



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

Volume 124

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

NUMBER 5918



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Easter Message 2015



Andrew M. Rajec

It's been the coldest February on record for Cleveland, Ohio, average temperature of 17°. Over one foot of snow is still on the ground as I write this message, remains of the series of huge snowfalls that hit Ohio, Pennsylvania and the entire East Coast this Winter.

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

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

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

This past week the Slovak Catholic Federation, an organization dedicated to the survival of the Church in Slovakia under Communism, through the training of priests, and who is now working to help the Church in Slovakia in its recovery from Communism, held its Annual Meeting in Bethlehem, PA. Ken Arendt and myself attended the meeting.

Our Society will be working with the Federation in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Our Lady of Sorrows (Patroness of Slovakia) Shrine in Washington D.C. on September 12, 2015 with a pilgrimage. In 1965 The First Catholic Slovak Union donated \$125,000 to build this chapel located on the main level of the Shrine and in 2003 we celebrated its rededication. We hope to have a large participation from our FCSU Members at this special event. Watch the Jednota for more information.

Incidentally, we are told that this is one of the most visited chapels at the Shrine. Our Society can be proud of this magnificent gift.

Slovaks have a rich tradition of participating in Pilgrimages, defined as a journey to a holy place. The most famous site is near Levoča, Slovakia, where many thousands of pilgrims visit annually. On July 3, 1995 Pope John Paul II visited the site with an estimated 650,000 pilgrims gathered for the occasion.

At this Easter season we all pray for our Jednota members, especially those that are ill or have other personal problems.

Sometimes we have to remind ourselves that spring is almost here! Happy Easter!

Christ is risen, Let us rejoice and be glad!

Pán Ježíš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, Radujme sa!

Andrew M. Rajec
President



Alleluja!

He is not here for He is risen."

– Matthew 28:6

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all for a Blessed and Happy Easter

The Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb, Fra Angelico, 1442.

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Deadline Approaches!
The deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2014 Scholarship Program is March 31.
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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B., Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.

March 29, 2015 – Sixth Sunday of Lent Gospel - Mark 14: 1-15:47

As I prepared the texts and prayers for the mass of Palm Sunday something caught my attention for the first time, something which I think speaks to the entire mystery of sin and salvation that unfolds before us during Holy Week. What attracted my attention was not so much a particular passage of the gospels or the

other scripture readings from mass as it was that part of the Palm Sunday liturgy which often passes with little or no reflection on my part: the procession after the blessing of the palms and the antiphons that accompany it.

Processions and other ritual actions are critically important elements of our worship; they are gestures which teach us and carry powerful sacramental meaning as we actually do things that call to mind the economy of revelation and salvation that is vividly remembered and lived during Holy Week.

If we think about it, beginning on Palm Sunday and extending through Holy Week the Church practices certain ritual actions which are not experienced otherwise through the year. The processions into the church buildings themselves on Palm Sunday and at the Easter Vigil; the moving rite of the mandatum and the washing of the feet—something so striking that it wins the rapt attention of the congregation whenever it is performed—and at the same Holy Thursday mass we take part in the procession to repose the Eucharist at the end of the liturgy.

Going further, on Good Friday the celebrant lies prostrate in front of the entire congregation in an extraordinary gesture of humility and compunction. On Holy Saturday we do much ritually by doing nothing—at least by celebrating no mass, by praying a reduced divine office, and by waiting for the Lord's resurrection in silence and introspection. On Easter Sunday the renewal of baptismal promises and the rite of blessing with holy water, while not restricted to those occasions, acquire special significance.

As I thought about the scene of the first Palm Sunday then, my vision was shaped not only by the scriptures but by our re-enacting of them through the liturgy. This scene involves above all a journey, beginning with joy and acclamation on Passion Sunday, sounding the depths of human betrayal and treachery on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, enduring the stunned silence of Holy Saturday, and ending with exultation on Easter morning.

The Palm Sunday procession thus teaches us that we are all on a journey, not simply one which takes us through the days of Holy Week, but which wends its way through our entire lives. This procession that commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem also carries with it a decisive lesson about how our participation in this journey may ultimately end, with our reception of the gifts of redemption and Paschal joy or our refusal of them.

As we begin Holy Week, let us not forget that we are a pilgrim people, making our journey of faith in this life by walking together, not only with the Jewish people who ran out to greet the Lord as he entered Jerusalem, but with the children of God of all nations and all



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

ages—ultimately tracing the footsteps of Jesus himself, who humbled himself to share in our humanity, that we might share in his divinity, and might follow him into his Kingdom.

Together with our forebears in Jerusalem some twenty centuries ago, moved by the same trials and sustained by the same faith, we cry out: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest!"

April 5, 2015 – The Resurrection of the Lord – Easter Day Gospel – John 20: 1-9

The Gospel for Easter Sunday tells of Mary Magdalene finding the tomb empty and running to the apostles to tell them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb...." It is a Gospel that begins in the pre-dawn darkness with Mary Magdalene going to Jesus' tomb as a mourner. She then becomes upset and is seemingly panicking because the tomb is empty and her first thought is that someone took the body of Jesus. Finally when she returns to the tomb with Peter and John and they enter into it, she along with Peter and John, understand, Jesus is Risen.

We hear of the Resurrection not only on Easter Sunday but also throughout the Easter Season. It's important for us to realize that when the tomb was discovered to be empty the immediate response was not that of the Halleluia Chorus. They were still mourning and the intensity of their sadness blurred the glory that was before them. When the glory of the Risen Lord finally tore through the sadness, they recognized the Risen Lord, and that was when the shouts of Alleluia came forth from them.

We have just completed Lent and now begin our celebration of Easter. Our journey might have led us through moments of sorrow as we took a closer look at our lives and became more aware of things we need to change, and we might even have experienced moments of disappointment as our plans for personal renewal didn't always work out. Lent is now behind us, and it's time for us allow the beautiful presence of our Risen Lord to break through anything in our lives that stands in the way and fill us with joy. For the disciples and apostles Easter was a new beginning. They began to understand the fuller meaning of many of the teachings and miracles of Jesus. The Risen Lord spent forty days with them during which they grew in faith, hope and love. At the time of his Ascension he told them to wait and pray in Jerusalem. They did and on the tenth day they experienced the power of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

It would benefit us if we were to avoid the tendency of looking at Easter as merely the end of Lent, rather may we see it as a new beginning in our journey of faith. It is a time for us to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and his continued presence in our lives. We have forty days until Ascension Thursday and fifty days to Pentecost. These two celebrations are days that we should look forward to and be driven to by the joy of Easter. As we continue to hear Alleluia in songs, antiphons and refrains allow them to echo within us. The Easter Season is a season of blessing for us to celebrate with joy all that we come through during Lent and the newness in our lives that begins at Easter.

The grace of the Easter Season can remove sadness from our hearts, doubts from our minds and complacency from our souls. It is a grace that can replace these with joy, renewed faith and a new zeal. The blessings of this season are being poured out on us, all we need do is to open ourselves to receive them and stake claim on the power of the Risen Lord in our Lives today. We are loved by God and embracing the Risen Lord is accepting this love. May we experience the love and joy of the Risen Lord and cry out in our hearts and with our voices, "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen."



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK 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.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 6	MONDAY, APRIL 27
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20	MONDAY, MAY 11

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Easter Greetings from the National Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Spring is the beginning of new life. As Easter approaches, families throughout our Society get ready for the celebration. Dad is helping the children color eggs while Mom is baking hot cross buns – and we all are preparing for the Resurrection of our Lord. We will get our Sunday's best ready to attend mass the next day. During Mass, we will reflect on our Lord Jesus who died so we could live. He rose again so we would believe. His Resurrection is the renewal of life; what more beautiful time to remember our Lord Jesus, as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us?

On behalf of my wife, Maria, and our family, may the blessings of Jesus guide you, protect you and be with you on Easter and always.

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr,
National Vice-President**

Easter Greetings from the Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

As we enter the Easter Season, leaving behind the dark days of winter and enjoying the sunshine of longer days, we are reminded of our Lord's Resurrection. Easter's message of hope and renewal allows us to remember our Lord's sacrifice for us and to renew our faith in Him. On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families a Joyous Easter.

**Kenneth Arendt
Executive Secretary**

Easter Message from the National Treasurer



George F. Matta II

As we prepare for Holy Week and the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection we need to reflect on the words of Pope Francis and how he calls on each of us to live our lives. For it is through "Our faith in Jesus Christ and our mission to proclaim the Gospel demand of us a commitment to promote justice and enter into solidarity with the voiceless and powerless." (LK 22 :56)

On behalf of my wife Cathy and my family, we extend to you and your families a joyous and blessed Easter season.

**George Matta II
National Treasurer**

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, OH Announces Scholarship Opportunities for Graduating High School Seniors



The United Slovak Societies of the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio has applications available for a scholarship program tailored for graduating high school seniors who are entering college and meet eligibility rules. The student must be a member in good standing of any of the five organisations that make up the United Slovak Societies for at least five years. These include: the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 228; the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association branch 114; the Slovak Catholic Sokol wreath 111; the National Slovak Society Assembly 160; and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union branch 77.

Complete rules and applications can be obtained by contacting Helene Virant at 440/282-3325, or may be picked up at the Club. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2015. Lastly, students are encouraged to contact their local branch presidents for any additional scholarship opportunities that may exist.

**Michele Mager
Secretary-United Slovak Societies
Branch 228 Member**

Easter Greetings from the National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

We all have known different joys in our lives. All too often they are short-lived.

The birth of a baby brings great joy to parents. However, it is hard to remain joyful when the baby cries at all hours of the night to be fed, changed, or held, causing you to be deprived of much needed sleep.

Many of us remember the joy of receiving a diploma from high school or college. But after that day, searching for a job to earn a living and pay off your debts made the joy of graduation day soon forgotten.

A couple's wedding day fills both husband and wife with joy. But after the reception and honeymoon and the last thank you note is written, sometimes the joy begins to wane when, as an example, the little things one partner does that were overlooked during courtship and engagement can begin to be disturbing to the other.

A priest and a religious also knows joy that comes with ordination day or the day of profession. Then he or she is assigned to a location or mission only to discover that the personalities of fellow priests or religious there are very different from his or her own. Or an unexpected transfer to a difficult situation happens. Feelings of loneliness and depression can overtake those of joy.

In all these situations, it is easy to forget a fundamental message of our faith, one that Pope Francis articulated so well in the first sentence of his Apostolic Exhortation of November 2013. "The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."

That experience of joy most certainly was known by the apostles. They not only saw the Risen Christ, they spoke with Him and had meals with Him. Their remembrances of this encounter with Jesus brought them a joy that never faded from their minds.

Their joy can be ours, too. It is ours. Remembering each day that Jesus suffered, died, and rose so that we may have eternal life in him brings us and fills us with a joy that lasts forever.

Happy Easter.

