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Jozefa (St. Joseph's Day) – March 19th

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

The faithful of Slovakia observe **Jozefa**, St. Joseph's Day, as a very special holy day. The Feast of St. Joseph falls on March 19th, but when it occurs on a Sunday, the holy day is celebrated on the next day, Monday, March 20.

In some countries, Christians have commemorated St. Joseph's Day since the 10th century. The Roman Catholic Church expressed its official approval of the custom in 1479, and nearly a century later, Pope St. Pius V established the day as an official Church feast day.

The Roman Catholic Church also refers to the Feast of St. Joseph as the Solemnity of St. Joseph because this holy day commemorates a special part of the life of Jesus. As the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the step-father of Jesus, St. Joseph enjoys an exonerated status. Only Mary and several other important saints' days bear the nomenclature of being solemnity. The Church requires the annual observance of solemn feast days.

Special Dispensation

Since St. Joseph's Day always occurs during Lent, the Church has suspended the usual Lenten requirements when it occurs on a Friday, much like St. Patrick's Day. The Church considers St. Joseph Day so special that starting in 1983, it lifted the Catholic obligation to abstain from meat and do penance when it falls on a Friday during Lent. If March 19th happens to occur during Holy Week in a particular year, the feast day is moved to the prior week, usually on a Saturday.

Other denominations also observe St. Joseph's Day as a special feast day. On the Eastern Orthodox Church calendar, St. Joseph Day falls on the first Sunday after Christmas. Both the Anglican and Lutheran Churches continued to observe the feast in March, even after breaking away from the Roman Church during the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.

Hebrew Origins and Meaning

The name Joseph derives from Hebrew origins and means "God will multiply," a reference to abundance and a rich family life and a spiritual inheritance from the Lord. One might recall the Joseph from the Old Testament, who was the eleventh son of Jacob. Because his father favored him, his jealous older brothers exiled him to Egypt, where he eventually became a close adviser to the pharaoh. When a famine scourged the Mideast, Joseph's brothers moved to Egypt, where they again met their brother, became penitent and reconciled themselves to become a united family again.

While Christians venerate the Joseph of the Old Testament, their devotions in March are mainly to St. Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary, who together raised Jesus from childhood. St. Joseph represents the paragon of the good and honest man, who faithfully performed his duties, worked hard, and protected his Holy Family from harm. He showed compassion and caring for his family, and obeyed God's will.

St. Joseph's Day serves as the patron feast day (*menina*) for all those with the name Joseph, Josephine, or other derivatives. St. Joseph is the Church's universal patron saint of carpenters, pastry chefs, fathers, and the patron of those seeking a peaceful and blissful death. People even celebrate the day as Fathers' Day in Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Since St. Joseph was a carpenter, he is also supposed to aid in selling or finding a house, and one might see a St. Joseph statue in front

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Saint Joseph with the Infant Jesus by Guido Reni, 1635

Saint Joseph's Day, March 19, is the principal feast day of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and also a Solemnity in the Roman Catholic Church. In some Catholic countries, such as Spain, Portugal, and Italy, it is also Father's Day.

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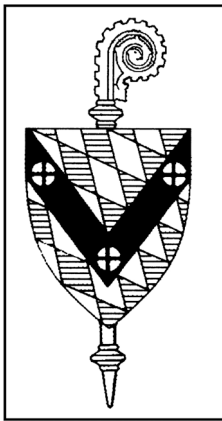
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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies

, Father Campion P. Gavaler O.S.B, Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B.

April 3, 2011

John 9: 1-41

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Gospel Summary

Jesus, in order that the works of God might be made visible, gives sight to a man who had been blind from birth. Members of the community then proceed to debate the meaning of the various aspects of the event: why Jesus put clay on the man's eyes and sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam; whether the man was really the blind man they had known; the significance of Jesus' making the clay with his saliva on the Sabbath; the fear of the man's parents to acknowledge that Jesus was from God; the expulsion of the man who had been blind because he insisted that Jesus really was from God.

The passage ends with the judgment of Jesus that the man who was born blind now truly sees; while those who claim to see have closed their eyes to the works of God made visible before their eyes.

Life Implications

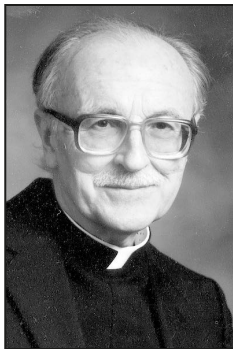
John uses the remembrance of Jesus' cure of a blind man to develop a universal, theological meaning of the event for us, the hearers of his gospel. We are aware that Jesus is the source of division among people today, just as he was in his own Jewish community during his lifetime and decades later at the time of the gospel's composition.

There are numerous actors in the gospel narrative with whom we might identify and then explore the implications for our own life situations.

We can identify with Jesus, the light which shines in the darkness. Christians who have accepted this divine light in turn must allow the light of Christ to shine through them so that the works of God might be made visible. The narrative seems to affirm that the blind man who has received the light of Christ, himself becomes a light shining in the darkness. His simple, to-the-point responses suggest that they might have been spoken by Jesus in similar circumstances. He, like Jesus, has become a source of division.

One might readily identify with the beggar, blind from birth. Here is a person who seeks the truth and has the courage to act upon it even though suffering is the result. The narrative illustrates the cost of discipleship in a world of darkness, which tries to overcome the light (Jn 1:5).

Most Christians would not think of identifying with those who refused to see the light and thus become hardened in their blindness. Jesus, however, also warns us that those who say "We see" may really be blind to the presence of God in their midst. Consider this sentence from the First Letter of John to his fellow Christians: Whoever hates his brother is in darkness; he walks in darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes" (1:11). A good prayer for this Sunday might be: "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief" (Mk 9:24).



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

April 10, 2011

Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11:1-45

Gospel Summary

In John's gospel, Jesus is first and foremost the one who gives life. In fact, the whole purpose of the gospel is "that believing you may have life in his name" (20:31). From this perspective, the raising of Lazarus from the grave is merely a preview of the definitive victory of life in the resurrection of Jesus.

In human experience, death has always been the dragon that eats up our hopes and spoils our plans and casts a shadow over even the brightest days. But Jesus came to slay that dragon, and he will do this by means of a power that at first sight seems hopelessly inadequate. It is the power of loving. "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus" (11:5). This means that God loves us also.

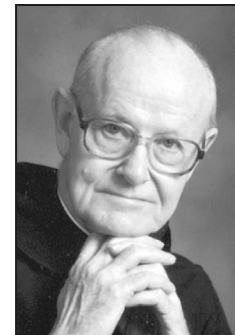
This divine power is now made available in our world through the presence of Jesus. In response to Martha's grief, he announces that he is "the resurrection and the life." Such an absolute statement means that his loving has taken him beyond the reach of death. Death is no longer an end but merely an episode on the journey of life.

When Jesus sees how his friends are burdened by grief, he himself gives way to tears and, deeply moved, goes forward to challenge the awesome power of death. When Lazarus comes out of the tomb still bound with his burial wrappings, Jesus says, "Untie him and let him go." This command is an echo of the divine command of God to the Pharaoh to "let my people go" (Exodus 5:1) and, long before that, to the power of darkness to "let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). God has always stood for freedom from bondage and darkness. And we can escape the dark shadow of the dragon if we choose to participate in the love that liberates.

Life Implications

When we feel the cold hand of death upon us, whether it be through the loss of a loved one or in the experience of our own mortality, we feel so helpless that we are often reduced to an anguished, "Why?" or "Why me?" At such times, we can identify easily with Martha when she said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Of course, Jesus is here all the while. It is just that he is more concerned with a life that is so much more important than this fragile existence that we call life. When Jesus asks us whether we believe in his presence and power, we will be able hopefully to answer with a firm "Yes."

Jesus responded to the anguish of Martha by a powerful theological affirmation: "I am the resurrection and the life." But we learn a few verses later that Jesus moved toward the raising of Lazarus only when he noted the tears of Mary. Her accepted human vulnerability and her total trust in Him are models that assure victory for us too over all the forms of death and darkness.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

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Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR 30	MONDAY, MAR 21
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27	MONDAY, APRIL 18
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11	MONDAY, MAY 2

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Jozefa (St. Joseph's Day) – March 19th

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of a home for sale. Some people observe the tradition of burying a statue of St. Joseph in their yards if they wish to sell their home to a good buyer.

When I first started working at Mount Aloysius College, in Cresson, Pennsylvania, we could not find the right home to buy. After 15 months of endless searching, a nun at the school suggested I pray to St. Joseph. Within a couple weeks, we found the perfect home!

A Special Feast for Sicilians

Sicilians consider St. Joseph (*San Giuseppe in Italian*) their patron saint and use the day to share gifts with the less fortunate. The tradition stems from Sicilians giving credit to St. Joseph for rescuing them from a severe drought, which happened in Sicily during the Middle Ages. They celebrate the day much like the Irish, with processions, parades, and cooking special foods and baked goodies, including a St. Joseph's Day cake called *zeppole*. Sicilians and other Italians even dress in red, similar to the custom of the Irish attiring themselves in green for St. Patrick's Day.

As part of their celebration, Sicilians and Italians prepare meatless foods for the feast, such as minestrone, seafood, and *fava* beans. They consider *fava* beans an omen of good luck because the *fava* beans assisted in their survival during the terrible drought and helped prevent a full-fledged famine. Another customary food consists of pasta with breadcrumbs, for breadcrumbs remind Christians of the sawdust which covered the workshop of St. Joseph's floor.

On the feast day, many Sicilians and Italians also construct a St. Joseph's Day altar in a public place and in their homes. They decorate the altar with a statue of St. Joseph along with various flowers, and candles. On the altar, the people customarily place limes, wine, *fava* beans, and special breads, cakes, and cookies. Even in the USA, that tradition continues in several places such as in New Orleans, where many Sicilians first entered the country.

St. Joseph and the Slovaks

Not only in Italy, but throughout the world, many schools, religious orders, parishes, hospitals, and even fraternal lodges have adopted the name of St. Joseph as their patron. Even the current Pope Benedict XVI's baptismal name is Joseph Ratzinger. It is no accident that in founding one of their first churches in the USA, Slovak immigrants in Hazleton, Pennsylvania decided to name their parish St. Joseph's in 1884.

For FCSU members, it is worth remembering that the St. Joseph Society was the first Catholic fraternal benefit society established in Cleveland on May 5, 1889. A year later, the St. Joseph's Society became the first of many subsequent lodges in the First Catholic Slovak Union, founded in Cleveland on September 4, 1890.

"**Jozef**" is also among the most common Slovak names, along with the less commonly used female name, **Jozefina**. In English, we say "Joseph" or "Josephine," but more commonly we have heard Joseph's nicknames such as Joe and Joey for males, and Jo for females. Slovaks have used nicknames for *Jozef*: **Jožko**, **Jožo**, **Jožka**, **Jožin**, **Joza**, **Jozífek**, **Jožan**, **Zefan**, **Dodo**, and **Ďoďo**.

Many Slovak families have a member named Joseph, including my own wife's father. Both my father and I share the middle name of Joseph. Many famous Slovaks bear the name Jozef. Among the contemporary stars are the Slovak soccer player, Jozef Valachovič, and Jozef "Dodo" Šošoka, a popular jazz musician. Perhaps the most accomplished contemporary Slovak is Cardinal Jozef Tomko, who served as the Vatican's Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples under Pope John Paul II a was among the Pope's closest confidants.

In Slovakia's history, many Jozefs stand out, including Msgr. Jozef Tiso, the president of the wartime Slovak Republic. Another famous Slovak was Jozef Škultéty (1853-1948), who edited many journals and wrote copious Slovak literary studies. The noted writer who emigrated to Argentina, Jozef Ciger-Hronský (1896-1960), immortalized the name of Jozef in his novel, *Jozef Mak*. Many literary scholars say that the socio-psychological depictions in the novel best capture the spirit of Slovak village life and character. *Jozef* represented the common, ordinary Slovak man, who endured a multitude of challenges, and like the reknown figure of Greek tragedy, Oedipus Rex, Jozef Mak finally realized that he had to resign himself to his fate in life.

Notable Slovak immigrants also settled in North America, including many priests. For instance, in addition before dutifully performing his clerical obligations, Rev. Jozef Murgáš (1864-1929) pioneered the transmission of wireless communications, promoted Czecho-Slovak independence and dabbled in many areas like a true Renaissance man; he was also an architect, botanist, and painter. Another Slovak-American immigrant, Jozef Valenčík, served for many years as a radio announcer for the 8 am Sunday Slovak Radio Program on WERE in Cleveland. Also deserving attention is the post-World War II Slovak émigré and former diplomat, Jozef M. Kirschbaum (1913-2001), settled in Canada to escape "communist justice." He proceeded to write prolifically and helped found the Slovak World Congress in Toronto.

Finally, worth mentioning is the former Bishop of the Altoona –Johnstown Diocese, Joseph V. Adamec, the son of Slovak immigrants. We also should not forget our own Jozef C. Krajša (1918-1998), the former *Jednota* editor for 28 years; he selflessly devoted himself to the FCSU and helped make *Jednota* among the best of all fraternal publications.

Characteristics of Joseph

The popular Slovak *Zoznam.sk* website stated the following popular lore about the name Jozef. They do a good job of describing persons who share the characteristics of St. Joseph (<http://calendar.zoznam.sk/meno/Jozef> (accessed March 7, 2011).

"Záhľadný muž s ešte záhadnejšou povahou. Má obrovskú schopnosť odriekania, sebaovládania a presadenia. Raz si niečo v detstve vysníval a za tým si celý život pôjde, bude bojovať, ale jeho okoliu nikdy neprezradí čo si zaumienil. Svoje skryté plány má ukryté hlboko v sebe. Nie je ľahké definovať, či je introvert, alebo extrovert. Raz sa javí ako muž s vnútorným svetom, inokedy je mimoriadne spoločenský, no napriek tomu je zdržanlivý. Rád si nechá vysvetliť a dohovoriť."

Ak sa do niečoho pustí, tak to robí na sto percent, je veľkým perfekcionistom. K svojim kolegom je seriózny a priamy. Pokiaľ sa mu niečo nepáči úprimne to vyjadrí. Dôležitosť povolania sa podľa neho nemeria stupňom jej spoločenského významu, ale mierou jej „ľudomilnosti“. Uplatnenie nájde či už v oblasti manažmentu, alebo v manuálnej profesii.

V láske je náročný, verný a úprimný. Partnerka to s ním občas nebude mať ľahké, ale nikdy sa nebude musieť obávať jeho nevery. Bude ju milovať celým svojím srdcom.

Typickou farbou tohto mena je červená."

Preklad (Translation)

He is an enigmatic man with an even more puzzling nature. He has a tremendous ability for self-denial, self-control and displacement. Once he likes something dreamed about in his childhood, his whole life will go that way. He will struggle, but in his surroundings, he will never divulge what he set out to do. He conceals his inner plans deep inside of himself. It is not easy to determine whether he is an introvert or extrovert. Sometimes he seems to be a very private man, and at other times, he is extraordinarily social, but nevertheless, he is temperate. He prefers to refrain from explaining and talking.

If he embarks on something, he gives it a one hundred percent effort, and he is a great perfectionist. To his colleagues, he is serious and direct. If he just does not like something, he shows it. The importance of his vocation is not measured by the level of its social significance, but by its degree of charitableness. One can find him in either in management positions or in manual labor occupations.

In his love-life, he is demanding, fair, and honest. Being his partner will not always be easy, but no one will ever have to worry about his infidelity. He will love her with all his heart.

Red is the color typically associated with his name.

Pranostiky, príslovia a porekadlá (Folk sayings-weather lore, proverbs and idioms)

A number of Slovak folk sayings shed light on St. Joseph's Day, and many of them concern the weather, as the feast day is near the start of spring. From Christmas time, Slovaks have the saying: *Keď je hus na Vianoce na blate, na Jozefa bude na ľade.*

When a goose is in the mud at Christmas, it will be on ice on St. Joseph's Day.

Other lore portends the eventual bursting forth of better springtime weather.

Koľko dní pred Jozefom vyletia včely, toľko týždňov bude chladno.

However many days the bees are flying before St. Joseph's Day, is how many weeks it will be cold.

Koľko dní pred Jozefom teplo, toľko po ňom zima.

The number of days it is warm before St. Joseph's Day, is how many days the winter will last after it.

Ak sa do Jozefa s vetrom sneh vyduje, peknú k Veľkej noci chvíľu prorokuje.

If there is snow with a wind on St. Joseph's Day, it foretells a nice Easter.

Kto do Jozefa nezaseje, koľko zaseje po Jozefe, toľko aj zožne.

