



Jednota

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Volumne 119

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010

NUMBER 5817

Easter Message from President

Patches of snow are still on the ground in Cleveland as I write this message, remains of the series of huge snowfalls that hit Ohio, Pennsylvania and the entire East Coast this Winter.

Easter comes relatively early this year. Along with spring comes the blossom of new and reawakened life. This includes human life. The days are longer and the gloom of Winter is slowly changing.

As the Catholic Church reminds us the focus of our salvation is the Risen Christ as we celebrate the feast of Easter. This after all is the foundation of our Christian/Catholic beliefs.

Many of us who are middle aged or older have memories of Easter seasons past where Holy Saturday services were held at 6:00 A.M. not 6:00 P.M. It sometimes seems that the easier or more convenient we make things the less they are appreciated. As an altar server I still remember those early services.

This past week the Slovak Catholic Federation, an organization dedicated to the survival of the Church in Slovakia under Communism, through the training of priests, and now working to help the Church in Slovakia in its recovery from Communism, held its Annual Meeting in Cleveland.

Part of the program was our attendance and participation in Vespers with the Benedictine Monks at the St. Andrew's Abbey.

These men have a duly routine that gives their lives, work and prayers to God through service to others. Their dedication to their vocation is admirable.

Our 2010 Convention delegates will be able to visit the Abbey during their stay. They will also be able to visit the Slovak Institute which for many years was administered by Fr. Andrew Pier,

continued on page 3



Andrew M. Rajec



As the Lenten Season of darkness and penance passes, the time of rejoicing and spiritual growth is upon us. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish all of our Members and their Families a Blessed and Joyous Easter.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt

A new season is approaching ... that of our Lord's Resurrection. Easter is a time of hope and renewal. The earth starts to blossom with new life, days are longer, neighbors are out and about, and winter is behind us. Take this time to reflect on our Lord's sacrifice for us to renew your faith in Christ as well. On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families a Joyous Easter.



Kenneth A. Arendt

Easter Message from our Chaplain

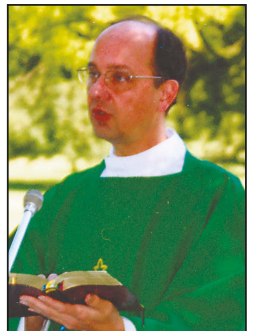
Dear Friends,

At every Sunday Mass everyone who gathers for worship makes a profession of faith after the homily. We normally do this by reciting together the Nicene Creed. But at the Masses of Easter, we do something different. We renew the promises we made at our baptism. Either way, we publically acknowledge our belief in the Holy Trinity, three Persons in One God, each Sunday throughout the year.

As we reflect this Easter upon the great mystery of our faith, the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we can notice that there is a Trinitarian aspect to our responses to it. Each of our responses is somehow interconnected to the other.

Our immediate response to the fact of the Resurrection is one of belief. We believe in the Resurrection of Jesus because of and through the testimony of the original eyewitnesses, a testimony that has been handed down for nearly twenty centuries. We believe in the truth of the Resurrection not because it is proven to be true by means of scientific theorems. We believe because others have told us it is true.

Believing in the Resurrection means we cannot keep this good news to ourselves. We need to share it with someone else. The joy of the Resurrection makes us become like Mary Magdalene and the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who could not wait to tell the disciples



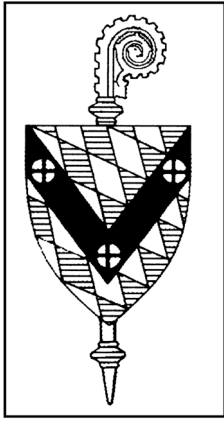
Rev. Thomas Nasta

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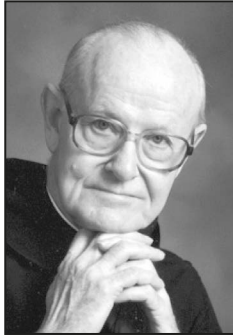
St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Champion P. Gavaler; Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Luke 22:14--23:56

Gospel Summary

The gospel for this Sunday is Luke's version of the passion and death of Jesus. It begins with the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and then continues with the betrayal, the trials before Caiaphas and Pilate, and ends with the crucifixion. We recognize this account as the climax of



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

the mission of Jesus and yet it is almost too much to comprehend. Moreover, the homily will need to be short in view of the blessing of palms and the length of the gospel; hence the need to look for the essential kernel of this story.

It is clear that the suffering of Jesus is the most prominent feature of the passion story. However, it is necessary to insist that this story is not primarily about suffering: it is about loving. It was Jesus' love for us that brought him to his passion and early death, and it was his love for us that opened the way for our redemption. The suffering was a consequence of his loving. There are many kinds of suffering, but only the suffering that comes from loving and remaining faithful is redemptive.

Jesus insists on this when he "defines" himself at the Last Supper as "body-broken-for-us" and as "blood-poured-out-for-us." And in the verses that follow he separates himself from his bickering disciples with the simple and profound statement, "I am among you as one who serves" (22:27).

Life Implications

As Christian disciples of Jesus, we all need to pay close attention to his wisdom and to guide our lives accordingly. Since we tend to be repelled by images of suffering, there is a real danger that we will become too selective in seeking that wisdom. In this way, we may miss the whole point of the passion story.

Today's gospel is a clear reminder that the heart and soul of the wisdom of Jesus is found in this story of his passion and death. Since his suffering came from his unselfish loving, it follows that we must try to discern the causes of our own suffering. Not all suffering comes from loving. Indeed, it is far more likely to come from frustration or disappointment because we cannot have everything we want.

To walk with the suffering Christ is to feel the pain that inevitably accompanies the kind of love that sacrifices for the sake of others. Good parents do this for their children and good children love and obey their parents, even when it means giving up something they want. Good teachers sacrifice for their students also. Loving presence can easily mean a change of personal plans, so that a loving person is often justified in saying, "My life is no longer my own".

The amazing thing about this kind of loving is that, though it is often very painful, there is a joy in it also. This should not surprise us because, after all, we were created to become

free through the love of others and then to convert that precious freedom into loving service. Nothing is more compatible with our true nature as God's children than this kind of loving...and nothing is finally more successful than the resurrection victory that follows such generous and faithful concern for others.

April 4, 2010

Easter Sunday John 20:1-9

Gospel Summary

On that first Easter Sunday, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning and sees that the stone had been removed from the tomb. She runs to get Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, and tells them what she saw. Simon Peter and the other disciple enter the tomb to find burial cloths there and the cloth that had covered the head of Jesus. The beloved disciple sees and believes. The gospel passage continues, reaching its climax in subsequent verses with the appearance of the Risen Lord to Mary Magdalene after the two other disciples had gone home.

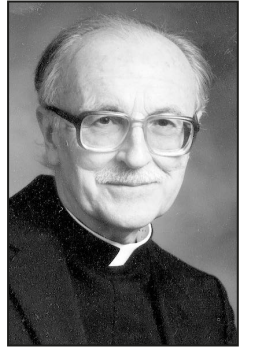
Life Implications

Today is the day of Easter joy. Yet, even as we celebrate we are painfully aware that for many people it is still Good Friday. Every day it seems there is something to remind us of the poverty, injustice, and violence of our world. Reflecting on his own experience of life, Pope John Paul II in an address to pilgrims in Rome used apocalyptic images: "If we cast a glance at the world... it seems that horsemen are riding through the barren lands of the earth, bearing now the crown of victorious power, now the sword of violence, now the scales of poverty and famine, now death's sharp sickle." We are aware that our Easter celebration is an affirmation of hope in a world that appears to experience the pain of Good Friday more than the joy of Easter Sunday.

Jean-Paul Sartre, a much-read atheist philosopher of a few decades ago, in his play *No Exit* gives us one of the most tragic images of what it means to live in a world without hope and without joy. Three characters of his play, having been condemned to hell, are led by a valet into a pleasant drawing room. Surprised by the absence of fire and brimstone, they remark how nice a place hell has turned out to be. Gradually, however, they begin to get on each other's nerves and at each other's throats. They decide not to speak to each other, but they are stuck with each other. There is nowhere else to go. Finally they realize that they themselves are each other's hell. "Real torture is having no escape, real hell is having no hope."

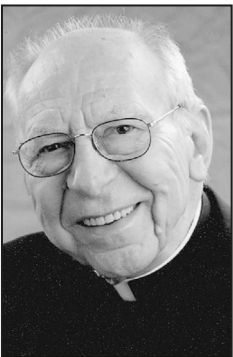
The three characters of the Easter gospel, representing all of us, experience Jesus, not as the "other" who is their hell, but as their friend who knows them and loves them beyond measure. Mary Magdalene remains at the tomb after the two other disciples went home. Jesus appears to her as she weeps, and says to her, "Mary!" She turns to him and says, "Rabboune" (which means My Teacher). The tender exchange of recognition between Jesus and Mary Magdalene is the Easter revelation of authentic human existence.

We can celebrate Easter in hope and in joy because Jesus, the Risen Lord, is with us. He knows us, and with affection calls each of us by name. Through the Easter gift of sharing his new life and liberating love, we too can recognize and treat each other with justice and with affection. Easter means that we can be heaven for each other, a source of hope and joy in our *No Exit* world. We can thank God and sing the Easter song together: "Yes, Christ my hope is arisen...our new life obtaining



Champion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The First Letter of John

"For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who (indeed) is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:3-5)

"God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12)

"I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God. And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in regard to

whatever we ask, we know that what we have asked him for is ours." (1 John 5:13-15)

"Children, be on your guard against idols." (1 John 5:21)

In 1 John 5:14, note that what we ask of the Son of God must be "according to his will," and not our desires.

In the "our Father," we pray "thy will be done."

The idols which John references are worldly honors, temporal authority, and power over others, fame, riches, pride (snobbishness in our behavior toward others) and entrances into halls of fame not meritoriously but because of desire.

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Easter Message from President

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which is housed in the Abbey.

As many of the churches originally founded by Slovaks and staffed by Slovak priests and nuns are merged or closed, many of the old traditions slowly die out in the United States. We give credit and urge you to support and participate in your church to keep and respect these traditions where and while they still exist.

Our Easter at my home in Cleveland will be a little different this year since my Mother-in-Law passed away in February at age 92. Her Slovak stories and remembrances will be missed.

Our prayers are with you and especially those of you or those who have loved ones with health concerns.

Spring is here! Happy Easter!

Christ is risen, Let us rejoice and be glad!

Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, Radujme sa!

Andrew M. Rajec
President



Easter Message from our Chaplain

continued from page 1

that they saw Jesus, raised in glory. Believing in the Resurrection makes us missionaries, proclaimers of the good news.

There are many ways people communicate with each other today. There's e-mail, text messaging, social network sites, and old fashioned methods like calling someone on the telephone and using snail mail. It is very likely that very few have used any of these methods to proclaim the news of the Resurrection to others. We do proclaim it, however, by the manner in which we live. Living the resurrection is to commit oneself to the Gospel of Life. Living the resurrection is to pray, to forgive, and to be just, as Jesus taught. Living the resurrection is to believe in the resurrection.

Our belief in the resurrection leads us to proclaim it and live it. To proclaim the Resurrection is to believe in it and to live it. Living the Resurrection is to proclaim in word and deed what we believe: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Have a happy Easter.

Faternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY AND IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2010



PLAN NAME	APY	APR
A new Six Year Flexible Preium Deferred Annuity or IRA with Cash Interest Option	4.40%	4.306%
	4.15%	4.066%
A New Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA		
Deposit of \$10,000.00 or more - First Year Guarantee	5.60%	5.449%
Deposit of less than \$10,000.00 - First Year Guarantee	4.65%	4.545%
A new Park 2 Annuity	3.75%	3.682%
A new Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA		
First Year Guarantee	3.50%	3.440%
A new Six Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	4.00%	3.922%
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.90%	3.826%



If you have any questions about our Annuities or IRA's, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!



IRA REMINDER

APRIL 2010						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	90
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Don't Delay!
Make your contribution today!
You have until April 15, 2010
to contribute for 2009

INTEREST RATE EFFECTIVE 3/1/2010 - 4.40% (4.306% APR)



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

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
24 PUBLIC SQUARE
CLEVELAND, OHIO, 44113
PHONE: 216-696-5600; FAX: 216-696-0432

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

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

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

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

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints

Thank You from the Hricik Family

The family of Thomas M. Hricik, President Emeritus of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU), would like to extend our thanks for your generosity, kindness, and support following Tom's recent passing. The Jednota's Home Office informed us that over \$3,000 were donated to the FCSU Scholarship Fund in Tom's name. These funds will help young members achieve their goal of completing a college education.

It would be hard to thank each one of you for your generosity, cards, flowers, and friendship extended over this difficult period. At the funeral home visitation so many friends, family members, and colleagues expressed their condolences. We appreciated that current FCSU Supreme Officers and Board of Directors came from some distance in bad weather for visitation and the Funeral Mass. The Hricik's also drew comfort from the many FCSU branch officers and members that offered the family kind words about Tom's life and legacy. Great thanks also to the Jednota Home Office Staff, whom Tom appreciated and spoke highly of throughout his service in Cleveland and in retirement.

We would like to express gratitude to the Diocese of Greensburg's clergy for their level of kindness and consideration. Likewise, Tom would have been pleased to see members of the Greek Orthodox Church at the funeral home. Each year Tom made the annual Mt. Saint Macrina Pilgrimage in Uniontown, Pa. Tom had a great affection and connection with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa, many of whom sent cards and Mass cards.

The Funeral Mass was served as a touching reminder of his faith and pride in his Slovak heritage. Many thanks to local clergy, FCSU chaplains, the Saint Florian pastoral team and choir. Tom had been a choir member for many years, and he would have been so pleased to hear such wonderful Slovak music. Special thanks to members of the Pittsburgh Slovaks, who were in attendance to sing and act as honorary pall bearers. Tom, a staunch Roman Catholic, loved the Church and the St. Florian parish community and would have appreciated such a beautiful celebration.

Tom thrived during his 12 years as President of the FCSU. As a result of his work, he had the opportunity to travel across the United States, Canada, and Europe. He especially enjoyed his trips to Slovakia. He was able to meet a U.S President, Members of Congress, Presidents of European countries, and quite a few leaders in political circles and the Church. However, the experiences he most enjoyed was getting out and talking with the members of the FCSU. He always would listen to what members had to say and would often use their comments or ideas in his speeches or articles. At the end of the day, his life was about service to others and he was always so proud to act as the FCSU President. Even several years after retirement he was asked what he missed most and he said simply, "The people. I have been blessed to meet many wonderful people in this job." The Hricik Family thanks you and wishes you all continued health, happiness and success.



Come Celebrate Easter in Bellflower CA With Special Mass. Luncheon

Prince Pribina District 15 extends an invitation to celebrate Easter with a Slovak Mass on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 11:00 AM at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. Following the liturgy, there will be a Slovak gourmet lunch with dessert in the cafeteria and Slovak music and children will enjoy the Easter Egg hunt.

Paul Skuben, President



Beneficiary Changes

Please keep your policies up to date!

To change your beneficiaries you can download the *member service request form* from our website at

www.fcsu.com then mail to the Home Office at

6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300, Independence OH 44131

"Park 2 Annuity" 3.75%

(3.682% apr)

Rate Effective March 1, 2010

Under the "PARK 2 ANNUITY", you make a **ONE-TIME DEPOSIT OF AT LEAST \$1,000.00** into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a **GUARANTEED RATE FOR TWO YEARS**. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- ❖ The FCSU **GUARANTEES YOUR INITIAL INTEREST RATE FOR TWO YEARS**. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- ❖ The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- ❖ The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- ❖ Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. **YOU MAY, HOWEVER, WITHDRAW UP TO 10% OF YOUR 'BEGINNING OF THE YEAR BALANCE'** with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- ❖ Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- ❖ Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- ❖ The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.



Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications
Visit our web site at FCSU.com

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR 31	MONDAY, MAR 22
WEDNESDAY, APR 28	MONDAY, APR 19
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12	MONDAY, MAY 3

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

Annual Statement for the year 2008 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Year			Prior Year
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	4 Net Admitted Assets
1. Bonds (Schedule D).....	192,755,317		192,755,317	158,324,977
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	6,607,387		6,607,387	8,636,877
2.2 Common stocks.....	3,318,652		3,318,652	1,205,686
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	2,023,638		2,023,638	2,140,379
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,181,360		1,181,360	1,234,889
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	923,632		923,632	963,543
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....4,417,205, Sch. E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$.....0, Sch. E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$.....0, Sch. DA).....	4,417,205		4,417,205	23,237,354
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	860,699		860,699	788,998
7. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	19,342,441		19,342,441	1,512,791
8. Receivables for securities.....	202,000		202,000	
9. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
10. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 9).....	232,195,006	0	232,195,006	198,608,169
11. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
12. Investment income due and accrued.....	2,583,447		2,583,447	2,404,672
13. Premiums and considerations:				
13.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in course of collection.....	16,459		16,459	23,684
13.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
13.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
14. Reinsurance:				
14.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
14.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
14.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
15. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
16.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
16.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
17. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
18. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
19. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	7,463	7,463	0	
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
21. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
22. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
23. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	29,644	29,644	0	0
24. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 10 to 23).....	234,832,019	37,107	234,794,912	201,036,525
25. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
26. TOTALS (Lines 24 and 25).....	234,832,019	37,107	234,794,912	201,036,525

Annual Statement for the year 2009 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life certificates and contracts (Exhibit 5, Line 9999999) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	196,855,000	179,732,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (Exhibit 6, Line 16, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (Exhibit 7, Line 14, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	12,370,600	1,501,974
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, Column 1 less sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid (Exhibit 4, Line 10).....		
6. Provision for refunds payable in following calendar year-estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Col. 1, sum of Lines 4 and 14).....	299,760	307,942
8. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 6).....	1,399,339	2,639,478
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	17,503	8,157
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	770,564	89,226
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued (Exhibit 3, Line 8, Col. 6).....	22,843	23,542
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	6,262,860	5,824,275
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	10,000	10,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve (AVR, Line 16, Col. 7).....	2,514,121	235,339
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Payable for securities.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	403,310	905,000
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	221,625,900	191,976,933
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	221,625,900	191,976,933
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	13,169,012	9,059,592
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	13,169,012	9,059,592
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 26, Col. 3).....	234,794,912	201,036,525

Annual Statement for the year 2009 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Line 20.4, Col. 1).....	17,676,121	8,025,584
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	14,943,839	12,053,864
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	54,446	285,614
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....		
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.1, Col. 1).....		
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....		
8. Miscellaneous Income:		
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....		
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....		
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	16,665	63,352
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	32,691,071	20,428,413
10. Death benefits.....	2,532,557	2,685,825
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....	2,659	1,588
12. Annuity benefits.....	4,901,437	8,773,933
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	498,712	661,047
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	283,795	244,648
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	17,123,000	3,602,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	25,342,160	15,969,041
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only) (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 31, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....	134,291	85,734
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.2, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....		
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses (Exhibit 2, Line 10, Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).....	2,569,964	2,551,320
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	98,407	75,924
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....		
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(122,552)	(79,320)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	28,022,269	18,602,698
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	4,668,802	1,825,715
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	359,336	398,195
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	4,309,466	1,427,520
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$.....1,185,692 transferred to the IMR).....		(1,162,863)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	4,309,466	264,657
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	9,059,592	13,112,264
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	4,309,466	264,657
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	2,193,793	(6,772,727)
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....		40,000
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	3,898	3,894
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease (Exhibit 5A, Line 9999999, Col. 4).....		
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(2,278,782)	2,202,503
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....		
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts statement.....		
42. Change in surplus notes.....		
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....		
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....		
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	(118,954)	209,000
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	4,109,421	(4,052,673)
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	13,169,012	9,059,592

George and Florence Sprock Receive Stewardship Award

St. Florian Parish in United, Pennsylvania recently recognized "well deserving" parishioners by naming them recipients of its annual Stewardship Award. FCSU Regional Director George Sprock and his wife Florence were among the select group of parishioners honored on Saturday, January 30, 2010, at a special Mass. The awardees were recognized by St. Florian's pastor, the Rev. William McGuirk, for their on-going volunteerism as the parish celebrated Stewardship of Time and Talent at the Mass. Devoted to feeding St. Florian's parish body and soul, Florence has been instrumental in preparing hot meals for students, maintaining the corn roast at the Parish festival, running the kitchen on bingo night, and contributing recipes to the Parish cookbook. She also has served as a long time caregiver and greeter at the church and is a member of the Rosary Altar Society. As the head of a large, happy and devout Catholic family, George's dedication to St. Florian's remains as unflinching as his dedication to the First Catholic Slovak Union. His volunteerism with Branch 181 helped it grow into the largest branch in the FCSU. A Regional Director for more than 14 years, George also sits on the Board of Directors and has been a top seller for the Society for many years.

Congratulations George and Florence!



L to R, Florence Sprock, the Rev. William McGuirk, and George Sprock at a well attended dinner honoring volunteerism

Trip To Slovakia and Poland

A 10-day trip to Slovakia and Poland in the footsteps of SS. Cyril & Methodius is planned for October 4 – 13, 2010, leaving from Kennedy Airport in NY. Some of the sites we will visit are: Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Poland. In Slovakia we will tour the city of Bratislava and the Devin Castle. There will be sightseeing at the Cathedrals and historical sites and entertainment in the following cities: Kosice, Presov, Spa District of Bardejov, Nitra, Trnava, Levoca, Sastin and the Slovak National Literary Museum in Martin.

For further information about this trip or to request a brochure of this trip, please contact Sr. Carol Marie at the following email address carolmariesscm@yahoo.com or by phone at 717-766-6221.



Four Jednota generations: (L to R) Regional Director & Great-grandfather George Sprock, Executive Chairman of Auditors & Grandma Karen M. Hunka, Father Joshua A. Hunka, and Baby Aliqui V. Hunka.

Seventh Annual Anniversary Banquet in Kent, Ohio

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association will hold its Seventh Annual Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, May 16, 2010 (originally scheduled for May 2, 2010). The Banquet will be in the Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane, State Route 59, which is located behind the Twin Star Bowling Lanes at 2245 State Route 59. Doors open at 1:00PM for a Social Hour, followed by dinner at 2:00PM and a program at 3:00PM. Music will be provided during the social hour and dinner by the Johnny Pastirik Band featuring orchestra members Johnny Pastirik, Len Jacko and Ken Javor. The program includes a performance by the PAS Folk Ensemble of Pittsburgh, PA and the Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble with members Milka Anderko, Maria Cvicela, and Monica Smid. Dancing will follow the program.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person, and are sold in advance only. Ticket orders with directions will be mailed. Please be sure to include names of all guests. Make checks payable to:

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association
1544 Vine Street
Kent, OH 44240

For more information, call President Rudy Bachna at (330) 673-3255.

Branch 89 Museum Outing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 will have an outing to the Milwaukee Public Museum on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 1:00PM sharp to see the Dead Sea Scrolls and The Bible Exhibition. This is a timed entry, so attendees need to be there at 12:30 so the group can go into the exhibit at the scheduled hour (1:00PM).

Tickets must be purchased in advance for groups, so you must make an advanced reservation to attend this event by April 7, 2010. Please call President Michael Novak at 414-445-5382 to reserve your spot.

Tickets for members are free; guests are welcome but must pay the face value of the ticket, or \$26 per attendee. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Branch 89. Mail checks to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Mike Novak, President

Address Changes?

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

Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398, or email fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

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YOUTH ROUND-UP

Scholarships Available For Study in Slovakia

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic has announced the 2010 Government Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program provides for University study in the Slovak Republic in the Slovak language (both graduate and undergraduate), including one year preparatory language training at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Government Scholarship Program is specifically intended to provide university education opportunities for Slovaks living abroad. As a result of that, Slovak organizations in the United States have a unique opportunity to influence candidate selection because the Ministry of Education requires any candidate to be endorsed by the local Slovak organization. Scholarships are available only to non-Slovak citizens under 26 years of age.

Candidates may select any study program of their interest at any accredited university in Slovakia; however, a list of preferred study programs has been compiled and is available by request. Please be advised that medical sciences, dentistry, and pharmacy are not recommended in 2010 by the Ministry of Education.

Candidates must submit their applications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic by May 30, 2010. Applications received after May 30, 2010 will not be accepted. Candidates may also apply individually and directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – OKUD, Hlboka, cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava.

The Slovak Embassy is willing to provide assistance in submitting applications; however, be advised that the deadline to submit applications at the Embassy is May 1, 2010. The Slovak Embassy is located at 3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

For more information, contact Ms. Terezia Sajgalikova, e-mail: terezia.sajgalikova@mzv.sk, tel. 202-237-1054 ext. 223 or visit the website of the Slovak Ministry of Education at www.minedu.sk.



Saturday, May 1st, 2010

Seven Hills, City Hall
7325 Summitview Drive
Seven Hills, OH, 44131

- Single woman between the age of 16- 26 years old.
- Czech, Slovak, Moravian, Silesian, or Carpathio-Rusyn heritage
- American citizen

Entry Fee: \$25

4 Part Competition:

- Kroj Modeling
- Talent: 4 minutes limit
- Private Interview
- On stage Interview

Prizes:

The Queen will receive:

Bond, Crown, Sash, Flowers, Traveling donation to the Nation Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska [1st weekend of August 2010]

1st Runner Up will receive:

Crown, Flowers, and ½ free admission fee to the following year's pageant

2nd Runner Up will receive:

Crown, Flowers, ½ free of the admission fee for the following year's pageant

Make Friends from all over the USA!

Win great prizes!

Promote your Heritage!

Have Fun!

Deadline for entry: April 1st, 2010

Contact: Suzybures@sbcglobal.net (Pageant Director)
MissCzechSlovakOlivia@yahoo.com (Current Ohio Queen)

Suzanne Bures
Olivia Buydos

St. Clement's Society Branch 40 Scholarship for 2010

Attention all students: the St. Clement's Society Branch 40 is once again offering scholarships to its youth members. You may be eligible to win a one-time scholarship if:

- You are a member of the FCSU St. Clement's Society Branch 40
- You are in high school and have applied for a fall term at a qualifying institute, OR
- You are attending a private grade school.

The available scholarships – a one-time award of \$500 for college and a one-time award of \$250 for private grade school – are solely funded by your local lodge (Branch 40), and not by the FCSU National Office.

For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at (815) 672-6142, and leave a message. Or you can email her at ttegraves@mchsi.com to receive information electronically, including an application.

All applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2010.

Theresa Graves, Scholarship Committee

Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport College 2010 Scholarship

The Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut is now accepting applications for its \$1,000.00 2010 Scholarship for students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of college or graduate school. Applications, procedures and guideline forms are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Chairperson Eileen S. Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, Connecticut 06614, by the deadline of May 11, 2010.

Among the requirements for scholarship: Applicant, grandparent(s), parent(s) must be a member of the Slovak Alliance for a minimum of three years and of Slovak descent.

Studia Academica Slovaca

The prestigious "Studia Academica Slovaca" (SAS) has been an educational program organized by Comenius University in Bratislava for the past 46 years. This year, SAS will run from August 1st to August 21st 2010, with a curriculum aimed at all those studying the Slovak language and culture, and all Slavists in general. This intensive program is especially geared toward university or college professors, experienced teachers, postgraduates and advanced undergraduates of Slovak and Slavonic studies, as well as writers, translators and all others interested in the Slovak language and culture. The program also offers the opportunity to study the basics of the Slovak language at any level of proficiency, including beginners, with the goal of helping students improve and extend their Slovak language competence, as well as increase their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture. More information about SAS is available at www.fphil.uniba.sk/sas

Application for the course should be submitted online at "www.e-slovak.sk/apply/", by May 15, 2010.

To promote participation from the U.S., the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic offers 3 scholarships for participants from the U.S. to the SAS program. (Scholarship does not cover travel and insurance)

Scholarship application

Applications for the SAS scholarship should be submitted to the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 3524 International Court, NW, 20008 Washington, DC. Deadline for the scholarship applications is the April 15th, 2010. Application may have a form of a general letter, fax (202-237-6438) or email (terezia.sajgalikova@mzv.sk – please use as a subject code Studia Academica Slovaca) expressing interest to receive scholarship for the Studia Academica Slovaca that includes applicant's:

Date of Birth, Address of Permanent Residence, Address of Temporary Residence, Nationality, Citizenship, Current Employment, Telephone contact, Fax (if available), E-mail contact, Indication whether candidate received SAS scholarship in the past, Current skills in Slovak language (proficiency, intermediate, beginner), character of use of Slovak language - including indication to which of the priority groups (explained further) applicant belongs.

Properly submitted applications will be confirmed by the Embassy. If your application has not been confirmed within 3 days following submission, please contact the Embassy without delay.

Applicants for SAS scholarships will be selected according to following priorities (Priority Groups).

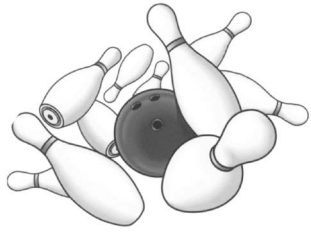
1. University or college professors, experienced teacher, postgraduate and advanced undergraduate of Slovak and Slavonic studies in the U.S.,
2. Writers, translators, journalists, artists using Slovak language in the U.S.,
3. U.S. Businessmen and employees of the U.S. based companies active in the Slovak Republic,
3. Members of the Slovak American organizations and families,
4. All other with interested in Slovak language and culture.

Within the same group, priority will be given to those:

1. whose work is perceived as most beneficial for promotion of the Slovak language and culture in the U.S. or for the promotion of strong Slovak-U.S. relations,
2. who are in the most need of financial assistance (i.e., students, postgraduates, etc.)
3. who haven't received a SAS scholarship in the past.

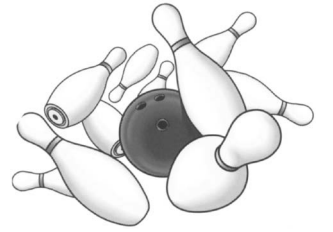
Previous application for scholarship has no positive or negative influence on the decision making process.

All applicants will be informed about a decision on their application by April 25, 2010. Successful candidates will then individually apply online using a special scholarship code provided by the Embassy. Candidates who do not qualify for a SAS scholarship will still have the opportunity to apply as a self-paying participant in the program. Note: if you are applying for a scholarship, please do not apply online prior to a decision being rendered on your eligibility. An applicant who applies online without an assigned special scholarship code will be automatically processed as a self-paying applicant.



Slovak Bowling Congress Celebrates 68th Annual Tournament in April

America's Foremost Slovak Sporting Event At Freeway Lanes In Warren, Ohio



In 1939, two Slovak brothers – Steve “Doc” and Peter Hletko – formed the Slovak Bowling Congress (SBC). The first Slovak National Bowling Tournament was held that same year at St. Francis Recreation Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two teams and 10 bowlers participated in that first tournament organized by the Hletko brothers.

Today, known as The Slovak Bowling Congress of America/ Slovak National Bowling Tournament, the event has grown to include over 100 teams, and more than 500 bowlers. Past tournaments have been held in many areas, including: Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Chicago, Illinois; Youngstown, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Sharon, Pennsylvania; Erie, Pennsylvania; and Akron, Ohio. Over the years, the tournament has

enjoyed entries of 12,969 teams, 31,692 double teams, 74,283 singles, and 50,974 all-events bowlers. All time payouts total more than \$787,837!

2010 Tournament Starts April 10 in Warren, OH

Traditionally starting in April, the 2010 Slovak National Bowling Tournament runs the weekends in April, beginning April 10, 2010, through the weekend of May 2, 2010. It will be held at the Freeway Lanes, 2700 Parkman Rd NW, Warren, OH, 44485. More than 700 bowlers from some 160 cities throughout the United States and Canada are expected.

Entrants in this year's tournament are competing for a prize fund in excess of \$20,000. Plus, as a special incentive,

the following Slovak organizations are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the 2010 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.

Any questions, or for more information on the tournament or the SBC, please contact: Mr. John M. Golias, 440-526-3657 or 440-526-3445; or Joe Harkulich, 330-448-8630. The Slovak National Tournament Committee is hoping to see all Slovak bowlers at the Freeway Lanes in Warren, Ohio.

John M. Golias, National Tournament Committee



A Lesson in Slovak Greetings

The following is reprinted from the free language courses by Lubos Brieda, geared toward an American traveler as he makes his way around the country, and available on www.slovakcooking.com under the Language tab.

You just arrived in Slovakia, and checked into a hotel. You meet some fellow travelers, and get in a little conversation with them...

Mišo: Ahoj! Vy ste američan?

You: Yes, I am American. And you, are you Slovak?

Mišo: Áno, ja som Slováč. Volám sa Mišo.

You: Hi Mišo. My name is also Michael.

Mišo: No tak ahoj Michael! A tu je Lucia. Ona je tiež slovenka.

You: Hi Lucia! My name is Michael.

Lucia: Ahoj Michael! Tam je Bob, on je tiež američan.

Lucia: Bob, vy ste američan, že?

Bob: Áno, som. Prečo?

Lucia: Tu je Michael, on je tiež američan.

Bob: Oh, hi Michael, nice to meet you!

You: Nice to meet you, Bob!

Notes

Let's go over this dialog. You are approached by a Slovak guy named Mišo. This is a very common Slovak name. It's the short form of Michal, just like Mike is the short form of Michael. He says hi (ahoj), and asks if you are American. Vy ste means you are. Note that you don't have to reverse the verb and the noun as is done in English. Instead, the fact you

are asking a question is indicated by your intonation.

Mišo next tells you that he is Slovak. Áno mean yes and ja som is I am. To say my name is ... you say volám sa Literally this phrase means (I) call myself Neat, you guys have the same first names! No tak ahoj is a little embellishment which the Slovak language is full of. It means, roughly, well, in that case, hi. Mišo next introduces his (female) friend Lucia. A tu je is and here is. Ona je tiež Slovenka means She is also Slovak. Note that the female form of “Slovak” (slovenka) is different from the male one (slovák). This is very common in our language. The endings of most words change based on whether they are referring to male, female or neuter items, and also based on what form they serve in the sentence. This behavior is called conjugation.

Lucia next introduces her friend Bob. Tam je means there is. Bob has been living in Slovakia for a while, and speaks good Slovak. Lucia double checks his origin. The že added to the end of the sentence serves the same role as right in you are American, right? Bob confirms. Note that he just says som, and not ja som. You will notice that the pronouns (ja, on, ona, my, vy, etc...) are not used very often. This is because the form of the verb indicates which pronoun it refers to. This is just as if you were saying “Am Slovak” instead of “I am Slovak”. You could do this in English with the verb “to be” (but it would sound strange) . In Slovak, you can get away with not using the pronoun with ANY verb. Pretty neat, right? Finally, prečo simply means why.

Any questions? Want more information? Go to www.slovakcooking.com and click on the Language tab.



Remembering our Mother

By Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

At an early age, I noticed that our mother was not only a beautiful woman, but with a natural dignity and grace in her bearing, walk, and approach to people. She enjoyed the company of others, exchanging news about their families and telling them how her children were doing. Our mother had style; she always dressed well.

She had a long life that included some major in her life. Born in Sološnica, the daughter of a wealthy landowner and a Slovak Member of the Czechoslovak Parliament, Štefan Danihel, she grew up in two worlds that often collided: there was the world of politics and receptions and the challenges of growing up in a rural setting with three brothers. She dressed and behaved like a “tomboy” and delighted in telling this story: One day, her mother, whom she adored, knowing that important people were coming for dinner, decided to teach her how to welcome them and also made sure that she wore a dress and a bow in her hair. Just before the guests arrived, her brothers told her that her pet chick was stuck under the pigsty (they

had put it there). Our mother dove under the shed only to come out with the chick in hand, her dress full of smelly mud, just as the guests arrived..... It was in her parents' home that she met a young politician, Dr. Jozef Kirschbaum, whose companion she was for the rest of his life.

