



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

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Historic Wilkes-Barre Slovak Church to be Closed



Sacred Heart Church in Wilkes- Barre

On all the weekend Masses on January 31-February 1, 2009, Rev. Joseph F. Martino, Bishop of Scranton, announced his final decisions on restructuring of parishes in the diocese. In 2008 a study program was initiated by various committees on the best way to utilize the number of priests, population changes and dwindling financial resources in the historic diocese in northeast Pennsylvania. In an effort to save the diocesan high schools, several schools were merged to make them more financial viable in 2007.

According to the diocesan plan, all parishes will follow one of three models. In "partnership," parishes would retain their own pastors but form a relationship of cooperation with another parish. In "linked parishes" two or more parishes would share the same pastor. In "consolidated parishes", two or more parishes would form one parish. The surviving parish would serve those from the closed parishes. For a period of time the church to be closed could be remain open

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Lenten Reflections from our Chaplain

Dear Friends

Many of us take the opportunity during this holy season of Lent for spiritual renewal before the God who made us. In addition to the extra prayers we may offer during these forty days or the sacrifices of something we like to have or do, we can find inspiration for renewal by reflecting on what the church celebrates this year on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

The story of the Archangel Gabriel's appearance to Mary is well known to us, but a small detail is often overlooked. Gabriel tells Mary that she

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Rev. Thomas Nasta

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Message from the President

On the 60th anniversary of the founding of the "First Slovak Republic" in 1939 we are re-printing the article I wrote in 2008.

At the current time Slovakia is enduring the same global economic turmoil as we in the United States. This will be a test of the new democracy in Slovakia and how it responds. I fully anticipate that it will respond in a fashion similar to all democratically elected governments, and work with the world economic community to solve this crisis for the benefit of the Slovak people. We in the United States and Canada wish our Slovak brothers well.

March 2008

I have received several letters and phone calls regarding Monsignor Jozef Tiso and the March 14th anniversary of what a significant number of Slovaks recognize as the founding of the "First Slovak Republic" in 1939. Monsignor Tiso served as Prime Minister of Slovakia from March 14, 1939 until he became President on October 26, 1939.

The period 1939 – 1945 in Slovakia is a time that is very controversial and can be viewed by different people in somewhat different ways. Completely understanding the complexity and tragedy is in some ways beyond my capacity, since I did not live in those times.

Some facts are without argument; that Slovakia was then a small country of less than 5 million people, that the Slovak people were under foreign domination for over 1000 years; that Slovakia was at that time still primarily agricultural with a thirst for development; that Slovaks were and still are, to a great extent, religious people; that the great European powers were beginning to be engaged in World War II, that would ultimately kill an estimated 30 million people; that Slovakia was located in the middle of those great European powers with Germany on the West and the Soviet Union on the East as well as Austria and Hungary on the South; that no Allied powers would or could come to its rescue.

It is uncontroverted that thousands of Jews who lived in Slovakia were deported and many of them ultimately died in concentration camps. The disagreements stem from the role Monsignor Tiso had or did not have in the treatment and deportation of Jews from Slovakia, as well as what he did or did not do with regards to Slovakia's relationship with Nazi Germany.

I of course, have my own opinion, but I encourage our interested readers to do some re-



Andrew M. Rajec

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

Insights and Viewpoints

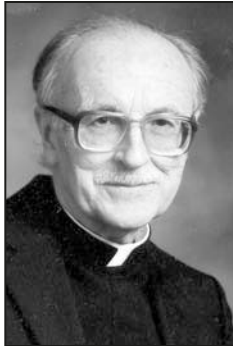


St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Campion P. Gavaler; Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B.

March 29, 2009
Fifth Sunday of Lent
John 12:20-33

Gospel Summary

Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover feast say to Philip, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Jesus responds, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He then says that in



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

order to produce much fruit, a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die; and only the person who "hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." Those who follow him, Jesus promises, will be where he is, and the Father will honor them.

Jesus, realizing that his "hour" will involve suffering and death, is troubled; yet, he entrusts his life to the Father. Through giving himself to his Father's will, the world will be judged, and the ruler of this world will be driven out. Jesus then reveals the purpose of the "hour" he is about to enter: "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

Life Implications

The incident of the Greeks asking to see Jesus marks a turning point in the fourth gospel. Before, as at the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus had always said that his "hour" had not yet come. Now through the symbolic presence of the Greeks, Jesus will be able to draw everyone to himself -- Gentiles as well as Jews, people today as well as people of the first century. We, too, would like to see Jesus.

One of the most elusive concepts in the entire bible is "glory." John uses the term to refer to the divine presence manifesting itself in the world, and also to the recognition of that supreme presence by a faithful person. In the hour that has come upon him, how will the Father's presence manifest itself to Jesus, and how will he honor that divine presence?

It is clear from many incidents in the fourth gospel that Jesus loved and enjoyed his human life. He took part in a wedding feast at Cana. At the death of his friend Lazarus, Jesus was moved with the deepest emotions (anger or indignation as well as sorrow). He wept, so much did he love his friend. Now that his "hour" has come, Jesus is troubled at the prospect of losing his life. The Letter to the Hebrews states: "In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death..." (5:7).

Because human life is so precious, perhaps the deepest human instinct is for its survival. We seek power and possessions to secure it. We seek pleasures to enjoy it. We seek honors to assure ourselves of its worth. Jesus, too, faced the temptation to make the preservation of his own life his supreme value. In prayer, however, he recognized the presence of the Father's eternal life dwelling in him, and he committed himself to his Father's will even if it meant he would die. In this the Father glorifies his name by showing us in Jesus that divine life and love overcome death, not only in his beloved Son but in every human being who follows Jesus.

When Jesus dies on the cross, it appears to be the "hour" when the "ruler of this world" has triumphed once and for all. However, the reality is that Jesus is lifted up not to end his life on the cross, but is lifted up to eternal life in the Father. The good news that John's gospel proclaims is that now Jesus draws everyone to himself. The Greeks and all who now "see" Jesus and follow him in faith will be where he is, with God.

The crucial "hour" when one must choose either to love one's life in this world above everything else, or to love one's life in God, of course, will come in the particular circumstances of one's own world. There are immediate implications of that decision. To define one's ultimate meaning in relation to any reality but God is to live in a state of anxiety because that finite reality, however precious, may pass away at any moment. On the other hand, to define

one's meaning in relation to life in God brings peace beyond understanding. Even though, like Christ, we may experience the deepest emotions at the death of a loved one, or be troubled at the prospect of our own death, the final word is peace. "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). I think most of us in reflecting on the life implications of this Sunday's gospel can identify with the sentiment of a Van Morrison song, "When will I ever learn to live in God."

April 5, 2009

Passion Sunday

Mark 14:1-15:47

Gospel Summary

For us Christians, the story of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus represents the climax, not just of the earthly career of our Lord, but of all biblical revelation. The first part of this Passion story, without the Resurrection, is the gospel selection for this last Sunday of Lent.

It is impossible to comment on all the elements of this lengthy and incredibly rich gospel passage, and so I have decided to offer some thoughts on a little "story-within-the-story," which is the anointing of Jesus by an unnamed woman at the very beginning of the narrative. At first glance, this episode appears to be completely irrelevant and we may be tempted to dismiss it until we read, at the end of the story, that it is indispensable to the Passion story itself: "...wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

This story is so important because it is related to the Passion of Jesus in the same way that a key signature is related to the music that follows. What this woman did, therefore, tells us how to read and understand the Passion of Jesus. Briefly stated, her seemingly extravagant anointing of Jesus represents, in microcosm, what Jesus himself is about to do for the whole world. Just as she breaks open the exquisite alabaster cruet and pours its precious and fragrant ointment on the head of Jesus in anticipation of his death and burial, so also Jesus will allow his body to be broken in death and will pour the precious ointment of his life-blood on all of us who are destined to die.

Her action is considered wasteful and foolish by the bystanders, so that Jesus must correct them as he praises this woman for her generosity. And, in like manner, what Jesus does may appear to be foolish and wasteful to an unbelieving and cynical world, but his Father will raise him from the dead and thereby confirm forever the wisdom of his generosity.

Life Implications

If we take this little story of the anointing of Jesus seriously, we will learn that the passion story is not primarily about how much Jesus suffered, but rather about how much he loved. He did suffer, of course, and his suffering was intense. But suffering as such is not necessarily redemptive. What makes the pain and suffering of Jesus the source of salvation for us is the fact that it resulted from his extraordinary loving. We all know that suffering can come from other sources than loving, such as, not getting our own way or being wedded to false goals, but this kind of selfish suffering has nothing in common with the suffering of Jesus.

And so, for example, when we make the Way of the Cross (the Stations), we may be tempted to say: "I'm with you, Jesus. I'm suffering just as you did!" But Jesus could very well say to us, "Are you suffering because you love? If so, by all means join me, and we will walk

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Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Epistle of Paul to the Philippians-2

The most famous passage in this Epistle to the Philippians is found in chapter 2, verses 3-11.

"Never act out of rivalry or conceit; rather, let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others' interests rather than to his own. Your attitude must be that of Christ.

"Though he was in the form of God, he did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at.

"Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being

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Church to be Closed

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for weddings, funerals or special occasions.

Several parishes founded by Slovak immigrants have been affected by this decision. A number will be closed by 2010, among them, Holy Family (Scranton), St. John the Baptist (Taylor), All Saints (Dunmore), St. John the Baptist (Throop), Holy Ghost (Olyphant), Holy Trinity (Hazleton). In perhaps one bright spot, St. Joseph Church, the oldest Slovak church in the United States, will remain open.

Particularly upsetting was the announcement that Sacred Heart Church in Wilkes-Barre was among those to be consolidated and eventually closed. Sacred Heart Church is among the most historic Slovak churches in the United States founded in 1895 by noted Slovak inventor-artist-scientist Rev. Joseph Murgas. What makes the closing of this edifice so tragic is that it contains beautiful murals painted by Father Murgas. There is so much history and tradition connected with the church and parish. Efforts are underway by parish committees and other concerned people to reverse this decision by the diocese. Results on this campaign will be announced later when more is known.

The restructuring of the Diocese of Scranton and its many ethnic parishes (Slovak, Polish, German, Lithuanian, and others) is upsetting to the many people who have roots in these faith communities. We can only hope that serious efforts are put into action to save the remaining historic Slovak substitute churches in the United States.



Dear Friends

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"has found favor with God." What is remarkable is that this phrase is used only three times in the Bible – in reference to Noah, Moses and Mary. Since the phrase is rarely used in the Bible and all three were found to have found favor with God, our curiosity and reflection leads us to see what else they may have in common.

Through Noah, Moses and Mary, the Lord acted to bring about salvation. God rescued Noah from the waters of the flood. The Lord saved Israel from their slavery in Egypt by providing passage through the Red Sea. Through Mary, God sent his Son to save the world.

Noah, Moses and Mary are also those through whom the world received new life or a new creation. Noah was told by the Lord after the flood to "be fruitful and multiply," the same command given Adam and Eve. After Moses brought the twelve tribes of Israel to the Promised Land, they began to think of themselves as one, as a new people. Mary's Son reconciled all humanity with his heavenly Father, recreating the world and giving it new life.

The more we ponder Mary and her response to Gabriel's message, the more we come to recognize her strong faith, deep hope and committed love for God in her acceptance of God's will for her.

How much like Mary we yearn to be, to be found in favor with God, to have perfect and total faith, hope and love of God to always do His will.

And to think, tradition says that at the time of Gabriel's appearance to Mary, she was in her early to mid teens.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

SLOVAK EASTER CARDS

Slovak Easter cards are available at \$5.00 per packet of eight through Jankola Library. Postage and handling @ \$2.50 is additional. Orders may be placed by phone, e-mail, or letter. Checks should be issued to JANKOLA LIBRARY.

Thank you!

Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M. Director

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1	MONDAY, MARCH 23
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29	MONDAY, APRIL 20
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	MONDAY, MAY 4

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

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Message from the President

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search on their own. Scanning the Internet will produce a large number of hits. Two authors who were brought to my attention are Tomas J. Veteska and Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

Remember, in the 1920's and 1930's, much of the world was in fear of the atheistic "Red Menace", i.e. Communism, none more so than the countries of Europe. Remember the war in Vietnam was fought because of the "domino theory"; that if the U.S. didn't stop Communism in Vietnam it would spread to all of Asia. Consider for example, if China instead of Canada lived next door to the U.S.

The "Tiso issue" still continues in Slovakia today and I suspect will continue for some time. It is interesting that such similar history in other countries such as France, Italy, Hungary, Poland etc. have been largely laid to rest. Many consider Monsignor Jozef Tiso a national hero and martyr.

I suggest you read about the history of the land of your ancestors.

Andrew M. Rajec
President



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

ATTENTION:

ALL JEDNOTA MICHIGAN MEMBERS RESIDING IN MICHIGAN

The Michigan Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program.

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the home office for an application. Our toll-free number is 1-800-533-6682. All applications must be submitted by April 1, 2009.

(Please insert the enclosed information sheet)

Michigan Fraternal Congress

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MICHIGAN FRATERNAL CONGRESS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two (2) \$500.00 non-renewable College Scholarships shall be awarded each year. The Michigan Fraternal Congress Scholarship Committee will use their discretion in selecting the honorees that are chosen. The Scholarship recipients are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a full-time student (minimum 12 credit hours) in an accredited two or four-year College, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following receipt of the proof of enrollment which must be received by November 1, 2009. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate, provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress, is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible or at the Annual MFC Meeting Banquet.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Applicants must have a minimum Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 out of a 4.0. A transcript request form must be filled out and sent along with an official high school transcript (with affixed seal by the deadline).
2. An essay (maximum 100 words) will be submitted detailing volunteer activities that the individual has participated in, including dates, with their Fraternal Benefit Society and/or the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

Submit applications to Barbara Toboy, Scholarship Chairperson, Michigan Fraternal Congress, 1093 Poplar Ct, Wyandotte MI 48192 and postmarked by April 1st. The winner will be notified by May 1st.