Whoever does not sow his field until St. Joseph's Day, will reap as much he sows after it.

Keď Jozef kožuch odkladá, bude dobrá úroda.

When one puts aside his fur-coat on St. Joseph's Day, there will be a good harvest.

My favorite St. Joseph's Day saying is:

Jozef s Máriou zimu zabijú. Joseph and Mary will kill off the winter.

Since the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on March 25, together the two feast days will finally rid us of the long, cold winter. That we can hope for!

Modlitba Jozefovi – A Prayer to St. Joseph

The officers and contributors of *Jednota* wish all our readers the very best on St. Joseph's Day. We hope this article will help all pay attention to his model life, and pray to St. Joseph on his special feast day. Here is a short prayer to get started.

Modlitba k sv. Jozefovi za blaženú smrť (A Prayer to St. Joseph for a Happy Death)

Svätý Jozef, patrón umierajúcich, Ty si blažene umrel v náručí Ježiša a Márie. Prosím Ťa s detinskou dôverou, stoj pri mne v hodine smrti a vypros mi svojim orodovaním dokonalú ľútosť nad hriechmi a dôveru v Božie milosrdenstvo, aby som na chvíľku smrti čakal s vierou a dôverou v srdci, smrť prijal vďačne z lásky k Bohu a dušu vrátil Stvoriteľovi, volajúc na pomoc mená Ježiš, Mária a Jozef. Amen.

Preklad

Saint Joseph, patron of the dying, you blissfully died in the arms of Jesus and Mary. I beseech you with a childlike confidence, to stand by me in the hour of my death and intercede on my behalf, so that I might obtain a perfect contrition for my sins and a trust in God's mercy. In doing so, I will wait for the moment of death with faith and trust in my heart, and I will gratefully accept the love of God and return my soul back to my Creator, calling for assistance in the names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Amen.



200-Korun-Jozef-Skultety



Jozef Ciger-Hronský



Jozef Tiso

Hey Kids.....



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

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by **April 1, 2011**. If there are other children in the family entering the contest, you may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color or download it from the FCSU website by going to www.fcsu.com, clicking on Fraternal Events and following the link provided.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday April, 10, 2011.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs.. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer, IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



Youngstown Sister Cities' Tour Set

The Youngstown-Spisaska Nova Ves Sister Cities 14th Heritage Tour of Slovakia, July 4 – 18, 2011, will proceed as advertised. There are, however, some additional vacancies available. The tour includes Vienna, Austria, Bratislava, Trencin, Zilina, Levoca, Kosice, Banska Bystrica, Kremnica, Nitra and the Tatra Mountains. It includes thirteen nights of first class hotel accommodations with two meals daily provided.

Tourists are invited to join us as we visit the Kezmarok Street Fair, gondola ride up the Tatra Mountain, and raft ride on the Dunajec River. They will also experience dinner and entertainment in a genuine koliba (shepherd's hut), and visit museums and castles.

Special features include Mass in historic churches and a champagne breakfast reception with the mayor of our Sister City, Spisaska Nova Ves. A day in Levoca is reserved for those who wish to visit relatives and friends. Also included in the tour will be entertainment with traditional folk music and dancing. The tour includes an English speaking guide and an air-conditioned bus with restroom.

Total cost of the tour is \$3640 from Pittsburgh and \$3565 from Washington, D.C. Kay and Jim Bench will be hosts for the tour and can be reached for information at cell phone (724) 858-5843 or jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure International Travel Service (800) 542-2487 or paul@ait.webmail.com or Bernadette Demechko, YSC Secretary, bdemechko@aol.com.

Bernie
bdemechko@aol.com

ORDER TICKETS NOW For Branch 743 90th Anniversary

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its 90th Anniversary celebration on Sunday May 15, 2011 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The 90th anniversary celebration, will include a banquet lunch and entertainment, and will follow the 11:30 a.m. Mass in the Church Social Hall.

The cost for the event is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Children's ticket age 17 and under are \$10.00.

Only 100 tickets will be sold for this event. There will be NO tickets sold the day of the event. You are urged to purchase your tickets early! We anticipate a sell out.

Tickets can be purchased from: Anna Magusin (586-751-2960), Milan Straka (248-478-3818) or Daniela Grisak (248-659-8522).

Program information Joseph C Rimarcik (586-254-0225).

Joseph C Rimarcik
President and Financial Secretary

March 25 Commemorates Candle Demonstration in Slovakia



The Candle Demonstration (sviečková demonstrácia) on March 25, 1988 in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, was the first mass demonstration of the 1980s against the communist regime in (the then) Czechoslovakia. The Demonstration was organized by Roman Catholic dissent groups asking for religious freedom. Approximately 3000 Slovaks protested in Hviezdoslav Square with candles in their hands, and further thousands congregated in adjacent streets. Police first used water cannons against protesters while they ran their sirens and yelled at protesters to get away from the square, then began attacking the protesters with batons and sticks. While other countries honor the struggle for human rights in December, this date has become Struggle for Human Rights Day in Slovakia, commemorating the Candle demonstration.



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Effective December 1, 2010, the “Park Free Plus” Annuity is earning 3.00% (2.956% APR) for the first year and is limited to \$25,000.00 per individual.

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The “Park Free Plus” offers a first year interest rate of 3.00% (2.956% APR) This initial interest rate is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low Minimum Deposit. Initial deposit may be as low as \$1,000 for the “Park Free Plus” Annuity. Maximum deposit for this program is 25,000.00 per individual. No additional deposits are permitted during the first year.

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

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

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

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

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence OH 44131-8013
1-800-JEDNOTA - Website: www.fcsu.com - E-mail: FCSU@aol.com



Exciting new features for the 2011 Jednota Bowling Tournament.

Mixed Events

Bowlers can enter in Mixed Teams and Mixed Doubles.

Multiple Entries

Bowlers are eligible to enter twice in any event (Teams, Doubles, Singles).

Single Women

Women that are interested in competing for a larger prize in singles are invited to bowl in men's singles. Women will receive the same handicap as the men. To compete in women's singles and men's singles you must bowl singles twice.

The Particulars

You may compete with the same team or double partner twice or with a new team or doubles partner. Mixed teams consist of 2 men & 2 women. You can only cash once with the same team or double partner or in singles (women that bowl in both divisions can cash in each division in singles).

To be considered a new team, two members of the team must be different.
In doubles your partner must be different.

All events will consist of the highest series in each event.

There will only be a separate prize fund for mixed events if there are at least 21 teams / doubles participating. Otherwise mixed competition will be in the men's division.



March Meeting of Jednota Friday Golf Leagues

The Friday Jednota Golf League will meet Sunday, March 27, 2011, at Knoll Run Golf Course, 1421 Struthers Coitsville Rd, Lowellville, OH, 1:30 pm.

Members and new members are urged to attend. Call Paul Ritz at 330-774-4296.



Congratulations Charles!

Charles Boone, 11, of Pittsburgh, PA, earned the prestigious Cub Scout Parvuli Dei Religious medal.

Being one of only three scouts of Pack 601 to have obtained the award, Charles received the honor at the February 6, Scout Sunday Holy Mass at Resurrection Church.

Parvuli Dei is presented to the Roman Catholic scout active in his faith and who has successfully completed requirements set forth by the Boy Scouts of America.

A committed member of Pack 601, Charles continues to participate in all aspects of scouting.

Charles is the son of former FCSU National Auditor and former FCSU National Pension Board Trustee Monica Rodacy-Boone and Branch 853 member Ronald Boone, Jr.

The late Andrew Harchar, Charles' maternal great grandfather, founded Branch 853.

The Branch officers and members congratulate Charles and wish him continued success in his scouting endeavors.



High-level World Championship Comes To Slovakia in 2011

After inspecting roads in Slovakia, Rene Fasel – President of International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) – expressed satisfaction with both hockey venues in Slovakia – Bratislava's Ondrej Nepela Arena and Košice's Steel Arena (Ladislav Trojak Arena). As Fasel said, he is confident "that the tournament will be a high-level".

Rene Fasel's recent visit to Slovakia started in Košice, where he visited the Steel Arena. He was especially satisfied with the conditions this arena will provide to the players. As he highlighted, "Steel Arena has especially great dressing rooms".

The IIHF inspection continued in Bratislava, where Mr. Fasel, together with Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico and President of Slovak Ice Hockey Federation Juraj Široký, saw the progress of reconstruction works of the Ondrej Nepela Arena. Fasel summarized his visit by saying: "As a representative of the IIHF, I am pleased that in 2006 we assigned to the organization for the 2011 IIHF World Championship Slovakia – hockey country".

- From posting on www.slovak-hockey.com. Photo and content reprinted with permission from Michaela Grendelová, Head of Communication, Organizing Committee, 2011 IIHF World Championship, Slovakia.



Editor's note: The 2011 Men's World Ice Hockey Championships is part of the Ice Hockey World Championships and will be hosted April 30th – May 15th in Slovakia's two biggest cities — Bratislava and Košice. For more information, go to www.ihwc2011.com.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

WPSCA Offers Slovak Classes

Once again, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association is sponsoring Slovak language classes for the Spring 2011 semester. The nine week course will be for beginners and intermediate students.

The class will be held every Tuesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. beginning on March 1 and continuing through April 26. The classes will be held at the Mount Lebanon Public Library at 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard in Mount Lebanon. You can call (412) 531-1910 for directions. Bozena Hilko will be the instructor.

Tuition is free, but class size is limited because of space. To reserve a place, call Pam at (412) 531-2990 during office hours.



10th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul and his wife, Albina, have arranged their 10th tour to Slovakia including a visit to Vienna. The 14-day trip will begin on July 31, and return to the USA on August 13. It will include visits to Bratislava, Piestany, Martin, Tatras, Presov, Kosice and other historical sites. The activities will include two wine tours, a wedding performance, rafting, visit of a cave, sightseeing, castles and shopping.

The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, all admission fees, air-conditioned bus and English speaking guide. It does not include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from Pittsburgh is \$3,450. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990 or jtsenko@aol.com, or Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.



1911 – Slovak Catholic Federation – 2011

100th Anniversary Year

33rd Annual Slovak Catholic Federation

SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal

When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic Fraternal, Religious Communities of men and women and nearly 300 Slovak Parishes. Today, in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation will sponsor the **33rd Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal**. The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in America and Canada take pride in the fact that the Slovak Catholic Fraternal, our Parishes and individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2011 Annual Appeal begins during the month of February in the churches of Slovak descent across the United States and Canada, and will continue to the end of the year.

The 2010 Appeal collected \$58,229.89

Since its inception, this Appeal has raised \$2,232,988.49.

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

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

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

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

Dolores Evanko
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201

Editors note: For the full 2010 Appeal Report for the Slovak Catholic Federation, please visit www.fcsu.com, click on Announcements, and follow the link provided

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

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

ROLL CALL

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer
 Rudolph W. Bernath, Regional Director, by the invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the December 2010 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered the Committee's questions. The President led a discussion concerning our current annuity rates. The Executive Committee decided not to change the annuity rates at this time but will review them again at the February 2011 meeting.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation via Web-ex and telephone. After his review Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions and discussed current annuity rates.

The Executive Committee then had a teleconference with Jon Willhite, Senior Vice President of Willhite Institutional Consulting Group, who made a presentation on the investing process, strategic asset allocation, choices of money managers, etc., relating to Equity Assets. After the presentation he answered the questions from the Executive Committee.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in different Regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents, noting that we are continuing to add agents.

Vice President Harcar led a discussion concerning a 2011 Membership Meet. He will update the Executive Committee as soon as more information becomes available.

The Vice President further stated that he and the Executive Secretary will continue to work on improving our Power Point presentations for our seminars.

The Vice President will continue with recruiting more independent agents.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK**

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

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of December 2010:		
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	201,522.36
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	44,303.73
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President stated that Susan Ondrejco, Director of Fraternal Activities, is in the process of visiting possible sites for a National Picnic for 2011. The President stated that she will look for sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania and will update the Executive Committee as to her findings.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

The President led a discussion regarding the proposal by Ohio Department of Insurance regarding licensing of agents. The President stated that he will update the Executive Committee as soon as more information becomes available.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the progress with the software illustration of our insurance and annuity product presented by MT Software, Inc.

He stated that this program should be completed in second week of February. The Executive Secretary will update the Executive Committee about the progress of this program.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President led a discussion regarding the purchase of two stained glass windows from SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The President will update the Executive Committee with more information.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

The President stated that the requests for donations have been reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
 National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

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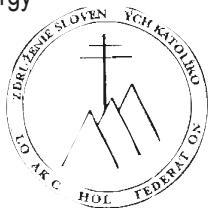
Slovak Catholic Federation Announces The 100th Anniversary Of Its Founding

The Slovak Catholic Federation is proud to announce the 100th Anniversary of its founding will be celebrated on Sunday, May 15, 2011, with a Liturgy of Thanksgiving at 2:30 p.m., in the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter, Scranton, Pennsylvania, the Mother Church of the Diocese in which the Federation was founded in 1911. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will be the Main Celebrant, along with the Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., S.T.L., Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and Episcopal Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The Reverend Philip A. Altavilla, V.E., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation will serve as homilist.

Following the Liturgy, a Centennial Banquet will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 300 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania. There will be a cash bar at 4:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the banquet ticket is \$35.00 per person. Entertainment will be provided by Pajtasi, a Slovak ensemble from New York. The deadline for banquet reservations is April 15, 2011.

To commemorate this historical event, a Commemorative Book will also be published. Patrons for the Commemorative Book will be appreciated. The deadline for Patrons is April 1, 2011.

For more information or to receive a Patron Form and/or a Banquet Reservation Form, please call Dolores M. Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation, at (570) 454-5547 or visit www.slovakcatholicfederation.org.



Rev. Kostik District Elected Officers, Celebrated Christmas 2010

District 14, the Rev. Kostik District of Youngstown, OH, held its annual Christmas Party and Election of Officers on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at Bruno's Restaurant in Poland, OH. Forty-two members, representing five branches of the District, were in attendance. Members enjoyed a buffet dinner with dessert, prizes, and a 50/50 raffle, and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long.

After dinner, the 2011 officers were sworn in by Msgr. Peter Polando. The officers include: President Carlie Peshek, Vice President Nancy Scavina, Treasurer Selma Bolash, Secretary Joesph Scavina, Fraternal Sports Director Paul Ritz, and Auditor Bob Franko.

The wonderful evening was coordinated by President Carlie Peshek. The closing prayer was given by Msgr. Polando.