Fraternally,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain**



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office

will be closed on

Friday, April 3, 2015,

in observance of Good Friday.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

Finding God's Light in the Face of Tragedy

At our annual gathering of family and friends for Christmastime this year, I chose for a reading a short piece by Jennifer Hubbard. I've never met her, but she must be an amazing woman: she and her husband lost one of their two children, a beautiful six-year-old daughter named Catherine, to the school shooting at Newtown, Connecticut. She wrote about the baby Jesus and said, "He will guide our way—restore our tired and weary hearts." And she concluded: "He will lead us into his light where we will once again be four."

To lose a child under the unimaginable horrors of the Newtown shootings and still cling to your faith—"we will once again be four"—is truly awe-inspiring.

Then I read about Trudy and Lud Koci, and once again I was blown away. The couple, from West Bloomfield, Michigan, have remained steadfast in their faith even though death has claimed four of their children. Four! I don't know how they do it—or I didn't know, that is, until I read Marge Fenelon's account of the Kocis' story in Our Sunday Visitor. Then I began to understand.

Judging from Fenelon's story, the Kocis are something of a remarkable couple. Married for 57 years, they have eight children, all adults themselves. Three are biological; five were adopted internationally. Four have died tragically—a biological son in a bike accident, an adopted Vietnamese daughter in a car crash, a biological daughter from a brain injury, and an adopted son from India, who had a degenerative brain disease.

"Their ability to endure the tragedies has nothing to do with their own volition and everything to do with God's grace," Fenelon wrote. "That, they say, was what got them through it all."

Mrs. Koci added, "The Eucharist helped more than anything. If you really believe what the Eucharist is, how can it not help you?"

A longtime family friend, Father Tim Whalen, thought he had another reason or two.

"They are always donating of their time, treasure or talent to someone or some cause," said Father Whalen, rector of St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. There's something else, he added, and it's the way the Kocis "live the cross":

"Lud and Trudy have experienced more loss and grief in their lives than most people could imagine, but this hasn't made them bitter or resentful toward God because they live the Paschal Mystery. In other words, they realize that real happiness isn't something you can find in this life. It is something that is shared with you in the next life by an all-loving God, because you were willing to love until it hurt and to believe even when it didn't make sense in this life. That's how Jesus lived, and that's how he died on the cross, and Lud and Trudy are true disciples of the Lord Jesus."

Trudy, for her part, mentioned the losses of all types—divorce, immorality, separation, death—that threaten us a today.

"We live in a broken world," she said. "And in every case, trust. Trust and try not to look back."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, PERSEVERING THROUGH PAIN AND STRUGGLE, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, slovakcooking.com

Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



1 yolk, 2 cups flour, 2 sticks margarine, 100g ground walnuts, 100g powdered sugar, 1 packet of vanilla sugar

Mix all ingredients until you get a sticky dough with the consistency of play-dough. Grease and dust with flour crescent-shaped metal baking forms. Press the dough into the forms and bake for 8 minutes at 375F. Coat with powdered sugar or dip ends in chocolate.

Hearts (Srdiečka)



4 cups flour, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1.5tsp baking powder, 200g margarine, 2 eggs

Knead the dough until you get a smooth texture. Then roll out and cut out various shapes. Bake for 12 minutes at 350F. Join two matching halves with jam (raspberry and red currant work great) and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rings (Venčeky)



250g flour, 250g margarine, 100g ground hazelnuts or almonds, bit of salt, half a spoon of cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of orange zest and juice, 1 egg, 5 spoons of white wine

Combine the ingredients to make the dough. Roll out and use dough circle cutters of two different sizes to cut out the ring. Bake for 15 minutes at 350F. Coat in powdered sugar combined with vanilla and cinnamon. Combine the cut out dough and repeat.

Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



2 cups powdered sugar, 2 cups ground walnuts, 1 yolk, shot of rum

Mix all ingredients together and roll into a ball. Coat in powdered sugar, chocolate, or coconut shavings. That's it, no baking required!

Walnuts (Oriešky)



Dough: 150g ground walnuts, 5 cups flour, 1.5 sticks butter, 1-2 eggs, 0.8 cups sugar, 2 tbsp cocoa

Cream 1: 4 eggs, 0.5 cups powdered sugar, 1 packet vanilla sugar. Cream 2: 1.5 sticks butter, 0.5 cups powdered sugar

Mix the dough ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured metal form for 8 minutes at 375F. Whisk ingredients for Cream 1 in a double boiler until it becomes like honey. Let cool down. Whip Cream 2 ingredients together and add to Cream 1. Use the cream to join two halves to make a delicious walnut.

Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



Chocolate: 150g chocolate, 3/4 stick of Crisco, 3 tsp cocoa
Filling: 100g of ground nuts, 150g powdered sugar, 1/2 stick of Crisco, 2 teaspoons of cocoa, 0.4 cups milk

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or on low heat. Stack paper cups on a tray and pour quarter inch of chocolate into each. Save half the chocolate for later. Let cool. Cook the ingredients for the filling on low heat. Spoon onto the chocolate. Top off with the remaining chocolate and a walnut for decoration.

You will find all these recipes along with step-by-step photo instructions at SlovakCooking.com

Fánky



2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 yolks, 2 tbsp powdered sugar, half a stick unsalted butter, 4 tbsp cream, 2 tbsp white wine (or rum), 1/2 cup of milk

Mix the ingredients and place the dough in a fridge to cool. Then roll out to 1/6th inch. Cut into rectangles the size of your palm. Cut two slits near the short edges. Tread the ends through the slits to make bow ties. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Top with powdered sugar.

Šišky (Donuts)

2 cups flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar, 1/5 stick unsalted butter, dash of salt. Topping: jam filling and powdered sugar



Mix all ingredients to get a smooth dough. Let rise. Then roll out on a dusted board to one inch thick. Dust the rim of a drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles. Fry in oil. Top with jam and sugar.

Easter Treats!

Chewy's Easter Tidings

Hi, Kids (and those Young at Heart).



It's me. Chewy.

Once again we are flying toward the Easter holiday and you guys know what that means, don't cha? Your old pal Chewy turns in to one of the šibaci, "whippers" in English. We fun-loving fellas take advantage of this old Slovak tradition to get up early in the morning, spiff up, take up our korbáče (made of fresh stripling wood), and a bit of cold H2O and hurry up to visit our sweeties, mothers, sisters, babky (grandmothers), or just girls in the neighborhood.

Hey, it's not as bad as it sounds, people! The sprinkling and whipping business is sheer symbolism -- of new life, spring, nature -- all that good stuff. And, truth be told, how much of it goes on really depends on how much the ladies will tolerate. Easy on all fronts, if you want your girl to be happy and not mad at you. Which is the total point! You want to show that certain lady that you are sweet on her!

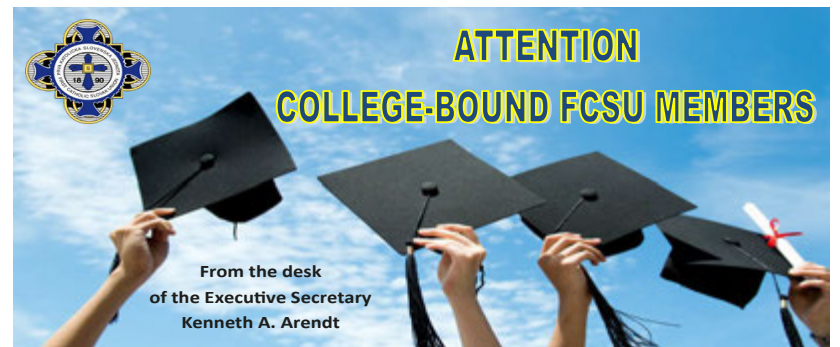
Anyhoo, it can be tons of fun. Each šibac gets his own decorated Easter egg and a colored ribbon tied to display on the top of his korbáč, and sometimes he even has a maly pohar (small drink) or a snic-snack while visiting. How many you get of each ribbon or decorated egg shows how liked you are. Just look at me, all decked out ... Mr. Popularity. I know. I look mighty nice, even with bunny ears on, and that ain't easy, my friends, let me tell you.

Anyway, I do hope whatever you do this Easter, you and your loved ones have a Happy, Happy Day. I'll be thinking of you!

Until next time, keep your ears up and your tail waggin'

Tvoj Priateľ

Chewy



From the desk
of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION **IS NOW ACCEPTING 2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
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In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/scholarships
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
March 31, 2015**

New York Archdiocese to Shutter Three Slovak Parishes Founded by Jednota Lodges

Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41 K.J.

In the largest restructuring of parishes in its more than 200-year history, the Archdiocese of New York as part of its "Making All Things New" project, Cardinal Timothy Dolan announced that a total of 122 parishes will be merged or closed. The cardinal said that the restructuring would provide a sorely needed update to church landscape, allowing the archdiocese and its parishes to move beyond maintenance and toward the mission to which they are called. Altogether, the mergers and closing of churches will affect 122 parishes - or slightly less than one third of the archdiocese's 368 parishes. The restructuring came as a result of a massive pastoral planning initiative, called Making All Things New, begun in 2010 and fully implemented on the parish level throughout the archdiocese throughout the past year and a half. Closing and mergers are effective August 1, 2015. Churches slated to be closed will allow Masses to be celebrated on special occasions until August 1, 2016. The restructuring affects the estimated 2.8 million Catholic population of the Archdiocese which includes three of the five boroughs of the city of New York as well as seven northern counties on both sides of the Hudson River.

Among the closings are three historically Slovak parishes in the New York Archdiocese. St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Manhattan, St. Mary of the Assumption in Haverstraw and Most Holy Trinity in Yonkers will all be shuttered officially on August 1. With these closings, there will remain but one parish serving the Slovak community, that of St. John Nepomucene in Manhattan. Previously, the Slovak parishes of the Holy Cross in Sleepy Hollow established in 1910 and St. John the Baptist in Poughkeepsie founded in 1923, have been closed.