Forms are also available on our web site: MIFRATERNALCONGRESS.COM

Insights and Viewpoints

Homily - Passion Sunday

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together toward Resurrection. Otherwise, please try to learn the real meaning of love."

The love of Jesus is unselfish and therefore will always involve the pain of self-denial. In like manner, good parents suffer as they make sacrifices for their children, just as children suffer when they try to be more mature and unselfish. Some suffering always results when we place the needs of others before our own interests. Old people also suffer when they trust God's goodness and promises in spite of the apparent hopelessness of their situation. But it is also true that such loving sacrifice always brings with it real joy, as well as the promise of eternal happiness.

In this very real human suffering that inevitably follows real loving, we can be comforted by the assurance that we are being anointed with the precious blood of Jesus. This enables us to walk with him on the way of the cross--that loving, painful path that leads to glory. When we do this, we too will be called foolish and be told that we are wasting our lives by not working for ourselves alone. But Jesus will tell us, as he told that generous and sensitive woman, that what we do is not foolish but "a good thing." Nothing can be more comforting than to hear Jesus make such a wonderful judgment about our feeble efforts to walk with Jesus.

Reflections on Our Christianity

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born in the likeness of men.

"He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that he humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross.

"Because of this, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name above every other name, so that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glorify of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord!"

"In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation- among whom you shine like stars in the sky while holding fast to the word of life. (Philippians 2:14-16)

Timothy was a trusted associate of Paul and highly respected by Paul. Paul writes of him: "I have no one quite like him for genuine interest in whatever concerns you... You know from experience what Timothy's qualities are, how he was like a son at his Father's side serving the gospel along with me." (Philippians 2:20 and 22)

Timothy (in Greek: Timotheos-"honoring the god") was a native of Lystra in Lycaonia. His father was Greek and his mother, Eunice, was a Jewish Christian. His maternal grandmother was Lois. Eunice became a Christian after her mother became a convert. Paul met Timothy in Lystra during his second missionary journey and permitted him to be circumcised because of his Jewish mother. Timothy, at Paul's invitation, then became associated with Paul in his missionary journey. (See Acts 16:1-3) Timothy was one of Paul's most trusted associates.

Epaphroditus (shortened form of the name: Epaphras- "highly desirable") was another of Paul's co-workers. He was a Christian of Colossae and founder of the church there. He was a companion of Paul during his imprisonment. "Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers." (Philemon 23)

While imprisoned with Paul, Epaphroditus became "sick to the point of death, but God took pity on him; not just on him, I should say, but on me, too, so as to spare me one sorrow after another. I have been especially eager to send him so that you may renew your joy on seeing him, and my own anxieties may be lessened. Welcome him joyously in the Lord and hold men like him in esteem, for he came near to death for the sake of Christ's work. He risked his life in an effort to render me those services you could not render." (Philippians 2:27-29)

Getting personal, Paul writes: "I was circumcised on the eighth day, being of the stock of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew origins; in legal observance I was a Pharisee, and so zealous that I persecuted the church. I was above reproach when it came to justice based on the (Mosaic) law. (Philippians 3:5-6)

"For his sake, I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth and I may be in him, not having any justice of my own based on observance of the law." (Philippians 3:8-9)

"Brothers, I do not think of myself as having reached the finish line. I give no thought to what lies behind but push on to what is ahead. My entire attention is on the finish line as I run toward the prize to which God calls me- life on high in Christ Jesus. All of us who are spiritually mature must have this attitude. If you see it another way, God will clarify the difficulty for you." (Philippians 3:13-15)

"He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself." (Philippians 3:21)

Prince of Peace Annual Easter Customs Breakfast Scheduled for April 4

The 19th annual celebration of a traditional Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh. The Holy Rosary, prayed in Slovak, will begin at 10:45 a.m. followed by the Mass at 11:00 a.m. Following the liturgy, guests are invited to gather at the Prince of Peace Parish Center, 81 South 13th Street, to sample a traditional Slovak Easter breakfast of sunka (ham), kolbasy (sausage), pysanky (dye eggs), paska (sweet bread), sirek (cheese made of eggs), hrin (beets and horseradish sauce), and kolac (sweet cakes). Cultural displays, craft demonstrations, "Slovak Auction," and unique gift items will also be available. An Easter basket, brimming with ham, kolbasy, and all the goodies needed for your own Slovak Easter breakfast, under a unique hand-embroidered basket cover, will be raffled.

Please call ahead at 412/481-8380 to let us know if you are coming. There is no charge for admission, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more information call Paul Zatek at 412/488-8238. Doors to the breakfast hall will open following the Mass.



9th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul, and his wife Albina, are planning their 9th Consular Tour to Slovakia including trips to Vienna and Prague. The 13-day trip will begin July 3 and end on July 15, 2009. It will include visits to Bratislava, the High Tatras, Levoca, Kosice, Banska Bystrica and Zvolen. Activities include wine tasting, rafting, the Detva Folk Festival, sightseeing of numerous churches, castles, palaces, museums, picnic, and live entertainment.

The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, admission fees, air-conditioned bus, and English speaking guide. It does not include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from New York (JFK Airport) is \$3,399.00. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 or tsenko@aol.com, or write to: Joseph Senko, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220.



District 2 Plans Annual Theatre Outing

Members and friends of the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District are invited to attend the annual theatre outing on Sunday, May 31, 2009 to the Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Attendees will see a matinee performance of "Crazy for You", a high energy comedy which includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music. Brunch begins at 12:45 p.m. followed by the show at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$48.20 per person. FCSU members who attended any previous shows will receive a rebate of \$20.00 making their costs \$28.20 per ticket. New first time members will receive a \$10.00 rebate making their tickets \$38.20. Nonmembers will pay the group rate of \$48.20.

Forty tickets have been reserved, so make your reservations early. The deadline is April 15, 2009. Please make your checks payable to Spitzkovsky District 2 and mail to George Kelchak, 953 Portage Ave., Porter, IN 46304. If you have any questions call George Kelchak at 219/926-2410. Don't miss out on an afternoon of great entertainment.

Reminder...

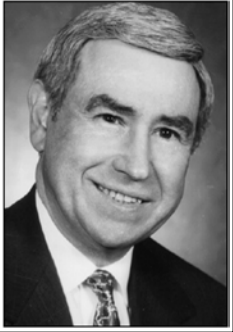
Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.com.

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


THINK ABOUT IT!

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Don't Be a Victim of Consumer Fraud

Consumer fraud is big business. An estimated 13.5 percent of American adults were identified as fraud victims in one study by the Federal Trade Commission. There are many different types of crimes involved, including tax refund scams, fraudulent weight-loss programs, phony lottery or prize schemes, and bogus work-at-home scams. There are several steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

Don't Be Taken in By Appearances

Scam artists and phony organizations are very good at presenting a professional image. The person at your door may be clean cut and friendly, the voice on the phone may be well spoken, and the mail offer you receive may be glossy and appealing. The person you speak to may have very reasonable answers to any tough questions you ask, and in some cases, the group he or she represents may have a name similar to a well-known business or charity, making it seem as though they are affiliated. Remember, looks can be deceiving. Don't make any decisions or commit any money based on a good first impression alone.

Beware of High-Pressure Tactics

Con artists like to take the money and run. If you're being pressured to commit immediately, that's a warning sign of possible consumer fraud. Instead of committing yourself right away, take the opportunity to consider the offer. Scam artists don't want you to do this, because you may start to ask too many questions. You should take time to be sure you understand what kind of commitment you're making and how credible the offer seems. Consult experts, including your local CPA, and attorney, or bank office, for their advice.

Get It in Writing

With offers made over the phone or in a door-to-door solicitation, ask for some kind of documentation describing the offer being made. If provided, take your time to read the materials and make sure you understand them.

Request References

Someone representing a legitimate organization should be able to provide references or some other verification about the group and what it does. Also ask for contact information where you can call the person making the offer. If they're reluctant to provide this information- or if they insist that they'll call you instead- you have good reason to be suspicious. However, don't assume that someone who does supply contact information is necessarily reliable. Never Make a Payment Up Front.

In many scams, thieves insist that you have won a prize, can have a new credit card, or might qualify for a guaranteed job if you turn over a fee in advance. Legitimate businesses do not ask for processing fees up front for prizes or business opportunities. This request is a sure warning sign of trouble.

More Information

The Federal Trade Commission is a great resource for questions about possible consumer fraud. You can find information on its Web site at www.ftc.gov. In Pennsylvania, the attorney general's office provides updates on current scams, toolkits, and reporting options at www.attorneygeneral.gov.



Kent-Dudince Sister City Anniversary Banquet Set for April 26

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association will hold its Sixth Annual Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane, Route 59, Kent, Ohio. A social hour will begin at 1:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 2:00 p.m. and a program at 3:00 p.m. During the social hour and dinner, music will be provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band. The cultural program will feature the Pittsburgh Slovaks Folk Dance Ensemble, the Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble, and the Kent High School Advance Choral Ensemble. Dancing will follow the program.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. Make checks payable to Kent-Dudince Sister City Association and mail to: Kent-Dudince Sister City Association, 1544 Vine Street, Kent, OH 44240. For more information call Rudy Bachna at 330/673-3255.

St. Thomas A' Becket Lenten Fish Fry

St. Thomas A' Becket Church will hold a Fish Fry every Friday during Lent at the school, 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania. The hours are from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. each Friday, including Good Friday.

The menu includes: fish dinners, baked fish dinners, shrimp dinners, fish sandwich, French fries, cole slaw, halusky, desserts, and a weekly "special" and more. Take out dinners are available. The telephone number is 412/655-9966.

The public is invited to St. Thomas A' Becket School located on 139 Gill Hall Road in Jefferson Hills.



Accent on Activities 2009 Jednota International Bowling Tournament April 24-26, 2009

Plans for the 55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's Jednota International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held the weekend of April 24-26, 2009, at the Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, will be the host. Registration forms can be found in this issue of the JEDNOTA paper.

The Team Event will be held Friday evening and Saturday morning. Doubles and Singles events will be held Saturday and Sunday. You can bowl as much or as little as you want by participating in as many events (Teams, Doubles, and Singles) you would like.

New This Year

Bowlers who do not have a 2007-2008 sanctioned average, and who are bowling in a sanctioned league in 2008-2009, can receive a handicap provided that at least 21 games have been played in this season and a league year-to-date statistics sheet is provided to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. While the International Bowling Tournament is a USBC certified Tournament, you can still participate in the Tournament. To be eligible for USBC prizes, you can become a USBC member at the Tournament.

The Saturday night banquet will feature Karaoke and music for listening and dancing pleasure. Start practicing your favorite songs!

Even if your Branch, District, or Region does not send participants to the Tournament, you can still show your support of fraternal activities by placing an ad in the program book or by sponsoring a lane at the bowling alleys. (Information on sponsoring a lane can be found inside the JEDNOTA paper page 18.)

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2009 International Bowling Tournament in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Hope to see you there!

Susan Ondrejco
Director of Fraternal Activities



Coming Events



March 29

- The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Semiannual Meeting at St. John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by dinner and the meeting.

April 5

- A meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by the Meeting.

April 5

-The Pittsburgh District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

April 19

-The George Onda District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Florian Parish School Hall, United, Pennsylvania.

June 7

-The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall, Yonkers, New York.

May 3

-The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

May 3

-The Michigan District's Semiannual Meeting at the Tatra Hall, 2636 6th Street and Sherman Boulevard, Muskegon Heights, Michigan. Dinner at 12:00 noon followed by the Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

News From Slovakia

Statistics Office: Trust in Economy Reached its Nadir in February

The indicator of Economic Sentiment has continued to fall in February, bringing the trust in the Slovak economy to its lowest level since 1997, when it was calculated for the first time, according to the Slovak Statistics Office

Compared to January, the indicator dropped by 2.9 percentage points to 76.5 percentage points. It was lower by 23.2 percentage points and 23.9 percentage points lower than its longtime average.

Consumer confidence in Slovakia has fallen this month as well. The indicator of Consumers Trust has decreased by 17.1 percentage points to -47.2, mainly under the influence of a considerable worsening of the economic situation and expected rise in unemployment. Consumers are 37.1 percentage points more pessimistic.

The tendency of a decreasing indicator of trust in the industry stopped in February, rising by 3 percentage points to -22. "The increase was influenced by a rise in the expected production of industrial production for the next three months and a drop in supplies," the Stats Office reported

The indicator of trust in construction industry fell by 16 to 28.5 percentage points and for the first time since November 2004 fell under the average level. According to statistics, this development has been influenced by lower demand for construction production, as well as lower expected employment in the next three months.

The indicator of trust in retails in the same month saw a drop by 11.6 percentage points, mainly due to negative assessment of the expected business situation and the high amount of stock on hand. The indicator's level has been the second lowest since 1997.

In January the prognosticators at the Stats Office foresaw a positive trend line in the indicator of trust in services, but it didn't turn out to be the case. It fell by 8.6 percentage points in February to -1.3.

TASR

EU Countries Will Tackle Impact of Economic Crisis Together

EU-member states will tackle the impacts of the global economic crisis together, said European Commissioner for Employment, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities Vladimir Spidla at an International Conference entitled 'Solidarity During the Global Financial Crisis' that took place recently in Bratislava.

This co-operation will partly relate to social restructuring. "The situation is serious- the average rate of unemployment in the EU is expected to increase by 10.5 percent and a further 3,500 jobs are threatened," said Spidla. "We're preparing a document on joint action and cooperation between the 27 EU countries and packages of measures as well," he announced. The document will be discussed in March and in May, when measures focused on changes on the labor market and social policy will be assessed.

"The aim of the European Commission (EC) is to prepare carefully for Europe's economic revival with stress on reducing the impact on employment and the most vulnerable groups of people," said Spidla. The EC will meet European social partners to discuss new strategies for tackling the impact of the crisis. Without social agreement and companies taking social responsibility, no strategy will be successful, he added.