Submitted by Joe Scavina, Secretary

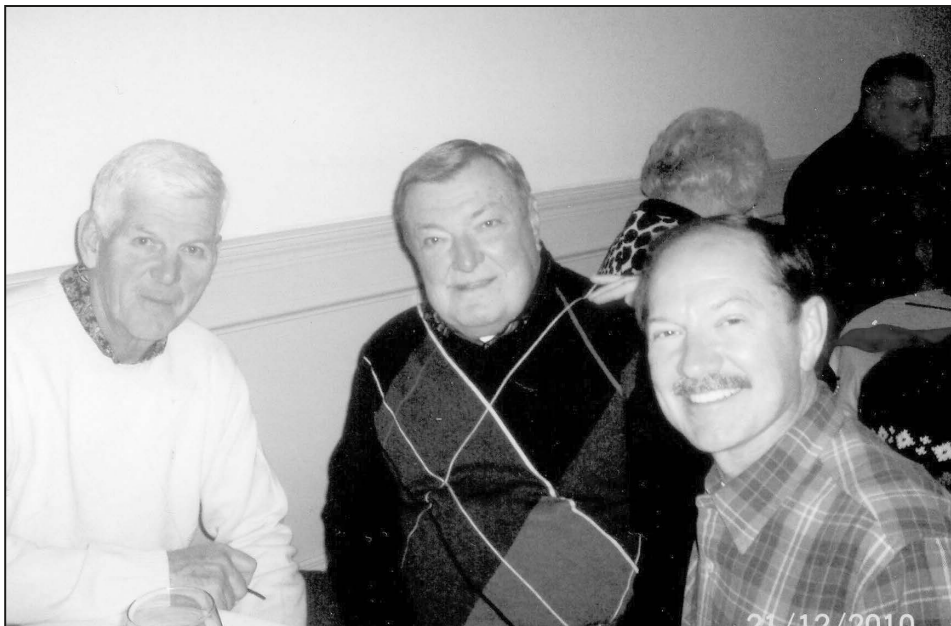
Rev. Kostik Officers (L – R):
Paul Ritz, Joe Scavina,
Nancy Scavina, Carlie
Peshek, Selma Bolash, and
Bob Franko



(L – R) Msgr. Polando swears in 2011 district officers Paul Ritz, Joe Scavina, Nancy Scavina, Carlie Peshek, Dots Bolash, and Bob Franko



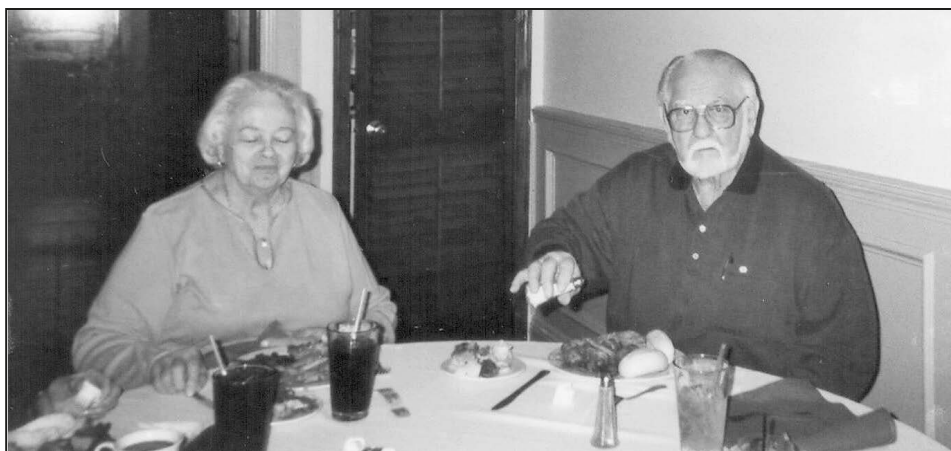
(L – R) John Leskovyansky, Millie Leskovyansky



(L-R) John Kavulic, Jim Bobby, and Msgr. Polando



(L – R) Grace Kavulic, Jackie Bobby, Mary Polando, Jim Bobby, John Kavulic , Jim Bobby



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Hirt



Mr. and Mrs. Drew Hirt

Rev. Kostik District Elected Officers, Celebrated Christmas 2010

continued on page 8



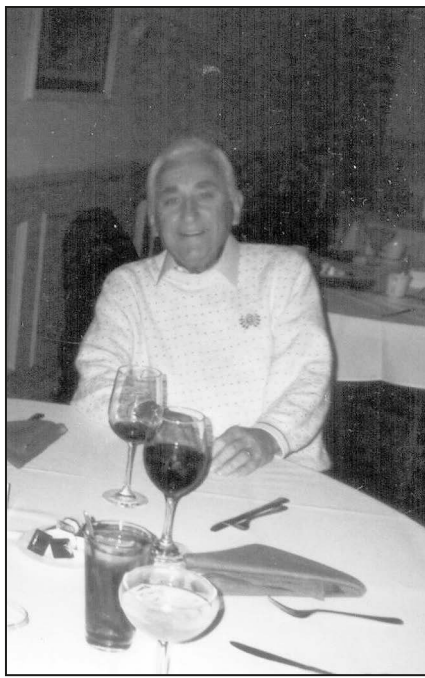
(L - R) Jeff Peshek, Carl Terek, Carlie Peshek, Gerri Terek



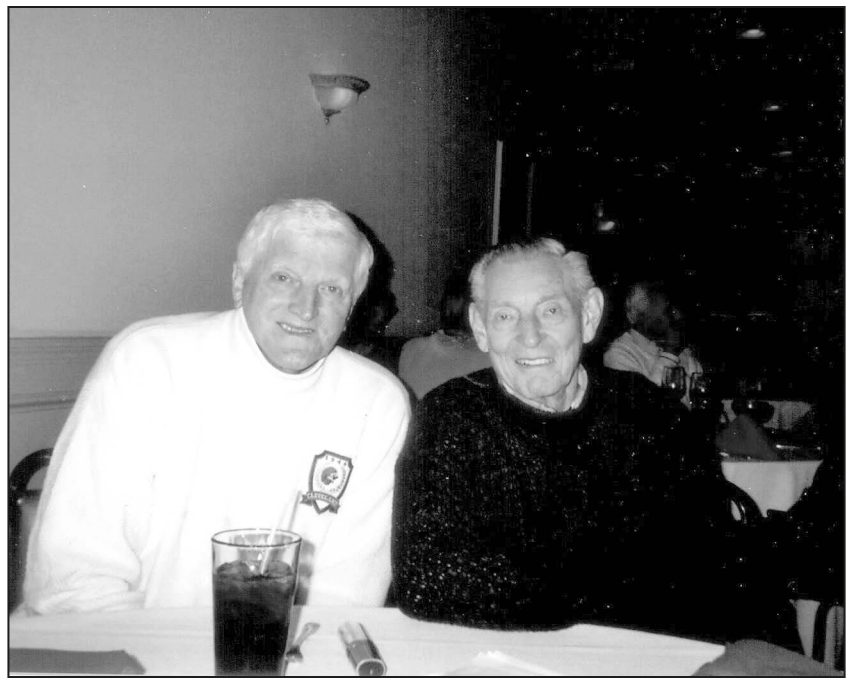
(L - R) Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Carney, Ann Diprizio



(L - R) Beth Hassay, Millie Leskovyansky



Henry Hassay



(L - R) Joe Bialik, Milan Krivan



Nancy and Joe Scavina



(L - R) Tom Hirt, Mary Kay Hirt, Kevin Carney

REFLECTIONS ON POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

March 2011

General Intention

Latin American Nations. *That the nations of Latin America may walk in fidelity to the Gospel and progress in justice and peace.*



A 2005 Catholic News Service poll reports that 71 percent of Latin Americans consider themselves Catholic. Latin America remains the world's most Catholic continent. Yet the continent is often torn by violence, poverty, and injustice.

Having won their independence in 1811, many Latin America countries are celebrating their bicentennials this year. Yet 200 years of independence have not led Latin America to justice and peace.

Pope Benedict asks us to pray for Latin America this month, that the nations walk faithful to the Gospel and progress in justice and peace.

The Pope has made clear that it takes more than being Catholic and free for a nation to live in justice and peace. To achieve a just and peaceful society, the

people must walk in the Gospel. This truth is just as valid for the countries of North America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. There can be no true justice and peace without the people walking faithfully in the Gospel.

So the question for Latin Americans (and for us) is this: What is it to walk faithful to the Gospel?

The Holy Father answered that question in his Message for Lent last year. "Many modern ideologies presuppose that injustice comes from outside ourselves," he began. "This way of thinking - Jesus warns - is... shortsighted. Injustice, the fruit of evil, originates in the human heart, where the seeds are found of a mysterious cooperation with evil...To enter into justice, it is necessary to leave the illusion of self-sufficiency...the very origin of injustice."

The Pope said that we need a deeper "exodus" from the world and from ourselves, a liberation of our hearts which we cannot achieve on our own. We witness divine justice in the Cross, which frees us from sin and shows us that we are not self-sufficient. We need God and others, and we need humility to see that everything is God's, not our own. The illumination of our hearts comes to us especially by the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. "Thanks to Christ's action, we may enter into the greatest justice, which is that of love."



Reflection:

How does the Gospel contribute to justice and peace? Where do we fit in?

Reading:

Isaiah 58:5-12 This is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly,...sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.

Mission Intention

Persecuted Christians. *That the Holy Spirit may give light and strength to those in many regions of the world who are persecuted and discriminated against because of the Gospel.*



Pope Benedict is asking us again this year to pray for persecuted Christians. And no wonder, for persecution of Christians is increasing rather than decreasing throughout the world. Jesus warned us this would happen. "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).

If we are faithful Christians, we can expect to encounter opposition, ridicule, and even discrimination - but we normally don't face anything like the kind of persecution our brothers and sisters face in other parts of the world, perhaps even torture and death. Some estimate that there are 200 million who cannot live their faith freely, especially in parts of China, India, Pakistan, the Middle East, and Africa.

The preaching of the Gospel depends on freedom of religion. We need, said the Pope, "authentic respect for each person and the ability of all freely to practice their religion.... Such respect and dialogue foster peace and understanding between peoples" (Verbum Domini, 2010).

Let's pray that people and governments lose their fear of other religions and grow in respect for those who believe differently. For in that environment the Gospel can go out freely and be received with proper understanding.

In other words, as the Pope exhorts us, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will give light and strength to all who are persecuted because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As for ourselves, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to make us ready. In November last year the Pope installed the new Cardinals in the Church, reminding them that the red they wear is a sign of their willingness to shed their blood for the faith.

And, following Jesus, let's pray for those who persecute us and our brothers and sisters.

Reflection: Have you ever been persecuted or discriminated against because of your faith? How did you respond? How does that experience help you understand and pray for the millions throughout the world who are persecuted? Reading: Matthew 19:16-23 Do not worry...you will be given what you are to say, for it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Prayer of the Month



Our Mother, protect the Latin American family. Pray with your Son Jesus for their constant peace and prosperity. Pour out upon our Latin American brothers and sisters a missionary ardor to spread faith and hope. Make your plea at Fatima for the conversion of sinners a reality that transforms our society. Intercede, Mother, from the Shrine of Guadalupe for the people of the Continent of Hope. Amen. - from Pope Benedict's prayer in Brazil, 2007

Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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

Scenes from Branch 746 December Meeting

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, held a meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Officers for 2011 were elected, and activities were discussed. A holiday get-together followed the meeting, an event clearly enjoyed by all who attended.



**Branch 746
Officers for
2011: Top (L –
R) Mary Kapitan
(Secretary),
Sabina Sabados
(President);
Bottom (L
– R) Mary Karch
(Treasurer),
Joanne Polt
(Vice President)**



Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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Across

- 1 OK town
- 5 Centavo
- 9 Tint
- 14 Portend
- 15 Grad
- 16 Box seats
- 17 Dancer
- 19 Adolescent hooter
- 20 Crab cover
- 21 Realized
- 23 Japanese capital
- 24 Charity
- 27 Rascal
- 28 Recipe abbr.
- 29 Heifer
- 32 Replete
- 34 Charged particle
- 36 Domain
- 38 Extraordinary
- 43 Horse controls
- 45 Assistance
- 46 Swords
- 47 Gate
- 50 Sea eagles
- 51 Energy unit
- 52 Some votes
- 54 Singer Bandy
- 55 Unit of elec. curren
- 58 Highest (Abbr.)
- 60 Elbow bone
- 62 Dinner vegetable
- 63 Novice
- 65 Spry
- 69 Excuse
- 71 Amphibious reptile
- 74 Old movie
- 75 Clothed
- 76 Large (Pref.)
- 77 Petulant
- 78 Mexican dish

- 79 Isr. short story
writer Oz

Down

- 1 Wanes
- 2 Genesis skipper
- 3 Unfounded
- 4 Mason's Street
- 5 Equality
- 6 Samuel's teacher
- 7 Doomed (Slang)
- 8 Muscat resident
- 9 Plodder
- 10 In what way
- 11 Shoelace end
- 12 Exploits
- 13 Bar, legally
- 18 Wings
- 22 Afr. ruler
- 25 Disfigure
- 26 Pilfer
- 29 Freshwater fis
- 30 Biscuit
- 31 Low dam
- 33 A Bronte
- 35 Scruff
- 37 Wager
- 39 Farewell
- 40 Snowbank
- 41 Late night hos
- 42 To be (Lat.)
- 44 Close inspection
- 48 Grotesque
- 49 Paycheck (Abbr.)
- 53 Hitch
- 55 Separated
- 56 Disturbance
- 57 Duets
- 59 Parcel of land
- 61 Terrestrial lizard
- 64 Talipot palm leaf
- 66 Component
- 67 Trademark
- 68 Time periods
- 70 Conjunction
- 72 Varnish
- 73 Wedding words

See Solution on Page 19

From the desk of the Executive Secretary – Kenneth A. Arendt



ATTENTION ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS: DEADLINE EXTENSION TO MARCH 31, 2011



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2011 Scholarship Program.

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2007 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**

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

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2011 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

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

5. Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than March 31, 2011.

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

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

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2012).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2011. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

FCSU LIFE



**PROTECT
YOUR CHILDREN
FOR ONLY
\$14.00
YEARLY!**

This is not a misprint. Read on to find out how.

YOUR FAMILY COMES FIRST.
Your family is the center of your life. You would do anything for them. We are offering you this economical opportunity to guard your children and help them on their way to financial responsibility.

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Male - age 5
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\$10000 for \$680

Female - age 5
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\$10000 for \$580

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

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

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

Female - age 15
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\$10000 for \$810

Male - age 20
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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II Semi-annual meeting will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, Illinois. We will enjoy a short period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments starting at 1:30 pm.

The Semi-Annual Meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm.

Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. All branches are asked to send delegates; individual Jednota members who wish to learn more about becoming active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please call District President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810, so enough food and beverages can be ordered for the meeting.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

The George Onda District will hold its Semi-Annual meeting on Saturday, April 16, 2011 following the 5 PM Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA, in the Formation Room. All branch members are encouraged to attend to provide info on the branches. We look forward to a sizable turnout. Refreshments will be provided.

Linda L. Gonta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA.

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday May 15, 2011 at 2:00 PM at St. Francis Church Hall Coral, PA. The St. Joseph's Society Branch 484 will be the host. Holy Mass will be offered at 11:00 am in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Coral Site, for the living and deceased members of the district.

Member branches should have received by now their dues notices. These dues may be paid at the meeting. Spring is here, the weather is nicer, so let's show our fraternalism with a good turnout of delegates.

Joseph E. Rura, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. Election of Officers will take place.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District's semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2011, at S.S. Cyril and Methodius Church, located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Our day will begin with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 am, followed by refreshments in the adjacent Father Mikus Hall. The actual meeting will begin at 1:00 pm in the Slovak Heritage Room, with a luncheon served after. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 743. Please contact Joseph Rimarcik at (586) 254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch by April 4, 2011.

On the agenda will be important information concerning district business. Hoping that many of you will join us for the day.

Ann Magusin, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 738 will host. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion of national and district business items. Plans for the Fathers Day Brunch will be finalized. We will also discuss the possibilities for district participation in cultural events such as Slovak Day at Kenneywood or Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt.

Branch 35 will host the Fall meeting on a date to be determined later. Branch 2 will host the Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 19, at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Mass will begin at 9:30 with brunch to follow. Further details on prices for the meal and ad booklet will be provided later.

The district would like to collect e-mail addresses from each branch in order to improve communications. For example, items for the meeting agenda or details of meeting arrangements can be sent directly. If we don't already have your e-mail, please contact the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net

The Pittsburgh District looks forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2011 at Denney's meeting room, 653 W. Main St. in Uniontown. Lunch will be served at 1:00PM. Those present are asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 9, 2011, by contacting President Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724-438-0697.

Election of officers will be held. District activities and insurance programs will be discussed.

Thank you.

Fraternally,

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND, AND WASHINGTON, DC

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual Meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2011, in Saint John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA, 18102. There will be no Mass for this meeting due to Mass schedule changes. A luncheon will be served at 12:00pm in the Social Hall and the meeting will start at 1:00 pm. Donations for the luncheon are \$10.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 567. All checks and credentials must be returned by Friday, April 1, 2011. PLEASE be prompt! Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610-432-8350. Thank you!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1–

CLEVELAND, OH

The Saint Joseph Society Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 –

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 17, 2011. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00am at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE.

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

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

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5 -

EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Sunday afternoon, April 3, 2011, at 1:00pm at the home of Leonard J. Zavada, President, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, PA. New ideas for branch activities will be discussed. All members are encouraged to attend and get involved.

Leonard J. Zavada, President

BRANCH 19 –

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2011. A Mass in honor of our patron St. Joseph will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award of US Savings Bonds will be given to the following members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2010:

Paul Kavanewsky

Adam Kocurek

Brandon Madar

Paul Monks

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

We cordially invite our members to this special meeting.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 –

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2011, at 12:30 pm after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th and 1st Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 –

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Our Easter Duty Mass will be held at the 9:00AM Mass on April 10, 2011 at St. Margaret Mary, 3970 N. 92nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222. Breakfast be served immediately after Mass at 10:30AM at the Grecian Inn, 14375 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield, WI.

Breakfast for Members is complimentary, guest cost is \$15.00, and kids under age 6 are free. Reservations for Breakfast must be made by April 4, 2011. Call Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382 with number attending.

Make Checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89.

Mail to: Mike Novak 3237 N. 93rd St. Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Thank You,

Mike Novak / President

BRANCH 153 –

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 153 encourages its members to attend the District 2 Brunch and Theatre At the Center, Munster, Indiana performance of "Nunset Boulevard."

This District Fraternal Event is a musical comedy and will be held on May 15, 2011, with brunch starting at 12:45PM. There are special discounts for FCSU members and an extra-special discount for Branch 153 members, as Branch 153 will subsidize part of the ticket cost.