Founded in 1891, St. Elizabeth's Parish in Manhattan was the first Slovak parish established in the state of New York. Named for the Queen of Hungary, St. Elizabeth who was born in Bratislava, the current Slovak capital, the New York parish ranks among the earliest Slovak Catholic parishes in America. Toward the final quarter of the 19th century, the number of Slovaks who settled in New York City continued to increase. The first non-sectarian Slovak society was organized in 1883. In 1887, a distinctly Catholic group organized the St. John the Baptist Society under the spiritual guidance of a Polish priest, Father Klimecki. In 1891, this society became affiliated with the First Catholic Slovak Union as Branch 44. The first Masses for the Slovaks were celebrated in the basement of St. Bridget's Church on East 8th Street beginning in 1890. Archbishop Michael Corrigan gave permission for the new parish and it was incorporated on November 15, 1891. A building was purchased that year at 345 East 4th Street to serve as the first church on Manhattan's lower east side which had a large community of Eastern European immigrants. The Rev. Joseph Januschek was appointed as the first pastor. With the movement of many Slovaks northward, in 1917 the parish acquired a former Lutheran Church on East 83rd Street between Second and Third Avenues. This church was solemnly blessed and dedicated on June 17, 1917. The parish has remained at this site ever since. As in the case of many Slovak parishes, a number of priests served for brief periods of time. Stability finally came to the parish with the arrival in 1909 of the Rev. Matthew Tamassy who remained until his death in 1925. On October 10, 1925, the Rev. Andrew J. Dzijacky was appointed pastor by Cardinal Patrick Hayes. During his pastorate, the parish grew and expanded, necessitating the appointment of two associates. In 1956, Father Dzijacky was named a Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor by Pope Pius XII. He remained pastor until his death in 1958. Msgr. Alexander M. Budkowsky served as pastor from 1958 until his death in 1962. That year, a former long-time associate, Rev. Andrew E. Dvoracky was named pastor. In 1965, he was named a Monsignor by Pope Paul VI and remained as pastor until his retirement in 1980. He passed away in 1983. For the past 35 years, St. Elizabeth's has served as the center of the Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New York under the direction of Monsignor Robert McCabe who arrived as pastor in 1980.

In Haverstraw, N.Y., St. Mary of the Assumption Parish was one of several Slovak parishes established along the banks of the Hudson River. Slovaks began settling in this quaint river town in the late 1880s. There was abundant work in the area's numerous brickyards. At one time the Haverstraw brickyards were the largest such enterprise in the United States. In the spring of 1890, a group of Slovak immigrant men established the SS. Peter and Paul Society. In 1893, this society was accepted as Branch 82 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The goal of the group was to establish a parish to serve the growing Slovak community. Permission was finally granted by Archbishop Michael Corrigan and the parish was incorporated in October 1897. When construction of the new church began in the spring of 1898, the foundation was dug by the Slovaks themselves. The local brickyards contributed 100,000 bricks for the new church. The church was completed by the end of the year. The first Mass was celebrated in the new church on January 14, 1899 by the first pastor, the Rev. Frantisek Januschek. On July 25, 1899, the church was solemnly dedicated by the Most Rev. Michael Corrigan, Archbishop of New York. Like other Slovak parishes, keeping a pastor was a challenge. From 1899 to 1907, a total of 14 priests served the parish. Finally, stability arrived with the appointment of the Rev. Leo Blaznik in 1907. Although of Slovenian ancestry, Father Blaznik spoke fluent Slovak. He remained in the parish until his death in 1926. A new chapter of the parish began with the appointment of the Rev. William J. Remy as pastor in 1926. Of Slovak ancestry, the family name was originally Remitsky. Under his leadership, the parish flourished with nearly 300 active families during his long pastorate. His leadership abilities were recognized when Pope John XXIII named him a Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor in 1960. He remained as pastor until his retirement in 1972. He continued to reside in the rectory until his death in 1979.

Following the retirement of Msgr. Remy, a number of priests served the parish, including Msgr. Thomas Dunn, Msgr. Edmund Hammer, Rev. Peter K. Meehan, Msgr. John Steltz, and the Rev. Mario Zicarelli. The last pastor to serve the community is Msgr. Robert J. McCabe. Members of St. Mary's Parish were instrumental in establishing the annual Slovak Day Pilgrimage held every August at the nearby Salesian Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians in West Haverstraw.

Slovaks began settling in another Hudson River town, that of Yonkers in the late 1880s. The expansive Alexander Smith Carpet Mills, the Otis Elevator Company and other thriving mills offered abundant opportunities for employment for non-English speaking immigrants. In January 1891, a group of Slovak immigrant men organized the Holy Trinity Society. This society was accepted that year as Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The society's desire was to establish a parish for Slovaks in the city. The first collection for the new church amounted to \$22.64. The group conducted a census and found that there were more than 150 Slovak families interested in becoming members of the new parish. Permission was granted by Archbishop Michael Corrigan to establish a parish for the Slovaks under the patronage of the Most Holy Trinity Parish. The parish was incorporated in October 1894 and the parish welcomed its first pastor, the Rev. John Palakovich in the spring of 1895. The first church in Yonkers was dedicated by Archbishop Corrigan on July 9, 1895. Following Father Palakovich's departure in 1896, the parish was served by six priests, including a German and an Irishman until 1904. Stability began in 1904 with the arrival of the Rev. Julius Szabo. The parish continued

to expand and a new church was dedicated in 1910. Father Szabo invited the Dominican Sisters of Sparkhill, N.Y. to staff the parish school which opened in the fall of 1911 in the old church. In the fall of 1913, Father Szabo decided to visit his native Slovakia. Unfortunately, with the onset of World War I there, Father Szabo never returned to Yonkers. Fortunately in 1912, the Rev. John J. Kubasek was the first Slovak to be ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of New York. Following his ordination, Father Kubasek was assigned as an assistant at Most Holy Trinity. Following Father Szabo's departure for Europe, he was named administrator and in 1914 appointed pastor.

The fruitful pastorate of Father Kubasek, would continue until his death in 1950. A new convent was completed in 1914. He decided to invite the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius of Danville, Pa. to take charge of the school, arriving in September 1924. The cornerstone for the new school was blessed in 1925 and more than 500 students moved into the new facility in September 1926. The highest enrollment in the new school was 544 during the 1929-1930 school year. The flourishing parish of more than 500 active families was ably led by Father Kubasek who also played an important role in the emancipation of the Slovaks from Hungarian rule. During World War I, he enjoyed a close collaboration with General Milan R. Stefanik and Czech leaders. As president of the Slovak Catholic Federation, he was a signer of the Pittsburgh Agreement in 1918 which would guarantee autonomy for the Slovaks in the newly proposed Czecho-Slovak Republic. The republic's first president, Thomas G. Masaryk offered a position to Father Kubasek in the country's new government. Father Kubasek declined and instead remained as the Yonkers pastor and leader of the American Slovak community. Although blind from the late 1920s, Father Kubasek remained as an active, dedicated and loving pastor.

In 1950, the Rev. Andrew A. Novajovsky was named pastor. Under his direction the parish debt was paid and improvements were made to the parish plant. In 1959 the church was completed renovated and a new organ dedicated in 1960. In 1961, in recognition of Father Novajovsky's efforts, Pope John XXIII named him a Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor. Under his leadership, the liturgical changes as mandated by the Second Vatican Council were fully implemented into the life of the parish, including the introduction of the Mass celebrated in Slovak. He remained as pastor until his retirement in November 1969.

The Rev. Joseph E. Pacacha, a native of Slovakia who arrived in Yonkers as a child, and was raised in the parish, was appointed pastor in December 1969. He remained until January 1985. In March 1985 the Rev. James S. Pfeiffer arrived initially as administrator and then was named pastor. With changing demographics and declining enrollment, Most Holy Trinity School closed in June 1986, with the Sisters of SS. Cyril Methodius completing their ministry in the parish. Succeeding Father Pfeiffer as pastor was the Rev. Anthony J. Pleho who remained as pastor until 2008. The Rev. George Oonnoony was the last pastor serving until July 1, 2014. Since then, the parish has been ably served by the Rev. Susai Anthony D as administrator. A closing celebration on the parish's patronal feast has been scheduled for Trinity Sunday, May 31 with a Mass at 3 p.m. followed by a dinner in the parish social hall. The dinner will feature traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with beer, wine and soda. Cost of the dinner tickets are \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children ages 12 and younger. Children under the age of seven are welcome free of charge. Advance reservations only. For reservations, call the rectory at (914)963-0720. Deadline for reservations is May 18.

The closing of yet another three Slovak parishes in the New York Archdiocese while not a pleasant thought, testifies to the strong faith of Slovak immigrants who built and sustained them for more than a century. The ministry of these parishes has concluded, however their legacy is an example for generations to come.

Branch 259's Steven E. Yuhas Receives 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from Cardinal Mooney High School

Atty. Steven E. Yuhas, a 1978 graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School, has received the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from Cardinal Mooney High School, Youngstown, OH, for demonstrating a continuing concern and dedication for others - embracing the school's motto "Sanctity, Scholarship, and Discipline." He has continued to seek out support from his classmates for his Alma Mater by serving as a "phone-a-thon" volunteer, along with many other endeavors.

Steven received his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Dayton (UD) in 1982 and his Juris Doctor from its School of Law three years later. He has practiced law for 29 years and is associated with the firm of Thorson, Switala, Mondock, and Snead in Dayton, OH.

As a 20-year board member, two-term president of the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, a program Steven co-founded in 1988 to provide free legal assistance to those in need, he was awarded the 2001 University of Dayton's School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award for this work, and his other community service work.

From 2002 to 2010, Steven served as President of the UD School of Law Alumni Board and, in recognition of his life of service, the Law School created a special award in his name, which is given annually. He was the first recipient and was cited for extraordinary service to the Alumni Association, the School of Law and its students, and to the community.

In 2011, Steven created an Endowment Scholarship at the Law School in the name of his parents, Eugene and Rosemarie Yuhas.

He has made many national and international mission trips - including Jamaica, Guatemala, and the Appalachians.

Steven and his wife Maureen are members of St. Albert the Great Church in Dayton, where he was on the parish council and served as council president in 2008. They have two children, Daniel and Katy, both of whom are attending the University of Dayton.

Steven and his parents, Eugene and Rosemarie Yuhas, are members of Branch 259, of Struthers, OH, where Eugene is President.

- Submitted by Vivian Sedlacko, Branch 259 Recording Secretary



Slovakia "The Old Country"

*Seeing its past, visiting in the present and looking forward to its future:
Highlights of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 2014 tour of Slovakia.*

James M. Bench

After landing in Vienna and following a quick walking/bus tour of that historical city, the group boarded a cruise boat bound for Bratislava. Although the hour plus ride on the Danube River was comfortable as well as scenic, many of the travel weary were lulled to sleep. Our bus, loaded with luggage made the trip to Bratislava sans passengers, but did meet us at the destination. A short walking tour followed for the hardy travelers prior to the evening meal. Thank goodness for the excellent accommodations offered by the Raddison Carlton Blu Hotel, as most were certainly ready for a restful sleep. Some of the more venturesome enjoyed a little of the night life, including young (18 years) and handsome Matthew Shiumo who accompanied grandparents, John and Frances Antonich on the tour. The Hacker brothers, John and Harry still with a lot of energy, were also among the night owls. It was evident that after a lifetime of professional truck driving the brothers adjusted better than most to the disruptive schedule and time change. John Kresovsky and his effervescent wife Rebecca, both ardent walkers, enjoyed a brisk walk, one of many to come as the tour progressed.

A goodnight's rest and an interesting bus/walking tour of the city consumed most of our first full day. Late afternoon and early evening featured a delicious meal of goulash, coupled with a seemingly endless wine tasting session. This welcome dinner is a constant on our tour in the suburb of Svätý Jur.

