraničí;

3. Navýšiť formou rozpočtového opatrenia vlády objem finančných prostriedkov v grantovom systéme Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na rok 2007 na úroveň 40 mil. Sk, schválenú už v minulosti uznesením vlády; v ďalších rokoch vyčleňovať v štátnom rozpočte do grantového systému pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí finančné prostriedky aj so zreteľom na objem grantového systému domácich národnostných menšín pri rešpektovaní príbuzností i rozdielností týchto dvoch problematik;

4. Novelizáciu volebného zákona čo najefektívnejšie zjednodušiť mechanizmus hlasovania slovenských občanov zo zahraničia a vytvoríť predpoklady na možnosť voliť elektronickou formou;

5. Efektívne naplňovať dvojstranné dohody s Maďarskom a Ukrajinou v oblasti vzájomnej podpory národnostných menšín; navrhujeme uzavretie medzivládnych zmlúv s Českou republikou, Poľskom a prípadne ďalšími krajinami;

6. Uzatvárať bilaterálne zmluvy v oblasti kultúrnej spolupráce s krajinami, kde žijú slovenské komunity, podporovať všetky formy kultúrnej výmeny medzi SR a krajinami, kde žijú Slováci;

7. V procese prípravy medzištátnych dokumentov konzultovať oblasti týkajúce sa života národných menšín s ich predstaviteľmi;

8. Zabezpečiť blokové vysielanie vybraných pôvodných programov Slovenskej televízie do všetkých krajín, v ktorých žijú významné slovenské komunity, zachovať krajské vysielanie Slovenského rozhlasu, a vytvoríť podmienky, aby bol vo verejnoprávných médiách SR vytvorený primeraný priestor na prezentáciu života a dejín slovenských menšín a komunít v zahraničí;

9. Zachovať sieť zastupiteľských a konzulárných úradov vrátane Slovenských inštitútov v krajinách, kde žijú významné slovenské komunity; mimoriadnu pozornosť sústrediť na vytvorenie nových Slovenských inštitútov v krajinách, kde žije zvýšený počet Slovákov, širšie využívať inštitút honorárnych konzulov; zvýšiť dôraz na spoluprácu ZÚ so slovenskými komunitami a vypracovať na úrovni MZV stratégiu pomoci novým vstáhovalckým vlnám;

10. Zvážiť možnosť navrhovať a udeľovať štátne vyznamenania aj pre cudzích štátnych príslušníkov za propagáciu Slovenska a jeho kultúry, ktoré by umožnili oceniť najvýznamnejšie osobnosti spomedzi Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí;

11. Podporiť vybudovanie Pamätníka slovenského vstáhovalectva; podporiť zriadenie a prevádzku Stáleho sekretariátu Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí v Bratislave;

12. V súvislosti so zvýšením množstva úloh a koordináciou činnosti ÚŠZZ vo vzťahu k Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí primerane zvýšiť počet štátnozamestnaneckých miest a ich zabezpečenie na ÚŠZZ a tiež materiálo-priestorové dobudovanie ÚŠZZ.

## Ďalej odporúčame:

1. Podporovať aktivity krajských spolkov a organizácií zameraných na prezentáciu Slovenska, Slovákov a slovenskosti v zahraničí;

2. Venovať trvalú pozornosť plneniu Európskej charty regionálnych a menšinových jazykov v krajinách, ktoré ju ratifikovali pre slovenčinu;

3. Prostredníctvom grantového systému Ministerstva kultúry SR vytvárať priestor

na koordinovanú prezentáciu a propagáciu slovenskej kultúry v zahraničí aj systematickým vysielaním kultúrnych telies na umelecké festivaly a podujatia do krajín, kde žijú Slováci; považujeme za dôležité podporovať a udržiavať predovšetkým tradičné podujatia a aktivity v oblasti tradičnej kultúry, profesionálneho i ochotníckeho divadla, hudby, slovesného a výtvarného umenia a prierezové prehliadky kultúry ako aj podporovať spoločné komplexné programy slovenského sveta, koordinovaného Svetovým združením Slovákov v zahraničí;