Ticket costs are as follows:

Nonmembers: \$52.20

FCSU members: \$42.20

Branch 153 members: \$27.20

If interested, call Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810 before March 22, 2011.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 –

UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed, and officers' reports will be given. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Any inquiries and updating information should be directed to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 –

WINDSOR, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166 – Binghamton Capital area, Peckskill, Poughkeepsie, and Syracuse, NY – will hold its Semi-annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 3, 2011, at 1:15 pm at the Old Country Buffet, Town Square Hall, Vestal, NY. On the agenda will be discussions of the district meeting, branch business, and FCSU current offerings. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Please call Sue Gabrie at 607-729-8043 or Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by March 30, 2011, to reserve a place at the dinner. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 228 –

LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 21, 2011 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review as is done during each December meeting. At that time, we will also elect three (3) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This is an opportune time to get active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 –

CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthew Branch 260 will now hold its meetings – beginning with the next one – at Bedford Trails Golf Course, Rt 422, Lowellville, OH. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 20, 2011, at 1:30 pm. All members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 276 –

MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 1:00 P.M. at Woody's Restaurant in Versailles. All members are urged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

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OBITUARIES

STEPHANIE UNGVARSKY BRANCH 181 – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Stephanie Vangrin Ungvarsky, 94, of Norvelt, PA, passed peacefully to her heavenly home on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011. Born Aug. 31, 1916, in Crabtree, she was a daughter of the late Stephen and Felixa Dravecky Vangrin, of Slickville. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 60 years, Stephen F. Ungvarsky; brothers, Bernard and Joseph Vangrin; brothers-in-law; and sisters-in-law. Stephanie is survived by her four sons and their families to whom she devoted her life, Edward, of Norvelt, Timothy (Sally), of North Versailles, retired Navy Capt. William (Lyn), of Virginia Beach, Va., and Dr. Richard (Carol), of Broadview Heights, Ohio; grandchildren, Christopher (Jenn), Stephen, Robert (Alisha), Erin, Andrew (Amber), Lauren (Navy Lt. Alex) Bock, Jonathan and Jeffrey; and great-grandson, Austin Ungvarsky. Also surviving are her twin sister, Elizabeth Saglime; brother-in-law, Vincent (Betty) Ungvarsky; and numerous nieces and nephews and their families. She was a member of St. Florian Parish and its Altar Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) Branch 181, United, the First Catholic Ladies Union, Slovak Catholic Federation and the National Slovak Society. Stephanie was the wife of the FCSU's past Executive Secretary, Stephen Ungvarsky, and mother of the current FCSU Medical Director, Richard Ungvarsky, MD.

Proud of her Polish ancestry, she would always say that she was not only Polish but polished. Quick in wit and sharp in mind she was always ready with a pert reply; e.g., when asked how she felt she would say "just like an old lady." She also took great pleasure in her youthful appearance, graciously accepting comments about looking at least 10 years younger than her age. She claimed her secret was staying active, whether cleaning her house or tending her flowers. An avid baker and cook, her recipes are enjoyed around the world. She also traveled throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe with her husband, "Buster," meeting the pope, presidents, and other world dignitaries.

Family and friends were received from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, February 23, 2011 and 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, February 24, 2011, in the JAY A. HOFFER FUNERAL HOME, Norvelt. A blessing service was held at 9:15 a.m. Friday, February 25, 2011, in the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Florian Catholic Church, United, with the Rev. Richard P. Karenbauer as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Florian Cemetery, Trauger. St. Florian Altar Society prayed the rosary at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home. Mt. Pleasant Township Lions Club service was held 8 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home, as well.

ALICE E. KAPFER BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Alice E. Kapfer, 88, of North Huntingdon, PA, and formerly of North Versailles, PA, died Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, at the residence of her son, Robert D. (Margaret) Kapfer, with whom she resided. Mrs. Kapfer was born Aug. 22, 1922, in McKeesport, and was the daughter of the late Andrew and Anna (Moley) Butchko. In addition to her son, Robert, she is survived by another son, William J. Kapfer Jr., of Brunswick, GA.; five grandchildren, Aaron and Jon Kapfer, Christopher, Stephen and Sarah Kapfer; three great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Mrs. Kapfer was preceded in death by her husband, William J. Kapfer Sr., who died Nov. 26, 1993. She was a member of Corpus Christi Parish and its Christian Mothers and Green Valley Woman's Club. Friends were received from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday in the JENNIFER S. JORDAN FUNERAL HOME INC., White Oak. Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10 a.m. the following Saturday with the Rev. Stephen Kresak officiating.

THERESA A. BUGEL BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Theresa A. Bugel, nee Jurinak, longtime activist in the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 of the Jednota, passed away at the age of 92 on September 3, 2010. She was the beloved wife of Joseph Bugel; loving mother of Darlene (Curtis) Johnson and Robert (Nancy) Bugel; dear grandmother of Anthony (Kathi) Bugel, Kimberly (Alan) Hochgraber, Eric Johnson, Joseph (Brandi) Bugel, Ross (Nicole) Johnson and Victoria Bugel; dearest great-grandmother of Erin, Britney, Kullin, Marijayne, Liam, Aubrey, Jackson, Quinn, Gavin, Chace, Wyatt, Logan and Devlin, all of whom belong to our FCSU. Theresa was also the cherished aunt of many nieces and nephews. Theresa served as an auditor of her Branch #313, and was a professional seamstress who made all her own clothes. She helped to sew the Slovak Christmas Tree skirt for the tree sponsored by District 2 at the Museum of Science & Industry's annual "Christmas Around the World" exhibit in Chicago. Theresa helped staff many District 2 tables at Slovak picnics in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. She had attended multiple FCSU conventions as a delegate from Branch #313 in Chicago. She was scheduled to be a delegate at the most recent convention in Cleveland, but could not attend due to poor health. She will be missed by the members of District 2. Theresa grew up in the area around Holy Rosary Slovak Church in the Roseland neighborhood on Chicago's far south side. She and Joe were married there, and later moved to Orland Park, IL. Visitation with liturgical wake service was held Friday, September 10. FCSU President Andrew Rajec and Vice President Andrew Harcar stopped by to pay their respects. The Mass of the Resurrection took place on Saturday at St. Michael Church in Orland Park at 9:30 a.m. Interment was at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Worth, IL.

Robert Tapak Magruder,
District 2 Recording Secretary

MATILDA KAZIMIR BRANCH 324 – CARTERET, PENNSYLVANIA



Matilda Kazimir, 98, of Port St. Lucie, FL, formerly of Carteret, PA, died Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, at Ft. Pierce Health Care, Ft. Pierce, FL. She was born in Carteret and lived in Port St. Lucie since 2004, when she moved there from Barnegat. Prior to retirement, Matilda worked as a seamstress for the Carteret Novelty Co. in Carteret. She was a member of the Divine Mercy Parish-Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church in Carteret.

Matilda was predeceased by her husband, John A. Kazimir Sr. and she is survived by her two sons, John A. Kazimir Jr. of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Rick Kazimir of Fort Pierce, FL.

The funeral service was held at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, at Synowiecki Funeral Home, Carteret. Interment followed at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia. The viewing hours were from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9 at the funeral home.

STELLA HELEN ONDUS

Stella Helen Ondus, 92, of Southwest (Hecla), PA passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday February 2, 2011 in Excelsa Health, Greensburg. She was born September 22, 1918 in Mount Pleasant to the late Stanley and Mary Ukashinsky Bysick.

Stella was a faithful parishioner of Visitation Roman Catholic Church, Mount Pleasant and its

Christian Mothers and Rosary Altar Society. She was proud to be a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary in Hecla and loved polka music, dancing, traveling, and was an enthusiastic sports fan.

Surviving are four children: Patricia (Ronald) Nowicki of Dallastown, PA; Ronald (Margaret) Ondus of Greensburg; Beverly (late James) Mock of Lodi, CA; Daniel (late Margaret) Ondus of Hecla. In addition, she is survived by granddaughters, Kimberly Harden, Angela (Dale) Smoker, and Stacey (Ryan) Walsh; grandsons, David (Meg) Ondus and Scott Nowicki; great-grandchildren: Matthew, Kristen, Lauren, Jennifer; Nicole, Bryan; Stephanie, and Hunter; great-great-grandchildren: Elijah, Savannah, Kylie, Bryson, and Braden; sister, Violet (Joseph) Blanda.

Stella was predeceased by husband, Frank "Snags" Ondus in 1967; four brothers, John, Frank, Joseph, and Bert; sister Victoria, & three grandchildren, Ron & Timothy Nowicki, Debra Spiers.

Friends were received at Brooks Funeral Home, Mount Pleasant. Rev. Richard Kosisko conducted The Blessing Service which was followed by a Funeral Mass in Visitation R.C. Church, Mount Pleasant. Interment followed in Visitation Cemetery.

IRENE PACHOLKA BRANCH 744 – MERRILL, MICHIGAN



Irene Pacholka, 71 of Sanford, and a wonderful servant of the Lord, was called to her heavenly home after a valiant struggle with ALS-Lou Gehrig's disease on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at her home. There she was welcomed by four

of her sons. She was born June 27, 1939 in Midland, PA, daughter of the late Joseph and Pauline (Pes) Radosa. She graduated from Sacred

Heart High School in Merrill. The former Irene Radosa married Kenneth Pacholka on August 21, 1965 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Ryan, PA. Irene was an every ready caregiver to friends and family in need. She welcomed all into her home, both old and new friends. She will be missed by her casino trip friends, many many rummage "salers," and the Pacholka Pig Roast will never be the same. Irene was a well loved cake decorator. Besides making her daughter's wedding cakes, she made many of her nieces, nephews and friends graduation and wedding cakes. She also made cakes for many events at St. Agnes Catholic Church. Irene was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church and a member of their Ladies Alter Society and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU). She served as the FCSU Vice President of the Michigan District and for many years as Treasurer of Branch 774K.

She is survived by her husband, Ken; one son, Jeff Pacholka of Sanford; two daughters, Michele (Chris) Reinke of Midland, and Patricia (Tom) Carson of Oceanside, CA; one granddaughter, Michele Irene Reinke; two brothers, Steve (Leah) Radosa of Freeland and Frank (Barb) Radosa of Merrill; and one sister, Katherine Stevens of Midland. In addition to her parents, Irene was predeceased by four sons, Kevin, Wayne, Doug and Stanley; by one sister, Josephine Smolek; by her parents-in-law, Walter and Minnie Pacholka and one sister-in-law, Katie Atton.

The Funeral Liturgy was celebrated 10 a.m. Monday, February 21, 2011, from St. Agnes Catholic Church. Father Daniel J. Fox OFM Cap officiated with burial at Midland Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Irene's family received friends at the Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home on Saturday, February 26, 2011, from 6-8 p.m., on Sunday, February 27, 2011, 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. and at the church on Monday, February 28, 2011, from 9 a.m. until time of Mass. A vigil for the deceased took place 7 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Katherine Stevens, Branch 774

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHAN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr. Stephan Krasula, District 16, will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2011, at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall at St. John Nepomucene Church 411 East 66th Street, New York City, NY. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities for next season.

We urge all District branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU – not just delegates – are welcome.

Refreshments will be served by Branch 716, the Stephen the Martyr Society, NYC, after the meeting.

Fraternally,

Henrietta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT 17 – SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – LUZERNE AND LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The SS Cyril and Methodius District 17 will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, April 10, 2011 at St. Peter's Cathedral Rectory, 315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA. Auditors will meet immediately prior to the meeting which is scheduled at 1:30 pm.

All members of the various branches are invited and encouraged to attend. Are your "DISTRICT DUES" up to date? If not, your branch may do so at this meeting. Also, suggestions, concerns, or questions may be addressed and discussed. Join your fraternal brothers and sisters and become active in all fraternal activities.

District President Michael Slovenkai asks that you call him at (570) 342-7562 to make reservations as refreshments will be served after the meeting. We'll see you on April 10, 2011!

Fraternally,

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 20 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold its meeting on Palm Sunday April 17, 2011. Celebration begins at 11:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. The meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After the meeting, a period of fraternal fellowship will follow with a Slovak gourmet lunch, where dessert and refreshments also will be served. Children will enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt.

All members are invited and all branches in our area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting.

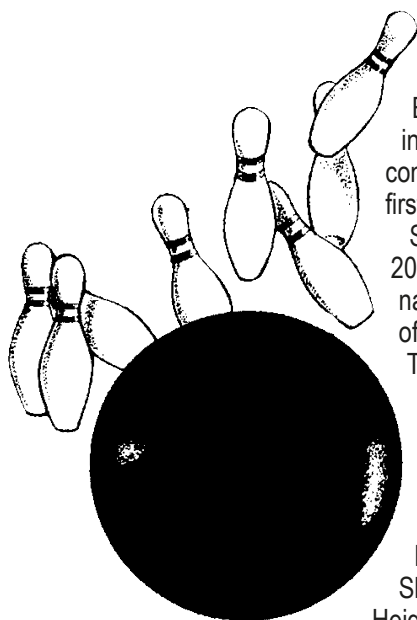
On the agenda will be: Promotion and schedule of District fraternal activities and First Catholic Slovak Union Insurance program information.

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, President

Slovak Bowling Congress celebrates its 69th annual national tournament at Echo Lanes in Warren, Ohio

Come Join America's Foremost Slovak Sports Event



In 1939 two Slovak brothers – Steve “Doc” and Peter Hletko – formed the Slovak Bowling Congress, and organized the first Slovak National Bowling Tournament. The first tournament was held in 1939 at St. Francis recreation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two teams, ten bowlers participated in that first tournament.

Since that time, the tournament has grown to almost 200 teams, with 815 bowlers participating in the tournament still known as the Slovak Bowling Congress of America Slovak National Bowling Tournament. The tournament is held in the month of April. The 2011 tournament will cover the weekends of April 2nd through the weekend of May 1st in Warren, Ohio at Echo Lanes.

Past Slovak National Tournaments have been held in Milwaukee, Chicago, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lakewood, McKee's Rocks, Warren, Cicero, Sharon, Hermitage, Struthers, Oak Forest, Natrona Heights, Farrel, Erie, Akron, and this year back to Warren Ohio. Past tournaments have enjoyed entry of 13,131 teams, 32,042 doubles teams, and 74,983 singles and 52,024 all-events bowlers. All time payouts total over \$811,891.01!

This year, entry of over 700 bowlers from some 160 cities throughout the United States and Canada is expected. Bowlers will be competing for a prize fund in excess of \$20,000.00.

As a special incentive to Slovak Bowlers, the following Slovak organizations are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the tournament. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, “Zenska Jednota,” The First Catholic Slovak Union, “Jednota,” The National Slovak Society “N.S.S.,” and the Slovak Catholic Sokol, “Sokol.”

Any questions, or for more information on the tournament or the SBC please contact John M Golias: 440 526 3657, 440 526 3445, or Joe Harkulich: 330 448 8630. Hoping to see all Slovak Bowlers at Echo Lanes in Warren, Ohio.

Thank You,

John “Jack” M Golias (National Tournament Committee)

WANTED

The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada is seeking agents or licensed Recommenders who are fluent in the Slovak language to represent the Society and market our

Life Insurance and Annuity products, especially in the New York and New Jersey area.

Please call or e-mail:

President

Andrew M. Rajec –

1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) or

Vice-President

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. –

1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)

E-mail: president@fcsu.com



Three Summer Treasure Tours of Slovakia & Neighboring Countries Available



A Treasures Tour group was greeted with the traditional Slavic welcome of bread and salt in charming Vazec in Liptov, plus typical home-made doughnuts filled with jelly.



Treasures Tours are led by Helene Cincebeaux, FCSU Member, Editor of Slovakia magazine, and Slovak Pride and Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International.

Three summer tours of Slovakia and neighboring countries will be led by Jednota member Helene Cincebeaux for Treasures Tours. She is Editor of Slovakia magazine and Slovak Pride and Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International.

The trips feature cultural immersion in Slovak history, village life and folklore, and have a 98% success rate in reuniting travelers with long-lost family. Visits to ancestral villages can be arranged with a car, translator and advance genealogical services. People from 47 states and 10 countries have traveled with Helene over the past 22 years; many come back over and over.

Trips include hotels with private bath in room, two large meals a day, bus transport, castle and museum visits, historic towns, quaint villages, crafts people's homes and festive gatherings. It's a chance to step back in time and glimpse the life of your ancestors. All trips are “land only” but round trip airfare can be arranged. Also a Prague add-on is available.