As for measures taken in the social sphere, Spidla mentioned changes in education that are aimed at preparing people for new challenges on the job market.

"Taking social aspects and principles of solidarity into account is a condition of the new economic strategy plan for Europe," said Spidla, referring to the EU package of measures.

TASR

U.S. Steel to Shake Up its Administration

Kosice-based U.S. Steel is preparing to shake up its administration and the number of managers, Robert Kulik from the 'Metalurg' trade union told TASR recently.

Kulik didn't specify the time frame or the exact number of people involved, stating that the management and trade unions are currently negotiating and looking for suitable solutions. According to Kulik, these won't include forced layoffs. Two options will be made available-employees will either receive compensation, or will be offered a job in production.

"All in all, as many as 15 percent of U.S. Steel's administrative employees could leave their posts, but not the company as such. The crisis is here, so there's a need to look for savings," said Kulik.

The Metalurg trade union has approximately 14,000 members, of which over 8,500 work for U.S. Steel.

TASR

Around 770,000 Cars Manufactured in Slovakia Last Year

A total of 770,000 cars were made in Slovakia in 2008. Production is expected to fall this year due to the global economic crisis, but it is estimated that production volumes will be restored to their former levels in 2010, said Milan Kempai from Economy Ministry at the AutoSlovakia '09 conference in Bratislava recently.

Kempai noted that Slovakia as an open economy largely dependent on exports, including cars, has also been affected by the global crisis. He said that Slovakia's healthy financial sector has helped the situation, along with the introduction of the euro in January, industrial flexibility and economic growth. Slovakia is now mainly suffering from a growth in unemployment, said Kempai.

The Government has adopted 62 anti-crisis measures so far. Further measures, focused especially on the auto industry, are to be adopted at the Economic Crisis Council meeting.

Apart from the crisis, said Kempai, the car industry in Slovakia was also influenced last year by changing customer preferences, market changes, environmental factors and innovations.

Kempai said that the car producers in Slovakia have not asked the Government for any direct aid, and that they are trying to manage the crisis by cutting down on working hours and via innovation programs. The crisis is mostly affecting the suppliers of car producers, he added.

TASR

Slovakia Prepared to Handle Potential Halt of Gas Supplies

Slovakia is ready to deal with another possible suspension of natural-gas supplies from Russia, said Economy Minister Lubomir Jahnatek.

"If there is a failure in gas supplies, we're prepared to handle the situation without ordering any restrictions," said Jahnatek, adding that Slovak gas utility Slovensky Plynarensky Priemysel (SPP) is able to ensure full operations even following a 100-percent suspension of supplies until the end of the heating season. Jahnatek gave assurances that the operation of steam-gas cycles that produce electricity shouldn't be restricted either.

Current daily gas consumption in Slovakia reaches 22 million cubic meters, but is due to fall in response to rising temperatures. "It's expected to stand at 15 million cubic meters per day in April. Slovakia has 900 million cubic meters of gas available in its underground deposits," said Jahnatek, adding that if gas supplies through Ukraine are completely suspended, it will be possible to reinstate a reverse flow of gas. "We're able to launch this within three or four hours," he assured.

Russian gas concern Gazprom has warned that if Ukrainian company Naftogaz doesn't pay its debts, Russia will again halt gas supplies to Ukraine. This raises the threat of a repeat of the situation in January. After suspending gas supplies first to Ukraine only, Gazprom accused Ukraine of diverting gas designed for Europe for its own purposes, and halted all gas supplies passing through Ukraine as well. This situation prevailed for two weeks, most severely affecting Central European countries that are fully dependent on Russian gas, such as Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Serbia.

TASR

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009 THRU MARCH 31, 2009

The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 5.00% (4.879% APR)

The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.50% (4.402% APR)

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.25% (4.162% APR)

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

The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.50% (4.402% APR)

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's,

please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

1-800-533-6682

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall, Yonkers, New York. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other business. We urge all District branches to send representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by host Branch 41, Yonkers, New York.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Saint Florian Parish School Hall, United, Pennsylvania. Representatives from each of our branches are expected to attend. Refreshments will be served. We are looking forward to a great turnout.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District would like to announce its plans for 2009.

The Semiannual Meeting will be held Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 276 will be the host. The meeting will conclude with a light luncheon and an Easter Egg Hunt. Watch for more details in our next announcement. Donations for door prizes are encouraged.

Branch 60 will host the Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at St. Barnabas in Swissvale. Branch 2 will handle the ad booklet.

The Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday, November 29, 2009 at Holy Trinity in West Mifflin. Branch 628 will be the host.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District would like to welcome Karianne Barnes as the new District vice president. We also wish all FCSU members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2009, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in Saint John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Donation for dinner is \$16.00. Please make checks payable to Branch 567. All checks and credentials must be returned by Friday, March 20, 2009. Please be prompt! For more information call Loretta Dashner at 610/432-8350. I am looking forward to seeing everyone as your new recording secretary. Best wishes to all!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold a meeting on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009 at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meeting in the cafeteria. After the meeting, there will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a Slovak gourmet lunch with desert and refreshments will be served. Children will also enjoy a traditional East Egg Hunt. All members are invited to attend. District branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. On the agenda will be a discussion of District activities and a discussion of insurance programs.

Paul Skuben, President

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

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A period of refreshments and fraternal fellowship will begin at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches are requested to send delegates and all Jednota members are welcome to attend. Attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. If you plan to attend, please call District 2 Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 to let her know so adequate food and beverages will be available.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT-MICHIGAN

The Michigan District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at the Tatra Hall, 2636 6th Street and Sherman Boulevard, Muskegon Heights, Michigan. Our day will begin with dinner at 12:00 noon followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Branch 595 is hosting this meeting. Please call Lou Kollar by April 25, 2009 at 231/755-3314 with the number of delegates who will attend from each branch.

Spring should be here by then so let's make it a good turnout. Remember, Branches must attend these meeting in order to qualify for the Branch compensation from the Home Office

Anna Magusin, Secretary

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009 at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. Local Branch 276 will be the host for this meeting. All branches are expected to send representatives. The meeting will include officers reports and a discussion of FCSU business.

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

Please visit Holy Trinity Church which now has an outstanding new mural featuring Saints Cyril and Methodius with background scenes of the New World and the Old Country.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all the members a Happy and Holy Easter Season.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

OUR FAVORITE EASTER RECIPES

Easter Breads

Basic Sweet Dough
2 1/3-3 cups flour divide
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 powder
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.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Clair Campbell Stephens Branch 380

Canonsburg, Pennsylvania



Clair Campbell "Took" Stephens, 73, of Washington, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, February 21, 2009, in Donnell House, Washington, following a brief illness.

He was born July 24, 1935, in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, a son of Oren and Etta Jeanette Campbell Stephens.

Mr. Stephens graduated from Washington High School and attended classes at the University of Pittsburgh.

On December 15, 1953, he entered the U.S. Army and served during the Korean conflict

He was stationed in Germany, where his assignment was with the military police. Mr. Stephens received the Occupation of Germany Medal, Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal. He was honorably discharged November 30, 1955.

He was special events coordinator for Cameron Coca-Cola, where he worked for 40 years. In his younger days, he worked for Royal Crown Cola.

Mr. Stephens was a member of Washington Jaycees and Boys Baseball and was a Brownson House football coach with First and Fifth Ward schools. He was involved with Washington County sports and was a member of the Hall of Fame, Washington High School football team of 1952.

He attended Immaculate Conception Church and formerly was active in the church's fish fr .

Mr. Stephens was a life member of American Legion Edwin Scott Linton Post 175 and Sons of the American Revolution.

On July 7, 1956, he married Mary Ann Nofske, who survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Mark Keith (Linda) Stephens and Scot "Took" (Nancy) Stephens; a daughter, Lynn Stephens (Jeff) Watson; a brother, Norris Stephens of Glen-saw; five grandchildren, Melissa, Casey, Zachary and Annie Stephens and Matthew Watson; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the William G. Neal Funeral Home, Washington, where a blessing service was held. Burial was in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil

Township.

Memorial donations may be made to Donnell House, c/o Washington Hospital, 155 Wilson Ave., Washington, PA 15301.

Margaret Graytok

John J. Babyak Branch 484

Coral, Pennsylvania

John J. "Queenie" Babyak of Graceton, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at Indiana Regional Medical Center, Indiana, PA.

He was born June 9, 1920, in Trauger, PA, a son of Steve and Anne (Murray) Babyak.

John was a member of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Coral, Coral Graceton Sportsman Club, and Branch 484 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

He retired from the coal mines and was a janitor at the former St. Francis Church Coral for over 50 years.

He is survived by his nieces, Wanda Lorditch and her husband David of Homer City, Heather McKee of Latrobe, and Bonnie Frain of Indiana; a nephew, John McKee of Graceton; Caregivers Frank and Twila Frain of Coral; his friend, Robert Barto Jr. of Graceton; and several other nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Mae Cecil (Woods) Babyak; and brothers Andrew, Steve, and Joseph Babyak.

In keeping with his wishes, there was no

visitation and private interment was held at St. Francis Cemetery in Graceton. The James F. Ferguson Home in Blairsville was in charge of arrangements.

Joseph E. Rura

Leona W. Cibik Branch 600

Leechburg, Pennsylvania

Leona W. (Wudkwyh) Cibik, 78, of Gilpin, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, February 25, 2009, in Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh.

She was born January 27, 1931, in East Vandergrift, a daughter of the late Theodore and Stella (Szost) Wudkwyh.

She was a member of Christ the King Parish in Leechburg and was a former Cub Scout den mother in Leechburg for many years.

She enjoyed reading, flower gardening and being with and raising dogs.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Joseph D. Cibik, and a son, Theodore J. "Ted" (LuAnn) Cibik of Gilpin.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Dolores Masnica and Marian Minyarik.

Friends were received at Claw-Sons funeral home, Leechburg. A Christian Funeral Mass was celebrated in Christ the King Parish by the Rev. Joseph V. Trupkovich, pastor. Committal services and interment followed in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell.

John Mago

Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

At the Grocery Store

What do you wish?	Čo si prajete?	(cho si praYetYe)
One sack of flour	Miešok múky	(mYeshok mooki)
One pound of sugar	Funt cukru	(funt tsukru)
Give me some salt	Dajte mi soli	(daYtYe mi solYi)
Have you any fruit	Máte nejaké ovocie?	(mÁtYe nYeYakÉ ovotsYe)
We have some apples	Máme jablká	(mÁme YablkÁ)
We have some pears	Máme hrušky	(mÁme hrushki)
One peck of peaches	"Pek" broskví	(pek broskvee)
Two pounds of grapes	Dva funty hrozna	(dva funti hrozna)
One head of cabbage	Hlávku kapusty	(hlÁvku kapusti)
How do you sell it?	Jako to predávate?	(Yako to predÁvatYe)
What do you want to buy?	Čo chcete kúpiť?	(cho XysetYe koopitY)
Bread, potatoes	Chlieb, zemiaky	(XIYYeb, zemYaki)
One loaf of bread	Peceň chleba	(petsenY XIYeba)
Eggs, pies, nuts	Vajcia, páje,orechy	(vaYtsYa,pÁYe,oreXi)
Ham and horseradish	Šunku a chren	(shunku a Xren)
Lettuce and olive oil	Šalát a olivový olej	(shalÁt a olivovee oleY)
Corn and butter	Kukuricu a maslo	(kukuritsu a maslo)
Coffee and tea	Kávu a čaj	(kÁvu a chaY)
Yeast	Kvasnice	(kvasnYitse)
Onion, garlic	Cibuľa, cesnak	(tsibulYa, tsesnak)
Parsley, carrots	Petruška, mrkva	(petrushka, mrkva)
Will you pay now?	Zaplatíte teraz?	(zaplatYeetYe teraz)



Shown in conversation following the lecture are L-R: Philip R. Tuhy, Slovak Heritage Society Chair; Professor James Siberski; Kay Connor, Mary's Ministries; and Michael Stretanski, Slovak Heritage Society Board Member, Co-Chair of the Lecture.

Slovak Heritage Society Sponsors Lecture on Aging

A free lecture, "Live Long-Die Short" (Ills, Skills and Pills on Aging) was presented recently by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast Pennsylvania and Mary's Ministries and Holy Name Society at St. Ignatius Church in Kingston, PA.

Guest lecturer was James Siberski, Assistant professor and Coordinator of Gerontological Education at Misericordia University, Dallas, PA

In his comments, Professor Siberski outlined points of successful aging and encouraged all to strengthen "the ability to maintain low risk of disease or disability, high mental and physical function and active engagement with life." He added that, "if one learns the necessary skills to successful aging, one will need fewer pills over a lifetime to prevent the ills that one can acquire."

The public attending the lecture enjoyed the informative and colorful presentation by Professor Siberski, sparked with varied stories of living life with a positive attitude.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will have a Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, April 5, 2009, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 9:00 a.m. Mass will be for the living and deceased members. A breakfast with fellowship will take place in Father Dargay Hall after the liturgy.

Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Knights of St. Mary and St. Joseph Society, Branch 89, will sponsor an outing on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. to see the Titanic Exhibition at the Milwaukee Public Museum. This is a timed event so please be there at 12:30 p.m. so we can go in as a group at 1:00 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets must be purchased 2 weeks in advance for groups. Please call President Michael Novak at 414/445-5382 by April 10 to reserve your spot. The lodge will pay for members; guests will pay \$20.00 each. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 and mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Members are reminded that our Easter Duty Mass will be on March 29 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church. Breakfast will follow immediately at the Grecian Inn, 14375 W. Capital Dr., Brookfield, WI

Michael Novak, President

BRANCH 89- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Our Easter Duty Mass will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 9:00 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92nd Street, Milwaukee. Breakfast will be served immediately after the liturgy at 10:30 a.m. at The Grecian Inn. Breakfast is complimentary for members; guests will be charged \$12.00. Children under age 6 are free. Reservations must be made by March 22, 2009. Call Mike with the number attending at 414/445-5382, or send a check payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br. 89 to Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 290- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. Please try to attend. Call Joe at 732/469-5256 for the location of the meeting.