Bidding an early morning farewell to Bratislava, the tour headed to Trenčín with stops in the "Rome of Slovakia", Trnava, and Piešťany, famous for its treatment spas. It is always exciting to visit Trenčín and enjoy an extraordinary performance by the gold medal award winning youth folk group "Kornička." The group directed by a long time special friend Jozef Duraci, has competed in many European countries during various folk festivities usually winning the gold medal. A good example, being Paris, France and Madrid, Spain. We expect an extended visit in the July 2015 tour with the Duraci Family and "Kornička."

Travel toward the majestic Tatra Moun-



(L - R) Bob Matsko, Larry and Susan Sanders, Frances Antonich, Matthew Schiumo, Harry and John Hacker

tains included several stops such as Terchová, famous as the birthplace of the "Slovak Robin Hood," Juraj Jánošík. On the outskirts of Svätý Kríž is a famous historic wooden church, which had to be relocated from the town because of flooding. Quite an undertaking since no nails had been used in the construction. It was there that the group experienced "the old Slovakia" as indoor facilities were lacking. The outhouses were located in a wooded area somewhat distant from the church---or as guide Viera Marecova put it, "You have to go to the bush." It actually proved to be humorous, and all, especially the ladies adjusted with good humor. The church, old and in remarkable condition is worth seeing, and more than compensated for the "Bush Experience." We had also visited Rajec with the remarkable Slovak Bethlehem wood carving by Master Josef Pechar. In addition to the Nativity scene, there are hand carvings of all cathedrals in Slovakia with multiple action figures depicting cultural aspects of Slovakia, and all are powered by automobile windshield wiper motors---extraordinary when considering the talent and labor involved in this precise masterpiece.

The Tatra Mountains, revered by all Slovaks, offers a host of recreational opportu-

nities, in addition to awe inspiring beauty. Our hotel, The Grand Hotel Praha, is as its name denotes---grand. A ride on the Cog Railway and gondola lift exposed a breathtaking view. We observed at that time many Slovaks hiking up the mountainside. An exciting evening was spent in Stará Lesná at the Zbojnická Koliba or "shepherds hut". Owners Strojny and Bicko always extend a warm welcome to the Sister Cities Tour group, usually fully participating with us in the singing, dancing and overall celebrating, often to the consternation of other groups. A long held tradition is to cut off the necktie of any patron unfortunate enough to be wearing one. The ties are pinned and displayed on the surrounding walls. Prior to the visit, Kay Bench had packed ties for the entire group including guide Viera and bus driver Arnie. The owners smiled as the group entered the premises, appreciating the practical joke. Their immediate reaction was to express amazement at so many women wearing ties. Soon after they decided to have a tie cutting ceremony before our departure, using a large sharp machete. It was decided to incorporate the tie wearing in the future. Thanks to the women in the group for starting the Congo line which went everywhere and even through the kitchen, causing Slovak and other groups to consider us as crazy. An acknowledgement is in order for the highly talented Roma (gypsy) musicians who provided the music.

We watched dismally as rain continued on the day we attended the Kežmarok Folk Fair. The affair somewhat dampened spirits with its persistence however, exhibits, various displays, traditional foods, and daylong entertainment by folk groups on two different stages were worth experiencing despite the dismal day. The raft ride down the Dunajec River was soothing as always with the weather fully co-operating. The beauty of the canyons is a sight to behold. A horse and buggy ride back to meet the bus was available for those choosing not to walk.

Levoča, famous as a walled city, is also known as the "Holy City" with the majestic Cathedral of St. Jacob located in the town



At Koliba (L- R) John Kresovsky, Harry and John Hacker. Notice the ties on the wall!

square. The world's highest gothic wooden hand carved altar, by Master Pavol, is a favorite of the Slovaks. This lovely city is the destination of the annual pilgrimage (odpust) in early July. Slovaks walk for miles to visit Mariánska Hora or Mary's Mountain. Luckily we reached the site via bus, but many of the group walked to the spring that Mary had blessed. This is also the site of Pope John Paul's visit in which over 500,000 people including this writer attended Mass on the mountainside in July 1995.

Highly spiritual best describes the visit to Litmanová where apparitions of the Blessed Mother Mary occurred in the 1990's. Once again Geraldine Kovacina led the group in prayer and recitation of the rosary. Kay Bench read a prepared list of people remembered in our prayers. This holy place has grown considerably over the years with

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(L - R) Nancy Gura, Becky Kresovsky, Inky and John Kolecky

"The Old Country"

continued from page 6

a large chapel, gift shop, rest rooms and a road for small vehicles. The group departed with many taking bottles of water from the flowing spring that had been blessed by the Holy Mother.

Of the many highlights of the tour, the reception during the visit to our sister city, Spišská Nová Ves always is the centerpiece, and epitome of Slovak warmth, graciousness and hospitality. The formal and welcoming portion of the reception held in the city hall creates a lasting, pleasant experience for those fortunate to attend. Preceding the Mayor's entrance were vocal performances. Young Lucas Frederika sang so beautifully that there were many tears evident in the audience. The same could be said for Zuzanna Kleinova who in addition to singing talent is an administrative aide to Mayor Jan Volny. Her lovely voice is matched by beauty and charm.

Slovak television films the entire affair, beginning with the single file entrance to the governmental auditorium. Following Mayor Jan Volny's welcome and brief response from Youngstown Sister City representative, participants are called individually to approach and sign the official city registry. They are then greeted by the mayor and presented with a package of small gifts. Slovak television interviews some of the group which appears on the evening news as well as the internet. Following the ceremony, the group was led to the impressive Reduta Concert Hall for a sumptuous meal, informal socializing, and a few more vocals with pianist Elena Tancosova accompanying.

A surprise arranged by the popular Mayor and Deputy Mayor Lea Gretchkova who is also a prominent member of Slovak Parliament, was the performance of the highly acclaimed folk dance group, Kucina.

The little sense of sadness felt when leaving a pleasant area is balanced by an eagerness to see other sights, the most immediate being Košice, Slovakia's second largest city. The two days in Košice allowed time for shopping, visiting relatives, and of course enjoying the city. Our hotel, The Doubletree



Jerry and Ann Marie Hiznay

Hilton, is located in the city square, and in addition to excellent accommodations, the hotel's strategic location allows for independent venturing without the danger of getting lost. The Cathedral of St. Elizabeth, colorful fountains, water cascades and numerous historical sites are worth seeing in the restored city.

A well-deserved rest is available in Sliač in the luxurious Hotel Kaskády which is a well-known spa and treatment center. Resting in the thermal waters in the large indoor and outdoor pools has invigorating, and energizing qualities. A host of other treatments are available for those interested. Banská Bystrica, famous for the uprising in World War II, is located a short distance away. Our visit to this city included dinner at the Červený Rak Restaurant in their koliba reserved for our group each year. Joseph Mak, a good friend of good friend Professor John Biros joined us for dinner, and then entertained by singing songs from the area. In addition, the Mayor surprised us with a visit, greeting each person individually. Joseph Mak agreed that his entire musical group would perform for us in the July 2015 tour.

Free time in Nitra allowed the group to explore the business section of Nitra. As in previous years Father Martin Stefanec provided auto transportation to The Cathedral of St. Emeramus, which is the first church in Slovakia. Although the cathedral is located in Nitra, it is at the top of a steep hill and we are appreciative of Father Martin's thoughtfulness. While there, as in prior vis-

its we were permitted access to the Chapel of St. Pribana with its monastic choir niches or choir stalls. It is the place where monks chant in prayer. In order to demonstrate the variations of tones acquired in these indentations in the concrete wall, Susan Saunders, Justine Andur, and Geraldine Kovacina sang a song, marking the first time we filled the three niches.

A return to Bratislava marked the ending of the seventeenth Youngstown Sister Cities Tour. Our farewell dinner was significant because we were once again able to contract Samko Dudik to play the violin accompanied by his son on the cimbalom. Samko is highly recognized in Slovakia as was his father. His playing is simply magnificent. We were also treated to some really good dancing, especially Jerome and Ann Marie Hiznay and Anthony and Nancy Gura.

Thanks to John Kresovsky who organized a reunion for this tour, including Anne Marie Hiznay, (husband Jerome), Joyce Martin and daughter Justine Amdur, John Hacker, Henry Hacker and Kathleen Hudak Novicky. They were then united with relatives when the tour visited Betliar and surrounding areas. The presence of Robert and Janet Zumrick is always a welcome addition as they have been on several tours. Robert, an accomplished athlete in his younger days remains constantly enthusiastic and his humor reduces any isolated boredom. The Donald Kolecky story is a story in itself, too long for this article. Briefly, his unabashed love for Slovakia is most evident. His lovely wife Inky asserts that the tour has awakened a sleeping giant as Donald found quite a history within his Slovak family. This tour was fortunate to have had John Adan M.D. the Slovak born heart surgeon, with us for the third time, who seems to know everything about the economy, history, and anything worth knowing or not worth knowing. Always a terrific resource we are happy that he will be with us in the July 2015 tour. John Antonich, Slovak born, had previously made arrangements for a large party with relatives in Kosice. We heard it was a huge success lasting well into the night. While on the subject of the Antonich family, we will all fondly recall Frances singing some Irish songs with grace and loveliness when we were having dinner at the Cerveny Roc.

Tour friendships endure, and we can recall not only the sites visited, but also the people with whom we shared experiences. It is a certainty that Joyce Martin and daughter Justine Amdur will cherish time spent together in addition to meeting relatives. Joyce still lives near Pittsburgh, Pa. while Justine resides in Sarasota, FL, taking time off from her busy schedule in health services (sleep apnea). Kathryn Hudak Novicky remained enthusiastic, and participatory



(R - L) Justine Amdur and mother Joyce Martin

throughout the two week period despite back surgery weeks prior to the trip. Previously mentioned for their dancing, Anthony and Nancy Gura also met with Anthony's relatives. Although born in Slovakia, Anthony had not been in Slovakia for a long time. He was a big hit when interviewed by Slovak television at the reception in Spišská Nová Ves. Ann Marie Hiznay, and husband Jerome were a striking couple on the dance floor. Jerome confided that he had to learn various dances in preparation for their wedding reception. Between the two, they have decades of experience in the educational field in teaching and administration. Another highly impressive and personable couple, Larry and Susan Saunders, were in Slovakia for the first time. Highly educated, they appreciated the history, culture and music. It was discovered years ago that Larry had developed a severe allergy to beef and pork. It proved to be no problem for him, another example of adaptability.

A number of people on the tour could be referred to as seasoned veterans including Mona Lepis, Anne Lavelle, Geraldine Kovacina, and Robert Matsko. The trio of ladies could be classified as walkers and shoppers. Anne is highly knowledgeable in fabrics, and served as a consultant in that capacity. Geraldine Kovacina with advanced planning, purchased an oplatky maker which she used in making oplatky for their Jednota Štedrý Večer. Mona Lepis, Kay Bench's best friend dating back to nursing school has been on the tour four times. Bob Matsko, with many friends and relatives meeting him in various stops, is certainly a person who loves and values his Slovak heritage. What a great group! What a pleasure to associate with such great people!