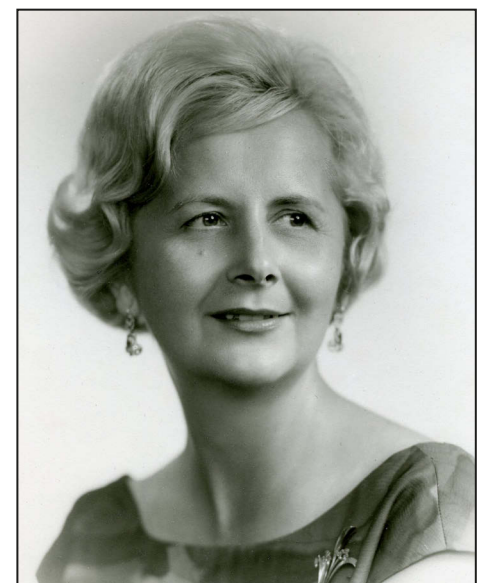
My parents' wedding in October 1941 was the social highlight of the season in Slovakia. By then, our father was out of politics and the next four years, in Slovakia's diplomatic service, were always referred to as the happiest. She gave birth to two children (me and my sister Janka) before her life took on a dramatic turn. At the end of the Second World War, our family became refugees and suddenly she became a full-time mother; she also gave birth to our sister Gabriela. We emigrated to Canada in 1949 and our mother took on the challenge of caring for three children and helping our father settle down to a new life.

When we moved to Toronto in 1957 our mother was able also to pursue other interests. After she gave birth to our brother Stephen, she did volunteer work, managed

an apartment complex, and was involved in many activities organized by the Toronto Slovak community. When my father founded the Slovak World Congress in 1970, her presence made its social activities dignified as well as glamorous events.

When our father was diagnosed with cancer, our mother showed us what it meant to care for someone fulltime. After he died, her own health began to fail and she too needed help. She hired a Philippina caregiver, Marlene Cathy Bello, who proved to be a real “guardian angel” in the way she took care of our mother, especially after her stroke in 2006. I took to visiting our mother regularly. I saw her the last time just before I left for a study trip to South America. She could not wait for me to return and tell her all about it. The Lord decided otherwise and she passed away on 14 January as I was sailing around Cape Horn.

Our mother lived a long life, with many challenges. These often took their toll, but in the end, she left a legacy of tenacity, determination, and strength. She often wished that her life had followed a different path but I



**Maria Magdalena
KIRSCHBAUM (1920-2010)**

do think that in the way she showed her love to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, she let it be known that, no matter what had happened, her family was, in the end, what made her life worth living.



Book Corner

Carpathian Cookbook Available For Easter

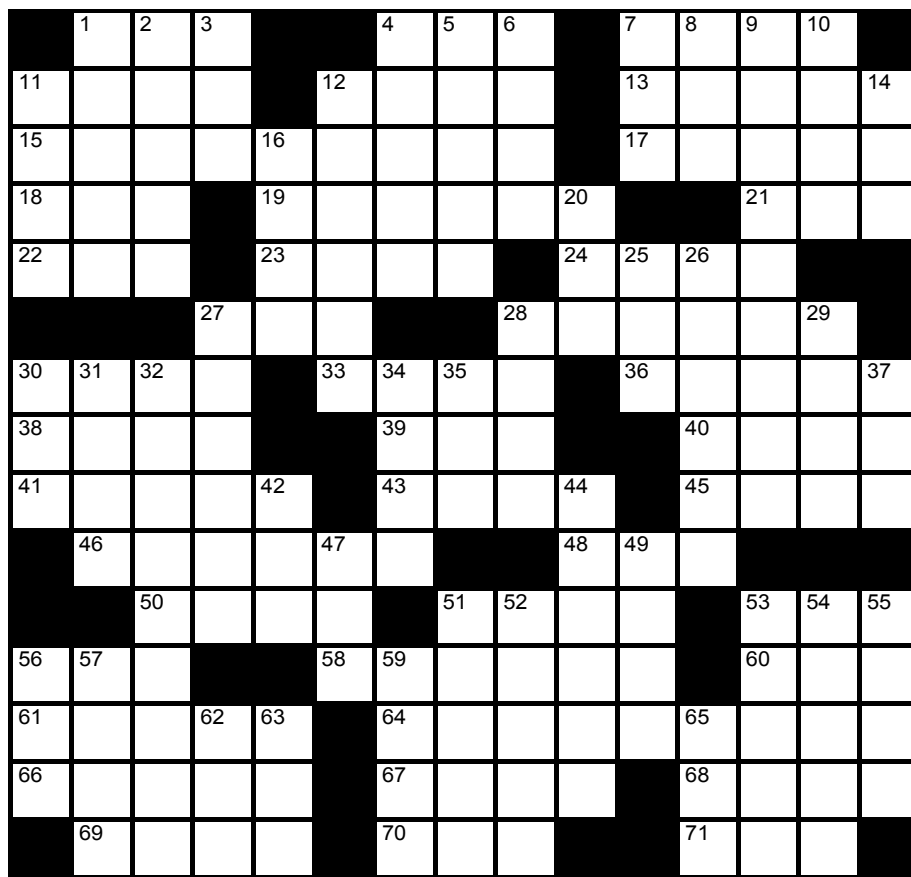
The 13th edition of the Carpathian Cookery cookbook, now available for sale, includes sections on Easter customs and recipes, along with those for Christmas, as well as traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other "tried and true" recipes of St. John parishioners.

The cost of Carpathian Cookery in the US is \$14.00, plus \$3.00 postage and handling, for a total of \$17.00. If ordering from Canada, please send a \$20.00 US Postal money order payable in US dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage costs.

Please send your check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. For more information, call (724) 438-6027 or email www.carpathian-cookery@gmail.com.



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Conclusion
- 4 Time zone
- 7 Macrame
- 11 Afr. perennial
- 12 Poet Teasdale
- 13 Footless creature
- 15 Hidden danger
- 17 Dutch cheese
- 18 Increases
- 19 Speaks
- 21 Metropolitan arc (Abbr.)
- 22 Golf item
- 23 Brains
- 24 God of war
- 27 Pol. Landon
- 28 Egg dish
- 30 Pain
- 33 Of all time
- 36 Accumulations
- 38 Threshold
- 39 Biz inits.
- 40 Nitty-gritty
- 41 Playwright Neil
- 43 Shriveled
- 45 ___ *la Douce*
- 46 Cloud of gas
- 48 Time zone
- 50 Measure out
- 51 Map
- 53 Spoil
- 56 UN agency
- 58 Awaken
- 60 Actress MacGra
- 61 Roof parts
- 64 Authorized
- 66 Less damp
- 67 Layer of ore
- 68 Auto need
- 69 Food shop
- 70 Tax form ID

Down

- 2 Slipknot
- 3 Society girl
- 4 Jeweler's unit
- 5 Mild oaths
- 6 Package binding
- 7 Fall behind
- 8 Mil. mailbox
- 9 Attorney
- 10 Small whirlpool
- 11 Border on
- 12 Discord
- 14 Pouch
- 16 Caterwaul
- 20 *Lost Horizon* actor Jaffe
- 25 Agent (Abbr.)
- 26 Draw out
- 27 Organism
- 28 Killer whale
- 29 Tenure
- 30 Circulars
- 31 Nickel
- 32 Amateur pictur show
- 34 Passport endorsement
- 35 Compass pt.
- 37 Body of water
- 42 Pecan, for one
- 44 Justification
- 47 Grazing land
- 49 Goulash
- 51 Apples and pear
- 52 Plant genus
- 53 Opera singer Callas
- 54 Wary
- 55 Amusement parl feature
- 56 Espouse
- 57 Difficult
- 59 Guns the motor
- 62 Moray
- 63 ___ Lanka
- 65 And so on (Abbr.)
- 71 Cheetah, e.g.

See Solution on Page 18

Our Slovak Easter Customs

The Easter customs of Slovakia are as varied as the talents of the Slovak people in their usage and adaptation. They are similar throughout the country, but vary in the three regions of Western Central, and Eastern Slovakia, as well as from city to city, village to village, and home to home.

With the approach of Holy Week, the Lenten season gives way to the joy and anticipation of the Savior's resurrection and mankind's redemption. Easter – or as it is called Slovak, *Veľká Noc* (The Great Night) – is the holiest of all religious holidays because it fulfills the promise of God's gift of salvation. Holy Saturday morning (*Bielá Sobota* or White Saturday) calls for the preparation of Easter breads and cakes throughout Slovakia. In Eastern Slovakia, this special bread is called *Paska*; in Orava and Liptov it is called *Veľkonočná Babka*; and in Western Slovakia instead of the Easter *Paska* or *Babka*, a cake is baked in the form of a lamb – the *Veľkonočný Baránok*. *Bielá Sobota* is also the day of the preparation and blessing of Slovak Easter baskets.

Staples of the Slovak Easter Basket

The staples of a Slovak Easter basket throughout Slovakia are the *Paska* or *Babka*, butter, beet-horseradish, smoked slab bacon, hard boiled eggs, salt, smoked sausage, and cooked ham. In Eastern Slovakia, a regional delicacy called *Syrek* (the Little Cheese) is also part of the standard Easter basket fare. Other additions to the special Slovak Easter basket may be nut and/or poppyseed rolls (*orechovník* and *makovník*) wine, specially decorated Slovak Easter eggs (called *kraslice* in Western and Central Slovakia and *pisanky* in Eastern Slovakia) and, in some regions of Slovakia, a blessed candle.

Depending on local custom, these items – either wholly or representative portions of the various foodstuffs – are placed in a basket lined with a prized, sentimental, or favorite piece of Slovak needlework. The basket is then covered with another piece of Slovak needlework or a specially made Easter basket cloth cover of elaborate and fastidious Slovak needlepoint design. It was then taken to the church for the special blessing of Easter foods by the priest, and then brought home – the food to be eaten at the traditional Slovak Easter breakfast on Eastern Sunday morning.

Throughout Slovakia, the main course for Easter dinner is ham, but this also is accompanied with or supplemented by lamb in some parts of Slovakia. In Hlohovec (*Frašťak*), Nitra, Topoľčany, and their environs, as well as in other parts of Southwestern Slovakia, besides ham, another regional speciality is a part of the main course and that is a *Veľkonočný Baránok* made into a meatloaf, consisting of ground pork, smoked sausage, ground veal, white bread rolls, eggs, and various spices. It is baked, as is the lamb cake, in a metal form shaped like a lamb.

Easter Sunday is a day of rejoicing, feasting, and the exchange of gifting of Slovak Easter eggs to sweethearts, godchildren, relatives, and family friends.

Easter Celebrations throughout Slovakia

The celebration of Easter does not end on Easter Sunday, however, but continues through *Veľkonočný Pondelok* (Easter Monday) with the customs of *Kúpanie/Oblievačka* and *Šibačka* (dousing and switching).



Again, throughout Slovakia, these customs vary as to their observance. In some areas, only dousing is done and in others only switching, while still in other regions both customs are observed. In the areas of Bratislava and Zahoria, the tradition calls for young boys to go switching on Easter Sunday, while in Myjava, the boys switch the girls on Easter Monday. In Hlohovec, older youths instead of dousing their *frajerky* (sweethearts) with buckets of water, sprinkle them with perfumed water and often in the company of musicians, they all sing, dance, drink, and eat the afternoon and evening away.

In Leopoldov, only switching was customary until the early 1990s when dousing was re-introduced as a custom. In Orava County, in the villages of Habovka and Zuberec and the surrounding area, the women douse the men on Easter Sunday and the men in turn get even on Easter Monday when they douse the women. But the women still have the last say, as they switch the men on Easter Tuesday. The custom dictates, however, that the men go house to house to perform the dousing of women and are feasted and entertained in the process, while the women have to catch the men outside of the houses to do their dousing. The customs of *Oblievačka* and *Šibačka* are practiced with variations in Trenčín, Spiš, Orava, Liptov, Šariš, Zemplín and all the other regions of Slovakia.

The Easter customs of the land of our ancestors are indeed many and varied and much of their original meaning has been lost or obscured in our pre-Christian past, which is well over a thousand years old. The Slovaks were the first Slavic people to accept Christianity officially in 863 A.D. from Saints Cyril and Methodius. But likewise, many of our Eastern customs are Christian in origin, such as the foods which are significantly tied to Christian religious symbolism. And although the switching and dousing customs may have their origin in pre-Christian times, a plausible theory could argue that they someone represent the scourging of Christ at the pillar and the rite of baptism, since unlike today where baptism is a year around sacrament, it previously took place usually only at Easter. *Radostné Aleluja!*

From *Easter Customs* by Thomas Klimek Ward in Zornicka, 1991.



49th International Convention Preview: Things To Do While In Cleveland



The Great Lakes Science Center is one of the only museums where it is okay to touch the exhibits. There you can discover more than 400 hands-on exhibits, participate in live demonstrations, experience our towering six-story Cleveland Clinic OMNIMAX Theater and explore the Steamship William G. Mather, a 618-foot historic Great Lakes freighter.



Did you know all the icons of rock are represented at the must-see Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum? Designed by I.M. Pei, the museum towers above the Lake Erie shore at North Coast. It features a high-impact multi-media production to tell the stories of inducted rock and roll legends as well as the single largest collection of rare and priceless rock and roll memorabilia assembled anywhere in the world.

OUR FAVORITE EASTER RECIPES

Easter Breads

Basic Sweet Dough
 2 1/3-3 cups flour divided
 1/3 cup sugar
 1 package active dry yeast
 3/4 teaspoon salt
 1/3 cup each milk and water
 1/4 cup butter, cut in chunks
 1 egg at room temperature

In a large mixer bowl mix well 1 cup flour, sugar, yeast and salt; set aside. Heat milk water and butter until liquids are very warm (120-130); butter need not melt. Gradually beat into flour mixture. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Add egg and 2 cups flour. (add special spices, fruits and nuts at this point). Beat at high speed, scraping bowl occasionally, 2 minutes or until dough is thick and smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Turn out on lightly floured surface. Knead 5 to 8 minutes or until dough is smooth and elastic. Shape in smooth ball; place in greased bowl; turn to grease top.

Cover; let rise in warm, draft-free place 1 to 1 1/4 hours or until doubled. Punch down, knead lightly; cover; let rest 5 to 10 minutes. Shape as desired on baking sheet. Cover; let rise until doubled. Bake in preheated 350 oven about 15 minutes for small breads (12 per piece dough) or about 35 minutes per single loaf. Makes 12 servings.

Apricot Bread

3 cups sifted all-purpose flour
 4 tablespoons baking flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/3 cup white sugar
 1/4 cup butter
 1 cup (8 oz.) very finely chopped dried apricots
 2 eggs
 1 cup milk
 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is fine. Stir in apricots. Beat together eggs, milk and lemon rind until just blended. Add to dry ingredients. Stir until well mixed. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan. Makes 1 large or 2 small. Bake in 350 oven for 1 hour or until tests done. Turn out on rack. Best when sliced and served on day after baking.

Slovak Fanky (Cheregi)

4 egg yolks
 1 whole egg
 4 tablespoons sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 Pinch of salt
 Flour

Beat egg yolks until creamy. Add whole egg and beat again adding sugar and salt. Add enough flour to make a sticky dough. (A tablespoon of rich cream may be added). Roll out very thin; cut in diamond shape. Make a slit in the center of each.

Fry in hot oil until brown, turning immediately after being placed in oil. Do not over fry. Drain on paper toweling. Dust with powdered sugar. Note: Adding too much flour will take away the crispness.

Paska (Easter Bread)

1/2 cup butter
 1 cup scalded milk
 1 tablespoon salt
 3/4 cup sugar
 1 cake yeast (large)
 4 eggs, well beaten
 5 cups flour (approx.)
 1/2 cup seedless raisins (color optional)

Add shortening to hot milk, then salt and sugar. Dissolve and cool to lukewarm. Add crumbled yeast; stir in eggs; add flour and raisins, and knead well (about 20 minutes) until smooth and elastic. Dough should be lighter than for bread. Let rise until double in bulk. Punch down and let rise again. After it has risen for the second time, put dough on board and let rest for 10 minutes. Form into round loaf to fit a 2 quart greased casserole or pan. Let rise for about 45 minutes, or until double in size. Top can be decorated with a

cross made of strips of dough, braided and each end of braid pressed firmly into dough. Bake about 45 minutes at 350.

Babka (Easter Coffee Cake)

1 tablespoon dry yeast
 1/4 cup warm water (105-115)
 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
 1/2 cup sugar
 4 egg yolks
 3 1/2 to 4 cups all-purpose flour
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 teaspoon rum
 3/4 cup warm milk (105-115)
 Fine dry bread crumbs
 Confectioner's sugar

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Set aside for 5 minutes. Cream butter and sugar in mixing bowl. Add egg yolks, 1 1/2 cups flour, and mix thoroughly. Add yeast mixture, salt, vanilla, and rum. Add milk and enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth- about 10 minutes. Place dough in greased bowl, turning to coat top. Cover, let rise in warm place until double, about 1 hour.

Punch down dough. Generously grease 10 inch bundt pan. Lightly coat pan with bread crumbs. Put dough into prepared pan. Cover, let rise in a warm place until double, about 45 minutes. Bake in a preheated 350 oven 45 minutes or until done. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Then remove from pan. Cool on rack. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar before serving.

Nut or Poppy Seed Roll

6 cups flour
 1 cup shortening
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 large can evaporated milk
 3 egg yolks
 1 tablespoon vanilla
 1 cake yeast
 1/4 cup lukewarm water

Nut Filling:
 1 pound walnuts, ground
 1/4 cup milk
 2 tablespoons butter, melted
 1 cup sugar

Poppy Seed Filling:
 1 pound poppy seed, ground
 1 cup sugar
 Juice of 1/4 lemon or 1 tablespoon lemon extract
 3 tablespoons shortening
 1 cup milk

Mix flour, shortening, salt and sugar as for pie crust. Combine milk, egg yolks and vanilla and add to first mixture. Add also the yeast which has been dissolved in warm water. Work together a few minutes until dough forms into a ball. Set aside for 2 1/2 hours to rise. Divide dough into four pieces and roll out on slightly floured board. The dough should be about 1/4 inch thick. Spread with desired filling and roll. Bake immediately at 350 for 50 minutes.