Immersion in Slovak Arts & Crafts, Villages & Castles - June 22 - July 2 \$1,999 Land Trip

Trip begins at Vienna airport, on to Piešťany to sample the spa and folk life; dramatic Beckov Castle, visit a lace-maker, enjoy Banská Bystrica's historic square; charming Helpa Folk Festival with a wonderful array of craftspeople and folk dancers; visit a wood carver, musical instrument maker, embroiderer: enjoy a stay in walled Levoča, walk the path to Spiš Castle for a magnificent view, visit a Rusyn village; enjoy a Spiš party; a Liptov manor gives a glimpse of life gone by; meet an 84 year old folk artist, see a woodcarver's museum; visit a wooden church built in 1501 with all over painting inside; explore Orava Castle; see Slovakia's outstanding folk museum in Martin; enjoy the mechanical nativity and Čičmany's decorated homes; visit an exhibit of naïve painters, stroll Bratislava's old town, see a ceramic artist at work and learn about ancient Devín Castle.

Treasures of Slovakia Trip with glimpses of Poland & Austria - July 8 - 17 \$1,999 Land Trip

Our 23rd year for this popular trip. Travel to Modra for glorious ceramics, marvel at Beckov Castle on to central Slovakia. Tour Banská Bystrica, visit Detva Folk Festival with rousing performances and crafts galore. Historic Kezmarok comes alive for the International Crafts Festival - ceramic, glass, textile, wood, leather and metal artists and naïve painters. Enjoy Lubovna Spa or hike/ bike; delight in Stara Lubovna's outdoor museum with Rusyn & Slovak customs; ride a raft in Pieniny Park; feast at a Goral Picnic. Visit UNESCO Treasure Bardejov and famed icon museum; explore majestic Spiš Castle. Touch the heart of Spiš, Šariš and Abov in Levoča, Prešov and colorful Košice with its charming Singing Fountain. Open dower chests in Liptov, tour famed Martin Museum; count the castles as we travel west to Čičmany then dine at a family vineyard. Ancient Devín Castle beckons; then to Vienna for a guided tour of the historic center. Immerse in Bratislava, with a tour of the Old Town.

Five Countries - Five Cultures (Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic & Austria) - July 17 - 25 \$1,999 Land Trip

Meet at Vienna airport, on to Budapest for a highlights bus tour from glorious Heroes Square to dramatic Castle Hill and romantic Fisherman's Bastion. Walk the Old Town, night lights tour. Travel to the Hungarian Putza for a performance showcasing the skills of Hungarian horsemen. To Slovakia's High Tatras and a scenic raft ride in Pieniny Gorge; cross into Poland to stop at charming Zakopane with its crafts and amber, on to Krakow for sightseeing and a Polish specialties dinner in a quaint inn;

Option to visit the Wieliczka Royal Salt Mine and Auschwitz, the Nazi camp. Continue on to Czech Republic's Straznice, heart of folk culture, sample wines and meet an egg decorator. To Austria to cruise the castle-studded Wachau River Valley, and marvel at dramatic Melk Monastery and charming medieval Durnstein with its castle ruins and apricot specialties. Day in Vienna with a highlights bus tour and then a guided walking tour of the Old Town, feast on traditional Wiener Schnitzel.

For a colorful trip flyer with day by day itineraries, call Helene Cincebeaux toll free at 888/529-7150 or 585 342-9383 or write to 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617 or e-mail helenezx@aol.com. You can also check out the web site www.Our-Slovakia.com or www.TreasuresTours.com – click on the tour name to bring up the day-by-day itineraries.

If you would like a sample copy of the Slovakia magazine published by the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International for the past 25 years, send \$2 to Helene at the address above.

To list your surnames in the Slovak Pride data base (now more than 29,500 listings), send your info to Helene at the address above. You can access the Slovak Pride list at www.Our-Slovakia.com or www.SlovakPride.homestead.com or buy it in a book, “Slovak Pride”, which has all the listings and 40 additional pages of maps and articles; cost is \$20 plus \$3 postage. You are welcome to submit your Slovak surnames too!

News From Slovakia

Westerwelle and Ashton to Attend Large Meeting in Bratislava

Bratislava, February 25 (TASR) - A broader ministerial meeting of the Visegrad Four (V4 - Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary) with countries of the Eastern Partnership was set to take place in Bratislava on March 7, 2011 the Foreign Affairs Ministry press department reported on this date.

Special guests at the event will be German Vice-chancellor and Foreign Affairs Minister Guido Westerwelle, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union Catherine Ashton, and European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule.

The purpose of the meeting is for the V4 to send a strong political signal in support of the Eastern Partnership aimed at the political and economic stabilization of the countries involved, said the press department.

Slovak Family with Three Month Old Baby Leaves Libya

Bratislava, February 26 (TASR) - Another three Slovaks, including one baby, have left the trouble-hit Libya, Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Lubos Schwarzbacher told TASR.

"We can confirm that an Italian ship left the Libyan port of Misuratha on Friday evening with three Slovak citizens on board. They had asked us for assistance in leaving Libya," said Schwarzbacher.

The ship is heading to the port of Catania in Sicily, which it should reach on the following Sunday morning. The family with the 3-month old baby will be picked up at the port by employees of the Slovak embassy in Italy.

"They'll be provided accommodation in Rome to relax a bit, before they set forward to Slovakia," said Schwarzbacher.

Of the 16 Slovaks that have asked the Slovak authorities for assistance in leaving Libya, only three have remained in the country.

Slovakia Shuts Embassy in Tripoli, Staff Evacuated

Bratislava, February 26 (TASR) - Slovakia closed its embassy in Libya on this date, with members of the diplomatic mission set to return to Slovakia on a French plane, Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Lubos Schwarzbacher told TASR on the same day.

The closure of the embassy in Tripoli was ordered by Foreign Affairs Minister Mikulas Dzurinda due to the unrest in the North African country.

Diplomatic affairs in Libya will be now dealt with by the Slovak embassy in Cairo, added Schwarzbacher.

Bratislava Region's GDP per Capita Ranked as EU's Ninth Highest in 2008

Brussels/Luxembourg, February 24 (TASR-correspondent) - Gross domestic product generated by Bratislava region was the ninth largest from among the EU countries' regions in 2008, according to data from Eurostat that was released on this date.

Bratislava region's GDP per inhabitant stood at 167 percent of an average regional GDP within the bloc as calculated based on the purchasing power standard (PPS).

Of the new EU countries, only the Czech Republic's Prague region is ranked among top 20, earning the 6th spot on 172 percent of the EU-region average.

Inner London (343 percent), the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (279 percent) and Brussels (216 percent) topped the chart. Meanwhile, Bulgaria's Severozapaden (northwest) region and Romania's Nord-Est come in at the very bottom on 29 and 28 percent, respectively.

Sixty-four of a total of 271 regions monitored were below 75 percent of the EU-average, with Slovakia's western, central and eastern parts all included in the sub-par performance.

EU-harmonized Inflation Reached 3.2 percent Y-o-Y in January

Bratislava, February 28 (TASR) - The prices of goods and services in Slovakia measured according to EU methodology grew by 3.2 percent year-on-year in January 2011, the Statistics Office announced on this date.

Inflation accelerated by 1.9 percentage points compared to the figure recorded in December 2010. Inflation measured according to national methodology was slightly lower, reaching 3 percent y-o-y in January.

Prices grew overall especially due to higher prices of food and non-alcoholic drinks, which rose by 6.1 percent y-o-y. Consumers also paid 5.8 percent more for housing, water, electricity and fuels.

In a month-on-month comparison, prices measured according to EU-methodology grew by 2.1 percent. The biggest hike compared to December 2011 was reported in the sphere of housing, water, electricity and fuels (5.2 percent). Consumers also had to pay considerably more for transport (3.3 percent).

Indicator of Economic Sentiment Improved by 0.3 points in February

Bratislava, February 28 (TASR) - The Index of Economic Sentiment (IES) improved by 0.3 points in February 2011 to reach 97.4, the Statistics Office said on this date.

The IES was influenced positively by higher consumer confidence in particular. The Index grew by 10.3 points year-on-year, but is still 0.5 points below the long-term average.

Meanwhile, the indicator of confidence in industry fell by 4.7 points in February to 9.3, falling slightly under the long-term average. This indicator was affected by negative assessments of demand and by increased stocks.

The indicator of confidence in construction deteriorated by 1 point month-on-month in February to minus 40.5, falling below the long-term average by 16.5 points. It was affected by an expected further drop in employment in the next three months.

At the same time, the indicator of confidence in retail fell by 12 points in February to 6.7, matching the long-term average. Its level was influenced by a negative assessment of the current economic situation and by a high level of stocks.

The indicator of confidence in services dropped by 1.3 points m-o-m to 25. This was caused by a negative assessment of expected demand, while the business situation and current demand were assessed more positively by the respondents.

Consumer confidence didn't change significantly, with its indicator growing by 0.5 points m-o-m to minus 26.8, especially due to better assessments of the expected financial situation in households. Compared to the same period last year, people were more pessimistic (by 6.1 points) and also more pessimistic than the long-term average.

Public Finance Deficit Increased to €344 mn in February, But Down Y-o-Y

Bratislava, March 1 (TASR) - The state-budget deficit deepened from the €18 million reported in January to €344 million in February, the Finance Ministry said on this date.

The management of state finances improved significantly in a year-on-year comparison, however, as the deficit reached €780 million in February 2010. The overall deficit expected for 2011 is €3.8 billion.

Incomes to state coffers reached €1.758 billion in the given period, which was 20.3 percent higher y-o-y. Expenditures stood at €2.102 billion, falling by 6.2 percent y-o-y.

Krajcer Initiated Discussion on Financing of Churches

Cerveny Kamen/Bratislava, February 24 (TASR) - Culture Minister Daniel Krajcer (Freedom and Solidarity/SaS) met representatives of churches and religious communities in order to open a discussion on church financing in Slovakia.

The date of accomplishing the discussion hasn't been set and the dialogue should be led at the nation-wide level.

Krajcer said that the current form of financing of the church is carried out on the basis of a law dating back to 1949, which he described as a Communist norm. Meanwhile, the situation in society has moved forward significantly. Suitable solutions based on dialogue should be searched, therefore.

Representatives of the church agreed that this issue is a long-term one. So, they agreed on creating an expert commission to prepare the materials and a platform for dialogue.

Conference of Slovak Bishops (KBS) Chairman Stanislav Zvolensky opposed the idea of introducing a compulsory church tax.

General Bishop of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (ECAV) Milos Klatik said he isn't against discussing the topic on the level of the expert group, as this is not a political issue. According to him, as well, it is necessary to pay attention to addressing some past grievances.

Honorary Chairman of the Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities Pavel Traubner welcomed the discussion as well. "I appreciate that there will be an expert group wherein we will deal with church financing, as small churches would have big problems to survive if they were cut off from the state power," he said.

Bratislava Roads to See Their First All-electric Car

Bratislava, February 24 (TASR) - With the launch of the battery-powered city car CITROËN C-ZERO by Dalkia and Citroen companies, Bratislava's roads will see the first all-electric production vehicle in regular use, TASR learned on this date.

The city car, which was presented to journalists on the same day, will mainly be seen in the borough of Petržalka. It's supposed to be used by technicians working for the French multinational energy company Dalkia during their inspections of company units, such as boiler houses.

The use of the car constitutes another step in the company's quest for energy-saving measures and curtailment of emissions at the local level, TASR was told.

Petržalka Mayor Vladimir Bajan gave kudos to Dalkia's contribution in cutting emissions. A variety of measures combined for a reduction in emissions in Petržalka by 550 tons on an annual basis, he said.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

Marching for St. Patrick

They tell me there's nothing that raises your Irish spirit quite as much as marching up New York's Fifth Avenue in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. I'll have to take their word for it, I'm afraid, since I've never been part of the line of march. But I'd also bet that seeing the parade is the next best thing, and that I've done time after time. There's one occasion I remember especially. And, of course, a story goes with it.

It happened exactly 30 years ago, on March 17th of 1981, and I was with my good friend, Father John Catoir--a priest of the New Jersey Diocese of Paterson, which was and is my home turf as well. At the time he was off on a long run as director of The Christophers, based in Manhattan, and I was the editor-in-chief of Catholic New York, then the brand-new newspaper of the New York Archdiocese. Our jobs helped get us positions of honor for parade-watching: the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

It was a grand spectacle. We were just a few feet away from Cardinal Terence Cooke, and on that glorious day the scene was all spread out before us: the flags snapping in the breeze, the bands sounding out one Irish tune after another, the endless waves of green going by. It was sheer delight. And at one point, Father Catoir, a twinkle in his eye, leaned over to me and said softly, "This is not bad for a couple of guys from Jersey!"

That's a long, long introduction to a reflection on the man who started it all: St. Patrick himself, a figure of myth and mystery of whom I've written before. Once, in a book I edited called *Our Sunday Visitor's Treasury of Catholic Stories*, I discussed all the legends that have surrounded the great Irish saint, and concluded that even if everything can't be proven, he was still quite a man.

We're not sure, for example, where he was born. It might have been in Wales, or Scotland, or France. But he was definitely taken in captivity at some point to Ireland, and first lived the life of a slave. We're not sure how he escaped, and we don't know when--or how--he became a bishop.

Even the legends about him have question marks attached. Driving the snakes out of Ireland? Probably not. Using the three-leaf shamrock to explain the Trinity? Maybe. And maybe not.

What Patrick did do, beyond a doubt, was to bring the faith to a people living in pagan ignorance--to bring it to them in a way they could, and did, make all their own. It endured to a degree that it would in few other places. Patrick was nothing less than one of the greatest missionaries of all time. His stamp remains today on all things Irish, especially its people--no matter how far they may have strayed from their native land.

Patrick's presence, then, is with us today, all over the world. It remains as we gather and pray in his honor. He helps us celebrate a heritage, but more--a faith that goes on despite challenges and an age that questions its fundamental truths.

So we march for St. Patrick--in New York and in cities across the country. Those of us who live around here ask your forgiveness, though, if we reserve a special place of honor for the Manhattan parade. And yes, I confess, even the guys from Jersey.

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



Czech & Slovak American Genealogical Society Bus Tour in Chicago

The Czech & Slovak American Genealogical Society of Illinois is sponsoring a bus tour of the historic Pilsen neighborhood on Chicago's near Southwest side. This neighborhood was settled by Czech immigrants after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Slovak immigrants soon followed, founding St. Joseph Slovak Catholic Parish near 17th Place & Halsted Street, and Ss. Peter & Paul Slovak Lutheran Church near 19th Place & Halsted Street. Our Jednota had lodges centered at St. Joseph's and St. Vitus Bohemian Parish, which a lot of Slovaks also attended.

The bus tour will take place on Saturday April 9, 2011. The bus will leave Klas Restaurant in Cicero, IL at 9:30 am, returning at approximately 4:30 pm. The cost for CSAGSI members (includes breakfast & lunch) is \$40.00. Non members pay \$45.00.

For more information, call Dolores at (630) 906-8175. All registrations must be prepaid and postmarked by March 26, 2011.

Robert Tapak Magruder

Address Changes?

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

John's Tours Sets Yearly Slovakia Tour – Slovakia and Poland

12-Day Tour, June 25 – July 7, 2011

17-Day Tour, September 4 – 20, 2011

This year, John's Tours will set two tours to Slovakia and surrounding countries.

The 12-day tour, from June 25 – July 7 will include: visits to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Čičmany; Rajecká Lesná, the village of a unique wooden Bethlehem wooden carving, 15 years in the making; Levoča, Spania Poprod, Nitra, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, a "castle" which actually consists of three castles –upper, central, and middle. This tour also will include rafting on the Dunajec River which runs between the Slovak and Polish border, and then two days in Krakow, Poland, with visits to Auschwitz, the WWII Nazi Concentration Camp; the Old Town Marketplace; the Royal Castle of Wawel, with time at Czestochowa, the Shrine of the Black Madonna in the Jasna Gora Monestary, and one of the most precious Polish relics.

The September 4 – 20, 2011 tour will cover: Slovakia; Vienna, Austria; Krakow, Poland; and Prague, the Czech Republic. Visits in Slovakia will include: Bratislava, Levoča, Sponia Dolina, Prešov, Banská Štiavnica, Stará L'ubovňa, Poprod, Nitra, Košice, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, the Dunajec raft trip, and Rajecka Lesna. We will have two folklore programs – one in Krakovany and one in Ticky Potok, a Rusyn Village. The Mayor will show us the village, with a folklore program to follow dinner. We will then see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz. In the Czech Republic, you can look forward to seeing Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, plus many other sights.

Tours include: two (2) meals daily; an English-speaking guide; bus transportation with restroom and air conditioning; admittance to all scheduled sights; accommodations in three- or four-star hotels, all with private baths; and group air transportation, for your convenience and the best possible price.