***** We were profoundly saddened to learn that Larry Saunders died suddenly on November 21, 2014 and extend to Susan and family our most sincere condolences. According to Susan, she and Larry had given much thought to postponing plans for the 2014 tour until 2015. She is happy that opting for the 2014 tour allowed them to have enjoyed Slovakia together.**

About the author: James M. Bench is a Retired Professor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is the President of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Program and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union Supreme Court. Both Jim and wife Kay are members of Branch 181 United, PA. In July 2015 they will be hosting the 18th. Sister Cities tour of Slovakia.



Anthony Gura and wife Nancy



(L - R) Matthew Shiumo and Nancy Gura

Throwing out Morena Customs - Ending Winter

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. Ph.D.

After enduring one of coldest and snowiest winters in recent years, almost everyone is looking forward to spring. How many times have we not wanted to set winter on fire, and throw it down a river to burn up and float away. That is exactly what Slovaks did!

The Slovak tradition of throwing out winter is known as the Vynášanie Moreny (The Throwing out of Morena). The older children of a village created an effigy stuffed with straw and dress it in female clothing. Then they paraded around the village, sang songs, and either set fire to it and/or just drowned it in a nearby stream or river. This often occurred around Smrtná nedeľa (Death Sunday - the next to last Sunday before Easter) or near Kvetná nedeľa (Palm Sunday), as spring is arriving.

For Christians, the throwing out of Morena also symbolized the triumph over darkness and death caused by sin and the beginning of new life, a renewed life made possible through the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. On Kvetná nedeľa, young girls and boys would carry pussy willows (bahniatka) to symbolize this renewal of life and the hope of salvation.

Origins of Morena

Morena's origins stemmed from the Old Slavic pagan era, when she represented the ancient goddess of death, winter, and nightmares. Later Morena came to symbolize the witch of winter. In Slavic mythology, she was a young woman of about 20 years, and people hated her for bringing on cold and sickness. The ancient Slavs labeled her a host of different names, which in Slovak is associated with the words such as mor (terror or plague), or mora (nightmare): Marzanna (in Polish), Morė (in Lithuanian) or Morena (in Czech, Slovak, and Russian) and also Mara, Maržena, Morana, Morėna, Mora, or Marmora. Other names used in Slovakia included Smrtka, Kyselica, Kaniža, and Mariena.

Some scholars claim her origins stem from the Latvian goddess called Māra, who would supposedly swoop down and grab a person's body after death occurred. The 13th century Czech Christian encyclopedia, Mater Verborum, noted that Morena resembled the Greek goddess Hecate, whom the Ancient Greeks associated with witchcraft and sorcery. The 15th century Polish chronicler Jan Długosz believed Morena resembled Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture.

Other chroniclers have attributed Morena's name from the Latin word for death - mors. A few point out the Russian word mor meant "pestilence," and was often associated with plagues. Several Russian dialects use the word mara, which denotes a hallucination, phantom, or vision. Some scholars have also noted the similarity to the word mare, meaning a demonic spirit in Germanic and Slavic folklore. Regardless of the possible origins, Morena always carried a negative connotation and was associated with mortal ill fortune and death.

During the Middle Ages, adults and later priests would carry a figure of Morena and perform the tossing ceremony. By the 18th century, that changed and young girls of marriageable age were assigned the task of carrying Morena.

While the precise date for burning and throwing Morena into a stream or river always occurred around the start of spring, in the past the event most often occurred on the fourth Sunday of Lent, on Smrtná nedeľa. By the 20th century, most of Slovakia fixed the date around March 20-21. The folk tradition celebrated the end of winter and the start of new life. Today the folk custom still survives in some villages of the Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, and Slovakia.

Past Customs

More typically throughout Slovakia's history, teenage girls performed the task of sending Morena to her fate. Early on Death Sunday, or the night before, the girls would create Morena, each one donating an article of clothing. People in the village were happy to offer some old clothing for they believed they would be reward with tall flax (veľký ľan) during the growing season. Typically, young Slovak girls dressed up an old woman's figure (a few villages used an old man), which they made out of sticks in the shape of a cross or parts from an old broom, and stuffed it with straw. They put a dress on the figure of Morena and paraded her around the village.

The girls would often bring her to the church, prop her against the wall, and attend a Mass or religious service. After the service, they would go to the upper end of town, arrange



A typical Morena parade.



The taking out of Morena.

themselves into a parade with Morena in the middle, and walk to the lower end of the town to the bridge, singing as they went, usually accompanied by the young men who would shout out to the pretty girls.

In the Orava region of northern Slovakia, the girls, usually aged 14-18, would call out:

Slunko, slunečko, poj na moje líčko, dáme ti vajíčko. Otvárame vráta, dáme ti kus zlata.

Translation:

Sun, sunshine, shine on my cheeks, I am giving you an egg. We open the gate, we are giving you a piece of gold."

The girls would then go and meet some boys in the village who were carrying a similar figure whom they called Dedka. They dressed up the figure in the clothes of a young man and usually put a hat on its head. Like the girls, they also sang after the dressing up of the victim. When the girls arrived, the boys tried to get their Dedka to give Morena a kiss, but the girls tried to prevent it. Sometimes the boys succeeded and it all made for good theater. Then the groups divided up and proceeded to a stream or river. The boys would strip their Dedka and toss him in the water. Then the girls would sing as they disrobed Morena, before throwing her into the water. Usually much merriment and laughter accompanied this symbolic rite.

In some western Slovak villages, the girls would sing a folk song about Morena's fate in a Western Slovak dialect (the dialect is not as soft as the Slovak literary language which is based on a Central Slovak dialect). One may listen to the rhyme at this website, and read my translation below it (<http://datab.us/z9uHgMANyWw#Morena>).

Na volačej streše
holubienka nese, holubienka nese
tak ona hrkuta, tak ona hrkuta
Morenu nam pyta, Morenu nam pyta
My si ju nedame
až o Velkej noci, až o Velkej noci
bude sa vydavat, bude sa vydavat
fialkovem venci, fialkovem venci...

Translation

On someone's roof
a dove is sitting, a dove is sitting
and it is cooing, and it is cooing
asking us for Morena, asking us for Morena
We won't give her up
until Easter day, until Easter day
she will set of, she will set off
in a violet wreath...

In all Slovak regions, the pattern was similar. When they reached a bridge, a stream, or a river, they disrobed Morena, slipped her off the rod, set her afire, and tossed the blazing straw lady into the water. In some villages, after Morena was thrown into the river, each girl would also throw the piece of clothing she took off from Morena into the river and eagerly watch to see which piece of clothing would be the first to float to the shore. That might portend a future marriage. Then they tied red ribbons and silk kerchiefs on the rod, reassembled their parade form and proceeded singing along their way to the house of the mayor, who would reward them with money or a free meal for ridding the town of Morena.

During the ceremony of preparing Morena, the old witch (stará stryga), for her fate and as they threw the old lady (stará baba) to her liquid grave, they would sing. While in the USA, we might sing "Ding dong, the witch is dead," in Slovakia they would sing the following verse three times, as in this rendition from eastern Slovakia:

continued on page 9

Morena Customs - Ending Winter

continued from page 8

Ach Morena, Morena,
Pre koho žeš umrela?
My vieme, preto zaspievame:
Pre staré dievky,
Pre švarné dievky!

Translation:
Oh Morena, Morena,
Whom do you die for?
We know, therefore, we are singing:
For the old girls,
For the dark maidens!

The exact words of the song could vary from village to village, but the spirit of expelling winter and drowning of the old witch were common across Slovakia.

One may view an old film version of the traditional throwing out of Morena from the 1933 film *Zem spieva* (The Land Sings) at this website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozHtY2y62Pw>.

A more modern version of the ceremony from the town of Kanianka, in the Prievidza District in the Trenčín Region of western Slovakia, may be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-l7x2IOacE>. The children in the film plead for the sun to come out and mark the coming of spring (jar), and say that Easter (Veľká noc) is beckoning to arrive.

Following the ceremony, in some places, the young girls would return to their homes in silence, confident that the worst days of winter had passed and spring was just around the corner, with the promise of a good planting season, a bountiful harvest, and end of winter colds and flus.

In other places, a "little queen" led the girls, and led the way with a decorated twig (called a májrik or letečko) or bahniatka. Empty egg shells, colorful ribbons, and birds made of pasta decorated the branch. They collected eggs for Easter from folks nearby that they passed.

Generally for all Slovaks of long ago, as it is for us today, Kvetná nedela and early spring customs associated with it symbolized a time of hope and renewal. The long winter was finally ending, and prayer with the right ritual would bring about a bountiful and happy year. As Christ rose from the dead, so would the plants and spirits of the faithful arise in a new flowery celebration of life.

Here is yet another rendition of carrying away Morena from the source, Ludové piesne a koledy - Nesieme Morenu (Folk songs and carols - We carry away Morena).

<http://hudba.zoznam.sk/akordy/piesen/nesieme-morenu/> (Accessed March 7, 2015).

1. Nesieme Morenu, v oleji smaženú,
kde ju zanesieme, keď sa sami nevieme?

2. Na richtároch vráta, tam je veľa zlata,
richtárka dá zlatku, že má kamarátku.

3. Richtár keď ju zočí, svet sa s ním zatočí,
povie, to je krásna, dá nám celú prasa.

Translation:

1. We carry Morenu greased in oil,
where will we take her, we ourselves don't know?

2. To the village leader's gate, there is a lot of gold there,
the village leader will grant us gold, so he has a friend.

3. The village leader is face to face with her, the world revolves around him,
it is said, that if she is beautiful, he will give us a whole pig.

While getting a pig as a reward for throwing out Morena was not so common, it made for lots of fun and frolic in the acting out of the event in an age without television and movies.

Throwing out Morena in Modern Times

In Slovakia today, some youthful inhabitants take it upon themselves to enact the dewitching of the weather, or a Matica Slovenska branch might sponsor the event. Some schools sponsor a local field trip to toss out Morena with children in primary school and even in kindergarten. The children themselves would make the effigy and dress, and could vary in size from a small puppet to a life-size dummy. The children's enactment of throwing out the winter-witch Morena has helped preserve a long tradition in Slovak history.

So the tradition does continue, and has revived more since the fall of communism. For instance, at the Humanita farm, near Kráľová nad Váhom, just about an hour east of Bratislava, Morena is thrown into the Váh River as an annual event. The Humanita farma is a children's farm which aims to help preserve nature, good health and cultural traditions.

Similarly, the hiking club in Prešov in eastern Slovakia has kept celebrating this ritual for nearly 60 years to say good riddance to the cold winter and to welcome another hiking season. Prešov students and members of various hobby clubs created several Morena figures. The Prešov hiking club even hosted a creative competition which resulted in 20 different

entries. Then it gave an award to the best dressed Morena. Then the watersportsmen toss them down the Torysa River, which symbolically unlocks the waters to flow.