Filling: Combine all ingredients for nut filling. For poppy seed filling, combine ingredients and cook for 5 minutes.

Roshky

6 cups flour 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 1/2 cups sugar
 1 pound shortening
 1/2 pound butter
 1/2 pint sour cream
 1 yeast cake
 6 eggs beaten

Filling
 1 pound nuts, ground
 3 small apples, grated
 1 cup sugar
 3 egg whites, stiffly beaten
 1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift flour, salt and sugar. Cut in shortening. Add sour cream and eggs. Soften yeast in a little cream and add to first mixture. Put in refrigerator over-night. Divide dough into 4 parts. Roll out 1/4 inch thick, cut in 2-inch squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square, roll and shape into crescents. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 400.

Entries Now Accepted For District-Wide Easter Coloring Contest

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 four - 12, who 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. Return your coloring page by March 26, 2010. On the back side, please print your name, age, address, and branch number - be sure to include a picture of yourself, too.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
 1544 Rokosz Lane
 Dyer, IN 46311

Lodge members will judge the entries at our District II meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010. Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

Barbara Fayta, Chairperson Easter Coloring Contest



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will have their election of delegates for the 49th Convention of the FCSU at the meeting of April 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Cyril & Methodius School Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. If you have any questions, please call 216.338.8179. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold its annual breakfast on Sunday, March 28, 2010. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at the Church of SS. Cyril & Methodius, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE. After Mass, we will have a full breakfast at 10:30AM. All members of Branch 3 and the former St. Joseph Branch 226 are invited.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Evangelist Society Branch 005P will hold a special meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 1:00PM at the home of President Leonard Zavada, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, PA. Among the items on the agenda will be the election of delegates to the convention that will be held in Cleveland, OH, August 14 - 18, 2010. All branch members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Leonard Zavada, President

BRANCH 5K - DURYEA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 005K Duryea, PA and Branch 419K Duryea, PA. All members of Branch 005K will now hold membership in Branch 419K. This merger has taken place as of February 23, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Marie A. Gryczko, 81 Kado St., Wilkes Barre, PA 18705-3612, (570) 824-4125. We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, IL

St. Stephens Branch 06KJ will have a special meeting on April 11, 2010 at 10:00 AM at 1406 N. Baker St., Streator, IL for the nomination and election of any member of Branch 06KJ who desires to attend the 49th FCSU National Convention in Cleveland, OH from August 14 - 18 as a delegate. You will have to attend this special meeting and meet requirements established in the bylaws. Call 815-672-1764 if you plan to attend. Thank you.

Robert W. Elias, Sr., President

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will hold a semi-annual meeting on April 11, 2010. This meeting, at Our Son's Restaurant on Broad Street, Johnstown, will begin at 2:00PM. Among the items on the agenda will be an election of delegates to the convention that will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, Aug 14 - 18, 2010. All branch members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Elaine Capretti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday May 1, 2010, in the Parish Hall of Most Holy Trinity, Trinity and Walnut Streets, Yonkers, NY, at 6:00PM, after the 5:00PM Mass. On the agenda will be: our Trinity Sunday Communion Breakfast to be held June 6, 2010, and the 100th Anniversary of Most Holy Trinity Church. Most important will be the election of delegates from Branch 41KJ to the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. We urge all members of Branch 41 KJ to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 12:30PM, after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street at First Avenue, New York

City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 - SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 10:30AM at the residence of the President and Financial Secretary, Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin St., Shamokin, PA 17872. The election of two (2) delegates and one (1) alternate delegate will take place to represent Branch 75 at the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, OH, from Saturday August 14, 2010 - Wednesday August 18, 2010. The regular monthly meeting agenda items also will be taken up. Other non-agenda items may be discussed. All members are required to attend this regular monthly meeting.

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

BRANCH 85 - JESSUP, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Florian Society Branch 85 will hold an emergency meeting for election of officers on Monday, April 5, 2010, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA.

B. Skovira

BRANCH 96 - CARROLLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John The Baptist Society, Branch 96, Carrolltown, PA will hold its special meeting to elect delegates to the 49th Convention on Sunday April 11 at 2:00pm at the residence of Stella Papson, 138 Sunset Rd, Carrolltown, 814-344-8964.

Stella Papson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed, officers' reports will be given, and plans for the National Convention in Cleveland, OH, will be covered. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend. For directions or inquiries, please contact Dolores Marmol at (724) 437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 112 - MAHANOEY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold a meeting on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 1PM at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, PA. The meeting will be for the election of officers for 2010. Please call 570-544-6694 for directions.

Karen Engle Sterling

BRANCH 157 - NORTH CATASAUQUA, PA

The St. Andrew Society Branch 157 will hold a meeting on Sunday April 11, 2010 at 1:00PM in the social hall of the Slovak Center North Catasauqua, PA. The agenda will cover upcoming activities including the election of delegates for the 49th Convention to be held in Cleveland this August. The annual Easter egg hunt will be held March 27, 2010 at 2:00PM on the grounds of the Slovak Club. Please register your children ages 2 to 10 by calling the club at 610-264 0740. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Wishing all a Holy and Happy Easter.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March

21, 2010, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed, officers' reports will be given, and plans for the National Convention in Cleveland, OH, will be covered. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend. For directions or inquiries, please contact Dolores Marmol at (724) 437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 - BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph The Guardian Society, Branch 166K, will hold its semi-annual meeting and dinner on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at 1:15PM at the Country Buffet, Town Square Mall, Vestal Parkway, Vestal, NY. The agenda will consist of branch business and the selection of delegates to the National Convention, Saturday, August 14, 2010 - Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, OH. We hope to see all members at the meeting. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607-729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 14, 2010.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181 will meet on March 20, 2010, immediately following the 5PM. Mass at St. Florian Church. We will meet in the Formation Building on the church grounds; all members are urged to attend. Anyone wishing to join the Jednota is also invited. For more information about the Jednota contact Clarence Pfeifer at 724-423-2983.

Gerry Kovacina, secretary

BRANCH 213 - RENFREW, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society Branch 213 will hold a special meeting for the election of delegates to the 49th National Convention in Cleveland, OH on April 11, 2010 at 1:30PM at 3061 Kensington Court. All members are invited to attend.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 240 - DURYEA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 240K Duryea, PA and Branch 419K Duryea, PA.

All members of Branch 240K will now hold membership in Branch 419K. This merger has taken place as of February 23, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Marie A. Gryczko, 81 Kado St, Wilkes Barre, PA 18705-3612 (570) 824-4125. We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

**Kenneth A. Arendt,
National Secretary**

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Branch 260, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 1:30PM at Msgr. Adamko Hall, St. Elizabeth Church, Campbell, Ohio. On the agenda will be discussions of the FCSU National Convention. All elected delegates and members are urged to attend.

Chafles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 263 - DURYEA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 263K Duryea, PA and Branch 419K Duryea, PA. All members of Branch 263K will now hold membership in Branch 419K. This merger has taken place as of February 23, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Marie A. Gryczko, 81 Kado St., Wilkes Barre,

Obituaries

Timothy R. Jackson Branch 580

Duquene, Pennsylvania

Timothy R. Jackson, 60, of Murrysville, Pennsylvania, died Friday January 15, 2010. He was born May 27, 1949, in McKeesport, a son of the late Harvey and Sue Ondescheck Jackson. He was preceded in death by a son, Nicholas Jackson; and two sisters, MaryAnn Brand and Dolores A. Bayes. Timothy is survived by his wife, Donna Obringer Jackson three sons, Christopher, Ryan and Jeff, all at home; and three brothers: Harvey, of Beechview; Raymond, of North Huntingdon; and John, of Murrysville. Visitation was from 2 - 4 and 7 - 9 PM on Sunday at the Hart Funeral Home, 3103 Lillian Ave., Murrysville. A service was held on Monday at 11AM in the funeral home with Pastor Dan Lawrence officiating.

The officers of Branch 580 wish to express their deepest sympathy to wife, Donna, and sons, Christopher, Ryan, and Jeff, as well as his entire family.

Virginia Jasek

Gene Greytak

Gene Greytak, whose resemblance to Pope John Paul II turned the retired real estate broker into a papal impersonator with appearances in movies and television, has died. He was 84.

Greytak died Sunday at his home in North Tu-
stin of cancer, said his wife of 62 years, Dorothy.

Greytak appeared on late-night television with Johnny Carson, Jay Leno and Arsenio Hall and in several series in the 1980s and '90s including "Ally McBeal," "Picket Fences," "Murphy Brown," "Golden Girls," "Alf" and "Night Court." His movie bits included "Sister Act" in 1992 and "Naked Gun 33 1/3: the Final Insult" in 1994. He also could be seen at birthday parties, telethons, reunions and charity events.

Eugene Edward Greytak was born Nov. 14, 1925, in Trumbull, Conn. He served in the Army during World War II and was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge, his son said. Greytak, his wife and their two children moved to California in 1958. He started working in real estate a year later.

Greytak said he was careful not to do anything inappropriate while impersonating the pope, and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles informed him that his performance did not violate any canon law of the church.

Along with his wife and son, Greytak is survived by another son, Mark; brothers Steve, George and Albert; a sister, Jean Andrejko; and three grandchildren.

There was a viewing from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday at Fairhaven Memorial Park and Mortuary in Santa Ana and services on March 13 at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange.

Excerpted from The Los Angeles Times

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PA 18705-3612, (570) 824-4125. We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt,
National Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will hold an additional meeting on May 2, 2010, at 1:00 PM at the school hall at St Martin de Porres parish in McKeesport, PA. The purpose of the meeting is to elect delegates from Branch 276 to the 49th FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 14-18, 2010.

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 290 – BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY

A meeting of Branch 290 St. John the Baptist will be held on April 21, 2010, at 7:30PM. Election of delegates will be held. Please try to attend. Call Joe after 6PM at (732) 469-5256 to get details.

Joe Minarovich

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society Branch 292 FCSU will hold a special meeting for election of delegates to the National Convention on April 7, 2010, at 1:00PM at 808 Graham Ave, Windber, PA.

Ed T. Surkoksky, FIC

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold a special meeting on Monday, April 5, 2010, for the purpose of electing delegates to the National Convention. The meeting will be held at 7PM at St. Katharine Drexel Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbott, Lansford, PA 18232. Anyone needing more insurance or information should contact the financial secretary at 1-570-645-4872.

Robert Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society will hold a meeting at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent, 5900 147th St, Oak Forest, IL 60452 on April 10, 2010 at 11:00AM. On the agenda: discussion of new business for the Society and election of delegates for the National Convention.

Joseph Bugel, President

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

SS Peter & Paul Society Branch 320 will hold a meeting on April 28, 2010, at the home of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA 15012. The purpose of the meeting is the election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention in Cleveland. Refer to qualifications of delegates in the Bylaws Section 11.03. Anyone interested in being a delegate and/or to make a reservation for the meeting, contact Fran Tarquinio at (724) 929-9788.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

BRANCH 362 – CLAIRSVILLE, OH

The Our Lady Of Angels Branch 362 will hold a annual meeting on Sunday April 18, 2010 at 1:00 P.M. AT 70820 Crescent Rd . ST. Clairsville' Ohio. The election of officers will be held at that time.

John Wodarczyk President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Branch 367 will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2010 starting at 4:30PM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401. Under discussion: general branch business as well as selling insurance and contributions to the organization for the year. The Branch then will hold a special meeting to elect delegates to the national convention on April 6, 2010 at

4:30PM at Bogey's Golf Club, Uniontown, PA. For more information, contact Audrey Balazik, 316 Shadyside Road, Uniontown, PA 15401 (724) 438-3887.

Audrey Balazik

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PA

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold a meeting on April 25, 2010 at the Wendy's in Canonsburg at 2:00PM. On the agenda: the election of delegates to the National Convention.

Margaret Graytok

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OH

St. Marks Society Branch 425, Barberton, OH, will hold a special meeting on Friday April 9, 2010 at 7:00PM at the Slovak Society of Barberton to elect possible delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention in Cleveland, OH.

Paul J. Slota, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 456 – HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 456 will be held on March 21, 2010 at 12:00PM at the Lincoln Slovak Club on Fourth Street in Hawk Run, PA.

Alice Pollock

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph's Society Branch 484 will hold a Special Meeting April 30, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Financial Secretary, Joseph E. Rura, 43 Rugh Road, Coral, Pa. On the agenda is the election of officers and delegates to the FCSU 49th Convention. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553, will hold a lodge meeting on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311. The meeting will begin promptly at 12:30 pm. This meeting is being held to confirm delegates to the FCSU Convention.

Please take an active roll in your lodge and attend this meeting.

Linda M. Hanko,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 567 KJ will have nut and poppyseed rolls available for pick up on March 22, 2010, in the church social hall, 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA. All orders are to be picked up from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. We wish to thank everyone for their support of the bake sale. We wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Easter.

Rosalie Favere,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The election of officers was held on December 20, 2009, for Branch 595, Muskegon Heights, MI, and was officiated by Pat Kelley. The 2010 officers are:

President: Frank McCarthy
Vice President: Rose Paparrarella
Recording Secretary: Donna Stone
Financial Secretary: Louis Kollar
Hall Manager: Sandy McCarthy
Sick Committee: Joyce Kelley
Trustees: Dave Cooper, George Korr, Fran Kolenic

Branch 595 will continue to have a monthly breakfast on the fourth Sunday of every month through May. Breakfast features 11 hot items, coffee, milk, juices and a sweets table to top off the meal. The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 for children, and is offered from 8:30 a.m. until noon. It is "all you can eat," and the

best breakfast in town!

The polka parties are held the first Sunday of each month (except Easter) through May. There is a free will offering at the door and food and beverages for purchase. Please join us for these events! We are located at the corner of Sixth St. and Sherman Blvd., in Muskegon Hts. For more information call: 231-733-7525.

Donna Stone,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 1:00 PM at the Eat 'N Park Restaurant in the Waterfront. The agenda will include the finalization of delegates to the 49th Convention in Cleveland, Ohio in August.

Sylvia J. Vehec,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 670 will hold a meeting on April 28, 2010 at the home of Dorothy Petrus, 545 Castner Avenue, Donora, PA 15033. The purpose of the meeting is the election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention in Cleveland. Refer to qualifications of delegates in the Bylaws Section 11.03. Anyone interested in being a delegate and/or to make a reservation for the meeting, contact Dorothy Petrus at (724) 379-5881.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

At its annual meeting, the St. George Branch 682 elected officers for 2010. The officers elected were Andy Hirt, President; Drew Hirt, Vice President; Joseph Scavina, Financial Secretary; Milan J. Krivan, Treasurer; Joseph Bialik, Recording Secretary; and Tom Morella, Auditor. Branch 682 will hold a special meeting for the election of delegates to the National Convention in Cleveland at 2:00PM on April 18, 2010 at Material Research Lab, 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its membership meeting on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepocuene Church, 411 East, 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda will be election of delegates to the 49th Convention in Cleveland, OH from August 14 – 18, 2010. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On March 21, 2010, Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate its Patron Saint Feast Day with Mass and a luncheon to follow. The Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH at 11:30 AM. The luncheon will be at the Father Snock Center. Branch 731 Branch member Judge Diane Vettori will be our guest speaker. In addition, we will have numerous door prizes. All Saint Joseph Branch 731 members are invited to attend.

Please call either Irene Makovec at (330) 755-3607 or Millie Leskovyansky at (330)782-3219 for a reservation.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society Branch 738 will hold its semiannual meeting Tuesday 4/13/10 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Hall Whitaker Way Munhall, Pa. The meeting will include a discussion regarding the upcoming convention in Cleveland. We will also discuss fraternal

activities for the year 2010 and other lodge business. All members are invited.

Pat Guidish, Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include final election of Delegates to the August Convention. Okres meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Will hold a semi annual meeting to elect delegates for the Convention. This meeting will be held on Wednesday May 5, 2010 at 7pm, located at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church hall in Mississauga.

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The next regular meeting of Br. 831 will be held on May 3 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Kathleen Persun, 158 Davidson St., Tarentum, Pa. The election of delegates will be held at this meeting. The Officers for 2010 are: Matthew Kuniak, President; Melvin Persun, Vice President; Kathleen Persun, Secretary; Rose Kuniak, Treasurer.

Kathleen Persun, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00AM. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass along with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

Also, following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a special and safe Easter holiday.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

The next meeting of Branch 853 will be held on Saturday May 1 at 9:00am at the McDonald in Charleroi, PA. The election of delegates for the Convention will take place at this meeting. All branch members are urged to attend.

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856 will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate and elect a delegate to the 49th FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, Ohio August 14-18, 2010 and to conduct any other fraternal matters which might be brought before the meeting. For more information, please contact Katherine Nowatkoski at 703 860 1693 or Stephen Matula at 703 671 3013.

Stephen C. Matula President

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There will be a special meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA on Wednesday April 7, 2010. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. This will be an important meeting as we need to elect our branch delegates to the convention.

Happy Easter to one and all!
Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Local Branch 580 will host the semi-annual meeting of the Pittsburgh District of the F.C.S.U. on Sunday, April 18, 2010. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. in the Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, PA 15122. All branches are expected send representatives. The meeting will include officers' reports and discussion of F.C.S.U. business, including the upcoming national convention. We need to select dates for the district delegates meeting as well as the Annual District Meeting in November.

A Family Easter Party will be included with the Spring meeting. This is a new event for the district and members are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren. Please RSVP to Flo Matta at 412-466-7460 or George Matta at 412-672-5330.