If you are interested, please call or write for a complete day-to-day itinerary and price:

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

1-724-567-7341 OR 1-724-568-3215 OR toll free at 1-800-260-8687



"Park 2 Annuity" 3.00% (2.956% apr)

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- * 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 or visit our web site at FCSU.com

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

**BRANCH 313 –
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, will hold an annual meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 11:00AM. The place will be at the Mother of Sorrows Convent in Oak Forest, IL, 5600 W 147th St. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2011, and new membership for our Society.

Joseph M. Bugel, President & Financial Secretary

**BRANCH 419 –
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. Stephen the Martyr Branch 419 will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 2:00PM at Norm's Pizza on Sherman Street. Members are encouraged to attend meetings and become more active in our fraternal functions. Congratulations to our 50-year members who have received their membership pins. Call 824-4125, if you plan on attending the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Marie Gryzko, President

**BRANCH 450 –
CLEVELAND, OH**

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its annual meeting at the home of Jozef Valencik on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 2:00 pm. The address is 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, OH. The election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

**BRANCH 493 –
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

All members of Branch 493, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, wish to congratulate three of our lodge members who have recently received their Jednota 50 Year Membership Pins: Mark J. Buciak, John Kedzuch (son of Branch #493 President Ed Kedzuch), and Jeffrey Tartol.

Robert T'apak Magruder, Financial Secretary

**BRANCH 567 –
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567KJ, had the election of officers for the year 2011 at their December 2010 meeting. The following officers were elected and sworn in: President, Bernadine Gerhard; Financial Secretary/Treasurer, William Micek; Recording Secretary Rosalie Favere; and Auditor, Loretta Dashner.

Branch 567KJ will have a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at 1:00pm in St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA. A discussion will be held regarding our fund raising plans for the year 2011.

All members are cordially invited to attend. Thank you.

Rosalie Favere, Recording Secretary/LD

**BRANCH 580 –
WEST MIFFLIN, PA**

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 580 will hold a meeting on Sunday April 3, 2011 after the

9:30 mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary

**BRANCH 595 –
MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

Branch 595 in Muskegon Heights, MI would like to announce our monthly pork and kraut dinners being served at the club. They will be held on the second Sunday of each month. This is a complete traditional dinner including dessert. Only \$6 for adults and children under 12 pay only \$4. We will be serving from noon until 3 p.m.

Our monthly breakfast is held the fourth Sunday of each month. We serve from 8:30 a.m. until noon. We serve a wide variety of breakfast items. The cost remains at \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

We are located at the corner of Sixth Street and Sherman Boulevard in Muskegon Heights. Our phone number is 231 733 7525. Please contact us if you have any other questions.

Thank you,

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

**BRANCH 682 -
BOARDMAN, OHIO**

Branch 682 is holding a semi-annual meeting. The discussion will be about the upcoming events for the year 2011. It will be held on April 27, 2011 at 7:00 PM at Material Research Laboratories located at 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH 44471. All members are urged to attend. Reservations are not required.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew J. Hirt, President

**BRANCH 716 –
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday, May 1, 2011, at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall, St. John St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East, 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report and discussion of plans for next season. All members are urged to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

**BRANCH 731 -
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

The the Patron Saint Feast Day with Mass and lunch to follow at Saint Matthias Church on April 3, 2011, has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

**BRANCH 743 –
STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday

March 20, 2011 with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members. The Mass is at 11:30 a.m. At SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place in the Slovak Heritage Room at 1p.m.

Members who have moved or require Branch services including beneficiary change should contact the Financial Secretary, Joseph C Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone @ 586-254-0225.

Joseph C Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

**BRANCH 746 –
LINDEN, NEW JERSEY**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Okres meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Reservations are being accepted for our April 2nd bus trip to Lancaster, PA to see JOSEPH at the Sight and Sound Theater. Dinner Buffet at the Eden Resort Inn will follow the show. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 for more information.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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



Attention Members: Branch 743 Needs Your Help

As Financial Secretary of Branch 743, I have been unable to contact certain members of the Branch. It may be that the person is deceased and the beneficiaries are entitled to life insurance proceeds, or they are not receiving life insurance policy updates.

Your Branch needs a current address or telephone number for any of the named individuals listed below.

Any assistance provided will be greatly appreciated.

Joseph C. Rimarcik
President/ Financial Secretary
42909 Sussex Park Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087
586-254-0225

Branch 743 Missing Address As March 09, 2011

Name	Year Born	Name	Year Born
Anderson, Shirley S	1936	Litwin, Madonna	1958
Appleby, James B	1988	Maas, Pauline E	1919
Atkinson, Frances	1917	Madar, Douglas	1956
Baldwin, Irene	1926	Madar, Judith	1940
Batchik, Mary E	1962	Markovich, Laura	1957
Bratley, Susan	1951	McKolay, Peter	1959
Bertolini, Angelo P	1925	Mracna, George	W1942
Bradham, Jonathan M	1973	Schulte, Dennis	1969
Calcaterra, Grace	1956	Smiscik, Maria	1954
Cassar, Louis	1947	Smolos, Andrew E	1921
Churchran, Donald	1942	Sopcik, Albert E	1921
Comito, Dorothy	1932	Strode, Karen	1958
Dutchik, Brandon R	2004	Stvrtecka, Anna	1919
Fetter, Beverly	1947	Szymanski, Karen	1975
Gordon, Josephine	1913		
Greslikova, Natalia	1974	Korpak, John	1914

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

E	N	I	D		P	E	S	O		S	H	A	D	E
B	O	D	E		A	L	U	M		L	O	G	E	S
B	A	L	L	E	R	I	N	A		O	W	L	E	T
S	H	E	L	L		K	N	E	W		E	D	O	
			A	L	M	S		I	M	P		T	S	P
C	O	W		S	A	T	E		I	O	N			
A	R	E	A		R	E	M	A	R	K	A	B	L	E
R	E	I	N	S		A	I	D		E	P	E	E	S
P	O	R	T	C	U	L	L	I	S		E	R	N	S
			E	R	G		Y	E	A	S		M	O	E
A	M	P		U	L	T		U	L	N	A			
P	E	A		T	Y	R	O			A	G	I	L	E
A	L	I	B	I		A	L	L	I	G	A	T	O	R
R	E	R	U	N		C	L	A	D		M	E	G	A
T	E	S	T	Y		T	A	C	O		A	M	O	S

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Pastiersky list

z príležitosti 90. výročia uvedenia Jána Vojtaššáka do úradu spišského diecézneho biskupa

Milovaní bratia a sestry

Nedávno sme spoločnou svätou omšou v spišskej katedrále spolu s banskobystrickým biskupom Mons. Rudolfom Balázom a s nitrianskym biskupom Mons. Viliamom Judákom oslávili 90. výročie vysviacky prvých troch slovenských biskupov, ktorá sa stala 13. februára 1921. Boli to: biskup Ján Vojtaššák pre Spišskú diecézu, biskup Marián Blaha pre Banskobystrickú diecézu a biskup Karol Kmetko pre Nitriansku diecézu.

Prečo ich označujeme ako prví traja slovenskí biskupi? Na konci prvej svetovej vojny sa rozpadla takmer tisícročná ríša, Rakúsko-uhorská monarchia, do ktorej patrili aj historické zeme Čechy, Morava a Slovensko. Na troskách tejto ríše vznikli nové nástupnícke štáty. Medzi nimi aj Československá republika, ktorú označujeme ako „prvá“ oproti tej, ktorá vznikla po druhej svetovej vojne. Dajú sa od 28. októbra 1918. Politické, spoločenské, náboženské a kultúrne pomery v ČSR boli veľmi zložitú. V rámci monarchie bolo Slovensko veľmi silne naviazané na Uhorsko, ktoré sa usilovalo Slovákov asimilovať medzi Maďarov. Poznáme obdobie silnej maďarizácie. Andrej Hlinka a ďalší politickí dejatelia veľmi zvažovali, akou cestou sa má Slovensko v týchto pohnutých časoch vybrať. Nakoniec sa aj pod medzinárodným tlakom rozhodli pre spoločnú republiku s Čechmi.

Nie je tu miesto, aby som rozoberal celý prehľad tohto spoložitia s Čechmi a jeho dopad pre Slovensko. Nám tu ide iba o zhodnotenie náboženskej situácie. Za monarchie Cirkve prežívala slobodu, ale bola v mnohých prípadoch až príliš spojená aj s politickým životom, čo jej bolo na škodu. Politické pomery sa menia, ale Cirkve je nadčasová. Cisársky trón často zasahoval do života a vedenia Cirkvi. Biskupské stolce boli obsadzované biskupmi Maďarmi.

Po vzniku ČSR nositeľmi nového štátu sa stali českí politici a intelektuálne vrstvy prezentované vládnuou sociálnou demokraciou, pod vedením prezidenta Tomáša Garigua (čítaj: Garika) Masaryka. On a jeho strana sa otvorene hlásili k liberalizmu, ktorý sa v novej situácii prejavoval proti katolíckej až proti rímskej. Predstavitelia českého liberálneho nacionalizmu svoje vlastenectvo interpretovali v duchu husitizmu, ktorý interpretovali ako jedinou správnu národnú orientáciu. Katolícku cirkev takto postavili do úlohy národného a svetonázorového nepriateľa českého národa. Preto sa usilovali o vytvorenie novej, československej cirkvi, ktorá by bola podriadená štátnej moci ako symbol národnej emancipácie a identity. Na manifestácii ľavicových liberálnych socialistov, 3. novembra 1918, v Prahe rozvášnený dav zničil známy Mariánsky stĺp, čo sa stalo symbolickým prejavom vtedajšieho smerovania. Prezident Masaryk na adresu Ríma povedal: „Rím musí byť Čechmi súdený a odsúdený. Padla Viedeň, musí padnúť aj Rím.“ Katolíci v českých a moravských zemiach sa ocitli vo veľmi zložitej situácii. Usilovali sa presvedčiť vedúce vládné kruhy, že katolíci nemusia byť nevyhnutne monarchisti a že český a moravský katolicizmus má záujem stať sa aktívnou zložkou politického, národného a verejného života republiky.

Na Slovensku bola situácia opačná. Národné cítenie bolo prevažne spojené s náboženským cítením. A to národné bolo skôr podriadené náboženskému. Opakované útoky na adresu Katolíckej cirkvi vyvolávali silnú odozvu aj v národnom cítení Slovákov a v stupňujúcom sa odpore voči českému liberalizmu. Ten bol Slovákom cudzí. Katolíci na čele s Andrejom Hlinkom sa živo zapájali aj do politického života, aby bránili identitu slovenského národa. Slovenský klérus sa nepridal k československej cirkvi. Andrej Hlinka dal podnet k založeniu Kňazskej rady, ktorá vznikla 28. novembra 1918. Jej podpredsedom bol spišský kňaz Ján Vojtaššák.

Problém bol aj s hranicami diecéz. Väčšina z nich mala na slovenskom juhu hranice, ktoré sa nekryli s hranicami nového štátu. Iba tri diecézy tento problém nemali: spišská, banskobystrická a nitrianska. Preto mohli hneď dostať slovenských biskupov.

Po svojej biskupskej vysviacke 13. februára 1921 sa Ján Vojtaššák ujal úradu 27. februára 1921. O tejto udalosti píše Mons. Viktor Trstenský vo svojej knihe Sila viery, sila pravdy takto: „Tak ako jasala Nitra, tak plesal aj Spišský Sion 27. februára 1921, keď sa konala slávnostná intronizácia pána biskupa, Msgr. Jána Vojtaššáka v spišskej katedrále. Spiš spontánne prejavoval, že je nadmieru vďačný Pánovi za nezaslúžený a neoceniteľný dar, ktorý udelil Spišskému biskupstvu v osobe Jána Vojtaššáka, v poradí spišských biskupov dvanásteho, a to biskupa, ktorý bol kosť z jeho kostí a krv z jeho krvi“ (s. 71).

Biskup Ján Vojtaššák, dnes už Boží sluha, kandidát na blahorečenie, sa hneď od začiatku prejavil ako múdry a starostlivý pastier Božieho ľudu. Na srdci mu ležal najmä stav spišského kňazstva a seminára, kde sa pripravujú noví kňazi. Vedel, že kňaz je predĺženou rukou i srdcom biskupa. Takí majú byť všetci. Všetmožno podporoval cirkevné školy a postaral sa aj o to, aby sa pre nich pripravovali dobrí učitelia a učiteľky; učitelia v Spišskej Kapitule a učiteľky v Levoči. Nezanedbával ani charitatívnu činnosť v diecéze. V jednom pastierskom liste nemožno vymenovať všetko, čím dvíhal náboženskú i kultúrnu úroveň Božieho ľudu v jeho diecéze. Nemožno však obísť ani prvú diecéznu synodu v r. 1925, ktorá znamenala obnovu celej diecézy a smernice pre jej ďalší rozvoj. Osobitne však treba vyzdvihnúť jeho svedectvo viery počas komunistického väzenia, ktoré bolo pre neho zvlášť kruté. O to viac však vyniklo jeho svedectvo.

Bratia a sestry! Zlý duch, ktorý celým svojim bytím nenávidí Krista a jeho Cirkve, má vždy ten istý cieľ, používa tie isté metódy, iba v obmenenej forme. Ten liberalizmus, ktorý sa presadzoval po vzniku ČSR, ako som už spomenul, presadzuje sa aj dnes. Predovšetkým vždy klame. Ľuďom predkladá falošné šťastie, zamieňa hodnoty, sľubuje titanskú moc – Budete ako Boh – a nakoniec nechá človeka zraneného na duši tak, že mu je ťažko nájsť znova cestu k Bohu. Našťastie je tu Kristus a jeho Cirkve, ktorá je vždy pripravená pomôcť a ukázať cestu k pravému šťastiu. Preto je z druhej strany tak nenávidená a kritizovaná. Biskup Ján Vojtaššák toto dobre poznal. Preto si za svojich sprievodcov vybral dobrých duchov, svätých anjelov, aby ho sprevádzali na všetkých jeho cestách. A iste ho strážili aj vo väzniciach, aby ho komunistická krutosť nezlomila. Ostal vždy verný.

Pevne veríme, že jeho duša je už v nebi. Túžime však, aby to oficiálne potvrdila aj matka Cirkve jeho blahorečením. Proces blahorečenia nezaspal. Kontaktujeme Kongregáciu pre kauzy svätých, jeho spis nie je v archíve. Má však aj svojich odporcov, preto je to zdĺhavé. Táto vec však nie je len v našich rukách. Ak je to Božia vôľa, iste sa to podarí. Treba však ešte viac zintenzívniť modlitby a dobré skutky na tento úmysel, aby ho Cirkve vyzdvihla na oltár.

V každom prípade však, bratia a sestry, postavme si tohto veľkého biskupa Spišskej diecézy na oltár svojho srdca, nech je nám príkladom vernosti Cirkvi, jej náuke a neprispôsobujme sa tomuto liberálnemu svetu ani zmýšľaním ani životom. Zehná vás otec biskup František Tondra.



Biskup Ján Vojtaššák

MORENA a zvyky s blížiacou sa jarou na Slovensku

Sviatky jari boli a ešte aj v súčasnosti sú spojené na mnohých miestach na Slovensku s vynášaním Moreny (Murieny, Kyselice).

Vynášanie Moreny sa koná na Smrtnú nedeľu (dva týždne pred Veľkou nocou) v Liptove, Gemeri, na Spiši, na strednom Slovensku, alebo na Kvetnú nedeľu na západnom a južnom Slovensku.

Morena je vlastne slamená figurína ženy, symbol zimy a smrti. Zhotovuje sa z dvoch drevených palíc v tvare kríža obrútených slamou a oblečená býva do sviatočného (svadobného) odevu. Vynášanie Moreny v podstate spočíva v tom, že dievčatá oblečené v krojoch chodia s Morenou po uliciach spievajúc obradné piesne, idú až za obec, kde sa Morena zničí – zapálením, hodením do potoka a pod. Často sa hodí z mosta do vody alebo zo skaly. V rôznych oblastiach Slovenska sa tento obrad trochu odlišuje. Znamená však spoločne, že podľa povier vynesenie a zničenie Moreny ako symbolu zimy a smrti sa mala magicky priložiť jar.



Strojenie Moreny



Zhodenie Moreny

Trochu z histórie:

Najstarší doklad o tomto zvyku na území Slovenska je zo 16. storočia.

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Pri tom spievali rôzne obradné piesne ako:

„Morena, Morena! Za kohos' umrela?“;
 „Morena, Morena! Kde si prebývala?“;
 „Hej, Hana, hej! Kde ťa ponesieme?“ (Gemer);
 „Šmierťko ukrutná“;
 „Idze smertka s kudzel'u“ (východné Slovensko).