Joseph F. Minarovich, President

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's, 105 W. Main Street, Uniontown. The agenda includes discussion of branch activities for 2009. All members are invited to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 456- HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the Lincoln Slovak Club, Fourth Street, Hawk Run, Pennsylvania.

Alice Pollock

BRANCH 567- ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. We urge all our members to attend the meetings and support the branch and its activities. We urge our members to try to get new members to purchase policies and annuities. At the meeting we will finalize our plans for the nut and poppy seed roll sale to be held on March 24 in the social hall.

We wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 706- SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its first meeting of 2009 on Friday, April 24, 2009 at the home of Vice President Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. If you plan to attend, please call Barbara at 219/864-8251 at least one week before the scheduled meeting so arrangements for refreshments can be made. This meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. sharp. On the agenda will be a discussion of insurance sales, the 2009 picnic, new business and the Audit for the year 2008.

If you know of any member who has moved or changed phone numbers please contact us so we can update the member's file.

Art Fayta, Treasurer

BRANCH 716 -NEW YORK CITY

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate the feast day of its patron on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Lunch will be served at the Father Snock Center following the liturgy. Door prizes will be given to many lucky individuals. The lunch is complimentary for members. There is a nominal cost for guests who wish to attend. Make your reservations by March 18, 2009 by calling Millie Leskovyansky at 330/782-3219 or Theresa Smrečanský at 330/629-9178.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 22, 2009 with a Slovak Mass, for all living and deceased members, at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in room 118 at 1:00 p.m.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members. Any member who has recently moved or requires branch services should contact the branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586/254-0225.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,
President/ Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 844- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, April 5, 2009, at St.

John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with an Easter egg hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

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

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

Milan Konkol, Secretary



New York Ball Honors Senko

The Slovak-American Cultural Center in New York held its 17th Annual Ball at the New York Athletic Club on Saturday, February 21. Approximately 100 guests attended this year's dinner dance which included music by the Slovak group, Express, and special entertainment by Slovak opera singer, Radoslav Lesy.

The Guest of Honor at this year's event was Joseph T. Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania. He was being recognized for numerous cultural programs promoting Slovakia and for several of his humanitarian projects in which he sent computers, children's magazines, medical equipment and children's books to Slovakia.

Among the other attendees were Slovak Ambassador Peter Burian and former Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan.



Honored guest of Joseph Senko receives award from SACC President Bernaharda Fabrici

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The new format will feature vocabulary building and basic conversation by Bozena Hilko.

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SPECIAL REMINDER

There has been a change in our address. The new address for sending all articles is Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. Please do not use the old 1011 Rosedale Avenue address. You may continue to send by fax at 717/944-3107 or by email at editorjednota@yahoo.com. Thank you.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that it can now accept credit cards for Insurance premium payments.

*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

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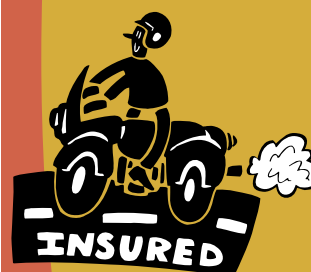
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Quarterly Premium Rates

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

Premiums can be paid with Credit Cards, Debit Cards, or a Bank Account.

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If a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a *Single Premium Policy, issued after August 1, 2008, FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 **AD&D Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.

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**Insurance is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member insurer of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. Exclusions may apply. Insurance may not be available in all jurisdictions.

John's Tour of Slovakia Set for September 7-23, 2009

John Mago will lead a tour of Slovakia and the cities of Vienna, Budapest, Krakow and Prague September 7-23, 2009. The tour will include visits to Bratislava, Kosice, Modra, Pezinok, Nitra, Levoca, Banska Bystrica, Stary Smokovec, Martin, Cicmany, and Presov. Participants will experience a raft ride down the Dunajec River and watch a cultural performance in Tichy Potok. They will visit the spa city of Piešťany, see castles, churches and cathedrals, including St. Stephen's in Vienna, St. Martin in Bratislava and St. James in Levoca. Also on the itinerary, is a visit to the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, the Wieliczka salt mines, and Auschwitz. On the tour there will be a stop at the Shrine of Divine Mercy and St. Elizabeth Cathedral in Kosice. In addition, on the tour there will be visits to Zdiar, Trnava, and famous Prague sites of St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge, Old Town Square and Vladislav Hall.

There will be cultural performances as well. Tour participants will have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to these cultural performances at their expense.

The tour includes 15 nights lodging in first class hotels, two meals a day, an air-conditioned bus, an English speaking guide, and air fare departing from Washington, D.C.

John Mago along with the Slovak guide will make arrangements including transportation and a translator to anyone wishing to contact relatives.

For a brochure and further information contact John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690, Phone: 1-800-260-8687 or 724-567-7341.

◆◆◆ District II Easter Coloring Contest



HEY KIDS....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an Easter Coloring Contest for all boys and girls from ages 4 through 12 who are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for age groups 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch number and include a picture of yourself, and return by April 10, 2009. Pictures of the winners will be printed in the JEDNOTA newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II meeting on May 3, 2009.

Mail your entries to: Mrs. Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311.

Good luck to all!

**Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest**

FOUR SONS' ODE TO THEIR MOTHER

** EDITH LYSY **

Edita (Edith) L'udmila Ondrejickova Lysy, 89, of Delaplane, Virginia, died February 11, 2009, after a heart attack, in Prince William County. A funeral mass, conducted by Rev. Jerome W. Fasano was held Saturday, February 14, at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Front Royal, Virginia. The Family received friends for viewing at the Maddox Funeral Home in Front Royal before Mass. Interment was private with family members on Monday, February 16.



Edith Lysy

Mrs. Lysy was born February 12, 1919 in Banovce nad Bebravou, Czecho-Slovakia, daughter of Juraj Ondrejicka, M.D. and Jozefina Ondrejickova (nee Jozefina Perenyi). She attended Ref. Real Gymnasium in Bratislava, 1931-38, graduating with honors. She received a B.A. degree in 1942 from the University of Slovakia in Bratislava (French and English). She was employed by the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bratislava in the Protocol Unit from March 1940 through May of 1945 and the Czecho-Slovak Foreign Ministry in Prague in the Protocol Unit during May 1945-July 1947.

Edita married Frank J. Lysy on August 4, 1947. In August 1947, she followed her husband when he was transferred to the Diplomatic Mission in Oslo, Norway. Her voluntary work at the Mission was inestimable in organizing the newly established Legation. She was fluent in French, German and English.

She is survived by her husband Frank Lysy; sons Dusan George Lysy of Rochester, N.Y., Frank John Lysy, Jr., of Washington, D.C., Daniel Nicholas Lysy of Midlothian, Virginia, and Peter Joseph Lysy of Buchanan, Michigan; two sisters, L'udmila Cerna and Elenora Liskova, both of Bratislava, Slovakia; and nine grandchildren. Edith was a member, while husband Frank and sons Daniel and Peter are members of FCSU.

Following Mass, son Dusan spoke on behalf of the four brothers: "I am Dusan Lysy, Edith's oldest son, or Dus'an Lysy, to my mother and those who know Slovak. I'm here, on behalf of my father, my three brothers and our family to celebrate and reflect on Mom's life and love, and to speak from the heart—speak of her love, her love of life, her willingness to experience the new, and most of all her dedication to all of us.

My mother and father came to this country in a time of turmoil [in the early 1950's], came to secure a future for their children. They endured tremendous changes—from a privileged place in society where they were, in the world they had before World War II, to doing all for their child—me, and for their future children...."

He stressed that "through their material support, but most importantly through their spiritual, intellectual, and moral support. We had good educations, we went to good schools, we prospered in mind and confidence. They gave the greatest possible gifts to us. And the love, and the support, plus with the expectation that we would be all we could be—and that we would do what was in some high sense required of us—more precisely, what we owed to those who had supported us...."

He remembered "I still have my black and orange (and very heavy) scarf knit by Mom, in my school colors. I believe we all have our heavy braided rugs, each handmade by her...very tangible, and, as was her character, a very practical expression of her love and support."

Dusan concluded, "I hope that we may be worthy in some small measure of what has been given to us—her sons, her daughters-in-law, her grandchildren—the friends and intimates and others she has touched and made better and assisted and shown what we are called to do.

May God bless her and allow her the glorious after-life she has so richly earned through her life here with us. Go in peace."

John Karch

Publication Schedule for 2009

Issue Date	Deadline
January 7	December 23,
January 21	January 12
February 4	January 26
February 18	February 9
March 4	February 23
March 18	March 9
April 1	March 23
April 29	April 20
May 13	May 4
May 27	May 18
June 10	June 1
July 8	June 29
August 5	July 27
September 2	August 24
September 16	September 7
September 30	September 21
October 14	October 5
October 28	October 19
November 11	November 2
November 25	November 16
December 9	November 30

There will be no issues on: April 15, June 24, July 22, August 19, and December 23



**55th Men's & 46th Women's
International Bowling
Tournament**

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 24, 2009

4:30 PMRegistration
Brunswick Lanes
4742 State Rte. 51S
Belle Vernon, PA

4:30 - 6 PMHospitality Reception
Brunswick Lanes

5:45 PMOpening Ceremonies
6 PM - 11:30 PM.....Team Events

7:30 - 9 PMHospitality Reception
Brunswick Lanes

Saturday, April 25, 2009

9 AM - 3 PM.....Doubles and Singles Events
Brunswick Lanes

5:30 PMMass

6:30 PMTournament Banquet

Sunday, April 26, 2009

9 AM - 3 PM.....Doubles and Singles Events
Brunswick Lanes

**55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's
Jednota International Bowling Tournament**

at the Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes, Belle Vernon Lanes, Belle Vernon, PA

April 24, 25, 26 2009

Hosted by The St. Anton Padua Society, Branch 670 FCSU

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Deadline for Submitting Ad March 20, 2009

Tournament Chairman: Larry A. Healey
Phone: 724-483-4941

Bowling Tournament Banquet

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Ice Gardens - Belle Vernon

Buffet Dinner

Entertainment by

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RSVP Today

FCSU Members - \$20.00

Guests - \$35.00

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Mail checks & Reservation Forms to :

Susan Ondrejco

Deadline for Reservations - April 3, 2009

234 Ilion St.

Pgh. PA 15207

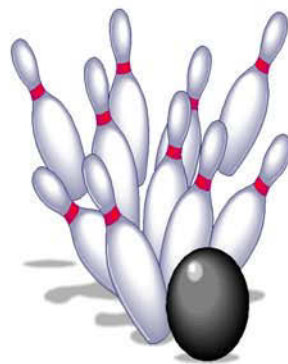
Tentative Itinerary

5:30 PM - Mass at the Ice Gardens, Belle Vernon

6:30 PM - Dinner

Dinner and Entertainment Included in Price

Tickets will be distributed at Brunswick Lanes Friday evening & Saturday morning.



*Hotel Information
for
Bowling Tournament
April 24, 25, 26, 2009*

Tournament Headquarters: 30 rooms blocked

Comfort Inn - Belle Vernon

4300 State Route 51 South

BELLE VERNON, PA 15012

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Phone: 724-929-3177

Rate: 74.99 + tax - 1 Queen Bed

89.99 + tax - 2 Queen Beds

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Spitkovsky District Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 2, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory in Oak Forest, Illinois.

District II President John Jurcenko welcomed both FCSU National President Andrew Rajec and National Vice President Andrew Harcar to the meeting. Thirty-eight delegates, representing 10 branches, were in attendance. After the opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Art Fayta presented the financial report. Chairman of Auditors Joe Bugel gave the Auditor's Report, and Regional Director Rudy Glogovsky read his report. National Vice President Andrew Harcar gave a 30 minute presentation on insurance and annuity sales to increase Jednota membership.

The Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Committee presented \$100.00 college grants to FCSU Scholarship winners Lauren Tocik, Jamie Clark, and Lindsay Doise. Ed Uram reported on the District's Slovak Christmas Tree project at the annual Christmas Around the World display in Chicago. George Kelchak discussed the fraternal activities planned for 2009, and Vice President Barbara Fayta reported on the District's Easter Coloring Contest for children.

National President Andrew Rajec, who travelled from Cleveland to attend the meeting, spoke on a number of topics and took questions from attendees. He then chaired the Election of District Officers for 2009. Elected for 2009 were: Dorothy Jurcenko, Spiritual Advisor; John Jurcenko, President; Barbara Fayta, Vice President; Noreen Miller, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary; Joe Bugel, Chairman of Auditors; Rudy Bernath and Shirley Uram, Auditors; Pete Turner, Sergeant at Arms; and George Kelchak, Director of Fraternal Activities. National Vice President Andrew Harcar administered the oath of office. Attendees gave a round of applause for retiring officers Financial Secretary Art Fayta, Auditor John Vriik, and Sergeant at Arms Mark Davis.

Attendees then enjoyed a delicious catered dinner arranged by Dorothy Jurcenko. Ed Uram led the closing prayer.