The district Father's Day brunch on Sunday, June 20, will be hosted by Branch 628 while Branch 2 will handle the ad booklet. Further details will be announced.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all members a happy and holy Easter Season.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT – MONONGAHELA VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District is to be held on April 28, 2010, at the home of Dorothy Petrus, 545 Castner Avenue, Donora, PA 15033. The purpose of the meeting is the election of delegates to the 49th FCSU Convention in Cleveland. Refer to qualifications of delegates in the Bylaws Section 11.03. Anyone interested in being a delegate and/or to make a reservation for the meeting, contact Dorothy Petrus at (724) 379-5881.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

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

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at St. Benedict's Church Hall, Main Street, Carrolltown, PA, beginning at 2:00PM. St. John the Baptist Society Branch 96 will be the host. Please note the date change. Mass will be held earlier in the day for the living and deceased members of the district.

Dues for 2010 will be accepted from branches that have not paid previously. Let's have a good turnout and enjoy the Spring drive to the meeting after a snowy winter.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT 16 – NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its Membership Meeting on Sunday, May

2, 2010, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda will be the election of delegates for the 49th Convention in Cleveland, OH, from August 14 – 18, 2010 as well as the financial report and discussion of next activities. We urge all District branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK – DISTRICT 10

Rev. Stephen Furdek, District 10, will be meeting at 1:30 pm, on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311. This meeting is being held to discuss convention delegates.

If you have any questions or concerns please call Linda Hanko @ 330.706.0151 or via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com.

Please take an active roll in your district and attend this meeting.

Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary/Treasurer

SS. CYRIL AND METHDIUS DISTRICT – LUZERNE AND LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, April 25, 2010 at Holy Family Church, Gibson & Washington Streets, Seranton, PA. Auditors will meet at 12:30PM, followed by the meeting at 1:00PM.

All members of the various branches are invited to attend. All Branches are requested to bring their District dues up-to-date at this meeting. Choosing of a delegate to represent the District at the 49th International Convention in Cleveland will take place. Refreshments will be served.

Questions or concerns may be directed to President Michael Slovenkai, 342-7562; Vice President Marie Gryczko, 824-4125; or Treasurer/Financial Secretary 403-2067.

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 17, 2010 following the 5 PM Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, 4261 Route 981, P.O. Box 187, United, PA 15689. We will meet in the Formation Room. We ask for your attendance as we will be discussing the upcoming convention, district business and updates on the branches. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT – MICHIGAN

District 5, The Michigan District, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 25, 2010. The place of the meeting will be at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Our day will begin with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 AM, followed by refreshments served in the Fr. Mikus Hall. Our meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. In the Heritage Room, a luncheon will be served after the meeting. Branch 743 will host this meeting. Please call Joseph Rimarcik at (586) 254-0225 by April 21, 2010 with the number of delegates attending from your branch.

On the agenda: important information about the convention (delegates should attend), and also district business. We hope many of you will join us for the day.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT II – ILLINOIS, INDIANA, AND WISCONSIN

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, Illinois. A period of refreshments and fraternal fellowship will begin at 1:30 p.m., with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches are requested to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to learn more about becoming active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. If you plan to attend, please call District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810 to let her know, so adequate food and beverages will be available.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District II Recording Secretary

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT – NEW JERSEY

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. Convention Delegate will be elected at this meeting.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

❖❖❖ Branch 45 Spring Dance Party in NYC ❖❖❖

St. Matthew's Evangelist Society, Branch 45, kindly extends an invitation to its Spring Dance Party on Sunday, April 25, 2010. The dance will be held after the Slovak Mass at 12:30PM in the church hall of St. John Nepomucene on East 66th Street, New York City. Admission is \$25.00 and includes: lunch, coffee, and Slovak-style homemade cookies. During the dance party, a raffle will be drawn and children from the Slovak school will have a special performance. Music will be provided by the well-known Slovak band Kontakty, under the leadership of Joseph Jurasi. We are looking forward to your attendance.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

RE: CONVENTION DELEGATES

You may remember the 2006 Convention and the extended By-Law Committee presentations.

There were some significant changes to several sections of the by-laws recommended by the By-Law Committee and voted by the 2006 convention, especially to Section 4.05 Financial Obligations, Section 11.03 Qualifications of a Delegate and Section 11.04 Branch Representation and District Representation.

This included the addition of Section 4.05(g) and (h) which required attendance at District Meetings and the publishing in the Jednota of those branches that failed to meet the requirements and the payment of current district dues and any outstanding dues from previous years.

Also, the By-Laws require in Section 11.03 (c) that the election of delegates to the Convention must be completed no later than 90 days prior to the opening of the convention and credentials must be forwarded to the Home Office postmarked no later than 30 calendar days after the election of the delegate. It further says that if election is not held at least 90 days before the Convention and if the selected delegate names are not received by the Executive Secretary within 30 days after their election those elected will not be seated as delegates at the Convention.

In addition, the 2006 By-Laws added a new section 11.04(f) that says: "Any branch or district which fails to comply with Section 4.05 in two of the four years preceding a Convention will not be permitted to send any delegate to the Convention, excluding Canada.

These changes were adopted by the 2006 Convention by overwhelming vote. Remember all the "SUHLAS"? Neither I nor the Home Office made those recommendations, but the Executive Secretary and I are charged with administering them.

I and Kenneth Arendt are not seeking to limit the number of delegates. Ken has sent out a number of notices to branches trying to help our branches qualify as many delegates as are eligible to attend the Convention.

We do not want anyone to claim either before or at the Convention that a particular branch or their delegates are not qualified because they did not meet the requirements as stated in the By-Laws that were approved at the 2006 Convention.

The Home Office is trying its best to help branches comply. Ken and I personally will work with the By-Law Committee for the 2010 convention to recommend By-Law changes that will be easier to understand and easier to read.

While we don't want to spend the entire Convention discussing By-Laws, we do want to help our Society, not hinder it.

We are a \$235 million dollar institution and as I have said to many audiences, although we proudly say that we are a Catholic, Slovak Fraternal, we must also be run as a business. You and our thousands of other members have put their money and trust in our Society, and I take that very seriously. I and my family have also invested substantial money in our Society.

We are doing our best to treat all branches fairly; in 2008 my own home branch was not paid a branch stipend worth \$1,000 because it did not attend a District Meeting, even though the meeting was held 120 miles away. They met all the other requirements. You can imagine the call I got from my own Branch President. I told him politely that I could not make an exception. It would not be fair.

I will be presenting my President's Annual Report at our Annual Board of Directors Meeting on March 20 & 21, 2010 in Cleveland. It will be published in the Jednota at that time. You will be pleased with our financial report as we have reached a record high in assets and surplus.

Thank you for your patience and understanding and your work for the Society. Our goal is to make the Society stronger together in this ever-changing world.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Scenes from Chicago Branch's 2009 Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, Illinois, held its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and Election of Convention Delegates on Saturday, November 28, 2009 in the banquet room of Mabenka's Restaurant in Burbank, Illinois.

After the business meeting and elections, attendees feasted on a variety of ethnic foods during the branch's annual Christmas luncheon.

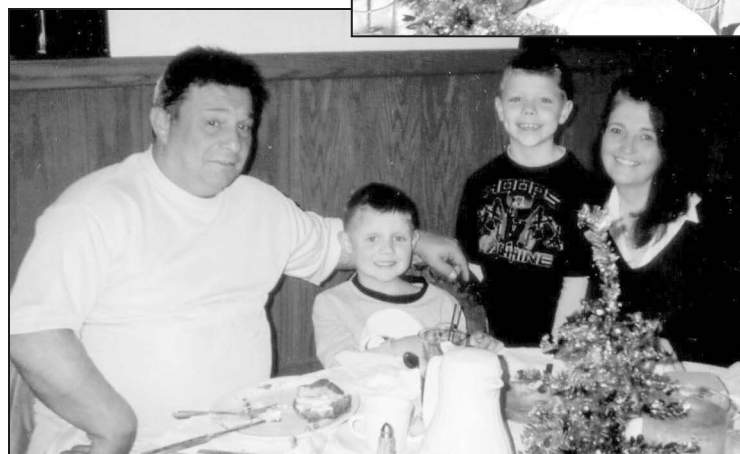
Robert Ľapák Magruder



L to R, Don Cummings, Pete Turner, Valerie Vesely, and Robert Ľapák Magruder



Four generations of Jednota members: L to R (top): Grandma Linda Becker, Great-grandma Beverly Rusinak. L to R (bottom): Aunt Jamie Becker, Logan Lazzara, and Mom Jacki Lazzara



L to R, Tom, Joey, and Brandon Rusinak with Cathy Adkins



Kelly and Melody Bobo



Emily and Joe Janusek



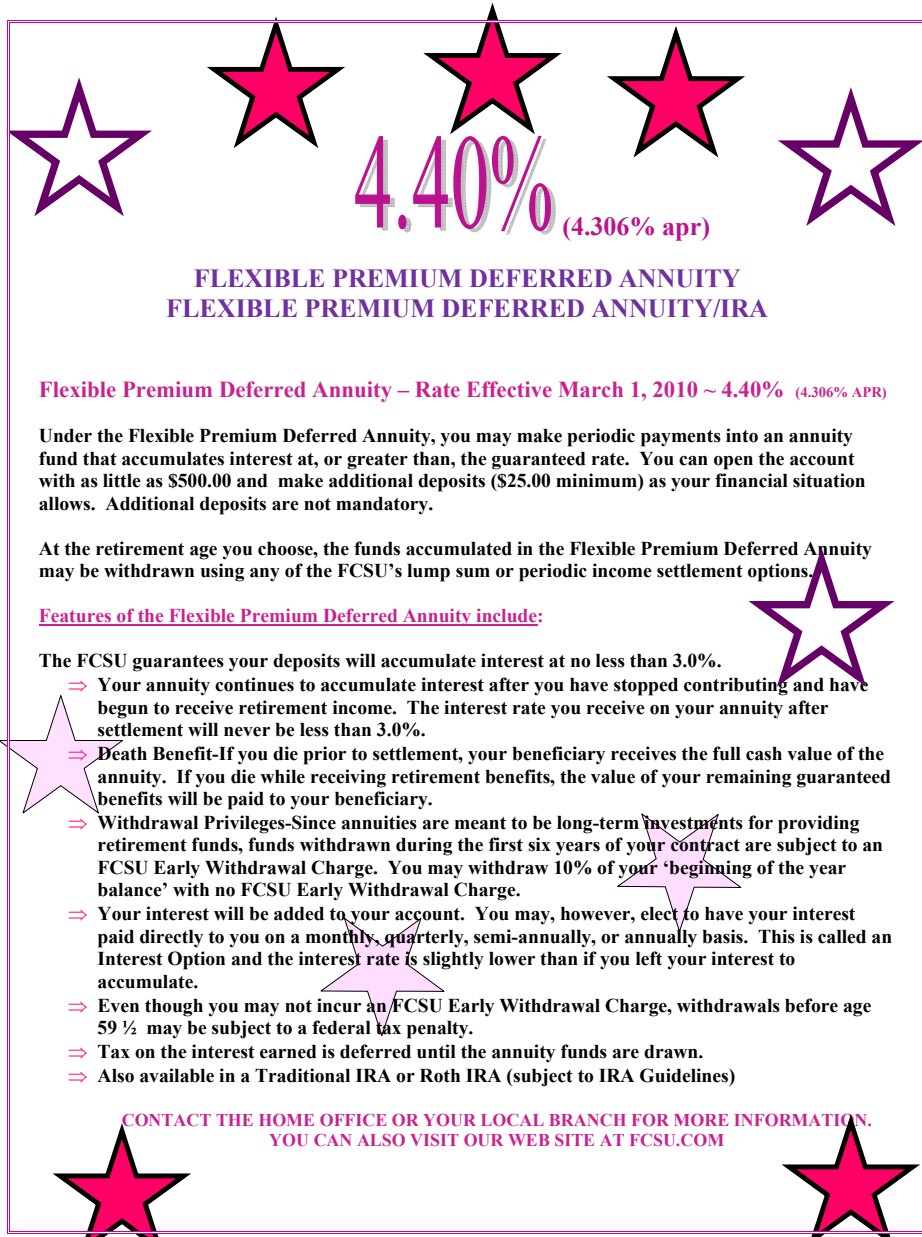
Joan and Susan Hepner



Pennie Rogalin and Gerry James

Upcoming Newspaper Publication Schedule

Issue Date	Deadline
March 31	March 22
April 14	April 5
April 28	April 19



4.40% (4.306% apr)

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY
FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.

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

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

Spitkovsky District 2 Theater Outing

The Spitkovsky District 2 has reserved a block of 40 tickets for the matinee performance of "I Do – I Do" at the Theatre at the Center. The story traces a marriage of 50 years, beginning on the couple's wedding day until they leave their house to the next pair of newlyweds and includes a tuneful musical score.

Where: Theater at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, IN
Directions: 1-80/94 East to Exit 1 (Calmut Ave South), to Ridge Road, Turn left (east), theater one block on the right

When: Sunday, May 16, 2010
12:45PM (Brunch)
2:30PM (Show)

Cost: \$52.20 per ticket:

- FCSU members attending previous shows will receive a rebate of \$20.00, making your cost \$32.20 per ticket.
- New, first-time members will receive a \$10.00 rebate, making your cost \$42.20 per ticket.

- Non FCSU guests will receive the special group rate of \$52.20 per ticket.

Reservations must be made early; the deadline is March 29, 2010. Please make checks payable to Spitkovsky Dist 2 and mail to: George Kelchak, 953 Portage Ave., Porter, IN 46304. Tickets can be picked up at the April 11th District Meeting or at the show. For more information or questions, contact George Kelchak at (219) 926-2410.

George Kelchak, Director of Fraternal Activities

SLOVAK EASTER CARDS

Jankola Library has Slovak Easter Cards available. The assorted religious cards are distributed eight to a packet for \$5.00. An additional minimum charge of \$3.00 covers postage and handling. These may be ordered by mail, phone, or e-mail.

For more information, please call: 570-275-5606 and speak with Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SSCM or Sister M. Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SSCM.

JANKOLA LIBRARY

Villa Sacred Heart
Danville, PA 17821-1698
jankolalib@jlink.net

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

	E	N	D		C	D	T		L	A	C	E			
A	L	O	E		S	A	R	A		A	P	O	D	S	
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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.

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

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St. Matthew's Society Indoor Soccer Tournament

On January 23, 2010, St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 held an indoor soccer tournament at 1:00PM in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall in New York City. The organizers of the tournament were Jozef Korack and Jan Zeman. Rev. Martin Svitan officially opened the event with a prayer. The tournament consisted of four team:

1. Tartry Slovakia from NJ
2. Staten Island from NY
3. Fofo from Brooklyn, NY
4. Old Boys Slovakia

A great atmosphere flowed throughout the games as they were played in a very sportsman-

like manner with participation by branch members and others. The winner of the tournament was team Tatty Slovakia from NJ, but the other three teams also demonstrated extremely hard work and dedication as well. Jozef Korack, Jan Zeman, and Rev. Martin Svitan served as match referees and also presented the prizes. The leading scorer of the tournament was Jozef Kravcik. After the event everyone in attendance enjoyed great traditional Slovak food, such as gulaš or fried pork with sauerkraut, along the Slovak beer and other beverages.

We really appreciate everyone for attending and hoping to see you at the next sporting event.

Jozef Jurasi, Jr., Sports Coordinator, St. Matthew's Society Branch 45



The Reverend Martin Svitan (middle) is surrounded by the many attendees of the St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 Indoor Soccer Tournament



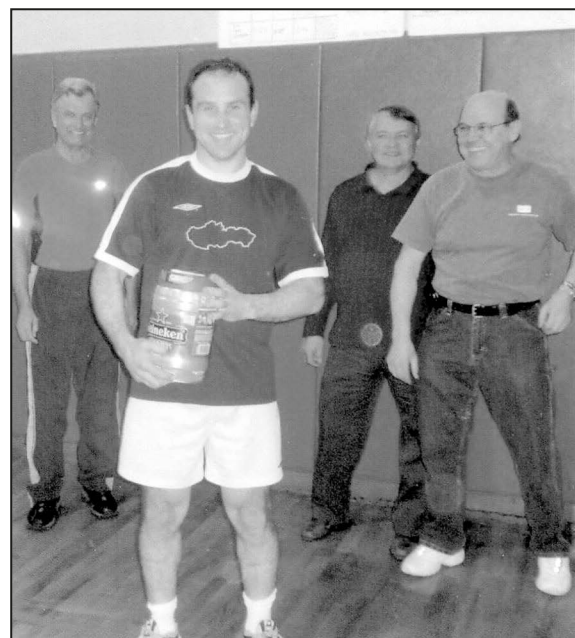
L to R, all St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 attending members: Jan Adam, Jozef Lukacovic, Erik Krajcovic, Jozef Korack, Jan Zeman, Joseph Jurasi, Jozef Tomanek, Maria Jurasi, and Anton Kucharovic



Players and attending fans



Winning team Tatty Slovakia from NJ



L to R, Jozef Tomanek, Leading Scorer Jozef Kravcik, Anton Kucharovic, and Jozef Korack

Treats and Treasures of Slovakia at Prince of Peace Parish

The 20th annual celebration of a Slovak Mass and Easter Customs "Breakfast" will take place at Prince of Peace Parish (South Side, Pittsburgh) on Saturday, March 27, 2010. It's the perfect opportunity to learn more about the rich spiritual culture and traditional Easter customs of Slovakia.

The morning begins at 10:45 a.m. at St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street, with recitation of the Holy Rosary in Slovak, followed by Mass at 11:00 a.m. All prayers, hymns and responses will be sung in the beautiful Slovak language, led by the Prince of Peace Choir under the direction of Gerri Walters. Father Peter Haladej, originally of Slovakia, will celebrate the liturgy in Slovak, and offer his homily in English. Father Haladej is currently assigned to St. Aloysius Church in East Liverpool, Ohio.