If we could do it in Slovakia, they could do it in America. A few years ago, several Slovak-Americans of the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands took it upon themselves to create a Morena and tossed her into the Conemaugh River, one famous for its spring floods.

There are many rivers in places like Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Youngstown, and elsewhere, so Slovak-Americans might think about reviving this tradition to keep it alive for the youth. Actions inspire them, and the Cuyahoga, Allegheny, Monongahela, Ohio, Mahoning, and other rivers provide plenty of opportunities to renew this most intriguing custom of our ancestors.

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VISIT SLOVAKIA---- "THE OLD COUNTRY"



Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as "the old country." Well now is the time for you to go to Slovakia and visit the ancestral homeland and villages of your family.

Join Kay and Jim Bench as they host the 18th annual Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Tour July 13-27, 2015.

See the capital of Slovakia—Bratislava, enjoy award winning folk groups, visit Litmanova where there were documented apparitions of the Blessed Mother appearing to

three school children in the 1990's, enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River, the natural border between Poland and Slovakia, visit villages such as Cicmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichy Potok, stay in a beautiful spa in Sliac and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools and other amenities. Visit relatives and enjoy a luncheon reception with our Sister City Spisska Nova Ves. There are many more activities and cities too numerous to mention in this short article. For further information call Jim or Kay Bench.

Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Contact Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-mail Paul@advintravel.com

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

Hey Kids.....

Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II
For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin

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

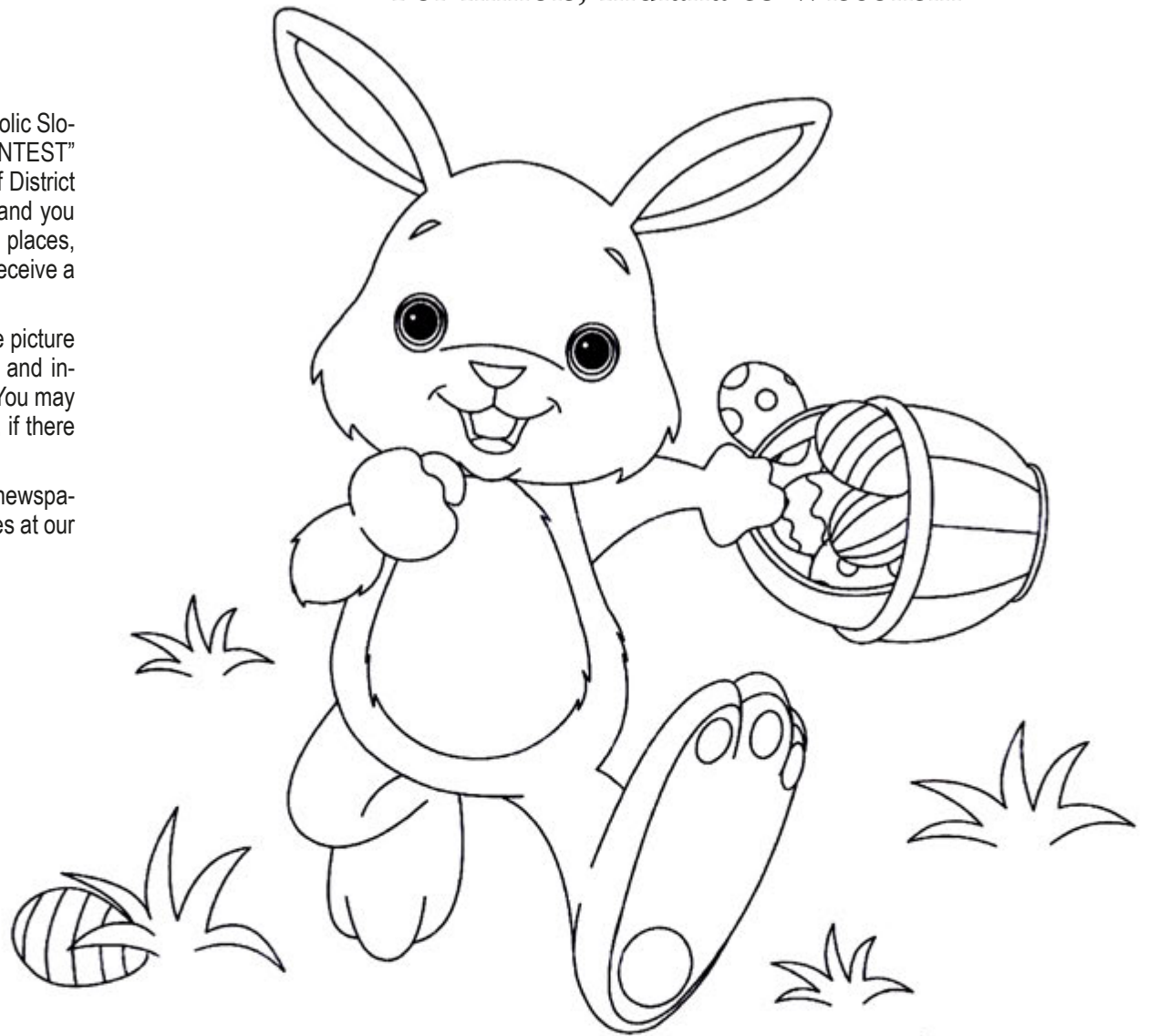
Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 14, 2015. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, if there are other children in family entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



ATTENTION POLKA LOVERS!

You are invited to a our 2nd Annual

POLKA BRUNCH

Cost: Only \$18.00 per person

Sunday, April 19, 2015, 10a.m. to 3p.m.

American Slovak Club

2915 Broadway, Lorain, Ohio



10:00 a.m. = Live Remote Broadcast of WDLW's
Polka Express Show featuring Tom Borowicz .

12:00 noon = Live Polka Concert by Jimmy K Polkas

Proceeds from this FUN-RAISING event will go to
Family & Community Services for the benefit of female
American Veterans and the American Slovak Society.

The Polka Brunch is presented by the American Slovak Club
and WDLW's "Polka Express" Radio Show.

For more information, call Len Zilko at 440-988-3236
or e-mail him at: nlen1@aol.com

Miss Czech Slovak Pageant

Since 1987, the Miss Czech Slovak US pageant has been produce heritage ambassadors for all Czechs and Slovaks across the United States. The Miss Czech Slovak US pageant awards over \$10,000 in cash and prizes to contestants across the United States . The 2015 Miss Czech Slovak US will win \$2000 cash and \$2500 towards a trip to the Czech or Slovak Republic . 1st Runner Up receives a \$1500 Cash Prize and 2nd Runner Up receives a \$1000 Prize. We also award the Best Ameri-canized and Authentic Kroj, Grand and Run-ner Up Talent, Best Oratory Skills, Lois Fiala Spirit Award, Miss Congeniality, Sokol Talent, and Heritage Involvement.

All contestants must be between the ages of 16-26, female, unmarried and of Czech, Slovak, Silesian, or Rusyn decent. Contestants must compete in all for competition categories. Contestants must be present for all three days of competition and complete the official rules and regulations.

The Miss Czech Slovak US pageant will be held August 1 and 2, 2015 in Wilber, NE. All pageant entries must received by June 1 .

Currently 9 states: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin have state pageants where state queens are crowned to represent their state at nationals. All other states are welcome to participate at the national pageant - through our at-large program.

As the current Miss Czech-Slovak US, I would love to answer any questions you may have about our pageant. Please feel free to call me at (816) 896-0719 or email me at missczechslovakus14@gmail.com or feel free to contact me on Facebook. You can find more information about the pageant along with our application at our website: <http://www.missczechslovakus.com>



Morgan McMichen Miss Czech-Slovak US 2014-15



10th EGG EggSTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015
12:00 NOON – 5:00pm

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

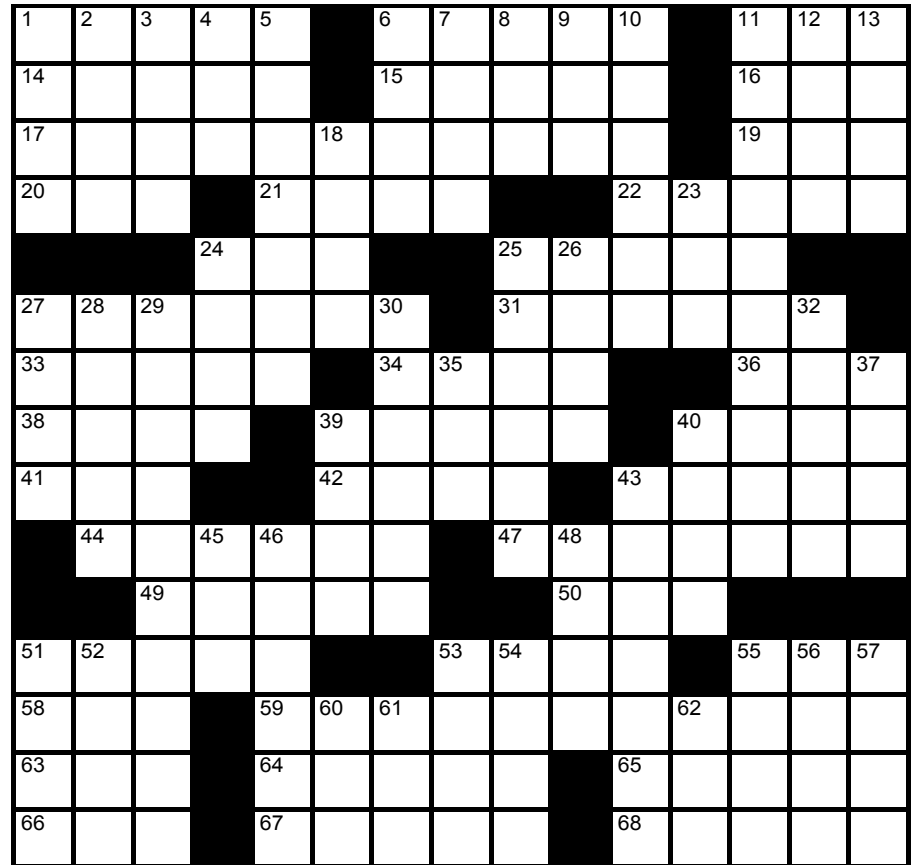
“Experience the traditions”

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

Sponsored by GCU Lodge #81, Local Egg Artists, and St. John’s Ethnic Craft Club

For More Information Contact: 724-438-6027 M-F 9AM-3PM

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2015 PuzzleJunction.com

Jednota Golf League Season Starts



Prior to the start of play, the Jednota Golf League will hold an organizational meeting on Sunday March 22, 2015, at 1:30pm at the Restaurant of Knoll Run Golf Course, 1421 Struthers Coitsville Rd, Lowellville, OH 44436.