Konkrétne ukážky – dva slohy z dvoch piesní:

Muriena naša,
 kdes prebývala?
 V dedinskom dome,
 v novej stodole.

Smrtná nedeľa čos priletela.
 Azda bys nám krásnu,
 pre tú našu chasu
 čariť vedela.

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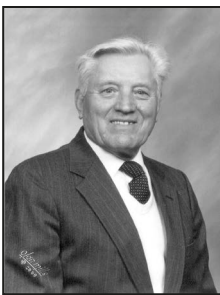
Študenti Univerzity sv. Cyrila a Metoda pôjdu na skusy do USA

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Čas sa zastaviť nedá

K 90. narodeninám Jozefa Smáka



Jozef Smák

Na začiatok príhovoru si dovoľme zapožičať úvod básne od Milana Rúfusa „Báseň o dare“:

„Z vdáčnosti svedčím pred Božou tvárou, bytie je dar, dar plný pestrých darov. Nesmierny Bože, viem, že neprahneš po velebe, no za tie dary ďakujeme Tebe!“

Tieto úvodné slová nás oslovujú, keď si spomíname na životné jubileum Jozefa Smáka, ktorý sa 13. apríla 2011 dožíva vzácných 90 rokov svojho života.

Koľko pestrých darov za tie roky života dostal Jozef Smák a koľko pestrých darov dal? Ako obetavý Slovák Jozef predovšetkým dostal v prvom rade jeho dobrú a vzácnu manželku Juditku a tri deti. Dvoh synov (Jozefa a Petra), dcérku (Helenku), vnučku (Jordan) a vnukov (Daniela a Patricka). A čo dal Jozef Smák? V prvom rade čestnú prácu pre Spojené štáty americké, ako svoju druhú vlasť ktorú si zamiloval, ako aj angažovanosť vo všetkých fraternalistických organizáciách, zvlášť v Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednote.

Jozef Smák je členom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola, Slovenskej ligy, Slovenského katolíckeho klubu v New Yorku, Svetového kongresu Slovákov, KOC (3rd degree) NC, International Club NC, Adoration Club NC.

Jozef to v živote emigranta nemal ľahké. Miloval svojich rodičov, zvlášť svoju matku a predsa sa

ako 28-ročný rozhodol pre emigráciu v roku 1948. Bola to predovšetkým obava pred nástupom komunistickej moci v Československu a českého út-laku na Slovákov.

Miloval prvú Slovenskú Republiku a tešil sa jej samostatnosti, lebo Slováci dokázali to, čo máloktorý národ v oblasti hospodárskeho, kultúrneho a sociálneho rozvoja, napriek tomu, že zúrila druhá svetová vojna. Úspech pracovitosti a obetavosti Slovákov pod vedením vodcov, ako bol prvý prezident Dr. Jozef Tiso a Andrej Hlinka, vedeli strhnúť národ k jednote. Veď heslo „Za Boha a za národ“ neboli len prázdne slová vodcov národa, ale ich aj naplňovali skutkami. V tom boli vzorom pre národ. Môže byť vznešenejšie heslo aj v dnešných časoch? Žiaľ teraz sa toto heslo „nenosí“, Boh sa dal na vedľajšiu koľaj a národ požíra globalizácia. Výsledky toho sa ešte len ukážu.

Jozef Smák sa narodil na Slovensku v Majcichove pri Trnave. Ako vojak Slovenskej armády, absolvoval dvojročnú Obchodnú školu v Bratislave. V roku 1948 emigroval najprv do rakúskeho Salzburgu, kde pobudol 6 mesiacov a odtiaľ odišiel do Anglie. Za tým po takmer troch rokoch odišiel do Kanady. V roku 1954 sa natrvalo presťahoval do USA a usadil sa v New Yorku. Tam sa zoznámil so Slovenkou Juditkou Višňovskou z Púchova. V roku 1956 v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, kde sa sústreďoval slovenský život mladých ľudí, pred svedkom kňaza Štefana Krasuľu, uzavreli manželstvo a šťastne žijú dodnes. V roku 1959 sa stal občanom Spojených štátov a svojou húževnatosťou a štúdiom sa postupne vyšplhal na úroveň inžiniera v oblasti stavebníctva a inžinierskych sietí. Bol vyslaný aj do Izraela na dva roky, pretože už v New Yorku pracoval pre firmu Amman Whitney Consultin Eng. Corporation. Väčšinu života, viac ako 40 rokov, pracoval pre Civil Consulting Corporation v Harrisburgu, PA.

Slovenské srdce, ktoré v ňom bilo sa prejavilo v angažovanosti už v Anglii, kde sa stal aktívnym členom Slovenskej mládeže. Krátky čas pracoval aj v Jednote v Middletowne, PA pri príprave časopisu JEDNOTA do tlače. V Pensylvánii bol vedúci chlapčenského Skautu a členom Združenia slovenských katolíkov. Viac ako 20 rokov úspešne viedol Spolok č. 278 IKSJ v Middletowne, PA. Pokiaľ mu to zdravie dovoľovalo, zúčastňoval sa všetkých konvencií IKSJ. Ako delegát, vždy mal plnú hlavu nápadov šírenia slovenskej kultúry v USA. Nechýbal ani na piknikoch Jednoty, Sokola, Šestier sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, Pa atď.

Ako vzorní rodičia viedli svoje deti k šíreniu slovenskej kultúry, hrou v slovenských divadlách v New Yorku, New Jersey, Pittsburghu, Philadelphii, Harrisburgu i v Middletowne. Jozef s manželkou Juditkou robili folklórne výstavy slovenských prác, z ktorých najväčšia bola v Štátnom múzeu v Harrisburgu, PA, kde bolo vystavených 1,200 kusov prác v podobe výšiviek, keramiky, obrazov, máp, vzácných exemplárov kníh a krojov. Pre záujem verejnosti táto výstava trvala 3 mesiace. Ďalšie výstavy boli v Detroit, OH, Allentown, PA, Reading, PA, Dillsburg, PA, Carlisle, PA, Yonkers, NY, Univerzita Penn State, PA.

Na každej výstave sa predstavili tzv. „Slovenskou dedinou“, ktorá obsahovala kópie starých drevených domčekov, ktoré starostlivo ručne vyrobil otec Juditky, Alojz Vyšňovský z Púchova. Pre krásu týchto prác a pre ich zachovanie pre budúce generácie, „Slovenská dedina“ bola sfil-movaná Štátnym Departmentom na výstave „Slovak Day in New York State Park“ a je uložená v USA Dept. of Interior vo Washingtone, DC. Podobne s veľkým úspechom zorganizoval a osobne pripravil s manželkou Juckou výstavu aj na Svetovom festivale mládeže v Mount Mary Lodge.

Pred piatimi rokmi usporiadal Jozef s manželkou zbiereku na kostol v Streženiciach pri Púchove, ktorý sa postavil v rekordnom čase dvoch rokov. Jozefovi sa podarilo navštíviť aj Slovensko 2-krát. Ale nesmierne vdáčný je Pánu Bohu za to, že po 24. rokoch emigrácie sa mu podarilo dostať jeho matku Valériu do USA.

Jozef naďalej pokračuje v nepretržitej publikačnej činnosti, v ktorej sa rád vyjadruje k verejnému životu Slovákov v USA, kde najmä vie potešiť čitateľov svojimi básňami. Pre niektorých úsmevne, ale hlavne pravdive a plnej lásky, ktorú nosí v srdci. Hlavne vrúcný vzťah k rodnému kraju, svojej dedinke Majcichov a až k dojatiu, láske k jeho matke.

Pohostinnosť v rodine Smákových nemá porovnania. Známí priatelia zďaleka či blízka, dvere sú vždy pre každého otvorené. A na stole nikdy nechýbajú povestné, slovenské koláče. Tak ako ich poznáme, manželka Smakovci tvoria príkladnú manželskú dvojicu, ktorá žije – pre druhých.

Áno, „ten čas rýchlo letí...“ tak, ako to Jozef píše vo svojej básni uverejnenej v JEDNOTE zo dňa 2. februára. Nuž, vo veku po 50. to nejde do kopca, ale z kopca, preto ten čas letí rýchlejšie a zrazu je tu 90-tka. Ako sa sám vyjadřil Jozef v spomínanej básni, „že dobré a úprimné slovo je nám dobrým, vzácnym darom. Sme zaň vdáční, je ono akoby nášho života chlebom“.

„Nuž prijmi Jozef vďaka za všetko, čo si so svojou manželkou Juckou urobil na šírení slovenskej kultúry v USA, dobročinnosti a pohostinnosti. A nech sa Ti ešte ruka netrasie napisať, čo Ti leží na srdci. Ale život je už taký, raz sa všetko končí. Ty sa však hanbiť nemusíš.“ My kresťania vieme, kam kráčať z tohto pútného miesta zeme a tam kam ideme, už nebudeme potrebovať veľké okuliare, v úšiach strojček, ani palicu v rukách. Tam nám zotrú každú slzu z očí a budeme vidieť jasne z tváre do tváre Toho, kto sa volá LÁSKA.

Na záver si opäť požičiame úryvok básne Milana Rúfusa: „Plynúci čas, ten neúprosný vládár, ešte aj smrť vie v ňom premeniť na dar“.

„Jozef, hore hlavu a vďaka za všetko. Osláv 90-tku v duchu so všetkými členmi fraternalistických organizácií, kde si bol členom. Na zdravie!“

Ku gratulantom sa pripája aj Redakcia JEDNOTY, a široký okruh známych priateľov, ktorí ku vzácnemu jubileu želajú mnoho dobrého zdravia, duchovnej sviežosti a hojnosť Božích milostí.

Anna a Jozef Biros



Jozef Smák s manželkou Juckou v spoločnosti priateľov. Zľava manželka Birosová a Andrej Banáš s priateľkou.

Joseph Smak and his wife Judy and friends. On the left are authors Anna and Joseph Biros.



Archívna snímka: Jozef Smák s dcérkou Helenkou v Slovenskom múzeu v Middletown, PA.

Joseph Smak with his daughter Helena at the Slovak Museum in Middletown, PA.

Oznámenia o pripravovaných podujatiach spolkov

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 10. apríla, 2011 o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová – pokladníčka

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia bude mať svoju schôdzu na Kvetnú nedeľu 17. apríla 2011. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower, CA 90706 o 11:00 hodine ráno. Po svätej omši bude chutný slovenský obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa už tradične budú zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Za tým bude v jedálni pokračovať schôdza na ktorej programe je plán aktivít a informácie o poistení prostredníctvom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie pozývame všetky spolky na okolí.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Polročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 1. mája 2011 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street v New York City. Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a diskusia o návrhoch na ďalšiu činnosť.

Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto dôležitej schôdzi zúčastnili! Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, Okres č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 22. mája 2011 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní.

Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie a taktiež finančná správa. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripraví členovia spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Oslava 100-ročnice Združenia

slovenských katolíkov v Scrantone, PA

Združenie slovenských katolíkov pripravuje oslavu 100 rokov od svojho vzniku, ktoré sa uskutoční v nedeľu 15. mája 2011 v Scrantone, Pensylvánia. Hlavná časť osláv sa bude konať v diecéznej katedrále sv. Petra. Koncelebrovanú svätú omšu z tejto príležitosti odslúži biskup Jozef Adamec. Nasledujúci deň sa začne konvencia slovenských katolíkov

Bezpečnostné fórum GLOBSEC 2011 v Bratislave

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

dodal Gordon. Ľud na Slovensku po získaní nezávislosti pred takmer 20 rokmi urobil obrovské kroky k zavedeniu demokracie, Slovensko sa stalo plným členom euroatlantických inštitúcií a eurozóny, vyhlásil Gordon. „Spojené štáty sú hrdé, že môžu pokladať Slovensko za blízkeho priateľa a spojenca,“ povedal.

Závazok podporovať bezpečnosť Slovenska, a tým aj všetkých spojencov NATO, a jeho nezávislosť je zakotvený v Článku 5 Severoatlantickej zmluvy - a podľa Gordonových slov je neotrasiteľný. „Tento záväzok a náš vzťah pretrvávajú, pretože sa zakladajú na spoločných hodnotách ako sloboda a demokracia,“ zdôraznil Gordon. Podľa jeho ďalších vyjadrení USA a Slovensko spájajú demokratické princípy, vďaka ktorým je SR aj pilierom regionálnej stability, spolupráce a ekonomického rozvoja.

Krátké správy zo Slovenska

• **Popradský** horolezec Peter Hámor sa začiatkom marca chystá na ďalšiu expedíciu. Počas dvoch mesiacov by chcel spolu s ďalšími troma horolezcami zdolať tri himalájske vrcholy. „Nazvali sme to Himalaj Adventure, ideme do Himalájí za dobrodružstvom a tohto roku je náš cieľ taký trojitý, chceme ísť na kopec Lobuche East, druhý kopec je Pumori, ale hlavným cieľom je Makalu,“ priblížil cieľ výpravy Hámor. Do Himalájí odcestuje štvorčlenná výprava, okrem Petra Hámora je jej súčasťou aj ďalší Popradčan Pavol Jackovič a spolu s nimi Poliak Piotr Pustelnik a pravdepodobne aj Portugalčan Joao Garcia. Výstup na Lobuche East je akousi náhradou za Island Peak. Lobuche East, vysoký 6119 metrov nad morom, je podľa Hámora krajší a ťažší. Hlavný cieľ, ktorým je piaty najvyšší vrchol na svete, vrch Makalu, sa dvaja Popradčania pokúsia zdolať francúzskou cestou.

• **Na Slovensku** žije takmer 40 percent obyvateľov v preľudnených bytových jednotkách alebo rodinných domoch. Toto číslo je viac než dvojnásobkom priemeru Európskej únie, vyplýva zo zverejnených štatistík Eurostatu ohľadne bývania. Až 39,7 percenta obyvateľov Slovenska býva v stiesnených priestoroch a všeobecne sa tak SR zaradila medzi nové členské krajiny, preukazujúce oveľa horšie výsledky ako pôvodná európska pätnásťka. Európskymi „extrémami“ sú Lotyšsko, Maďarsko a Rumunsko, vo všetkých troch prípadoch viac než polovica populácie žije v príliš malých priestoroch. Naopak dostatok životného priestoru majú Cyperčania a Holanďania (iba okolo jedného percenta obyvateľov žije v stiesnených podmienkach). Európskym priemerom je podiel 17,8 percenta.

• **Slovenská** katolícka charita (SKCH) v rámci kampane Aby človek nebol sám zatiaľ vyzbierala sumu 5,672 eur. Zbierka je určená na pomoc hospiciom, ktoré pôsobia v rámci diecéznych či arcidiecéznych charít na Slovensku, a to: Dom pokoja a zmiery u Bernadety v Nitre, Hospic sv. Alžbety v Lubicu, Hospic Matky Terezy v Bardejovskej Novej Vsi a Dom Božieho milosrdenstva v Banskej Bystrici. Prostredníctvom kampane Aby človek nebol sám sa SKCH snaží zvyšovať povedomie verejnosti o význame hospicovej starostlivosti. Slovenská katolícka charita nie je len inštitúciou pomoci, ale aj miestom, kde sa realizuje služba bližným na základe evanjeliového poslania. Napriek tomu, že hospice ako zdravotnícke zariadenia pre nevyliciteľne chorých pacientov v terminálnom štádiu fungujú na Slovensku už niekoľko rokov, neustále pretrvávajú predsudky a nevedomosť ľudí o význame a dôležitosti takejto starostlivosti.

• **Penzie** na Slovensku sa vzdalo 11-tisíc ľudí. Predčasní dôchodcovia, ktorí sa museli do konca mesiaca februára rozhodnúť medzi penziou alebo prácou, zatiaľ uprednostnili zamestnanie. Z vyše 19-tisíc pracujúcich predčasných dôchodcov, ktorých ešte začiatkom januára evidovala Sociálna poisťovňa, sa osemtisíc rozhodlo pobrať radšej predčasný dôchodok. Jedenásťtisíc sa rozhodlo pre zárobkovú činnosť, čím sa vzdali predčasných dôchodkov. Sociálna poisťovňa odlev predčasných penzistov nechcela komentovať. Isté je, že výdavky na predčasné dôchodky poisťovní klesnú.