After Mass, worshippers are invited and encouraged to gather at Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) to sample a traditional Slovak Easter breakfast of sunka (ham), pascha (bread), sirez (cheese), kolbasy (sausage) and pysanky (dye eggs). There is NO CHARGE for this complementary meal, but donations are gratefully accepted to help defray expenses. Also featured are a number of cultural displays depicting the folk culture and village life of our Slovak ancestors, as well as selected imported gift items available for sale. Master folk artist, Larry Kozlowski, will demonstrate traditional folk crafts such as decorating eggs Slovak-style and braiding palms.

The Bake Sale will have plenty of delicious favorites available to satisfy any sweet tooth. Homemade nut and poppy seed rolls, paska, kolach and assorted cookies are reasonably priced. Raffles include a "Slovak Auction" and a basket brimming with traditional Easter foods, crowned with a unique hand-embroidered basket cover.

The Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast is sponsored by the Cultural Diversity Committee of Prince of Peace Parish. Proceeds benefit two organizations in Slovakia focusing on the well-being of young people: an orphanage in Ruzemberok operated by the School Sisters of St. Francis, and the Barlicka Institute in Presov, which provides additional training for young adults with physical and mental disabilities.

The Prince of Peace Annual Slovak Easter Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh's South Side is a great way to introduce children or grandchildren to the cultural treasures of their ancestral homeland. It's a wonderful opportunity to rekindle treasured memories, and to help others while enjoying a relaxing and informative morning.

Admission to the Slovak Easter Breakfast is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Please call the Paul Zatek at 412-488-8238 for more information, to make a donation, or to learn how you can display your own Slovak treasures.

Join the friends and families of Prince of Peace Parish on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Doors to the breakfast hall open following the Mass (approximately Noon).



Catherine Krytles, affectionately known by some as "Gramma Wheels," proudly wears her Slovak costume. She has enjoyed the Slovak Easter Customs Breakfast for many years. Gramma Wheels is celebrating 94 years young!

SEMINARS

The following seminars are finalized.

Sunday, April 25, 2010, Michigan District Slovak Mass 11:30 a.m. at SS Cyril and Methodius Church—District Meeting 1:00 p.m. seminar to follow in the Heritage Room. The address is 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314. There will be a lunch after the seminar.

Saturday, May 01, 2010, Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District and Akron Branch 533—Lunch 12:00 p.m., seminar to follow. Place of seminar to be determined by Kostik District.

More seminars are being scheduled!

Branch Officers and Recommenders will be sent a schedule before the seminars. If you plan on attending, please contact the home office at least 3 days before your scheduled seminar so we can get an attendance count.

The Membership and Marketing Committee would like to see a larger turnout from members interested in learning more about our insurance and annuity products.

Please form a car pool and attend the seminars that will be scheduled in your area.

Until Then,

Good Luck and God Bless!

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

Calling All Slovak Cooks: Website Wants Contributors



The recently launched website, www.slovakcooking.com, offers many illustrated recipes for traditional Slovak dishes in English. Founder Lubos Brieda tells the Jednota that he also is looking for more contributors, especially folks who know how to bake our delicious sweets (kolace, torty, etc.). Go to the website, and look around. He welcomes hearing from you.



5th EGG EggSTRAVAGANZA and EASTER CRAFT/BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010
12:00 NOON – 5:00pm

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall
201 E. Main Street Uniontown, PA

"Experience the traditions"

- Egg artists will demonstrate, display and sell eggs
- Market place with pysanky supplies, Easter items, Easter crafts, basket covers and other ethnic items
- Children's activities including storytelling, making Easter eggs, other projects
- Video showing of Pysanky and Pysanky making
- Display of Easter basket covers
- Pysanky jigsaw table
- Lenten Lunch Menu available for purchase
- Hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to make pysanky
- Free Admission

Co-sponsored by GCU Lodge # 81, Egg Artists, and St. John's Ethnic Craft Club

For More Information Contact: Bonnie Balas (724)438-8412



Geotermálne pramene prilákali investora pod Tatry

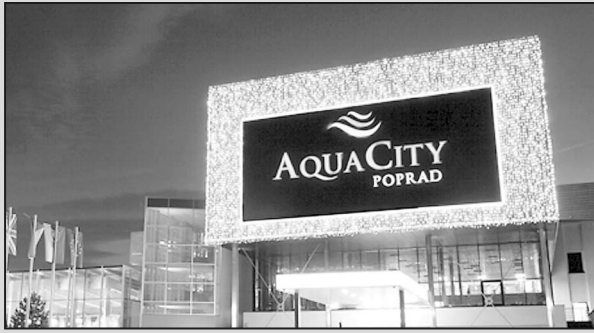
Poprad (TASR) – Uplynulých šesť rokov podnikania na Slovensku hodnotí britská spoločnosť Letheby & Sons Limited, ktorá v roku 2002 spolu s mestom Poprad založila a v roku 2004 aj naplno rozbehla Aquacity v Poprade, veľmi pozitívne.

Riaditeľ Aquacity Richard Pichonský uviedol, že investície sa zhodnotili minimálne pre to, že oproti roku 2004 sa za posledné roky na Slovensku zvýšila cena nehnuteľností. “Okrem toho sa zlepšila pracovná sila, v regióne sa nachádza dostatok kvalifikovanej pracovnej sily a určité je tu lepšie daňové zaťaženie oproti ostatným krajinám,” zhodnotil podmienky na podnikanie Pichonský. Popradský akvapark zaznamenal za šesť rokov finančný obrat približne 10 miliónov eur.

Hlavný dôvod, prečo sa britská spoločnosť rozhodla zainvestovať práve v tomto regióne, je podľa Pichonského jednoznačný. “V prvom rade je tu množstvo geotermálnych prameňov a v druhom rade, v okolí asi 300 kilometrov sa nachádza 12-miliónová aglomerácia, takže bol predpoklad, že tá klientela tu je,” vysvetlil. Hlavný rozdiel medzi podmienkami podnikania na Slovensku a v ostatných krajinách je v tom, že v našej krajine je menej ľudí, trh je menší a podnikaniu sa darí na väčších trhoch. Ďalšou nevýhodou podľa Pichonského je vysoká daň z pridanej hodnoty, najmä čo sa týka služieb, čo ich predať zúje.

Z dlhodobého hľadiska by malo byť Slovensko perspektívnou krajinou v oblasti podnikania, čomu pomohlo aj euro. “Z krátkodobého hľadiska euro našu ekonomiku oslabilo, lebo sa stalo drahou krajinou všeobecne aj z hľadiska pracovnej sily,” uviedol Pichonský na margo novej meny. Podľa neho je podnikanie v službách veľmi rizikové, spoločnosť sa musela prispôbiť aj podmienkam na trhu v čase krízy. Plány do budúcnosti má firma veľmi bohaté.

Aquacity Poprad najviac navštevujú Slováci, Česi a Poliaci, začala chodiť aj anglická a škandinávská klientela, Rusi tu trávia voľný čas väčšinou len počas zimnej sezóny. Prebiehajúca zimná sezóna v Aquacity sa dá pokladať za úspešnú, hotely sú podľa riaditeľa úplne plné, ich priemerná obsadenosť neklesá. Priemer predstavuje naďalej 70 až 80 %. “Na druhej strane v akvaparku sa nenachádza toľko ľudí ako v roku 2007 a 2008. Je to dané tým, že tá menej solventná klientela prestala využívať tieto pre nich nadštandardné statky,” zhodnotil vývoj sezóny. Solventnejší turisti si doprajú aj takéto služby, ale vyžadujú zvýhodnené balíčky, ktoré ponúka už aj Aquacity. “Na tento trend sme pristúpili už minulý rok a myslím, že to funguje skvele,” doplnil Pichonský.



Veľkonočné zvyky a tradície

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

vychádzali z toho, že Veľký piatok ako deň umučenia Ježiša Krista sa považoval za sviatok, takže sa už v domácnostiach nemalo nič robiť.

Veľkému piatku sa v ľudovej viere pripisovala všeobecne veľká moc. Nesmelo sa vtedy z domu nič požívať. Ľudia si vtedy totiž veľmi často požičiavali veci — pracovné nástroje a potraviny, boli odkázaní jeden na druhého. Na Veľký piatok však panoval aj v tomto smere prísny zákaz. Verilo sa, že sa tým môže preniesť zlo do domu.

Známe sú povesti, že v noci na Veľký piatok sa zem otvára a vydáva svoje poklady, ktoré však môže nájsť iba statočný človek čistého srdca.

Na Bielu sobotu sa už mohlo pracovať?

Aj počas tohto dňa stále trvalo obdobie zviazaných zvonov. Kým na Veľký piatok sa nerobilo nič, na Bielu sobotu sa dopoludnie mohlo využiť na poľnohospodárske práce. Tí, čo nestihli zasieť mak, bôb a hrach, tak mohli urobiť teraz. No aj keď to bolo dovolené, ľudia väčšinou ani na Bielu sobotu nepracovali.

Ďalším obyčajom bolo, že dopoludnia ľudia nabrali za hrst kyslej kapusty a hodili ju pod strom. Tým sa naznačovalo, že sa skončil čas jedenia kyslej kapusty, pretože kyslá kapusta bola hlavnou zložkou stravy počas celej zimy. Bol to znak toho, že čoskoro bude už aj čerstvá zelenina.

Z akého dôvodu sa údená šunka konzumuje s chrenom?

Chren v ľudovom ponímaní symbolizoval spomienku na horké umučenie Ježiša Krista, ktorému na križi rímski vojaci ponúkali napíť sa zmiešané žlče s octom.

Pražnica vraj bola kedysi sviatočným jedlom?

Tradičným veľkonočným jedlom sú vajíčka. Váže sa k nim tradícia ako k symbolu nového života a plodnosti ešte z predkresťanského obdobia. Vajcia sa v minulosti jedli uvarené natvrdo alebo vo forme obradového jedla — ako čistá praženica alebo praženica, do ktorej sa pridávali mladé žihľavové lístky. Okrem nej bolo známe vaječné jedlo menom žolta hruška či syrek — vajcia sa zmiešali s mliekom, táto zmes sa uvarila, vyliala na čistý kus látky, vyformovala sa do tvaru hrušky a nechala sa stuhnúť.

Ďalším z veľkonočných jedál, ktoré sa jedávalo najmä na západnom Slovensku, baba alebo stratené kura — išlo o jedlo z vajec, údeného mäsa a žemle. Z týchto surovín sa vypracovala maša a tá sa nechala zapieť.

Čo sa pieklo, keďže sa nepiekli zákusky tak, ako ich poznáme dnes?

Voľakedy sa nepiekli zákusky, ale koláče, záviný plnené makom, tvarohom, orechmi. Na Záhorí a na západnom Slovensku boli známe koláče nazývané calty z piškótového cesta, podávali sa ku káve a k čaju. Zvykom bolo piecť štrúde — čerešňové s makom, tvarohové s hrozičkami, jablkami alebo s čerešňami. Piekli sa najmä v mestách.

Piekli sa aj takzvané zavináky — rožky plnené makom alebo orechmi — veľké ako dnešné makovníky, menším sa hovorilo podkovičky. Pripravovali sa aj bábovky, len sa im hovorilo baba.

Napríklad k bohato prestretému veľkonočnému stolu vo Vajnorochoch sa piekli posúchy z kysnutého cesta, navrch sa na ne naskladala slanina a údené mäso a takto pripravené posúchy sa dali zapieť.

Prečo sa dievčatá tešili, že budú obliate a vyšibané na Veľkonočný pondelok?



V minulosti nešlo o fyzické ublíženie, symbolika bola v tom, že šibáky boli vyrobené z čerstvého vrbového prútia a dotyk tohto prútia s pokožkou dievčaťa mal dodať dievčaťu silu, preniesť ňaj jar, aby bolo plné života. V minulosti dievčatá chceli byť vyšibané a obliate, lebo sa hovorilo, že ktorá nebude vyšibaná, oprášivie, chytí sa jej nejaká choroba. Súčasťou šibačky boli aj riekanky, napríklad: Šibi ryby masné ryby, dávaj vajcia do korbáča, keď nedáš, vyšľahám Ťa. Alebo: Šibem, šibem túto hlavu, aby nebolela, tento chrbát, aby dobre noše vláčil, tieto ruky, aby dávali mužovi peniaze, túto papuľku, aby nepapuľovala a tieto nohy, aby dobre bežali. To je taká žartovná riekanka, noše sa spomínajú preto, lebo dievčatá museli robiť ťažké práce, pomáhali aj na poli. Každý mládenec mal svoju riekanku, aj si ju sám skladal. Dievčatá sa mládencom, ktorí ich chodili šibať a polievať, veľmi tešili. Bola by veľká hanba, keby nejaké dievča zostalo nepoliate alebo nevyšibané. Každá dievčina, ktorá bola vyšibaná, priviazala mládencom na korbáč stužku, takže do večera boli šibáky krásne vyzdobené. Čo sa týkalo výslužiek, peniaze a čokoládové vajíčka sa vtedy nedávali. Dávali sa naturálne a starším mládencom za pohárik vypíť a zajesť z koláča. Odmeny boli symbolické. V niektorých lokalitách sa dávali mládencom vajíčka, klobásy alebo slanina. Chlapci to však neskonzovali, na večer si v krčme alebo v obecnom dome spravili zábavu a pozvali na ňu aj dievčatá a spoločne výslužku zjedli.

Aj v súčasnosti je zvykom požeňovanie pokrmov v košíkoch. V košíkoch boli koláče, chlieb, šunka, klobásy, maslo, tvaroh, vajíčka, soľ. Tieto jedlá sa po požeňaní stávali sväteninou. Časť týchto jedál sa potom dala aj dobytku, napríklad soľou sa symbolicky posolil pokrm pre zvieratá, prípadne dostali kúsok chleba, aby sa im dobre darilo. Škrupiny z vajec a odrobinky z chleba sa primiešali do osiva, ktoré sa na jar zasialo, alebo sa zaorali do prvej brázdy, aby sa požeňanie prenieslo aj na zem. Požeňané jedlo sa muselo skonzoovať tak, aby z neho nič nevyšlo nazmar, jedli sa aj omrvinky, lebo keby sa tak nestalo, bola by ohrozená úroda, napríklad krupobitím. Čo sa neskonzovalo, to sa hodilo do pece a spálilo.

Katolícke noviny

Slovenské medaily pribúdajú, SOV vyplatí cca 350,000 eur

Vancouver (TASR) - Iba alebo lepšie povedané už traja športovci získali v histórii samostatných zimných olympiád medailu pre Slovensko. Pilotný medailista, pred štyroch rokov strieborný snoubordista Radoslav Židek vo Vancouveri chýbal. Avšak potvrdilo sa, že na veľkolepom podujatí štartovali iní skúsení borci, ktorých zdobia cenné kovy z iných vrcholových podujatí, teda najmä z MS, ME, či SP. V plnej miere to fantastickým ťažením demonštroval biatlonový rutinér Pavol Hurajt. Už piate a siedme miesto boli veľkým úspechom a keď k tomu pridal bronz, bolo že to v slovenskom tábore radosti. A to už Anastasia Kuzminová mala zlato i striebro v konkurencii biatlonovej kráľovnej Neunerovej z Nemecka.

No medzi letom a zimou na hrách je v slovenských podmienkach stále výrazný rozdiel. Na OH, najmä zástupcovia vodných športov, zbierajú aj tie najcennejšie medaily v pravidelnom rytme a tak Hochschornerovci (vodný slalom) sú už držiteľmi troch zlatých, Michal Martikán (vodný slalom) má po dve zlaté a po dve strieborné medaily, Elena Kaliská (do tretice vodný slalom) má dva najcennejšie kovy. Dve striebra zdobia Martinu Moravcovú (plavkyňa), potom nasleduje bronzovo-strieborná sága štvorkajak a striebro Slavomíra Kňazovického (kanoistika). Spolu s ním sú v bilancii na jednej úrovni aj prví dvaja zástupcovia suchozemských odvetví, teda Jozef Krnáč (džudo) a Zuzana Stefečeková (strelectvo), dva bronz má Jozef Gönci (strelectvo), po jednom David Musulbes (zápasenie) a opäť vodák Juraj Minčík. Celkovo teda 20 letných a 4 zimné kovy.

Zimná olympiáda je kompletne o vode, samozrejme v pevnom skupenstve snehu a ľadu. A hoci sú Židek, Kuzminová a Hurajt v štyroch čisto slovenských hrách osamotení, vo federálnej histórii figurujú naozaj v prominentnej spoločnosti. Kuzminová sa zlatom pridala ku krasokorčuliarovi Ondrejovi Nepelovi, ktorý žiaľ v historickej tabuľke nástupnícky patrí Čechom. Medaily získali aj slávni hokejisti, na čele s Vladimírom Dzurillom (striebró, dva bronz), Jozefom Golonkom (striebró, bronz), či Igorom Libom (striebró, bronz). Striebró majú na konte aj krasokorčuliar Karol Divín, lyžiarka Gabriela Slobodová-Sekajová, bronz zdobí krasokorčuliar Jozefa Sabovčika a prirodzene celý rad hokejistov. Dvaja členovia slovenskej výpravy vyrovnali vo Whistleri rekordnú metu Márie Jasenčákovej. Slovenská sánkarská legenda absolvovala v rokoch 1980 až 1998 celkovo päť ZOH a to sa podarilo už iba v letnom vydaní Martine Moravcovej (1992 až 2008). Na vancouverkých hrách ich napodobnili bežec na lyžiach Ivan Bátory a biatlonistka Martina Halínárová, ale tento štartový míľnik je asi to jediné, na čo budú s Whistlerom dobre spomínať... Štyri účasti zaregistrovali Bátoryho kolega Martin Bajčičák i hokejisti Miroslav Šatan a Ľubomír Višňovský. U Šatana je to čosi ako 4,5 účasti, pretože v Nagane bol priamo v dejisku pripravený reprezentovať, ale jeho spoluhráči sa nekvalifikovali do hlavnej fázy.