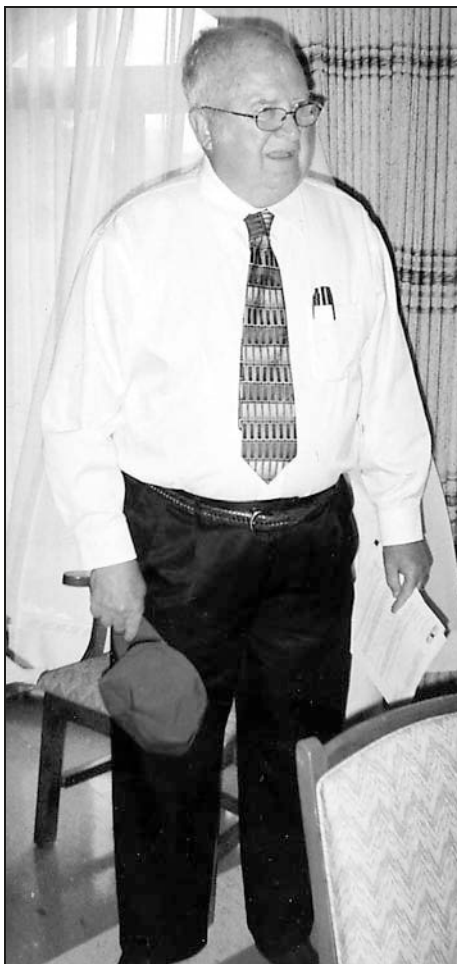
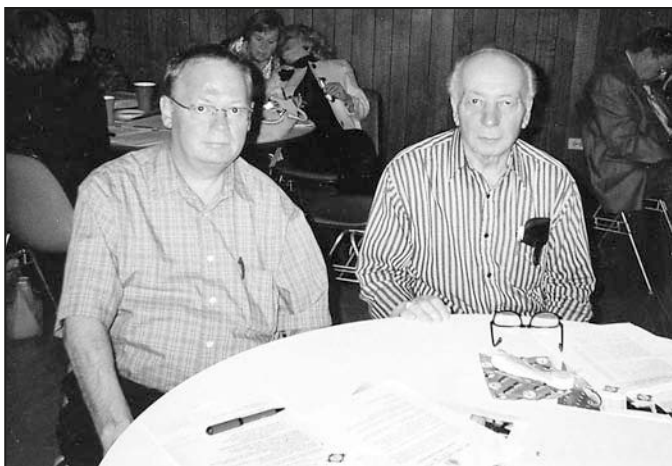
Dolores and Henry Benedictus of Branch 313 accept a Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Fund college grant for their granddaughter Jamie Clark, from FCSu National President Andrew Rajec and District 2 President John Jurcenko

Robert Tapak Magruder



District 2 Officers for 200

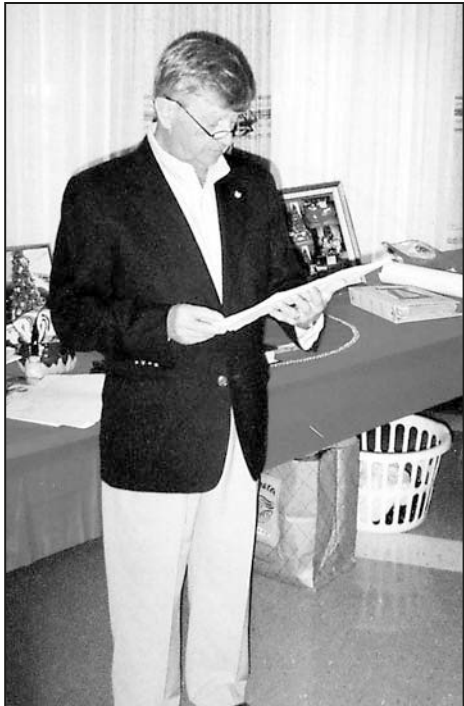
Michael P. Novak and Michael A. Novak from Branch 89 in Milwaukee



Regional Director Rudy Glogovsky delivers his report



Vice President Barbara Fayta reports on the District Easter Coloring Contest



National Vice President Andrew Harcar reports on Membership and Marketing.

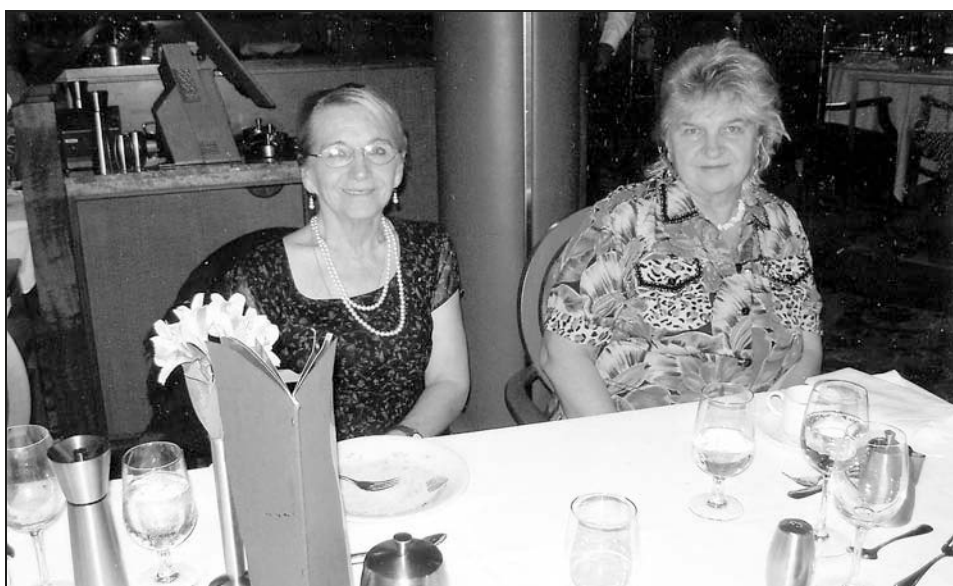
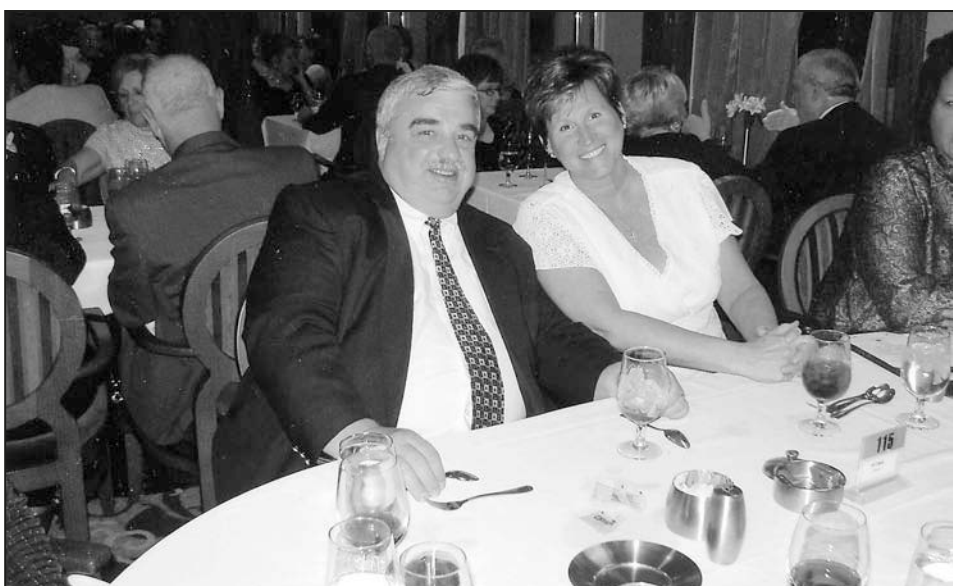
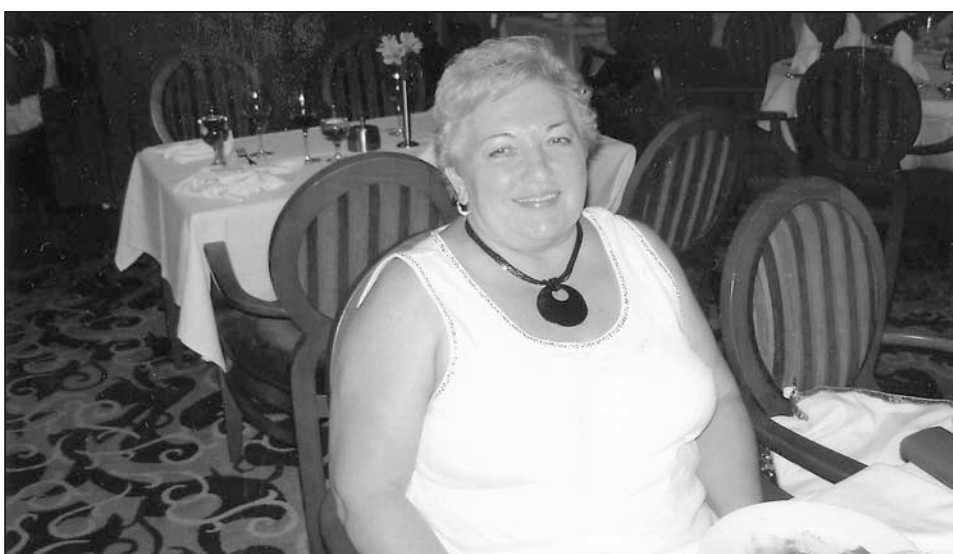


FCSu National President answers questions from attendees



Attending from Branch 6 in Streator were Bob Elias, Catherine Michlik, Paul Chismar and Stella Elias

Still More Memories from the 2008 Membership Meet aboard the Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas.



Banské spoločnosti hľadajú urán v 14 lokalitách Slovenska

Bratislava (TASR) - Banské spoločnosti mali k 1. januáru 2009 registrované povolenia na prieskum zásob uránu v 14 oblastiach Slovenskej republiky. Prieskumné územia sú lokalizované vo všetkých častiach Slovenska – od Nového Mesta nad Váhom až po Zemplínsku oblasť. Celková rozloha uránových prieskumných území presahuje dnes v SR 300 štvorcových kilometrov. Väčšinu licencií na prieskum slovenských zásob uránu vlastní zahraničné spoločnosti z Kanady a Austrálie cez svoje dcérske spoločnosti.

Kanadská spoločnosť Tournigan Energy Ltd. kontroluje cez svoju dcérsku spoločnosť Ludovika Energy prieskumné územia na Jahodnej pri Košiciach, v oblasti Spišskej Novej Vsi, Spišskej Teplice, Chrasti nad Hornádom pri Gelnici a v oblasti Kluknava pri Krompachoch. Ďalšie dve prieskumné územia kontroluje slovenská pobočka austrálskej spoločnosti GBE Exploration Pty Ltd, Crown Energy. Austráľčania majú povolenie na prieskum uránu v oblasti Kluknava pri Krompachoch a na Zemplíne. V lokalite Vikartovce vlastní spoločnosť povolenie na prieskum výskytu rádioaktívnych nerastov.

Ďalšie firmy plánujú realizovať alebo už realizujú prieskum uránu v priestore Spišské Vlachy medzi Spišskou Novou Vsou a Krompachmi, Vikartovce, Košická Belá či v blízkosti Dobšinej. Známe sú aj aktivity kanadskej firmy Ultra Uranium, ktorá má prostredníctvom firmy BECKOV Minerals pridelené dve prieskumné územia na západnom Slovensku medzi obcami Kálnica a Selec pri Novom Meste nad Váhom.

Environmentalisti upozorňujú, že prípadná ťažba uránu prináša aj riziká pri narábaní s obrovským množstvom rádioaktívneho materiálu. "Po oddelení uránu z rudy zostáva viac než 99 percent objemu horniny ako nepotrebný odpad. Vzhľadom na prítomnosť mnohých ďalších rádioaktívnych prvkov obsahuje tento odpad asi 85 percent pôvodného množstva rádioaktivity," uviedla Kateřina Věntusová z organizácie Greenpeace. V uránovej hlušine sú však prítomné aj niektoré toxické látky, napríklad arzén, olovo a ďalšie ťažké kovy, uzavrela.



Európski lídri na mimoriadnom summite v Bruseli

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Ešte pred začatím summitu sa uskutočnilo osobitné rokovanie krajín Vyšehradskej štvorky (Slovensko, Česká republika, Poľsko a Maďarsko), na ktorom sa debatovalo o otázke energetickej bezpečnosti a následne sa k nim pridali predstavitelia troch pobaltských krajín, Rumunska a Bulharska, rovnako ako aj predseda Európskej komisie José Manuel Barroso.

Od prvého marca začínajú platiť opatrenia vlády, ktoré majú zmierniť dôsledky globálnej krízy. Určené sú pre zamestnancov, nezamestnaných, živnostníkov a väčších zamestnávateľov. Vláda na ne vyčlenila 332 miliónov eur. Pre zamestnancov predstavuje nezdaniateľné minimum, ktoré sa zvyšuje na 22,5-násobok životného minima, nárast čistého mesačného príjmu o 9,33 eura. Zvýšenie počtu na aprílovej výplatnej páske. Podnikatelia pocítia nižšie dane až na budúci rok, ľahší rozbeh podnikania a odbúranie byrokracie. Ľuďom s nízkymi platmi, ktorým z príjmu nevyplýva daňová povinnosť, štát pridá.

Armagedón

*Ponižený do útrov ľudskej malosti,
nevládný člen Globálnej spoločnosti,
pred sveta mocnárov žalujem!
Žalujem proti bezmernej nepravosti
a nakomandovanej masovej vražed-
nosti.*

*Hlasom biblického Gabriela volám
i tým z dávnodávnej heraldickej noci,
do bášt vladárov aristokratickej moci,
do vesmírnych tajov iluzórnych bohov
i do skrýš ich pozemských profétov:
„ ... a na zemi pokoj ľuďom!“*

*Pokoj?!
Trvalý pokoj,
nie prechodný ako deň žobrákov,
alebo pierko nad zapálenou vatrou.
Pokoj hluší ľudský nárek,
bôlne stony a zotročených trpký krik.*

*Svet sa zviňa márne utýraný,
zmrzačený, dokaličený z každej
strany
a človek do špiku kosti utrúpený
úpenlivo volá a volať neprestáva:
Už dosť vresku háveďi s gverom
v ruke*

*morduj, vraždi bezohľadne!
Už dosť besnivých vojen,
festivalu brutality,
teroru, terorizmu
a tortúre satanskej fantázie
od eón vekov do rána dnešných rokov
poznačených myriádou zabíjaných
životov.*

*Krv zo skál sa neleje,
tá ľudská neprestajne čurkotom tečie,
napája zem do sýstosti v nemilosti.*

*Svet moria vlastné rany, masakry,
hynie v zátope vyliatej krvi
a v mori vyronených slz miliónov.
Zničený nezastaviteľne klesá,
padá do prepahliska tmy nenávratna.
Blúdi v labyrinte osudu žravej tragédie,
omámený serenádou plaču bez melódie.
Trnie v krútnave atomickej deštrukcie,
nakazený pliahou zúfalstva a zloby,
vo virvare ľudskej bezmocnosti čaká,
beznádejne čaká mystický Armagedón.*

Štefan Hreha



Historický kostol Božského Srdca, ktorý vybudoval Rev. Jozef Murgaš

Scrantonská diecéza zatvára historický Murgašov kostol

Biskup Scrantonskej diecézy vo východnej Pensylvánii Joseph Martino oznámil koncom januára svoje rozhodnutie o reorganizácii farností v diecéze. Podľa jeho rozhodnutia, ktoré urobil na základe odporúčania špeciálnej komisie, v Scrantonskej diecéze behom dvoch rokov zatvoria alebo spoja väčší počet farností. Medzi tými, ktoré majú byť zatvorené je aj historický slovenský kostol Božského Srdca vo Wilkes Barre, Pa., ktorý založil a vybudoval slovenský kňaz - známy vedec a umelec Rev. Jozef Murgaš.