League play will start on Friday, April 10, 2015, at 4:00PM, at Knoll Run. Members and new members are invited to attend. For more information, call Paul at 234-855-1233(H) or 330-397-8337(C).

- Submitted by Paul Ritz, League Secretary

Across

- 1 Code name
- 6 Fragrant oil
- 11 Beetle, e.g.
- 14 Decorate
- 15 Charter
- 16 Poetic homage
- 17 Newspaper features
- 19 Bag thickness
- 20 Bard’s before
- 21 Writer Uris
- 22 Vacant
- 24 Barnyard male
- 25 Country estate
- 27 Bane
- 31 Alternative
- 33 Set apart
- 34 Papal name
- 36 Floor cleaner
- 38 Hair line
- 39 Untrue
- 40 Ceremony
- 41 Picnic crasher
- 42 Bonanza finds
- 43 Attaches with heat
- 44 Repeat marks
- 47 Heartfelt
- 49 Unrefined
- 50 Steamy
- 51 Bay window
- 53 Quaint dance
- 55 Not at work
- 58 Darjeeling, e.g.
- 59 Mix
- 63 Night spot
- 64 Galley slaves
- 65 Reef material
- 66 Call for help
- 67 Stockholm native
- 68 Used a broom

Down

- 1 Defensive spray
- 2 Scent
- 3 City on the Tiber
- 4 Hindu honorific
- 5 Confine
- 6 Choir voice
- 7 Gull relative
- 8 ___ chi (martial art)
- 9 Venom source
- 10 Take offense at
- 11 Give and take
- 12 Mine entrance
- 13 Count on
- 18 Big rig
- 23 Me (Fr.)
- 24 Camping gear
- 25 Puddinglike dessert
- 26 Vaulted recess
- 27 CA wine valley
- 28 African antelope
- 29 Undertakers
- 30 Meager
- 32 Greenbacks
- 35 ___-de-France
- 37 Nuisance
- 39 Nourishment

- 40 Little squirt
- 43 Gambols
- 45 Three (It.)
- 46 Dutch export
- 48 Attention-getter
- 51 Singer Redding
- 52 Nevada city
- 53 Split
- 54 Gaelic language
- 55 Fiend
- 56 Envelope part
- 57 Sensed
- 60 Modern
- 61 Corn site
- 62 This instant

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2015

April 22

May 6

May 20

June 10

July 15

August 12

Sept 9

Sept 23

October 7

October 21

November 4

November 18

December 9

April 13

April 27

May 11

June 1

July 6

August 3

August 31

Sept 14

Sept 28

October 12

October 26

November 9

November 30

See Solution on Page 18

2014 JEDNOTA COLORING

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6



Ashton Lewis
First Place

2nd Place:
no entries
3rd Place:
no entries

..... Age Group 7-9



Owen White
First Place



Luke Griffis
Second Place



Peter Monks
First Place

..... Age Group 10-12



Hunter Lewis
Second Place

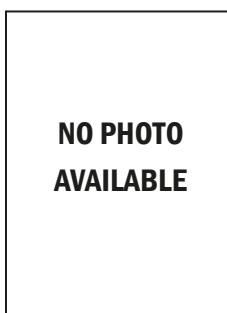


REGION 2

..... Age Group 10-12



Ethan White
Second Place



Erich Diehl
Third Place

No Entries



REGION 3

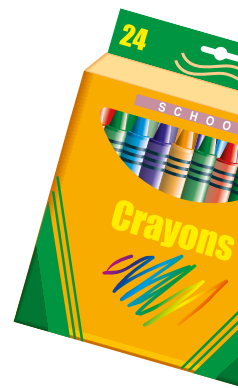
..... Age Group 4-6



Bridget Fay
First Place



Aiden Carone
Second Place



REGION 3

..... Age Group 4-6



Kayla Pecko
Third Place



Julia Rudat
First Place



Charles Pafford
Second Place



Maya Pluto
Third Place

..... Age Group 10-12



John Slovenkai
First Place
Norfolk, MA



Justin Pecko
Second Place
Browndale, PA



REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6



Briana Slovenkai
Third Place



Sam Dlugos
First Place



Jacob Owens
Second Place



Grace Beal
Third Place

..... Age Group 7-9



Abby Dlugos
First Place



Lizzy Dlugos
Second Place



CONTEST RESULTS, PART I

REGION 4

Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



Eric Childs
Third Place



Danny Dlugos
First Place



Emily Davis
Second Place



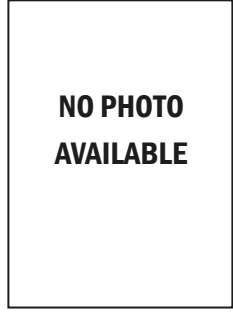
Rebecca Catherman
Third Place

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6



Marlee Liebold
First Place



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Camille Berg
Second Place

REGION 5

Age Group 4-6

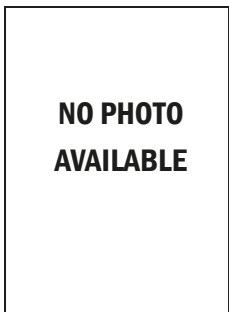
..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Samantha Matta
Third Place



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Madeline Berg
First Place



Janelle Meinert
Second Place



Josiah Meinert
Third Place



Rachel Katekovich
First Place



Jaime Meinert
Second Place

REGION 6

Age Group 10-12

..... Age Group 4-6

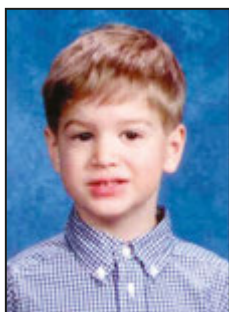
..... Age Group 7-9



Keilana Leibold
Third Place



Natalie Wascovich
First Place



John Valencik
Second Place



Sophia Carny
Third Place



Allison Gizewicz
First Place



Kailey Smith
Second Place

Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



Marianne Tassinari
Third Place



Kaylin Tassinari
First Place



Rylee Smith
Second Place



Ethan Joiner
Third Place

Congratulations to all our Coloring Contest Winners, including those to be published in Part II in the next (April 22) issue.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold their meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2015. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Ave., NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Mass Club is Father Dargay Hall.

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

Faternally,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2015, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

District 2 will have its annual outing on Sunday, May 17, 2015. It will be a Brunch and Play at the Center for Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana starting at 12:45 pm. The normal price for this event is \$56.50.

The District subsidizes this event. In addition, Branch 153 will also subsidize this event for its members. Branch 153 members who attended last year will pay \$15.75. Branch 153 members who have never attended this event will pay \$18.25. Non members will pay \$56.50.

Please join us for this event. If you decide to attend, please call Dorothy at 773 763 0810 before March 29, 2015. Prepayment is necessary and you must call before March 29.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 163K – JOLIET, ILLINOIS

There has a merger between Branch 163K, Joliet, IL and Branch 493K, Chicago, IL has taken place as of March 05, 2015.

All members of Branch 163K will now hold membership in Branch 493K.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

Robert M. Magruder, 604 Sunnyside Place, Louisville, KY 40223, (502) 244-6643.

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at 1:15 P.M., at Hibachi Grill and Sushi Supreme Buffet, Town Square Mall, 2433 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 24, 2015, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at 11:30AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran t (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society Branch 380 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at Kings Restaurant, Canonsburg, PA, at 2:00PM.

Margaret Graytok

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 1:00PM at the home of the recording secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St. Allentown, PA.

On the agenda will be a report regarding the fundraiser which was held in November 2014.

We will also discuss ideas for a fundraiser for 2015.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed and Happy Easter!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart Branch 580 will hold a meeting on April 19, 2015, after the 9:30AM Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall at 529 Grant Ave. Ext., West Mifflin, PA, 15122. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Please note that the monthly meeting has been

changed. Starting in March, branch meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 2PM. All meetings and events are held at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St., Muskegon Heights, MI.

Other events at the Hall:

March 22 Sunday, all you can eat breakfast: \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon best breakfast in town!

There will be no polka dance in April due to Easter. Hope to see you in May.

April 19 Sunday, monthly branch meeting 2pm.

April 26 Sunday, all you can eat breakfast: \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon best breakfast in town!

Susan Hornik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 2:30PM, Branch 682 will hold a meeting at MRL, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH. On the agenda: branch activities for the year. All members are encouraged to attend.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 717K – ANTIOCH, ILLINOIS

There has been a merger between Branch 717K Antioch, IL and Branch 153K Chicago, IL.

All members of Branch 717K will now hold membership in Branch 153K.

This merger has taken place as of March 05, 2015.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

DOROTHY M JURCENKO
7113 W TALCOTT AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60631-2436
(773) 763-0810

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate our Patron Saint Mass on March 22, 2015. The liturgy is at 11 am at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Mathias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 735 - PORTLAND, OREGON

The Branch 735KJ Annual Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner will be Sunday, April 12, 2015, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church at NW 19th & NW Xavier with the meeting beginning at 1:00 pm and dinner served at 1:30 pm. Turkey breast slices will also be available. Included with dinner will be mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, green salad with dressing, bread, coffee, tea and punch. Please bring a dessert to share. The cost for the dinner will remain the same as last year: \$4.00 per person and \$12.00 for an immediate family of four or more. No reservations necessary.

For more information, contact: Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, P.O. Box 220, North Plains, OR 97133-0220; 503-647-4600 (h); 503-314-5065 (c); 503-647-5840 (f); email: hirst@q.com or chirst811@gmail.com.

Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding our next meeting Tuesday April 14, 2015, at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA.

Allow me to introduce myself my name is Joseph Yackovich. I am your new president of Branch 738. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Only a few members are attending are meetings. We hold two meetings a year. What do we need to do to encourage you to attend these meetings? We need you input on how to get our members to participate in our meetings. Also we need members to run for office.

On our agenda is our member appreciation din-

ner which will be held in October of 2015. I am also proposing a bowling outing for children 7 to 15 which will be sponsored by Branch 738. The bowling outing will be held at Playmor Bowling Alley.

Knowing that everyone does not always have time to read the Jednota paper we are encouraging everyone to call their sons, daughters, grandchildren or anyone that you know that is a member of Branch 738 and encourage them to attend the meeting. Pizza and drink will be served at the end of the meeting.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 22, 2015, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:00 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

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 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will be hosting a lunch at St. Mary/St Joseph; 131 West Quarry St. Newton Falls, OH on March 22, 2015 at 12 noon. The tentative menu will be baked chicken, parsley potatoes, salad, bread, dessert, coffee and a punch. A free will offering will be accepted.

Officers for 2015 were recently elected: Bill Hrusovsky, President; Fred Brunetti, Vice-President; Joy Brunetti, Secretary; and Rosemary Heald, Auditor.

If you are interested in FCSU Annuities with great interest rates, Life Insurance, or Wealth Transfer with Single Premium Whole Life Insurance please call Fred Brunetti at 330-240-4142 or George Yuricek at 330-394-8249.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold its annual Easter Mass on Sunday, March 29, 2015. The celebration begins at 4:00PM with Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Paul II Church Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA, 92886.