Slovenský olympijský výbor vypísal pre olympijského víťaza prémie 45,000 eur a vyplatí ju Kuzminovej. Ale to nie je všetko, biatlonistka dostane ešte 35,000 za striebro a 4,000 za 8. miesto, teda celkovo 84 tisíc eur. Bronzový Hurajt si pripísal o 25,000, plus bonusy za 5. miesto 10,000 a za 7. miesto (6,000), celkovo teda 41,000. Židek dostal za turínske striebro 600,000 korún, biatlonista Marek Matiaško 150,000 za 5. miesto a za rovnakú priečku si hokejisti rozdelili 2 milióny. Teraz dostali za o jednu priečku vyššie po 9,000 eur na každú z 23 hláv hráčskeho kádra. Určité percento z tejto sumy dostanú aj členovia realizačného tímu, podobne to funguje aj u biatlonistov a tak SOV v spolupráci s Ministerstvom školstva SR vyplatí na premiách okolo 350 eur.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Velkonočné stretnutie Okresu Princa Pribinu č.15 IKSJ

Okres Princa Pribinu č. 15 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty vás srdečne pozýva na Velkonočné stretnutie Slovákov a priateľov Slovenska, ktoré sa uskutoční v nedeľu 28. marca 2010, v St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, Kalifornia, 90706. Veľkonočná slovenská omša začne v kaplnke o 11:00 hodine. Po omši bude pohostenie v cafetérii, na ktorom sa bude podávať kvalitný slovenský obed pri muzike v priateľskom prostredí. Deti budú mať možnosť sa zabaviť tradičným veľkonočným „Easter Egg Hunt“.

Dovidenia v Bellflower

Paul Skubeň, predseda

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku, že členská schôdza sa uskutoční v nedeľu 11. apríla 2010 o 12:30 hodine po slovenskej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Žiadame láskavo všetkých našich členov o hojnú účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

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 18. apríla 2010 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

Na schôdzi bude prevezená voľba delegátov na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ, ktorá sa uskutoční v dňoch 14. – 18. augusta 2010 v Clevelande, Ohio.

Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto dôležitej schôdzi zúčastnili

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, 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 2. mája 2010 o 1:00 hodine 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 voľbu delegáta na 49. Konvenciu IKSJ v Clevelande, Ohio, ktorá sa uskutoční v dňoch 14. – 18. augusta 2010. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, predsedníčka

DO POZORNOSTI RODÁKOM

IV. Svetové stretnutie

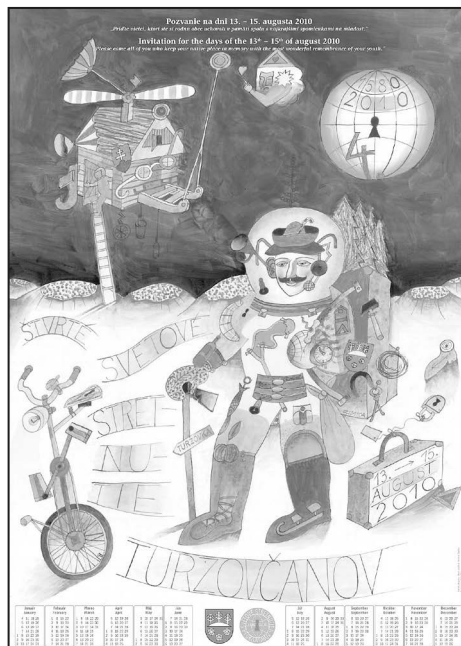
Na Slovensku, v hornokysuckom meste Turzovka sa pravidelne každé štyri roky organizujú Svetové stretnutia jeho rodákov a ich potomkov. V tomto roku, v dňoch 13. – 15. augusta 2010 to bude už po štvrtý raz. Je venované 430. výročiu prvej písomnej zmienky o obci, ktorej neskôr, v roku 1602, udelil privilégium sám jej zakladateľ, uhorský palatín Juraj Thurzo z Betlanoviec, zemepán na Bytčianskom panstve.

IV. Svetové stretnutie Turzovčanov a ich potomkov sa bude konať v rámci Turzovského kultúrneho leta a Beskydských slávností, ktoré tu majú svoju štyridsaťročnú tradíciu. Je to vhodná príležitosť pre všetkých, aby svoj rodný kraj – Kysuce, prišli navštíviť práve v tomto čase, keď tu na tradičných turzovských hodoch vrcholia spoločenské a kultúrne aktivity jeho občanov. Stretnutia sú charakteristické účasťou rodákov a mnohých významných osobností, prominentov spoločenského a politického života, známych umelcov a športovcov. Domáci občania, ako hostitelia, s celými rodinami navštevujú rad programov a podujatí pripravených pre túto príležitosť. Od masových amfiteátrálnych programov a folklórnych akcií až po komorné koncerty a výstavy. Mesto zakaždým rozkvitne do krásy a znásobuje počet svojich návštevníkov. Prichádzajú zblízka i zďaleka bez ohľadu na to, či žijú v susednom chotári, alebo ďaleko za morom. To, čo Turzovčania robia pre iných, robia vlastne aj sami pre seba. Chcú sa dobre cítiť, naplniť odkaz svojich predkov, zachovávať tradície a prejať úctu svojim hosťom. Po každom doterajšom svetovom stretnutí zostali v meste trvalé hodnoty v podobe účelových stavieb, pamätných tabúl, pomníkov, knižných publikácií, verejnej zelene, upravených priestranstiev, ale najmä nezabudnuteľných zážitkov a spomienok.

V týchto dňoch, ktoré ešte zostávajú do stanoveného termínu, spájajú Turzovčania opäť svoje sily a prostriedky, aby aj štvrté stretnutie rodákov bolo znova svetové. Pretože práve v tom je ich duch, poslanie a v tom je ich zmysel.

Záštitu nad IV. Svetovým stretnutím Turzovčanov a ich potomkov prevzal prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič a prisľúbil svoju osobnú účasť. Je to veľké vyznamenanie nielen pre organizátorov, ale aj pocta všetkým rodákovi, Kysučanovi a Slovákom, žijúcim vo svete. Lebo práve ich tu očakávajú najviac a tešia sa na nich. Ak teda Vaše kroky povedú na Slovensko, pridte si podať ruky so svojimi rodákmi na Kysuciach, pridte do kraja dobrých a pracovitých ľudí, známych svojou pohostinnosťou a otvoreným srdcom.

IVAN GAJDIČIAR
prezident občianskeho združenia
SPOLOK PRIATEĽOV TURZOVKY



Elena Gregušová 80-ročná

V piatok 5. februára 2010 Elena Gregušová za prítomnosti blízkej rodiny oslávila svoje 80. narodeniny. Odznali blahoželania a gratulácie. Mnohé pozdravy prišli poštou, po telefóne a aj kytice kvetov.

Osemdesiat rokov života je vhodnou príležitosťou aby povedali priateľské slovo tí, čo jubilatku poznajú bližšie. V týchto riadkoch nemáme v úmysle zveličovať zásluhy E. Gregušovej. Ale bolo by hanbou keby sme sa zaslúžilým činiteľom nevedeli poďakovať za ich prácu a oddanosť ku slovenskému národu a slovenskému životu v Amerike. Ide nám o to, aby sme v krátkosti zachytili tie stránky jubilatkinkej činnosti, ktoré si zasluhujú viac pozornosti než sa im dostáva. Chceme jej vzdať záslužený hold za to, čo pre nás Slovákov predstavuje a čo ju robí vzácnou jak z osobného, tak aj z celonárodného hľadiska.

Jubilantka sa narodila v Liptovskej Lúžnej okres Ružomberok. Pochádza z národne uvedomelej rodiny. Jej otec bol účastníkom v Hlinkovej ľudovej banke a s Hlinkom si dopisoval. Jeden list sa zachoval. V roku 1947 spolu s matkou a sestrou prišla do Ameriky. Len čo sa trochu ohriala v New Yorku, hneď sa zapojila do činnosti v slovenskom živote. Stala sa členkou Slovenského Národného Spolku a osadníčkou slovenskej farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Neskoršie členstvo sa rozrástlo v Katolíckom Sokole, Jednote mužskej i ženskej, v Slovenskej Lige, Slovensko-americkom klube a v Slovensko-americkom Kultúrnom Stredisku v New Yorku. Jej život sa stal bohatším i pestrejším keď sa zoznámila s novoprišlým emigrantom Rudom Gregušom, ktorý sa neskoršie stal jej manželom.

V tom čase nebolo v New Yorku podujatia, na ktorom by chýbali manželia Gregušovi a to či už ako organizátori, účinkujúci alebo aspoň ako účastníci v hľadisku. Nedali sa znechutiť ani po nezaslúžených úderoch. Tu možno povedať, že ľahko je vyznávať lásku národu, keď sú jeho rána. Ale vydržať nepopustiť, búchať na hluché a zatvorené brány, prijať ofinok, závisť a žiarlivosť od cudzích i svojich, to je to rodoľubstvo a svedectvo pevnej viery a charakteru.

Jubilantka sa stotožnila s ideálmi manžela. Chodila s manželom na Kongresy Slovenskej Ligy, Svetového kongresu Slovákov a Konvencie Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Bola členkou farského spevokolu, spievala slovenské ženské pašie, bola často lektorkou na slovenských omšiach a hrávala slovenské divadlá. A keď bolo potrebné udržať Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, prijala funkciu predsedníčky. Mimo toho bola tiež tajomníčkou okresu Msgr. Š. Krasuľu IKSJ.

Manželstvo Gregušových bolo požehnané dvoma talentovanými dcérami, Ruženkou a Ľubkou. Jubilatka nechala zamestnanie stranou a výlučne sa venovala výchove svojich dcér a domácnosti. Vodila ich na hodiny spevu, píania, baletu a na skúšky tanečného súboru Limbora. Dcéry potom vystupovali a obohacovali programy na kongresoch Slovenskej ligy, Svetového kongresu Slovákov, Festivaloch slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey a iných podujatiach. Ľubka sa dostala aj na Broadway, kde vystupovala vo viacerých muzikáloch. Ruženka študovala spev (opera) v Ríme a ako modelka modelovala v Grécku, Taliansku, Francúzsku a v niektorých mestách v Amerike.

Život Eleny Gregušovej má svoj cieľ i zmysel. Je to žena hlboko nábožensky založená a v práci vytrvalá. Prešla tvrdou školou v USA, ale pracovitnosťou a vytrvalosťou sa prebila. Bola zamestnaná v Bank of New York, Wall Street v oddelení účtovníctva (work on ledger, bookkeeper) a v Prentice Hall v Englewood Cliffs a Old Tappan, N.J. (accounts receivable and payable). Nachádza sa v pomerne dobrom zdraví a teší sa vnúťatám ako rastú a sa vyvíjajú.

Z toho, čo sme povedali je jasné, že jej život bol plný, bohatý, láskyplný a obetavý. Preto keď jej želáme z príležitosti jej 80-tých narodenín hojnosť Božieho požehnanja, zdravia a sviežosť ducha, želáme jej tiež mnoho rokov šťastného manželského života po boku jej verného manžela.

Priatelja



Jarná tanečná zábava v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Vás pozýva na Jarnú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu dňa 25. apríla 2010 po svätej omši o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$ 25.00. V cene vstupenky je započítané hlavné jedlo, káva a koláč. V priebehu zábavy bude losovaná tombola a predstavia sa aj deti zo slovenskej školy. Zabávať Vás bude hudobná skupina Jozefa Jurášiho – Kontakty. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Prosa malej sirôtky

Moja drahá, milovaná, zlatá mamička ...
Viem, že sa na mňa pozeráš, dolu z nebička.
Áno, som ešte stále tu len, že som malička.
V očiach mi stále pláva, veľmi smutná slzička.
Ako rada, by som zaspala v Tvojom náručí ...
a počula tú krásnu, nezabudnuteľnú uspávanku.
Lúbim Ťa, avšak, môj pozdrav Ti nik nedoručí.
Prosila som aj môjho anjelička strážnička,
aby ma zabalil, do dajakého, malého balička
a priniesol tam k Tebe hore, do nebička.
Vraj, nemôže, cesta je dlhá, a ja som malička.
Viem, že som malá, modlitbičkou sa živím,
smutno mi je, chcela by som ísť svetom šírim,
lebo Ťa nemôžem zabudnúť, moja drahá mamička.

Oj, ako by som bola šťastná, keby si bola tu
a do vrkočov mi dala peknú, červenú mašličku,
tak, ako to majú, aj druhé malé dievčatá
a tichúčko zaspievala, moju obľúbenú uspávanku,
keď slnko zapadlo a tmavá noc, nastala vonku.

Veľmi smutno mi je za Tebou, srdiečko ma bolí
a nepoznám nikoho, ani žiadny liek, čo mi ho zahojí.
Chýbaš mi ráno, na obed, ale najviac, ten tichý večer ...
Chýba mi, chýba mi, ten krížik na čelo, ten vrelý bozk,
bez Teba život je smutný, chladný, ako ten sviečky vosk.
Chcela by som ešte raz, zadriemav v Tvojom náručí,
keď krásny, večerný sen, zapadnuté sniečko zakončí.

Jozef Smák

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Lieky bez predpisu** a niektoré zdravotnícke pomôcky si budú môcť od marca ľudia kúpiť aj cez internet. Túto zmenu priniesla novela zákona o liekoch platná od decembra 2009, chýbala však vykonávacia vyhláška, ktorá by takýto predaj upravila. Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR už právnu normu vypracovalo, pričom vyhláška by mala do platnosti vstúpiť v marci. Lekárne, ktoré budú zásielkový predaj realizovať, budú povinné priamo na prevádzke, ako aj na internetovej stránke umiestniť odkaz na povolenie oprávňujúce vykonávať zásielkový výdaj. Ich držiteľia budú zároveň povinní zabezpečiť priradenie identifikácie každej zásielke tak, aby ju bolo možné sledovať od objednávky až po doručenie. Rovnaká možnosť platí aj na lieky, pri ktorých nebudú informácie o ich použití v slovenčine. Liek alebo zdravotnícku pomôcku bude možné vrátiť za účelom reklamácie priamo v danej lekárni alebo poštu.

• **Ministerstvo financií (MF) SR** plánuje do elektronizácie služieb daňovej správy, ktorá je ďalším krokom k zjednoteniu výberu daní, ciel a odvodov (program UNITAS), investovať v najbližších dvoch rokoch takmer 50 miliónov eur. Ako sprostredkovateľský orgán pre Operačný program Informatizácia spoločnosti (OPIS) vyhlásilo v tejto súvislosti výzvu na národný projekt Elektronické služby daňových agend MF SR. Elektronizácia daňových služieb má priniesť napríklad zavedenie notifikácie o udalostiach, termínoch a aktivitách v daňových konaniach či vydávanie rozhodnutia pre daňový subjekt s použitím elektronického doručovania. Základné žiadosti a dokumenty bude možné vyplňať a odosielať elektronicke, rovnako bude možné elektronické platenie a uhrádzanie daní, poplatkov a neskôr aj odvodov.

• **Súčasná snaha slovenských univerzitných pedagógov** o publikovanie v renomovaných zahraničných časopisoch je nedostatočná. Povedal to Jean Michel Sahut, profesor a riaditeľ výskumného centra na School of Management vo francúzskom Amiens, ktorý niekoľko rokov prednáša pre študentov doktorandského štúdia na Obchodnej fakulte EÚ. Obchodná fakulta Ekonomickej univerzity (EU) v Bratislave je jedným z mála univerzitných pracovísk na Slovensku, ktoré sú ochotné podieľať sa na výskume v oblasti manažmentu. Spolupráca medzi slovenskou a francúzskou univerzitou sa začala na úrovni programov študentských mobilit, no v uplynulom roku sa zintenzívnila podpisom dohody o spolupráci v oblasti výskumu. Cieľom je najmä podpora výskumných aktivít študentov na treťom stupni vysokoškolského štúdia, ktorí pripravujú svoje dizertačné práce a pomoc doktorandom pri publikáciách v zahraničných renomovaných časopisoch. Slabú publikačnú činnosť práve pedagógov z EU pred časom kritizoval aj minister školstva Ján Mikolaj (SNS). Označil ju za najväčší nedostatok univerzity, ktorý sa jej napriek zaradeniu medzi univerzitné vysoké školy nepodarilo odstrániť.

• **Tatry, Oravu, Liptov, Donovaly a Mýto pod Ďumbierom** ako najvýznamnejšie zimné turistické centrá navštívilo 10 ukrajinských novinárov, ktorí od 28. februára do 6. marca bližšie spoznávajú destináciu Slovensko. Informačnú cestu pre vybraných ukrajinských novinárov z TV, rozhlasu a printových médií pripravili obchodný radca Ministerstva hospodárstva (MH) SR na Ukrajine Jozef Kalman, Ministerstvo kultúry a turizmu Ukrajiny a Slovenská agentúra pre cestovný ruch (SACR). Podľa MH SR cieľom infocesty je mnohostranná propagácia týchto turistických centier v ukrajinských médiách so zámerom oboznámiť ukrajinskú verejnosť o možnostiach cestovného ruchu na Slovensku. Najdôležitejším dôvodom na organizovanie infocesty je výrazný prepád návštevnosti občanov Ukrajiny v registrovaných slovenských zariadeniach CR. Z údajov Štatistického úradu SR vyplýva, že v roku 2009 medziročne klesol počet turistov z Ukrajiny v SR o 68,9 % na 16,541 a prenocovaní o 60,8 % na 65,666. Kým v roku 2008 ukrajinskí turisti pobudli na Slovensku 4,5 dňa, vlni 3,9 dňa.