Rev. Murgaš založil túto farnosť v roku 1896 a sám aj fyzicky pracoval na stavbe prvého – dreveného kostola a farskej školy. Pre rýchle rastúci počet slovenských prisťahovalcov tento kostol o niekoľko rokov nevyhovoval potrebám farnosti. Rev. Murgaš začal stavať nový kostol, ktorý bol slávnostne posvätený v roku 1908, a ktorý celých sto rokov až dodnes slúži slovenským farníkom.

Podľa oznámenia biskupa slovenská farnosť Božského Srdca už predchádzajúcim rozhodnutím bola spojená s farnosťou sv. Jána Krstiteľa, ktorá má svoj kostol v blízkosti slovenského kostola.

Bohoslužby sa však ešte stále konajú v oboch kostoloch. Slovenskí farníci sa snažili presvedčiť cirkevnú vrchnosť, aby kostolom novej spojenej farnosti, do ktorej majú byť pripojené ešte ďalšie štyri etnické farnosti, ostal historický slovenský chrám, pri ktorom mal Rev. Murgaš aj vedecké laboratórium, a ktorého oltár zdobí maľba Božského Srdca, ktorú namaloval Rev. Murgaš.

Ako sme už písali v minulosti, slovenskí farníci argumentujú, že slovenský kostol je lepšie vybavený ako kostol sv. Jána Krstiteľa a je aj historickou pamiatkou, lebo Rev. Murgaš aj v kostolných miestnostiach pracoval na svojich vynálezoch. Kostol však potrebuje opravy. Ale opravy a adaptácie potrebuje aj novší kostol sv. Jána, ktorý sa má stať kostolom spojených farností.

Slovenskí farníci v tejto farnosti si už dávnejšie vytvorili výbor, ktorý argumentuje za zachovanie historického slovenského kostola, aj keď v diecéze už vraj nemajú byť etnické, ale len teritoriálne farnosti. Výber apeloval o pomoc aj na Pensylvánsku historickú komisiu a nevzdáva sa nádeje ani po biskupovom rozhodnutí, podľa ktorého by slovenský kostol Božského Srdca mal byť zatvorený najneskoršie v júli 2010. Biskup Martino vo vyhlásení vyslovil ľútosť nad okolnosťou, že mnohých farníkov sa jeho rozhodnutie dotkne s bolesťou. Odôvodňoval svoj krok hospodárskymi argumentami a znižujúcim sa počtom farníkov.

V Scrantonskej diecéze bolo kedysi 45 etnických kostolov, ktoré slúžili slovenským, nemeckým, poľským, litovským, talianskym a maďarským prisťahovalcom. 23 z nich bolo slovenských.

V Scrantonskej diecéze je aj najstarší slovenský kostol v Amerike – kostol sv. Jozefa v Hazletone, ktorý bol vybudovaný v roku 1882. Dostal slúži slovenským farníkom.

Hymna „Hej Slováci“ Jej pôvodca, vznik a osudy

K 100. výročiu z poverenia Literárneho odboru Slovenskej ligy napísala Elena Brestenská-Gessayová

II.

Ale Tomášik prenikol svojimi básňami aj na cirkevné pole. Preto Pavel Jozeffy a banský biskup Seberíny požiadali ho o spoluprácu pri zostavovaní nového evanjelického spevníka. Spevník aj roku 1842 vyšiel. V ňom má Tomášik 24 piesní a mnohé modlitby. Tlačou vydané boli aj niektoré jeho kázne. Tie všetky prejavujú Tomášikove najvznešenejšie city náboženského presvedčenia.

Tomášik začal svoju literárnu činnosť drobnými veršami, ale ako rokov pribúdalo, tým viac zaoberal sa prózou. Okrem bájok písal články rôzneho obsahu. Vo viedenských „Slovenských Novinách“ Licharda a Radlinského pojednával cirkevno-politické otázky, do Štúrových novín, do Lichardovho „Časníka“ a najmä skalického „Obzoru“ posielal články národno-hospodárske o gemerskom hospodárstve, o obilninách, včelárni, ovocinárstve, o obrábaní záhradnej pôdy atď. No, tieto články boli pre Tomášika len akýmisi druhostupňovým záujmom. Mal on v slovenskom národe iné poslanie – poslanie dejepisca.

A preto lepšie sa mu darili historické povesti. Tieto povesti zahrňovali slovenské dejiny od 13. do 18. storočia a ich východiskom je skoro výlučne muránsky zámok. Prvú z nich „Hladomru“, písanú už čistou slovenčinou, ktorá sa bola kľúla ešte v jeho veršoch, priniesli pod pseudonymom Kozodolského r. 1846 Štúrove „Slovenskej Národnej Noviny“ vo svojej beletristickej prílohe „Orol Tatranský“. Potom nasledovali iné. V „Sokole“ r. 1864 a 1865 čítame „Bašovci na Muráni“ a „Sečovci, veľmoži gemerskí“. Vešelinovo dobytie Muráňa“ v matičnom Národnom Kalendári na r. 1867, „Odboj Vešelinov“ „Malkotenti“ a poslednú „Kuruci“ v „Orle“ v r. 1870, 1873 a 1876. Najobľúbenejší sú „Malkotenti“ a preto sú ešte aj dnes v novom vydaní hodne čítaní. Z každej z týchto povestí vane Tomášikova láska k svojeti, s tak hlbokým záchvevom vo „Vešelinovom Odboji“ vyjadrená: „Prvý a najbližšie bližný mi je a ostane môj vlastný národ, v ktorom som sa zrodil. Táto láska ho aj núti výstražným hlasom k Maďarom zavolať: „Uznajte, že (pomadžarčiť) to daromná práca! Áno, nahliadnite už raz, že to vaše namáhanie škodí len vám samým a vás privedie do záhuby. Nátiskom nenájdete, vy Maďari, priateľstvo Slovákov ... Keď vy neprestanete utláčať s vami prebývajúcce národy, donútime ich k tomu, aby sa i medzi sebou i so svojimi pobratimami naproti vám spojili.“ A neuplynulo skoro ani 50 rokov a proroctvo Tomášikovo sa splnilo. Slováci spojili sa so svojimi najbližšími bratmi Čechmi a Uhorsko sa rozpadlo.

Krédom Tomášikovým bolo, že štúdium dejín a súbor národných pamiatok je prednou úlohou slovenských spisovateľov; veril, že len tak možno si zamilovať rodnú zem a národ, len tak možno odolať cudziemu náporu. Preto Tomášik venoval sa vážnej historickej vede. V článkoch „Uhorsko a Uhri“ a „K dejepisu pomadžarčenia Slovákov“ rozobral dejiny celého národa. V Letopise Matice slovenskej r. 1872 uverejnené jeho „Pamätnosti Gemersko-Malohontské sú cennou monografiou. A vzáčne sú aj „Denkwürdigkeiten des Murányer Schlosses mit Bezug auf die vaterländische Geschichte“, vydané r. 1882, - výsledok to jeho celoživotnej práce.

Tomášik neuspokojil sa len literárnou činnosťou na národa roli dedičnej, ale aj verejne účinkoval. Prof. Pražák v jeho životopise píše: „R. 1848 ... rečnil za Slovákov u kniežat'a Schwarzenberga a grófa Lva Thuna vo Viedni ... Memorandového ruchu a úkolov Štúrovej školy zúčastnil sa ... znamenite. Založenie Matice ospevoval a zveril jej svoje rukopisy; stal sa členom jej beletristického odboru a zasialho činne i do odboru vedeckohistorického ... Ako senior podporoval slovenčinu na školách a staral sa aj o vyššie školy. Jemu patrí čiastočná zásluha, že konvent gemerského starostinstva v Dobšinej rozhodol sa založiť r. 1862 slovenské gymnázium vo Veľkej Revúci. Do nekonečna obetoval sa Tomášik za slovenskú vec. Veď mu ona vždycky, pri každom počínaní, na srdci ležala!

Už len niekoľko slov o Tomášikovom súkromnom živote. Prvé jeho manželstvo nebolo šťastné a čochvíľa sa rozišlo. Roku 1840 oženil sa Tomášik druhý raz, a to s Annou Antonyovou zo Svidnice. Z toho manželstva pochádzalo deväť detí, ktoré ťažko bolo vychovať, lebo farnosť bola malá, jej príjem ešte menší. Celý život musel Tomášik zápasit' s hmotnými nedostatkami. K tomu pridružilo sa aj iné trápenie. R. 1846 šiel Tomášik na konvent do Pešte. Cestou kone sa splašili, Tomášik z Koča vypadol, dostal otras mozgov a stratil sluch. Od tých čias dorozumieval sa väčšinou len písmom. Okrem toho, smrť vyrvala mu štvoro detí, medzi nimi aj nadaného Pavla, skončeného profesora; dcéra onemela. Roztrpčoval ho aj zubožený stav národa. Slovenské povstanie neprinieslo očakávanú slobodu, slovenské memorandum, predostreté uhorskému snemu, nestretlo sa s úspechom. Ostala už len temná poroba. Preto nie div, že čím ďalej bol Tomášikov život smutnejší, jeho skon bolestný. Smrteľná rana padla, keď sa Tomášik dozvedel, že jeho zať Teofil Nosák, farár v Čiernej Lehote, nemilosrdne, až k zúfalstvu pre panslavizmus prenasledovaný, v pomätenosti myslí tragicky zahynul. Vtedy Tomášik naveky onemel a o týždeň, 10. septembra r. 1887 dokonca.

Hoci bol Tomášik plodným spisovateľom, nesmrteľným ho urobila jedine jeho pieseň „Hej, Slováci“, ktorá, ako som už spomenula, vznikla v Prahe, kde sa bol Tomášik zastavil na svojej ceste na berlínsku univerzitu. Do Prahy prišiel Tomášik 2. novembra r. 1834. Tu navštívil najprv Pavla Šafárika, svojho kobeliarskeho spolurodáka, ktorý sa bol pred nedávnom sem nastáhol z Nového Sadu. Zoznámil sa aj s najvýznamnejšími predstaviteľmi českého literárneho a politického sveta, a to s Jungmannom, Palackým, Preslom, Hankom. Mladší českí literáti Amerling, Štulc a Zap vrelo ujali sa Tomášika, ukázali mu pamätnosti starej Prahy a pripomínali udalosti českých dejín. Tomu všetkému sa Tomášik tešil – tešil sa ich oduševňujúcim rečiam, tešil sa ich národnému sebavedomiu, tešil sa viere, ktorá tam v kruhu jeho českých priateľov zasa sa v jeho duši ozvala a ktorá zakaždým tak mocne ohrievala jeho srdce – tej viere, že aj pre jeho drahé Slovensko znovu svítne deň slávneho zmŕtvychvstania.

Ale Tomášika čakalo v Prahe veľké sklamanie. Keď si začal bližšie všímať pražský verejný život, zarmútil sa. Nikde nevidel národnej hrdosti, nikde nič svojského. Na uliciach ozývalo sa české slovo len medzi chudobnými a nižšími vrstvami a aj to len preto, že ony inú reč neovládali. V obchode a hostincoch mohol sa človek dohovoriť iba nemecky. A ani na vidieku – v Kutnej Hore – kam si Tomášik zašiel, nebolo to lepšie. Všade samá cudzota! Tomášik ostal, podľa vlastných slov, „akoby omráčený“. Veď cítil, že bez národného



Samuel Tomášik

povedomia, prejavujúceho sa aj navonok, národ nemôže žiť. Vedel, že tá hrstka národovcov, s ktorými sa bol za tie dni v Prahe stýkal, nemôže celý národ spasiť. A keď navštívil pražské české divadlo, umiestnené v chatrnej budove a videl, že sieň zeje prázdnotou a že aj tí, čo boli prítomní, nepreukazovali nijaké oduševnenie, ba uťahovali sa v kútku, bol čo najhlbšie zronený, rozžialený.

Skormútene vracal sa Tomášik večer z divadla pomaly domov. A tu prišlo mu na um jeho drahé, ztročené Slovensko. Sám píše: „Idúc tak z českého poloporučaného divadla večer domov, počali ma trápiť pochybovanie a bázeň, či ozaj Praha, táto perla západného Slovanstva, nezanikne pre Slovanstvo v cudzom mori a či potom i môj milý národ slovenský tiež neutopí sa v cudzine? Veď národnostné pomery na Slovensku boli ešte horšie ako v Prahe, maďarizácia v tie časy už neznala nijakých medzí a podľa Kollárovho priliehavého označenia Slováci boli v Uhorsku ako Daniel vo ľvej jame. S bôľom spomenul si Tomášik aj to, že jeho vlastná rodná „Gemerská stolica, v ktorej vtedy väčšia polovica obyvateľstva bola ešte slovenská, na začiatku 1834. roku ustanovila: Výchova kňazov nech je maďarská; v úrade postavení, ak ešte nevedia po maďarsky, povinní sú držať si maďarských kaplánov, do cechu za majstra prijatý môže byť len remeselník, ktorý vie po maďarsky; z učňovstva za tovaryša prepustený tiež povinný je vedieť maďarsky.“ Tomášika zmocnilo sa zúfalstvo. Uvedomil si, že slovenský národ stojí pred hroznou záhubou.