• **Košice** dobíhajú svoj hendikep v ponuke špičkových kancelárskych priestorov a čoraz viac konkurujú Bratislave. Najnovšie chce v metropole východného Slovenska postaviť nové administratívne centrum spoločnosť Casa Invest. Jej vedenie sa inšpirovalo práve hlavným mestom a kúpilo dokumentáciu k zabehnutému bratislavskému projektu Galvaniho Business Center IV. V centre Košíc postaví za 35 miliónov eur jeho kópiu prispôbenú miestnym podmienkam. To, že developeri administratívnych komplexov čoraz viac objavujú Košice, nie je náhoda. Sledujú predovšetkým rastúci záujem veľkých nadnárodných firiem, ako Slovak Telekom, At&T či IBM, ktoré sú do mesta lákané nízkymi cenami nájomného.

• **Dostupnosť** k internetu by mali mať Slováci do konca roku 2013. „Cieľom je zabezpečiť dostupnosť širokopásmového pripojenia pre všetkých s prenosovou rýchlosťou minimálne jeden megabit za sekundu do konca roku 2013 a do konca roku 2020 umožniť prístup k vysokorýchlostnému internetovému pripojeniu s prenosovou rýchlosťou 30 megabitov za sekundu pre všetkých občanov, verejnú správu, podnikateľský sektor i tretí sektor,“ konštatuje sa v Národnej stratégii pre širokopásmový prístup, ktorú nedávno odsúhlasili vládni ministri. Podľa stratégie vysoké náklady na budovanie infraštruktúry pre vysokorýchlostný prístup k internetu v kombinácii s nízkym dopytom mnohokrát odrádzajú poskytovateľov sietí a služieb investovať do infraštruktúry.

• **Vlani** sa v Starom narodilo len 6 detí. Nové vedenie obce bije na poplach a snaží sa zlý demografický trend zvrátiť. Starostka Agáta Jesenková (KDH) vysvetlila, že kvôli tomu po Novom roku zaviedli motivačné príspevky. Z obecnej kasy ich vyplácajú mladým rodinám. Každý pár dostane pri uzavretí manželstva jednorazový príspevok 150 eur. Podmienkou je, že aspoň jeden z manželov musí mať v obci trvalý pobyt minimálne jeden rok.

• **Vo** Vysokých Tatrách je v prevádzke nová vysokohorská chata. Iniciátorom obnovy Majláthovej chaty na brehu Popradského plesa je horolezec Pavol Lazar. Nová chata sa nachádza len pár desiatok metrov od Chaty pri Popradskom plese. Majláthova chata bude mať celoročnú prevádzku. Okrem reštaurácie poskytne návštevníkom aj ubytovanie v štyroch izbách s celkovou kapacitou 14 lôžok. V reštauračnej časti je vytvorených 50 miest, na vonkajšej terase bude ďalších 250 miest na sedenie. Obnovená Majláthova chata stojí na mieste, kde ešte pred niekoľkými rokmi stál bufet.

• **Začína** sa mediálna časť ku kampani 25. marec - Deň počateho dieťaťa. Ide o pravidelnú celoslovenskú kampaň mimovládnych organizácií združených vo Fóre života. Jej cieľom je šíriť úctu ku každému dieťaťu od počatia, zdvihnúť verejne hlas na ich obranu, šíriť argumenty v prospech ochrany detí ako aj dať možnosť verejne prejavit' postoj za život. Tento rok prebieha 11. ročník kampane. Kampaň je možné podporiť nosením bielej stužky na odevu v týždni od 21. 3. 2011 do 27. 3. 2011. Biela stužka je symbol rešpektovania práva na život od počatia. Centrálnym dňom je 25. marec, ktorý je na Slovensku vyhlásený za pamätný Deň zápasu za ľudské práva. Takisto kresťania na celom svete oslavujú v tento deň slávnosť Zvestovania Pána, teda spomienku na počatie Ježiša Krista. Preto je vhodným termínom aj na poukázanie na potrebu chrániť právo na život tých najzraniteľnejších – detí pred narodením.

• **Stovky** pracovných príležitostí, tisícky turistov a miliónové tržby má priniesť na Liptov investícia roka. Spoločnosť Tatra SPC3 chce neďaleko Liptovského Mikuláša postaviť jeden z najväčších zábavných parkov v strednej Európe. Slovenský Disneyland ponese názov Zlatý vek a chce lákať na domáce dejiny. Projekt spoločnosti chce vytvoriť stredoveké mesto s horskými dráhami, akvaparkom aj hradom. Investícia by mala dosiahnuť 100 miliónov eur. Mesto Liptovský Mikuláš zatiaľ o investícii nerokovalo, pre jej realizáciu je však naklonené.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Zbierka na Detské domovy na Slovensku

Výzva k všetkým tým, čo majú srdce a pevnú vieru!

Motto: Sihote, sihote, zelené sihote, komu je horšie, ako mne sirote?

Nemám otca, mamky, žiadneho priateľa, nemám ku komu ísť, keď príde nedeľa ...

Jakub 1, 27

Prosíme verejnosť o pomoc pre deti umiestnené v Detskom domove na Strednom Slovensku.

Je to výzva k všetkým tým, ktorým nie je ľahostajný osud sirôt. Tento rok už po desiatykrát organizujeme túto pomoc Detským domovom na Slovensku, preto Vás prosíme o príspevok pre deti, ktoré potrebujú Vašu lásku a pomoc.

Tak ako v minulosti príspevky môžete poukázať na Slovenský kostol sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10021 pod heslom „Detské domovy na Slovensku“. Po skončení akcie bude uverejnené vyúčtovanie. Bližšie informácie Vám podajú: Milan a Henrieta Dait, tel.: (201) 641-8922.

110. výročie narodenia Sestry Miriam Terézie Demjanovich

(americkej katolíckej mystičky slovenského pôvodu)

Dňa 26. marca si veriaci katolíckej cirkvi budú pripomínať nie len v USA, ale aj na Slovensku 110. výročie narodenia Sestry Miriam Terézie Demjanovich, americkej katolíckej mystičky slovenského pôvodu, ktorá sa narodila dňa 26. marca 1901 v meste Bayonne, štáte New Jersey v USA.

Jej rodičia Alexander Demjanovič a Johanna Demjanovičová rodená Suchá pochádzali z Bardejova na Východnom Slovensku. Po príchode do USA v máji 1884 sa usadili v meste Bayonne, kde sa im postupne narodilo 7 detí. Ich najmladším dieťaťom bola dcéra, ktorá pri krste dňa 31. marca dostala meno Terézia. Malička Terézia bola veľmi nadaným dieťaťom o čom svedčí aj skutočnosť, že do základnej školy nastúpila už ako 5-ročná. Stredoškolské vzdelanie dostala na Bayonne High School, kde zmaturovala v januári 1917. V tom čase veľmi túžila stať sa karmelitánkou, ale zdĺhavá nemoc jej matky ju zdržala doma ako ošetrovateľku a gazdinu. Až po matkinej smrti v novembri 1918 začala vážne uvažovať o vstupe do rehoľného života.

V septembri 1919 začala navštevovať učiteľský ústav Sv. Alžbety v Convent Station, New Jersey. Štúdium skončila s vyznamenaním 14. júna 1923.

Po vážnom zvažovaní sa dňa 11. februára 1925 rozhodla vstúpiť do Kongregácie rímskokatolíckych milosrdných sestier Sv. Alžbety v Convent Station, N.J. a prijala rehoľné meno Miriam. Jej veľkým duchovným vzorom bola Sv. Terézia z Lisieux. Podobne ako Sv. Tereza tak aj ona prežila toho veľmi veľa a v krátkej dobe. Rehoľný život Sestry Miriam Terézie Demjanovich nemal dlhého trvania. Zomrela na komplikovaný zápal slepého čreva dňa 8. mája 1927 a pochovali ju na kláštornej cintoríne.

Od svojej smrti si získala Sestra Miriam Terézia Demjanovich veľmi veľa priateľov po celom svete. Boli zaznamenané početné milosti a uzdravenia, ktoré sa pripisujú jej orodovaniu.

Jej starší brat a kňaz Karol Demjanovich našiel v jej pozostalostiach viacero zápiskov a poznámok mystického charakteru zameraných na kresťanskú dokonalosť, ktoré v roku 1928 vydal v knihe pod názvom „Greater Perfection“ (Väčšia dokonalosť). Pod názvom „Kvet z Bardejovských záhonov“ ju neskôr v Kanade do slovenčiny preložil a vydal slovenský jezuita Páter Štefan Senčík, SJ.

Z podnetu vtedajšieho biskupa rímskokatolíckej diecézy v Patersone v New Jersey Mons. Thomasa McLaughlina sa krátko po skončení 2. svetovej vojny začali prípravné práce na Beatifikáciu (Blahorečenie) Sestry Miriam Terézie Demjanovich. V júni 1980 Kongregácia pre svätorečenia pri Svätej Stolicy vo Vatikáne vydala dekrét, v ktorom bolo predstaveným rímskokatolíckej diecézy v Patersone oznámené, že sa proces beatifikácie začal.

Na podporu Blahorečenia Sestry Miriam Terézie Demjanovich bola v Kláštore milosrdných sestier Sv. Alžbety v Convent Station, N.J. založená Modlitbová liga, ktorá prostredníctvom svojich letákov rozšírila do tisícich katolíckych domácností po celých USA, ale aj na Slovensku nasledovnú modlitbu za jej Blahorečenie:

Najsvätejšia Trojica! Sestra Miriam Terézia Ťa tak vrúcne milovala. Udeľ nám milosti, aby sme si aj my podobne ako ona vždy viac a viac uvedomovali Tvoju Božskú prítomnosť v našich dušiach. Prosíme Ťa, ukáž nám znamenia, že Tvoja skromná služobnica požíva slávu s Tebou v nebesiach a urýchli deň, keď ju budeme môcť verejne uctievať. Sláva Otcu i Synu i Duchu Svätému, ako bolo na počiatku, tak nech je i teraz i vždycky i na veky vekov. Amen.

Nech táto modlitba bude v deň 110. výročia narodenia Sestry Miriam Terézie Demjanovich zároveň tichou spomienkou všetkých čitateľov americko-slovenských novín JEDNOTA na túto úžasnú a skvelú dcéru slovenských prisťahovalcov.

Juraj Pavlišin, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia



FOTO TASR - Vladimír Benko

Rokovanie ministrov zahraničných vecí krajín Vyšehradskej štvorky za účasti Nemecka, reprezentantov EÚ a krajín Východného partnerstva pri príležitosti slovenského predsedníctva v rámci jubilejného 20. roku existencie zoskupenia V 4 v Bratislave 3. marca 2011. Na snímke zľava štátny tajomník poľského ministerstva zahraničných vecí Mikolaj Dowgialiewicz, český minister zahraničných vecí Karel Schwarzenberg, nemecký minister zahraničných vecí Guido Westerwelle, hostiteľ stretnutia Mikuláš Dzurinda, šéfka európskej diplomacie a prvá podpredsedníčka EK Catherine Ashtonová, maďarský minister zahraničných vecí János Martonyi a český eurokomisár Štefan Füle.

A discussion of the foreign ministers of Visegrad 4 was held in Bratislava on March 3 with representatives of Germany and other EU states on the occasion of the 20th jubilee of the V4. In the photo are L-R, Secretary of Polish Foreign Affairs Mikolaj Dowgialiewicz, Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg, German Minister of Foreign Affairs Guido Westerwelle, meeting host Mikulas Dzurinda, Chief of European Diplomacy and First Vice President EK Catherine Ashtonova, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Janos Martonyi, and Czech European Commissioner Stefan Fule.



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke vľavo prezident a predseda Správnej rady Slovenskej atlantickej komisie Rastislav Káčer počas úvodného vystúpenia na bratislavskom bezpečnostnom fóre GLOBSEC 3. marca 2011 v Bratislave. Vpravo štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí Slovenskej republiky Milan Ježovica.

A three-day Globsec 2011 Bratislava Global Security Forum was held recently in Bratislava. Discussions were held on issues that dominate current international relations. Addressing the participants is Rastislav Kacer, President of the Administrative Council of the Slovak Atlantic Commission. Looking on is Milan Jezovica, Secretary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Slovakia.

Bezpečnostné fórum GLOBSEC 2011 v Bratislave

Bratislava (TASR) - Spojené štáty americké sú hrdé na to, že môžu pokladať Slovensko za svojho blízkeho priateľa a spojenca. Bezpečnosť a nezávislosť SR je neotrasiteľným záväzkom zakotveným v Severoatlantickej zmluve. Vyhlásil to námestník americkej ministerky zahraničných vecí pre európske a euroázijské záležitosti Philip H. Gordon vo svojom prejave na bratislavskom bezpečnostnom fóre GLOBSEC 2011. Témou jeho prejavu 3. marca 2011 bol vzťah medzi USA a ich spojencami v strednej Európe a ako tento vzťah prispieva k európskej aj celosvetovej bezpečnosti.

„Skutočnosť, že sa tejto otázke môžeme venovať v Bratislave - hlavnom meste dynamickej a životom pulzujúcej demokracie - je dôkazom, koľko toho krajiny v tomto regióne dosiahli za taký krátky čas,“ uviedol námestník šéfky americkej diplomacie Hillary Clintonovej. Od konca studenej vojny prešlo iba niečo vyše dvoch desaťročí, ale Európa sa za to krátke obdobie stihla pretvoriť. Komunistické diktatúry nahradili stabilné demokracie, zaviedli sa slobodné trhy a voľný pohyb tovarov a ľudom sa za posledné dve desaťročia dramaticky zvýšila kvalita života, povedal v prejave Gordon. „Stredná Európa je pevne zakotvená v euroatlantickom bezpečnostnom systéme a teraz skutočne prispieva k celosvetovej bezpečnosti,“

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Jaro sa blíži ...

Ten pekný, bielučký sneh, sa roztopil...
a jarné slniečko ukázalo svoju moc
a snehu neprišiel nik na pomoc.

Za humnami, na stráňach poľnej cesty,
medzi kričkami, rozzelenala sa trávička,
nepotrvá dlho, popasie sa na nej kravička.

A tu medzi trávou, vykukli biele snežienky,
hlavičkami kývajú, akoby na pozdrav.
Tu sme, priniesli sme vám, kus teplej jari,
nech Pán vás pokojom a šťastím obdarí.

Skromne čakáme na naše, školské detičky,
kedy nás odtrhnú a poviažu do kytičky,
čo dárčok, pre pani učiteľku a ich mamičky.

Jozef Smák

Roadshow po Spojených štátoch amerických

Cieľom Roadshow je prilákať na Slovensko investorov z USA

Washington (TASR) - Pre potenciálnych nových amerických investorov na Slovensku sú perspektívne dve oblasti, obnoviteľné zdroje energie a vývoj technológií. Povedal šéf rezortu hospodárstva Juraj Miškov po skončení prvého zo série štyroch investičných seminárov vo Washingtone v rámci takzvanej roadshow po USA.

„Chceme presvedčiť Američanov, že na Slovensku nájdú vhodné prostredie pre svoje investície s vyššou pridanou hodnotou a pre svoje vývojové centrá. Na Slovensku máme vysokokvalifikovanú pracovnú silu, obrovský počet vysokoškolákov. To môže byť pridanou hodnotou pre ich investíciu,“ dodal Miškov. Druhou oblasťou spolupráce je takzvaná e mobilita, ktorú podporuje americká administratíva, ktorou je rozvoj elektromobilov v spojitosti s obnoviteľnými zdrojmi energie.

„Je to rozvoj elektroautomobilizmu v tesnej súvislosti aj s rozvojom obnoviteľných zdrojov. Toto je téma, ktorá má budúcnosť a môže byť zaujímavá aj pre Slovensko vzhľadom na štruktúru a veľký pomer automobiliek na slovenskom priemysle,“ zdôraznil Miškov.

Hoci Roadshow sa koná od 28. februára a pokračuje ďalšími seminármi v New Yorku, Chicagu a San Franciscu až do 8. marca 2011, podľa Miškova netreba mať prílišné okamžité očakávania a ani podpisy dohôd. Je to len začiatok procesu, ktorý musí mať pokračovanie. Na jeseň pripravuje podobnú akciu SARIO, Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí (MZV) SR a Ministerstvo školstva (MŠ) SR. „Bude zameraná na vedu, výskum a univerzity,“ zdôraznil minister hospodárstva.

V priebehu 1. polroka 2011 chce podobnú Roadshow Miškov absolvovať aj v Nemecku, kde sa plánuje zamerať na investície s vyššou pridanou hodnotou a na stredne veľké firmy.



FOTO TASR - Michal Svítok

Na snímke zreštaurovaný obraz s výjavom Poslednej večere v Nemocnici Milosrdných bratov v Bratislave, ktorý posvätil arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský (nie je na snímke).

The restored picture of the Last Supper in the Brothers of Mercy Hospital in Bratislava. The picture was blessed by Archbishop Stanislav Zvolensky.