4. Podporovať slovenské printové a elektronické médiá a neperiodickú tlač v zahraničí ako nositeľov slovenského jazyka a povedomia a podporovať portál Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí [Slovacosvete.sk](http://Slovacosvete.sk) ako spoločnú komunikačnú bázu, prostredníctvom ktorej bude zabezpečená aj informovanosť o systéme fungovania zdravotného poistenia a starostlivosti, sociálneho poistenia a daní a iných právnych povinností Slovákov pracujúcich v zahraničí s možnosťou konzultácií;

5. Zabezpečiť zasielanie učebníc slovenského jazyka, šlabikárov, dvojazyčných slovníkov, kníh pre deti a literatúry.

6. Rozšíriť možnosti účasti krajských detí na letných jazykových táboroch, zapojiť lektorov slovenského jazyka vysielaných na zahraničné univerzity do vzdelávacích aktivít krajských spolkov a prostredníctvom nových informačných technológií rozšíriť prístup k zdokonaľovaniu sa v materinskom jazyku pre mladú generáciu krajanov; podniknúť ďalšie kroky v záujme informovanosti krajanov o možnostiach výučby a prehĺbení znalosti jazyka, ako aj o možnostiach štúdia v Slovenskej republike;

7. Odporúčame Ministerstvu školstva SR zväziť zjednodušenie akceptácie a ekvivalencie absolvovaných predmetov na základných a stredných školách v zahraničí, ktoré by uľahčili prípadný návrat detí do slovenských škôl v SR; zriadiť na niektorej zo slovenských univerzít katedru dejín a života Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí;

9. Systematicky zriaďovať slovenské lektoráty a iniciovať výučbu slovakistiky na univerzitách v krajinách, v ktorých žijú Slováci.

10. Podporovať duchovno-náboženské aktivity, a to vysielaním duchovných do diasporálnych a misijných zborov v súčinnosti s domácimi cirkvami, finančne a materiálne pri udržiavaní súčasných cirkevných zborov a ich aktivít a zakladaním nových cirkevno-zborových komunít;

11. V odôvodnených prípadoch poskytovať pomoc pri zabezpečení priestorov pre slovenské združenia v zahraničí;

12. Podporiť aktivity zamerané na pripomenutie si 40. výročia masovej emigrácie Slovákov po roku 1968 a usporiadať medzinárodné podujatie, ktoré poukáže aj na prínos Slovákov pre svoje nové domovské krajiny;

13. Podporovať vedecký výskum dejín, života, jazyka, kultúry a migrácie Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí v spolupráci s príslušnými inštitúciami na Slovensku, ako je Slovenská akadémia vied, Jazykovedný ústav Ľudovíta Štúra, Národné osvetové centrum, Literárne informačné centrum, Štatistický úrad SR, etnografické a historické pracoviská atď.

14. Hľadať spôsoby, ako uľahčiť vízový režim Slovákom, žijúcim v krajinách s vízovou povinnosťou;

15. Naďalej uľahčovať Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí udelenie štátneho občianstva, vrátane skrátenia požadovanej lehoty nepretržitého pobytu na území SR a zabezpečiť predĺženie platnosti osvedčenia o štátnom občianstve Slovenskej republiky zo šiestich mesiacov na jeden rok alebo promptnejšie vybavovať žiadosti o vydanie osvedčenia o štátnom občianstve.



FOTO TASR - Miroslav Košířer

Na snímke nová známka "Bratislavský hrad", ktorá bola vydaná k 1100. výročiu zmienky o Bratislavskom hrade. Autorom výtvarného návrhu známky v nominálnej hodnote 37 Sk je prof. Dušan Kállay, akademický maliar.