(Pokračovanie)



Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

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

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu 29. marca 2009 o 1:00 odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a diskusia o návrhoch činnosti na budúce obdobie. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Členská schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať svoju členskú schôdzu na Kvetnú nedeľu 5. apríla 2009. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine doobeda v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa už tradične budú zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Členská schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni. Na programe je plán činnosti a informácie o poistení cestou Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie srdečne pozývame všetky spolky v okolí.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že členská schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 19. apríla 2009 po slovenskej svätej omši o 12:30 hodine popoludní v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov, aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili v hojnom počte.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasulu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasulu, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 7. júna 2009 o 1:00 odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojici v Yonkers, N.Y.

Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby láskavo poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní.

Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie a taktiež finančná správa. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku č. 41 v Yonkers, N.Y.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Košický arcibiskup Mons. Alojz Tkáč jubiloval

Bratislava (TASR) - Košický arcibiskup, metropolita Mons. Alojz Tkáč sa 2. marca dožil jubilea - 75 rokov. Podľa obvyklého postupu na základe kánonického práva pri dosiahnutí tohto veku požiadal pápeža Benedikta XVI. o uvoľnenie z funkcie. Očakáva sa vyjadrenie Svätého Otca k jeho žiadosti, informoval riaditeľ Tlačovej kancelárie Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (TK KBS) a hovorca Jozef Kováčik.

Mons. Alojz Tkáč sa narodil 2. marca 1934 v Ohradzanoch. Po maturite v Humennom študoval na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Komenského (UK) v Bratislave a po dvoch rokoch pokračoval v štúdiu na Cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulte v Bratislave. Kňazskú vysviacku prijal z rúk biskupa Ambróza Lazíka 25. júna 1961. Mons. Tkáč pôsobil na rôznych miestach. V rokoch 1961 - 1963 bol kaplánom v Zborove. Po základnej vojenskej službe (1963-1964) pôsobil v rokoch 1964 - 1975 ako archivár Biskupského úradu Košice. V období 1975 - 1983 bol bez štátneho súhlasu mimo pastoračie a pôsobil ako vodič električky a lesný robotník. V rokoch 1983 - 1990 bol správcom farnosti v Červenici. Dňa 14.



Foto Peter Zimen

Mons. Alojz Tkáč

februára 1990 bol Mons. Alojz Tkáč vymenovaný za biskupa, jeho biskupská vysviacka sa uskutočnila 17. marca v Košiciach. Za košického arcibiskupa - metropolitu bol vymenovaný 31. marca 1995 a v tom istom roku, 2. júla, mu pápež Ján Pavol II. odovzdal pálium, informovala TK KBS.



Na snímke zľava odovzdávajúca predstavená benediktínskych sestier Irena Šebová s jej poľskou spolusestrou.



Čiastočný pohľad na kláštor.

Hlas z Dubového lesa

Tak bol nazývaný jeden z najobľúbenejších príspevkov v slovensko-americkéj tlači od národne zapálených slovenských katolíckych sestier z kláštora „Našej Pani Lútosti“ v Oak Forest (Dubový les) v štáte Illinois.

„Dubový les“ sa stal pre slovensko-amerických katolíkov strediskom národného kultúrneho a náboženského života po mnohé a mnohé roky a takým zostal až do čias nedostatku nových sestier slovenského pôvodu.

Tým sa stalo, že dňa 1. februára 2009 zanikol pre Slovákov tento posledný vzácny skvost v Chicagu a jeho okolí a prebraný poľskými sestrami rehole „Misionárskych sestier svätého Benedikta“. Svätá omša bola celebrowaná a prebratie kláštora prevedené Františkom kardinálom Georgom, OMJ.

Ivan S. Králik
podpredseda Slov. ligy v USA

V Kanade zomrel Rudolf Šandorf

V meste Catherines, Ontario zomrel vo veku 88 rokov významný slovenský činiteľ v Kanade Rudolf Šandorf. Bol činný v národných spolkoch, najmä v Kanadskej slovenskej lige. Najviac sa však venoval Zahraničnej Matici slovenskej, ktorej sídlo po smrti Jozefa Cígera Hronského bolo prenesené do Kanady. Prispieval do slovenských časopisov a kalendárov v Kanade a USA a vydal aj Dejiny zahraničnej Matice slovenskej a publikáciu Budme hrdí na dejiny Slovákov.

Narodil sa v roku 1920 v Trenčianskej Teplej. Na Slovenskej univerzite v Bratislave (teraz Komenského univerzita) vyštudoval filozofiu a históriu. V r. 1945 evakuoval do Rakúska, odkiaľ prišiel do Kanady. Po počiatkových ťažkostiach doštudoval na Torontskej univerzite a stal sa stredoškolským profesorom. Popri svojom zamestnaní sa intenzívne venoval slovenskému národnému životu v Kanade.



George Chura sa odobral na večnosť

Dňa 7. januára 2009 skončil svoju pozemskú púť známy slovenský národovec, fraternalista a jednotár George Chura. Pochovaný bol z kostola sv. Jozefa, Strongsville, Ohio. Zádušnú svätú omšu za nebohého odslúžili dňa 12. januára 2009 Rev. Robert Sanson z kostola sv. Jozefa; Rev. Jerome Duke z kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda; Rev. Joachym Pastirik, OSB; a brat Gabriel Balažovič, OSB vypomáhal. Za prítomnosti veľkého počtu priateľov a známych jeho telesné pozostatky boli uložené na cintoríne sv. Kríža. Čestná stráž veteránov ako bola zastúpená v pohrebnom ústave tak aj pri zádušnej svätej omši a na cintoríne, kde ho pochovali so všetkými vojenskými poctami.

Zosnulý sa narodil na Zemplíne v dedine Duplín na Slovensku. Jeho otec, americký štátny občan, požiadal agenta, aby poslal potrebné papiere pre svoju manželku a syna, aby mohli prísť za ním do USA. Pre syna neposlal, lebo mladý chlapec po otcovi bol americký občan. Lenže na Slovensku to štátne úrady neuznali. V krátkom čase vypukla svetová vojna a matka so synom ostali na Slovensku. Konečne po vojne, 19. novembra 1946, prišla matka so synom do USA, do Lakewood, Ohio. 14-ročný syn po prvý raz v živote stretáva otca. Otec odišiel do USA niekoľko mesiacov, pred narodením syna. George dokončil svoje štúdiá v Lakewoode, Ohio. Pracoval na niekoľkých miestach, kde spoznal veľký počet slovenských povojnových emigrantov. Vo februári 1953 narukoval do Americkéj armády. Základný vojenský výcvik urobil vo Fort Meade po ktorom ho poslali do vojenskej školy „Military Intelligence“. Pomáhal pri vyšetrovaní vojenských zajatcov. Jeho jednotka slúžila v Japonsku, neskôr na Korei.

Po návrate z armády pracoval ako vedúci v podniku, kde mal na starosti mechanikov a elektrikárov. Vstúpil do organizácie Katolíckych veteránov zahraničnej vojenskej služby, kde zastával rôzne funkcie. Bol zvolený za veliteľa „Commander“ v štáte Ohio. George patrilo čoskoro do všetkých národných a miestnych organizácií. Bol členom a bývalým úradníkom Spolku sv. Jozefa č. 450 IKSJ. V Slovenskej lige v Amerike bol okresným predsedom. Patrilo do IKSŽJ; SNS; SKS; dozorca v Slovenskej záhrade na Floride; člen Zemplínského klubu; dlhoročný predseda Dramatického klubu; člen občianskeho klubu a nakoniec členom slovenskej republikánskej strany.

Telesné pozostatky zomrelého Georgea Churu boli vyložené v pohrebnom ústave Tomon and sons v nedelu popoludní až do neskorých večerných hodín. Veľký počet priateľov a známych prišli smútiacej rodine nebohého prejavíť úprimnú sústrasť.

George ľúbil Slovensko tak ako aj svoju novú americkú vlasť. Bol 52 rokov verným manželom Mary rod. Valco. Láskavým otcom dcéram: Donna Grobe; Teri (John Pavlik); starým otcom vnúčat: Mathew McWilliams, Michelle Grobe a Sandra Welcheck a pravnuke Conner Welchek. Rodine bude veľmi chýbať.

Nech odpočíva v pokoji a nech zem americká je mu ľahká.

Jozef Valeník
predseda Spolku č. 450 IKSJ



Vernisáž výstavy maliarky V. Motýľovej-Pálffyovej vo Washingtone

Na slovenskom veľvyslanectve vo Washingtone sa 27. februára 2009 uskutočnilo slávnostné otvorenie výstavy diel maliarky slovenského pôvodu Violy Motýľovej - Pálffyovej. Za osobnej účasti autorky, držiteľky Zlatej medaily ministra zahraničných vecí za celoživotné dielo pri reprezentácii slovenského umenia a kultúry, boli prezentované maľby z jej aktuálnej série „Vesmírna symfónia“ pripravenej ako príspevok Violy Motýľovej - Pálffyovej pri príležitosti Medzinárodného roka astronómie. Výstava umiestnená v priestoroch Galérie Kolomana Sokola potrvá do 25. marca 2009.

Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR

Krátké správy zo Slovenska

Predbežný súhlas s predajom Slovglassu Poltár spoločnosti, ktorá o ňu ako jediná prejavila záujem, dal 23. februára aj posledný z troch záložných veriteľov, OTP Banka Slovensko. Až všeobecný konsenzus veriteľov v otázke predaja firmy môže zachrániť najväčšiu sklársku firmu na strednom Slovensku. Výbor veriteľov a dvaja záložní veritelia s predajom súhlasili. Zástupcovia banky si však zobrali čas na rozmyslenie. V rozhodnutí jediného záložného veriteľa išlo o veľa. Ak by totiž s ponukou záujemcu nesúhlasil, konkurzný správca by musel vo firme ukončiť výrobu. To by s najväčšou pravdepodobnosťou znamenalo aj definitívny zánik výroby skla na Novohrade a prepustenie viac ako 700 zamestnancov. Ponuku na odkúpenie majetku zadlžených sklární doručil do termínu 18. februára jediný záujemca. Ide o slovenský subjekt so sídlom v Bratislave. Za fabriku ponúkol viac ako jeden milión eur (30.13 milióna Sk). Zamestnať chce väčšinu súčasných zamestnancov. Slovglass sa dostal vlni v lete do konkurzu najmä pre slabnúci kurz dolára. Skláreň totiž až 90 % výroby vyváža na americké trhy, ktoré však pre finančnú krízu prestali sklo z Poltára odoberať. Dôvodom však boli aj stále sa zvyšujúce ceny energií a silnejúca konkurencia z Ázie. Zástupcovia spoločnosti koncom roka oznámili hromadné prepúšťanie.

Do oblasti výskumu a vývoja by mali ísť do roku 2011 v SR približne 4 milióny eur (120.5 milióna Sk), a to z prostriedkov Štrukturálnych fondov Európskej únie (EÚ). Slovenskí partneri zlúčení v inštitúte získali financie na podporu troch projektov z prostriedkov Operačného programu (OP) Výskum a vývoj. Prevažná väčšina financií sa použije na nákup drahých laboratórných materiálov a prístrojov, ktorými chce inštitút kompletne dobudovať infraštruktúru ústavov zaoberajúcich sa materiálovým inžinierstvom. Každému z projektov podaných v rámci kompetenčných centier bolo pridelených približne 1.33 milióna eur (40.07 milióna Sk). Technologický inštitút SAV vznikol približne pred rokom s cieľom koordinovať a podporovať výskum, vývoj a inovácie partnerských ústavov SAV prostredníctvom štyroch kompetenčných centier. Snahou je vytvoriť inštitúciu, ktorá by vytvárala prepojenie verejných zdrojov, výskumu a vývoja, vysokých škôl a priemyselnej sféry.

Výrobcovia automobilov sa pri výrobe nových modelov a produktov intenzívne zameriavajú na investície do nových technológií. Najviac investícií smeruje do hybridov, elektrického a batériového pohonu. Vyplýva to z každoročného globálneho prieskumu spoločnosti KPMG International. Počas nasledujúcich piatich rokov sa výrobcovia automobilov plánujú cielene zameriavať na intenzívne investovanie do nových modelov alebo produktov a taktiež na nové technológie, aby uspokojili spotrebiteľský dopyt po palivovo efektívnych a finančne dostupných autách. Riadiaci pracovníci automobilového priemyslu už druhý rok po sebe udávajú, že výrobcovia majú v úmysle udržať vysokú úroveň investícií do nových produktov a technológií s cieľom uspokojiť dopyt. V prieskume 91 % opýtaných uviedlo, že počas nasledujúcich dvoch rokov sa zvýšia investície do nových modelov a produktov. Podľa 92 % opýtaných automobilky zvýšia investície do nových technológií. S celkovo obmedzenými zdrojmi však podniky budú hľadať prostriedky pre investície v iných častiach rozpočtu. Do reklamy a marketingu pôjdu vyššie investície podľa 55 % opýtaných a zvýšenie investícií do nových závodov očakáva 52 % respondentov, čo je o 20 % menej ako v minulom roku.

Vyššie 60 slovenských žiakov zo sociálne slabších rodín by malo v tomto roku študovať na rôznych nemeckých gymnáziách. Umožní im to projekt sociálnych štipendií zameraný na zlepšovanie jazykových znalostí žiakov z rodín, pre ktoré nie je finančne únosné poslať deti na štúdium do zahraničia. Cieľom projektu je popri zvýšení jazykových vedomostí aj spoznanie iného školského systému a tradícií a kultúry iného národa. V tomto zmysle slúži projekt európskej myšlienke porozumenia medzi národmi a pestovaniu dobrých vzťahov medzi krajinami Európskej únie. Dĺžka študijného pobytu je rok. Žiaci budú ubytovaní prevažne v nemeckých rodinách.