• **Vo Vydavateľstve Maticy slovenskej (V MS)** vyšiel začiatkom marca **druhý diel antológie slovenskej krátkej prózy** krajanských a exilových spisovateľov pod názvom Medzi dvoma domovmi. Kým prvý diel antológie z roku 2008 predstavil slovenskú poéziu v zahraničí od polovice minulého storočia, druhý diel je prierezom toho najlepšieho, čo vzniklo v tomto období v zahraničí v oblasti slovenskej krátkej prózy, konštatoval riaditeľ V MS Stanislav Muntág. Obe knihy sú podľa neho prvým uceleným prejavom záujmu slovenských inštitúcií o tvorbu slovenských spisovateľov v zahraničí, bez kladenia štátnych alebo ideologických hraníc. Tak to totiž bolo pred rokom 1989. Antológia je dôkazom, že aj mimo domova autori v tých rokoch bojovali za skutočné hodnoty jednotnej slovenskej literatúry, zdôraznil Muntág. Druhý diel antológie sa v prvej časti chronologicky venuje slovenskej dolnozemskej próze, ktorá je rozsahom najbohatšia. Publikácia vyšla s finančnou podporou Ministerstva kultúry SR a Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

• **Česká letecká spoločnosť Travel Service** razantne vstupuje na slovenský trh charterovej dopravy. Prvé lety pre slovenské cestovné kancelárie (CK) plánuje na prelome apríla a mája a takmer okamžite sa stane jednotkou na slovenskom trhu. Ešte v septembri 2009 pritom fungovali na Slovensku štyri domáce letecké spoločnosti, v súčasnosti je to už len jedna - zadĺžená Danube Wings. A keď nedávno prestala lietať charterová Air Slovakia, záujem CK o služby Travel Service ešte zosilnel. Česká spoločnosť na základe uzavretých zmlúv a stavu ďalších rokovani odhaduje, že tento rok prepraví do Slovenska 300,000 klientov. Tým by sa okamžite stala jednotkou na slovenskom trhu. Travel Service vylučuje, že by šla do expanzie na slovenský trh za cenu dočasnej straty. Už na jar premiestní česká spoločnosť na Slovensko tri až štyri lietadlá a štartovať bude z troch najväčších letísk v krajine: z Bratislavy, Košíc a Popradu.

• **Polícia** v americkom meste Jackson zatkla 18-ročného mladíka, ktorého obvinila v prípade postrelenej Slovenky Andrey Michalkovej Scottovej. K útoku na ženu došlo 1. februára na parkovisku pri miestnej univerzite. Útočník ju dvakrát postrelil do hlavy, 36-ročná Slovenka útok zázračne prežila. Obvineným je Randall Mason, ktorý býva blízko Jacksonskej štátnej univerzity. Polícia ho zatkla ešte minulý týždeň a obvinila z ozbrojenej lúpeže a útoku s priťažujúcimi okolnosťami. Slovenka uviedla, že keď chcela odísť autom z univerzity, kde pracovala, pristúpili k nej dvaja alebo traja muži a žiadali od nej peniaze. Jeden z nich ju udrhel do hlavy ručnou zbraňou a postrelil ju. V súčasnosti sa imigrantka zo Slovenska, ktorá má amerického manžela, zotavuje doma zo zranení. Polícia pátra po ďalších podozrivých.

• **V roku 2009** klesol počet Slovákov pracujúcich v zahraničí o vyše 23 percent. Najvyšší úbytok Slovákov pracujúcich v zahraničí bol v ČR a Veľkej Británii, kde ich počet medziročne poklesol o 20,3 tisíce resp. 6,1 tisíce osôb. V roku 2009 migrovalo najviac občanov SR za prácou do Rakúska a Česka. Z hľadiska odvetvovej štruktúry sa ich v zahraničí najviac uplatnilo v stavebníctve a priemysle. Ako však upozorňuje Ivan Chrappa z Odboru štatistiky práce a miezd ŠÚ, "zisťovania ŠÚ podľa medzinárodnej metodiky zahŕňajú len osoby, ktoré sú v zahraničí do jedného roka. To znamená, že reálne číslo je teda vyššie". Celková miera nezamestnanosti v SR predstavovala vlni 12,1 %. Slovákov bez práce bolo 324,200, čo je v porovnaní s rokom 2008 nárast o 25,9 %. Chrappa predpokladá, že minimálne v 1. polroku 2010 nedôjde vo vývoji zamestnanosti na Slovensku k žiadnemu zlepšeniu.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Zrekonštruovaný Sobášny palác v Bytči s najväčšou renesančnou sálou v strednej Európe

V Bytči dokončili rekonštrukciu národnej kultúrnej pamiatky - sobášneho paláca. Práce trvali dva roky a na jeho záchranu a obnovu prispel nórsky finančný grant, ďalšie prostriedky boli zo štátneho rozpočtu. Po náročnej rekonštrukcii vznikli reprezentačné priestory, ktoré nemajú v širokom okolí obdobu.



The national cultural wedding-palace in Bytča was renovated recently with funds from a Norwegian grant. The beautiful renovated building was visited by the Norwegian ambassador to Slovakia, Trine Skymoene.

FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

Bytča (TASR) – Zrekonštruovaný Sobášny palác v Bytči s najväčšou renesančnou sálou v strednej Európe je dôkazom reálnej spolupráce medzi Nórsnym kráľovstvom a Žilinským samosprávnym krajom (ŽSK). Pri príležitosti návštevy veľvyslankyne Nórskeho kráľovstva na Slovensku Trine Skymoene v Bytči to 3. marca skonštatoval predseda ŽSK Juraj Blanár.

Rekonštrukcia si podľa predsedu ŽSK vyžiadala celkové náklady 2,25 milióna eur a zrealizovala sa vďaka podpore Finančného mechanizmu EHP, Nórskeho finančného mechanizmu, štátneho rozpočtu Slovenskej republiky a zdrojov ŽSK. „Príspevok z grantu Nórskeho finančného mechanizmu bol 954,000 eur. Spolufinancovanie ŽSK predstavovalo 5 percent, vlastná investícia cez 1,2 milióna eur a príspevok štátu 10 percent. Sme veľmi vďační, že nórsky mechanizmus bol nastavený tak, aby sme aj na takúto pamiatku mohli žiadať finančné prostriedky. Veríme, že aj v budúcnosti Nórske kráľovstvo otvorí grant pre Slovenskú republiku, aby sme mohli spolupracovať v ďalších aktivitách,“ povedal Blanár.

Sobášny palác je podľa predsedu samosprávneho kraja po rekonštrukcii využívaný ako stála expozícia Považského múzea (PM) a približuje nielen históriu Sobášneho paláca, ale aj neďalekého kaštieľa, ktorého majiteľom bol Juraj Thurzo. „Návštevníkom je prístupný denne počas celého roka. Ale bude využívaný a využiteľný aj pre rôzne benefičné spoločenské akcie. Chystáme tiež projekt, ktorý umožní záujemcom práve tu spečatiť manželstvo. Samozrejme, za rešpektovania podmienok, že počas piatich rokov má palác slúžiť verejnosti bez akýchkoľvek finančných nákladov pre tých, ktorí ho budú využívať,“ dodal Blanár.

Sobášny palác v Bytči je súčasťou Kaštieľa v Bytči a patrí medzi najvýznamnejšie a architektonicky najpôsobivejšie renesančné stavby na Slovensku. Kaštieľ dal postaviť v roku 1571 František Thurzo na mieste bývalého stredovekého hradu. Za autora stavby sa považuje taliansky architekt Kilián z Milána.

Syn Františka Thurza, uhorský palatín Juraj Thurzo dal v roku 1601 postaviť takzvaný Sobášny palác. Išlo o priestranú budovu v predhradí, venovanú slávnostným rodinným príležitostiam, najmä svadobným hostinám jeho siedmich dcér. Sobášny palác si zachoval pôvodnú podobu zo 17. storočia. Od roku 1970 je Bytčiansky kaštieľ pozostávajúci zo Sobášneho paláca, hospodárskych a obytných budov národnou kultúrnou pamiatkou.

Unikátna kniha o Slovákoch

Vo Vydavateľstve Don Bosco vyšla nedávno unikátna kniha na ktorú by som chcel upriamiť vašu pozornosť. Je to kniha o slovenských misionároch v zahraničí a jej názov je jednoduchý – MISIA. Na knihe autorsky spolupracovali uznávaní slovenskí žurnalisti – fotograf Alan Hyza a reportér Peter Kubinyi, ktorí za túto prácu získali viacero prestížnych novinárskych ocenení.

Kniha je písaná v plnom rozsahu v slovenčine a v angličtine, aby sme mohli našich rodákov predstaviť aj mimo hraníc Slovenska, je v nej viac ako 100 plnofarebných fotografií a je tlačená na špeciálnom papieri.

Autori prešli za našimi misionármi 9 krajín na všetkých piatich kontinentoch (Haiti, Ekvador, Rusko – Sibír, Austrália, Azerbajdžan, Angola, Filipíny, Albánsko, Slovensko – Rómske osady na východe) a zdokumentovali životy týchto našich slovenských kňazov, ale aj ľudí, ktorým sa venujú.

Cieľom tejto publikácie je predstaviť Slovákov, ktorí sa dali do služby iným ľuďom mimo našej vlasti, ale aj oboznámiť s prácou misionára v dnešnej dobe. Pri príležitosti uvedenia knihy MISIA na trh sa konala v najväčšom knihkupectve na Slovensku Panta Rhei Postova aj tlačová konferencia a vernisáž výstavy fotografií z tohto diela. Výstava by mala putovať po Slovensku, no plánujeme ju inštalovať aj v zahraničí, zatiaľ konkrétne v Turíne a v Ríme.

Boli by sme radi, ak by ste toto unikátné dielo podporili priamo zakúpením do vašej inštitúcie, vašim známym a priateľom, aby ste ju mohli prezentovať aj ľuďom mimo Slovenska. Takisto sme otvorení akýmkoľvek nápadom s umiestnením výstavy v krajine, v ktorej žijete a pracujete.

Ukážku z knihy si môžete prelistovať tu : http://issuu.com/don_bosco/docs/misia_mission
Knihu si môžete objednať cez objednávkový formulár, ktorý posielať v prílohe, alebo si ju možno zakúpiť priamo tu: http://www.donbosco.sk/index.php?page=shop.product_details&category_id=97&flypage=shop.flypage&product_id=6580&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=44

Prípadné ďalšie otázky vám rád zodpoviem na nižšie uvedených kontaktoch. Mgr. Ján Miško, riaditeľ, vydavateľstvo DON BOSCO, Miletičova 7, 821 08 Bratislava, www.donbosco.sk, tel.: +421-2-5557 2226; fax: +421-2-5557 4992.

Mgr. Ján Miško

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Velká noc 2010



Radostné Aleluja

„Jemu, Víťaznému Kráľovi, Jemu ukrižovanému a vzkriesenému,
volajme s radosťou naše Aleluja!“

Ó, Kriste, keď si zvládal smrť

Ó, Kriste, keď si zvládal smrť,
neodchoď od nás, s nami buď,
vod' nás a v púti z lásky rad',
na naše ľudské biedy hľad'!

Buď s tými, čo Ťa volajú,
a v Tvoju pomoc dúfajú!
Kde súži nemoc – vzhliadni, lieč,
a daj čuť verným Tvoju reč,
čo dvíha z lôžka, uľaví,
osladiť život boľavý!

Buď s tými, čo šli do sveta,
kde nádej v Tebe opretá –
pomáhaj dieťkam rodičom,
nedaj trieť biedy na ničom!

A tých, čo v smútkoch hľadajú k nám,
poteš, ó, Pane, poteš sám,

uist' ich v svojej добрote
o novom, lepšom živote,
kde zhliadajú, až príde čas,
stratených svojich milých zas!

A keď sa zbudí nový kvet,
i strom sa počal pod ním skvieť,
i tráva bujnie zelená,
na poli úfnosť znovená
ach, Spasiteľu, šťastia praj
a chlebu nášmu požehnaj!

Jak v Emaus tých raz z večera,
sa zrak náš k Tebe upiera:
Ó, ostaň s nami, s nami buď,
pamätaj na nás, na svoj ľud
a niekdy, až raz zmrkne sa,
otvor nám svoje nebesá!

Martin Rázus

Velkonočné zvyky a tradície

Velkonočné sviatky sú spojené s mnohými zvykmi a tradíciami. Mnohé z nich vychádzali z povier a prirodzenej symboliky a takými zostali. Iné sa preniesli do kresťanskej tradície a v procese inkulturácie sa stali súčasťou náboženských obradov. Na otázky o zvykoch a tradíciách na slovenskej dedine pred sto rokmi odpovedá Katarína Nádaska, z Katedry etnológie a kultúrnej antropológie Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského.

Ktoré zvyky boli späté s Kvetnou nedeľou a požehnaním bahniatok?

Keďže bahniatka boli požehnané, stali sa sväteninou a ľudia verili, že ochránia celý príbytok pred zlými duchmi, bleskom a podobne. Požehnané vetvičky bahniatok sa zvykli zapichnúť aj do poľa, aby bolo chránené. Púčiky bahniatok sa aj jedli — ide o zvyk z konca 19. storočia. Požehnané bahniatka sa zapili vodou — mali pôsobiť ako ochrana proti chorobám hrdla, zimnici, prípadne sa nimi potierali oči, ktoré mali chrániť pred chorobami zraku. Tým, že bahniatko bolo sväteninou, zaobchádzalo sa s ním s patričnou úctou. Požehnané bahniatka sa nikdy nevyhadzovali, mohli sa iba spáliť.

Dnes sú rapkáče namiesto zvonov už vzácnosťou. S čím súvisela táto obyčaj?

S Veľkým, respektíve Svätým týždňom, keď sa zväzovali zvonov. V kostoloch utíchla organová hudba. Namiesto hlaholu zvonov sa rozhrmotili rapkáče, klopačky, klepadlá. V minulosti bol na celom Slovensku, najmä na Záhori, rozšírený zvyk, že chlapci chodievali z jedného konca dediny na druhý a rapkali, čím oznamovali začiatok posvätného ticha, ktoré trvalo až do Bielej soboty. Rapkáče symbolizovali údajne aj hluk, ktorý sprevádzal ukrižovanie Krista.

Aké obyčaje sa dodržiavali na Zelený štvrtok?

Veľmi rozšíreným zvykom bolo, že dievčatá sa skoro ráno pred východom slnka chodili česať pod vrbu s dlhými previsnutými konármi, aby mali bujné vlasy. Rozprávali sa pri tom riekanky ako: Vrba, vrba zelená, daj mi vlasy na dva pásy. Znakom slobodnej dievky boli totiž kedysi krásne dlhé vlasy, po svadbe už mladá žena nemohla vyjsť na ulicu prostovlasá, musela mať čepiec.

Ďalším archaickým zvykom bolo, že chlapci nasypali dievčatám do izby mravce, niekedy až do postele, nie však, aby im urobili zle, ale preto, lebo mravec symbolizoval šťastie, usilovnosť a pracovitosť. Takto malo byť aj dievča obdarené šťastím a pracovitosťou.

V tento deň sa tiež pripisovali niektorým bylinkám liečivé vlastnosti. Pred východom slnka sa zbierala medovka a pľúcnik, ktoré sa na Veľký piatok pridávali do jedla aj kravám, aby nad nimi nemali moc bosorky, aby kravy dobre dojili a neochoreli.

Čo sa sadilo v tento deň?

Obdobie zviazaných zvonov bolo podľa zvykov vhodné na výsadbu niektorých plodín. Sadili sa hrach, bôb, mak, lebo sa verilo, že tieto plodiny sa dobre zaviažu a bude dobrá úroda.

Prečo sa na Zelený štvrtok ľudia navzájom obdarovávali?

V minulosti bol na Zelený štvrtok rozšírený zvyk, ktorý dnes už zanikol, posielat' si navzájom darčeky alebo drobné pôstne jedlá. Volalo sa to dary Zeleného štvrtka. Táto obyčaj bola rozšírená najmä na západnom Slovensku a na hranici Slovenska s Moravou. V tento deň boli obdarovávaní aj učitelia praktickými, naturálnymi darmi, obec alebo mesto im posielalo dary vo forme pokrmov alebo jahňacinu či kozľacinu na Veľkú noc. Učitelia boli totiž v tom čase — pred sto rokmi — nemajetní, patrili medzi chudobných ľudí. Takto si vlastne prilpešili a spestrili jedálniček.

Hloh vraj v tomto čase plače. Prečo?

Podľa ľudového podania bola trňová koruna Ježiša Krista upletená z hlohu, preto v noci zo Zeleného štvrtka na Veľký piatok vraj počuť v prírode nariekanie hlohu, ktorý plače, že bol takto zneužitý. Hloh ako liečivá rastlina sa chodil zbierať práve počas tejto noci. Využíval sa špeciálne na liečenie epilepsie, ktorá bola v minulosti vážnou chorobou.

Veľký piatok bol vraj plný zvykov.

Jedným zo zvykov na tento deň bolo ešte pred východom slnka umyť sa v studenej tečúcej vode, teda v potoku. Ľuďom, ktorí nevládali prísť k potoku sami, priniesli vodu v hrnčeku, aby sa mohli aspoň symbolicky umyť. Verilo sa, že tento úkon utuží zdravie. Dievčatá to robili, aby opekneli, oči sa umývali, aby boli celý rok bez karpín. Verilo sa, že na Veľký piatok pred východom slnka má voda liečivé účinky, že sa tak zabezpečí zdravie pre celú rodinu. K vode sa privádzal aj dobytok, alebo sa domáce zvieratá aspoň poľkali vodou. Dobytok bol totiž v minulosti pre ľudí veľmi dôležitý. Okrem toho sa tejto vode pripisovala moc, že ochráni ľudí pred kožnými chorobami, napríklad pred svrabom. Hovorili sa pri tom riekanky, napríklad: Teč, vodička čistá, od Pána Krista, ty umývaš drevo a kamene, umy aj mňa, hriešne stvorenie.

Prečo sa na Veľký piatok nevykonávali ťažké roboty?

Na Veľký piatok platil zákaz — nesmela sa hýbať zem, čiže sa nemohlo pracovať na poli. Súviselo to s úctou k umučeniu Ježiša Krista. Nesmeli sa vykonávať nijaké ťažké roboty, ani domáce práce, nezametalo sa, nesmelo sa prať. Všetky tieto príkazy a zákazy

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