Na Slovensku by sa malo už čoskoro zaviesť tzv. šrotovné, ktoré sa v čase krízy používa aj v iných európskych krajinách. Prostredníctvom neho by mal štát ľuďom, ktorí sa zbavia svojho starého auta, následne prispieť na kúpu nového. Konkrétna výška príspevku ešte nie je presne stanovená, uvažuje sa o alternatívach 1,500 alebo 2,000 eur (45,189 alebo 60,252 Sk). Tento príspevok by sa mal zároveň týkať len áut do určitej hodnoty. Ministerstvo financií navrhuje stanoviť hornú hranicu na 15,000 eur (451,890 Sk). Oveľa zdržanlivejšie sa vláda podľa svojho predsedu stavia k možnosti odpočtu dane z pridanej hodnoty (DPH) pri kúpe nových áut, ktorú navrhujú podnikatelia.

Dôvodom hromadného prepúšťania vo výrobnom závode Whirlpool Slovakia v Poprade je podľa vyjadrenia firmy pokles dopytu na zahraničných trhoch. Záujem spotrebiteľov o bielu techniku v dôsledku globálnej finančnej krízy sa znížil a vedenie závodu muselo pristúpiť k redukcii pracovných miest, ktoré sa začalo realizovať v marci. V snahe zmierniť dopady krízy a minimalizovať počet redukovaných pracovných miest sa vedenie spoločnosti dohodlo so zástupcami odborovej organizácie taktiež na úprave pracovného kalendára, v ktorom uplatní kombináciu flexibilného časového konta a 60-% náhradu mzdy. Vedenie spoločnosti zároveň ponúko zvýhodnené ekonomické podmienky ukončenia pracovného pomeru dotknutým skupinám zamestnancov. Popradský závod Whirlpool Slovakia patrí medzi najväčších slovenských exportérov. Až 97 % produkcie automatických práčok vyváža na zahraničné trhy, najmä do strednej a východnej Európy.

Slovenský výrobca lietadiel končí. Nižší dopyt zo strany zákazníkov zasiahol slovenských výrobcov malých športových lietadiel. Najnovšou obeťou je firma Comp-Let zo Senice, ktorá definitívne ukončila výrobu a reálne jej hrozí konkurz. Ešte koncom decembra vo fabrike pracovalo 190 zamestnancov, ale v súčasnosti je už prázdna. Firma Comp-Let pôsobila na trhu od roku 1991 a zaoberala sa sériovou výrobou dielcov na malé lietadlá. Až 95 percent produkcie smerovalo do Rakúska pre skupinu Diamond Aircraft Industries. Tento podnik však oznámil ukončenie výroby, čo znamenalo aj slovenskú firmu.

Slovenská súčasná hudba dostáva v týchto dňoch nový impulz v podobe možnosti presadiť sa aj za hranicami. Domáci webový portál s hudobným zameraním hudba.sk vytvoril sieť kontaktov s vyše tisícovkou hudobných rozhlasových staníc po celom svete a dohodol sa nimi na princípoch spolupráce, založenej na poskytovaní slovenskej hudby pre potreby ich vysielania. Nahrávky slovenských interpretov na kompiláciách s jednotným názvom Nalad' sa! / Get Tuned! sa tak pravidelne ocitnú na stoloch hudobných drama-

turgov v rozhlasových staniciach doslova na všetkých kontinentoch. Prvotným zámerom portálu bolo ponúkať jednu kompiláciu Nalad' sa! v polročných intervaloch, záujem však presiahol očakávania a periodicitu vydávania bude potrebné prehodnotiť.

Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR (MZ SR) nesúhlasí s názorom Slovenskej lekárskej únie špecialistov (SLÚŠ), podľa ktorého je štátne zdravotníctvo oproti súkromným lekárom zvýhodňované a protežované, čo spôsobuje únik pracovných síl a pokles dostupnosti zdravotnej starostlivosti. "Čo sa týka odchodov zdravotníkov do zahraničia, zaznamenali sme opačnú tendenciu. Zdravotníci sa vracajú späť, najmä z Českej republiky," reagovala hovorkyňa MZ SR Katarína Čizmáriková. "Od roku 2006 sme štyrikrát zvyšovali platy, v priemere o 10 percent a úspešne sa čerpajú aj peniaze z eurofondov, či už na rizikové skupiny lekárskeho povolania, rekonštrukcie ambulancií a nemocničných zariadení," dodala.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

90-ROČNÁ BRATISLAVA



Prezidentský palác v Bratislave.



Dr. Vavro Šrobár, prvý minister s plnou mocou pre správu Slovenska.



V blízkosti Prezidentského paláca stála pred deväťdesiatimi rokmi slávohrána.

Hlavné mesto Slovenskej republiky je oveľa, oveľa staršie, ale oficiálny názov Bratislava dostalo pred deväťdesiatimi rokmi. Dovedy bola Prešporokom, po nemecky Pressburg, po maďarsky Pozsony a po latinsky Posonium.

Aby vôbec bola Bratislava hlavným mestom Slovenska a dostala pomenovanie, ktoré používali slovenskí národovci už od štyridsiatych rokov 19. storočia, museli to slovenskí politici, ale najmä vojaci, legionári i slovenskí obyvatelia mesta vybojovať s odporcami Česko-Slovenskej republiky. A tých nebolo v tomto meste málo.

Bratislavu obsadili Česko-slovenskí legionári pod vedením talianskeho generála Picconeho už 1. januára 1919. O tom, že bude hlavným mestom rozhodla vláda 16. januára 1919 a vyhlásila Prešporok za hlavné mesto 18. januára. Avšak aby sa mohol Vavro Šrobár, minister s plnou mocou pre správu Slovenska, dostať zo Žiliny do Bratislavy, museli vojaci obsadiť železničné stanice po celej trati a odstaviť maďarských železničiarov, ktorí chceli zabrániť tomu, aby sa vláda presunula do hlavného mesta. Niektorí mešťania chceli narychlo vyhlásiť Bratislavu za slobodné mesto a pomenovať ho podľa amerického prezidenta Wilsona. Predstavitelia česko-slovenského štátu v rokovaniach s víťaznými mocnosťami trvali na tom, že nový štát potrebuje prístup k Dunaju, a preto Prešporok musí byť jeho súčasťou.

Vavro Šrobár, vybavený plnými mocami predsedu Dočasnej slovenskej vlády, si uvedomoval, že iba ako „diktátor“ dosiahne určený cieľ, pripojenie Bratislavy k Česko-Slovenskej republike a zriadenie úradov hlavného mesta Slovenska. Na deň jeho príchodu, 4. februára 1919, organizátori postavili na dnešnej Štefánikovej ulici veľkú slávohránu a celú ulicu lemovali krojované slovenské skupiny, ktoré do Bratislavy prišli aj zo Záhoria. Vlakmi pricestovalo z Prahy a ďalších českých miest 2000 ozbrojených sokolov a spolu s nimi prišli aj Slováci z moravského Slovácka. Šrobár sa v sprievode svojich úradníkov a defilujúcich vojakov presunul zo železničnej stanice do vládnej budovy na dunajskom nábreží, dnešnej Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského.

O pomenovaní, či premenovaní hlavného mesta na Bratislavu rozhodol Vavro Šrobár 25. marca 1919, čo bolo oficiálne uverejnené 27. marca v Úradných novinách Bratislavy a župy Prešporskej.

Bratislava, ktorá bola starým slovanským sídlom už pred viac než tisícročím, sa tak opäť vrátila Slovákom, ale trvalo ešte niekoľko desaťročí, než sa reslovakizovala a stala skutočnou slovenskou metropolou.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtyždenník

Jednota

O. Štefan Furdek
Naš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 118

STREDA, 18. MARCA, 2009

Číslo 5796



FOTO TASR

Na Slovensku Prezidentská predvolebná kampaň oficiálne začala

Bratislava (TASR) – Dňa 6. marca o 7. hodine oficiálne odštartovala kampaň pred prezidentskými voľbami. Môžu ju využiť siedmi uchádzači o najvyšší štátnický post. Kampaň bude trvať 13 dní a skončí 48 hodín pred začiatkom voľby, teda vo štvrtok 19. marca o 7. hodine ráno. Prvé kolo prezidentských volieb vyhlásil predseda parlamentu Pavol Paška na sobotu 21. marca.

Na svoju propagáciu môžu kandidáti vynaložiť maximálne 132,775 eur (štyri milióny Sk). V danom čase má každý z nich zabezpečený rovnaký prístup k hromadným informačným prostriedkom. Moratórium začne 19. marca od 7. hodiny a pokračovať bude aj v sobotu 21. marca do 22. hodiny, keď sa zatvoria volebné miestnosti. V prípade druhého kola, ktoré sa uskutoční 4. apríla, sa predvolebná kampaň začne vyhlásením výsledkov prvého kola.

O prezidentský post sa uchádzajú siedmi záujemcovia. Bývalá členka KSS Dagmara Bollová ide do prezidentského boja ako občianska kandidátka, rovnako František Mikloško, ktorý má podporu Konzervatívnych demokratov Slovenska. Úradujúci prezident Ivan Gašparovič sa znovu uchádza o funkciu ako občiansky kandidát a zároveň kandidát Smeru-SD a SNS. Nominanta ĽS-HZDS Milana Melníka podporilo v petícii vyše 120,000 občanov, ako občianska kandidátka s podporou Slobodného fóra ide do súboja o prezidentské kreslo Zuzana Martináková. Milan Sidor sa môže oprieť o petíciu občanov, aj podporu KSS. Kandidátku opozície Ivetu Radičovú podporuje SDKÚ-DS, KDĽ, SMK a pod petíciu sa jej podpísalo viac ako 30,000 občanov.



Európski lídri na mimoriadnom summite v Bruseli

Brusel (TASR) - Finančná a hospodárska kríza s dôrazom na komplikovanú situáciu v automobilovom priemysle a boj proti protekcionizmu boli hlavnými témami debaty európskych lídrov na mimoriadnom neformálnom summite Európskej únie, ktorý sa konal 1. marca v Bruseli. Slovensko zastupoval premiér Robert Fico. Hoci sa čoskoro bude konať pravidelné jarné zasadnutie Európskej rady venované tradične ekonomickým otázkam, české predsedníctvo v EÚ sa vzhľadom na pretrvávajúce problémy, ktorým čelí európska ekonomika, rozhodlo zvolať krízový summit ako prípravu na následné marcové zasadnutie.

Pokračovanie na str. 16

Slovenská pošta:

Už po tretí raz má najkrajšiu známku na svete

Bratislava (TASR) – Najkrajšou známkou na svete za rok 2007 sa v medzinárodnej súťaži Grand Prix de l'Exposition WIPA už po tretí raz stala Slovenská pošta so známkou "Bratislavský hrad". Podľa šéfa poroty a WIPA prezidenta Gerharda Dusseka o absolútnom víťazstve slovenskej známky rozhodla jej vysoká umelecká hodnota a kvalita spracovania.

Víťaznú známku vyhotovil prof. Dušan Kállay a autorom ocelorytiny je jeden z najlepších slovenských rytcov František Horniak. Vydala ju Slovenská pošta v limitovanom náklade 27. júna 2007. Zobrazuje detail gotickej knižnej maľby z Viedenskej obrázkovej kroniky zo 14. storočia. Hárček zachytáva vývin Bratislavského hradu od 16. storočia po súčasnosť, v spodnej časti sa nachádza erb mesta.

Dušan Kállay už získal ocenenie za najkrajšiu známku roka 2000 so svojím dielom "Dejiny poštového práva". O rovnaké ocenenie sa zaslúžil aj František Horniak o tri roky neskôr vďaka známke "Potok za humnami", ktorú vytvoril podľa obrazu Ladislava Medňanského. Slovenská pošta si tohtoročné ocenenie prevezme 11. septembra pri príležitosti otvorenia rakúskej národnej výstavy ÖVEBRIA. Prvou medzinárodne ocenenou slovenskou poštovou známkou bola známka Ľudovít Štúr, ktorá v roku 1995 získala v súťaži Grand Prix WIPA tretie miesto. O tri roky neskôr sa na rovnakom mieste umiestnila Krajina z Terchovej, zhotovená podľa obrazu Martina Benku.

Informoval o tom vedúci oddelenia externej a internej komunikácie Slovenskej pošty Juraj Danielis.



Predsedníčka ÚSŽZ rokovala s arcibiskupom Zvolenským



Zľava Mons. S. Zvolenský a Vilma Prívarová

Predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilma Prívarová rokovala 25. februára 2009 s bratislavským arcibiskupom - metropolitom Mons. Stanislavom Zvolenským. Ťažiskom ich rozhovoru boli aktuálne otázky týkajúce sa náboženského života Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Vilma Prívarová arcibiskupa informovala o požiadavkách krajanov v súvislosti s obsadením farností slovenskými kňazmi v krajinách s početnou krajanovou komunitou. Rokovala tiež o možnostiach finančnej pomoci pre vybrané misie, ktoré vo svojich krajinách nemajú dostatočnú finančnú a materiálnu podporu. Súčasne arcibiskupa informovala o podpore Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pre spoločenské, kultúrne a vzdelávacie aktivity misií, zborov a cirkevných spoločenstiev v zahraničí.

Vilma Prívarová požiadala arcibiskupa Zvolenského o spoluprácu pri zabezpečovaní študijných pobytov pre kňazov zo slovenského prostredia v zahraničí na Slovensku, ako aj pri zabezpečovaní náboženskej literatúry pre krajanové komunity. Na záver rokovania arcibiskup Zvolenský podporil myšlienku zorganizovať v roku 2010 tematickú konferenciu o pastorácii Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí v spolupráci s Úradom pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.