Children will enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

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

The meeting will follow in the cafeteria, with a light dinner, dessert and refreshments being served.

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

Faternally yours,

Milan Konkol, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON D.C. AND AREA

Branch 856 will hold their first meeting of the New Year on Sunday April 19, 2015, at 1:30 pm. in the home of Marion Mistrik at 4513 Gladwyne Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. On the agenda will be a discussion on what activities our branch could do for our members. All members are invited to join this meeting. Please call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Stephen Matula ay 703-671 -3013 for directions.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 11-20, 2015



Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village visits available.

For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

Robert Tapak Magruder, District Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm with soft drinks. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the agenda will be officer reports and 2015 by-law changes. Also on the agenda will be information regarding the possible merger of designated "home office branches" in our district.

Branch 774 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 15th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one district meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District extends its condolences to the family of Regis Brekosky, Region 5 Director Emeritus. Rege also served as President of Jednota Properties, Inc and as an officer in Branch 738.

Branch 35 will host the spring business meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 1PM at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. Branch 35 requests an RSVP by April 1. Please contact Janet Sullivan at 412-824-4185. Branch officers are asked to update their email addresses with the secretary at this meeting.

Branch 738 will host the Fathers Day brunch on Sunday, June 21. Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. More details will be provided at the spring meeting. Branch 38 will host the annual winter meeting at a date to be determined later.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meetings, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: Apr 6 - Western PA Slovak Radio Hour, May 4 - Velvet Revolution to the European Union, June 1 - Sites to see in Slovakia.

** Slovak Mass & Easter Customs Breakfast, Saturday, March 21 at St Adelbert Church, Pittsburgh South Side. Rosary starts at 9:45. Prince of Peach Parish Center: Slovak food and cultural displays from 11 AM.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 16, 2015. Tickets available at the district Fathers Day Brunch.

** Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center – see www.pghfolkfest.org/

** Tour of Slovakia with the Senko's – August 23 to September 2, 2015 – Includes Vienna and Budapest. Contact Joe Senko for information about the itinerary.

** Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

** If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities, some of which have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations.

See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

** FCSU information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com

Anyone with additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice should send information to manasta@verizon.net

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET, AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, beginning at 2:00PM. The meeting will be held in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Graham Ave., Windber, PA, with Branch 292, St. John the Baptist, as the host.

On the agenda will be a discussion on the problem of vacant district offices; also other matters concerning the district. Member branches may pay their dues at this meeting and are reminded of the requirement to have a delegate from their branch attend one yearly meeting to receive the annual stipend.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 - REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

It will be held in the Auditorium of the Wesley Enhanced Living Complex, 8401 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152.

There is private parking available behind the building.

Mass will be at 11AM in the auditorium.

Dinner will be served immediately after Mass.

The meeting will start at 1PM.

Dinner will be catered, therefore reservations are required by March 10, 2015. The cost is \$20.00 per person. That includes the dinner and sandwiches following the meeting.

For directions, please call the Secretary of Branch 55 at 215-637-6530 or the President at 610-356-7956.

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 19, 2015, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Msgr. Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 13 - JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District #13 will hold a semi-annual meeting on March 8, 2015, following a complimentary luncheon. The time is 2:00pm at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, 16666, on Route 53 South from Philipsburg, PA, 16866.

All members from Branches 007K, 149K, 198P, 233K, 299K, 333K, 417K, 456K, 623K, and 667K are welcome to attend.

2015 district dues are due and can be brought to the meeting or sent to Rosemary Deliman, District Financial Secretary, at 203 Dogwood Drive, Philipsburg, PA, 16866.

Please contact via phone or fax: Rosemary at 814 342 5592 or e-mail rosemarydeliman@me.com if you are able to attend.

Rosemary Deliman, District Financial Secretary

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold Meeting on Palm Sunday March 29, 2015. Celebration begins at 4:00 PM with Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Paul II Church, Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886.

The Meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After meeting will be a period of fraternal fellowship and light diner, dessert and refreshments will be served. Children will enjoy traditional Easter Egg hunt.

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

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

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, District President

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHIDIUS DISTRICT

The Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 of Broome County in New York and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in the Shrine Meeting Room of St. Ann's Basilica Parish, 1250 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA.

District treasurer and auditors will meet at 12:30 P.M. to audit the books. The meeting will follow at 1:00 P.M.

On the agenda will be the following: auditors' report, Commemorative Memorial Brick, District dues, District summer picnic, donations for 2015, and the Regional Director's Report.

Refreshments will be served.

All branches are urged to send a branch representative. To confirm attendance, branches should contact President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 by Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., District President

16th Edition of Carpathian Cookbook Now Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 16th printing, having sold over 15,500 copies, is available for sale. This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes,

suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 438-6027 (9AM-3PM) for more information. You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.

11th CONSULAR TOUR TO SLOVAKIA

August 23, 2015 to September 2, 2015 Escorted by Joseph & Albina Senko



Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko has visited Slovakia 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. His wife, Albina, was born and raised in Slovakia. With their experience, they have created a customized tour for 2015 which will take you across Slovakia. Each night, we will stay at a first class hotel. Over 270 people from the United States have enjoyed these tours with Joe and Albina.

In addition to touring many historic towns in Slovakia, we will also visit famous historic sites in neighboring countries - Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. Our tour of Slovakia will take us from west to east through Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Trnava, known as the "Little Rome" of Slovakia; Modra, where we will be seeing a demonstration in a ceramic factory; the world famous spa town of Piešťany; historic Banská Bystrica; the High Tatras; the famous town of Levoča; Bardejov, which is included in the UNESCO list; Presov, the sister city or Pittsburgh; and Kocise, the second largest city in Slovakia.

In addition to visiting several famous castles and museums, we will enjoy listening to live folk music, touring many historic churches, and dining in several typical Slovak restaurants.

Unique to this tour is: receiving a spa treatment; attending a mock Slovak wedding; rafting on the Dunajec river; several wine tastings and meeting with several Slovak dignitaries.

As we travel through the various regions of Slovakia, we can make arrangements for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages at an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour. The 11 days you will spend with us will be enjoyable, educational and you will be pleasantly surprised what Slovakia has to offer visitors.

For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. For a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule and restrictions, contact Joe Senko.

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Irene M Jurcisin	108K	Dolores K Ward	380K	Cecelia Ann Petro	682K	Cyril A Balas
001K	Andrew J Timko Jr	112K	Edward Pucklavage	393K	Anna N Mangini	682K	John P Pompura
001P	Edward L Gombeda	152K	Theresa D Oplinger	410K	Joseph A Smolley	682K	Helen D Sklenar
002K	Edward Franek	153K	Joseph G Behm	414K	Phyllis G Lute	701K	Eleanor R Long
002K	Joseph C Reggie	153K	Millicent T Lazzara	419K	Richard A Muzyka	701K	Paul A Mazak
003K	Margaret Dorothy Riley	153K	Edward J Zolna	419K	Mary Ann Navin	701K	John L Misho
016P	Frank Drobenak	156K	Eleanore E Takacs	419K	Anna Sroka	731K	Donald J Gilliland
019K	Margaret D Bak	157K	Edward J Danko	419K	Bernadine Ann Sterowski	731K	John P Kish Iii
019K	Wilhelmina Fowler	157K	Jeffrey James Jacksits	450K	Irene M Stacko	731K	Mary J Voytko
023K	Margaret R Filo	165K	Paul John Zohorsky Jr	484K	Mary E Ceparski	738K	Regis P Brekosky
023K	Josephine L Maschak	173K	Richard John Skovira	484K	Robert R Oravetz	743K	Caroline L Meyer
023K	Frank J Richnavsky	175K	Agnes M Marino	497K	Dorothy A Karas	743K	Albert E Sotak
023K	Margie P Saloka	175K	Frank J Vernon	512K	Pauline Andiorio	743K	Marie Rosalie Zulkey
024K	Jeanne P Carrick	181K	Jessica Marie Adamczyk	512K	Elizabeth Miliczki	746K	John T Balas
024K	Cecilia A Filicko	181K	Anna M Marcinik	512K	Diana V Storkel	746K	George L Dillman
024K	Gerald Joseph Krajcer	199K	Louise H Martin	512K	John E Yakubisin	764K	Pauline T Gombos
035K	Richard J Lopatta	200K	Dolores P Labay	567K	Frank M Brinkac	796K	Helen T Farkas
038K	Charles D Kinner	240P	Ronald J Klimowski	567K	Donald Chlebove	796K	Joan E Skrapits
038K	Arnold W Krohmaly	240P	Robin M Spano	567K	Victoria J Terplan	831K	Ann T Breznican
038K	Helen Panichelli	259K	Eugene P Hvizdak Sr	580K	Violet Mary Palatas	855K	Wilma Anna Bognar
060K	Paul M Radvansky	259K	Mary Pachell	580K	Agnes M Romanchak	855K	Piroska Merai
075K	Theresa M Zimmerman	260K	Kathryn E Shurell	580K	Philip M Sabol	855K	Patricia Zele
083K	Michael J Hrubos	293K	Liboria F Kubica	580K	George L Thomas	857K	Mary Deitz
085K	Michael E Maceyko	320K	Andrew G Bury	581K	Linda Skalka	857K	Rose M Rhoades
085K	Gabriel Monteleone	324K	Ann M Longi	618K	George A Hovanec Sr	888K	Nicholas Hatalski
086K	Albert B Melego	333K	Ronald J Kuzila	618K	Agnes H Kempf	916K	Charlene M Hubert
086K	Cecilia D Rosendale	362K	Irene R Zambori	652K	Richard T Johanes	924K	Gertrude M Kuplinski
096K	Marianne J Christian	367K	Andrew V Bohatch Jr	652K	Richard P Kerwick	924K	Joseph La France
108K	Francis B Kostelnik	367K	Frances L Plishka	670K	Margaret S Pascarella		

*Processed through the month of February 2015

OBITUARIES

MARGARET E. SHEBA BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Margaret E. Sheba passed away on February 15, 2015, at age 90. Beloved wife of the late George A.; loving mother of Gregory; dear grandmother of Michael, Jennifer, and Phillip; sister of Anne Helisek, Josephine Franks, Agnes Jubeck, Joseph Pompura, Mary Hunter, Frances Bendo, Stephanie Kremposky, John Pompura, George Pompura, Patricia Androsky and the following deceased: Michael, Frank and Peter Pompura; dear aunt to many nieces and nephews. Friends called at Vodrazka Funeral Home of Independence, OH, on Friday, February 20, 2015, from 5 - 9 PM. Prayer services were held at the funeral home Saturday, February 21, 2015, at 8:45AM, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, Cleveland, OH, at 9:30AM. Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland.

MICHAEL MACEYKO BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

Michael E. Maceyko 91, of Jessup, died Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at Mountain View Care Center.

His wife of 69 years is the former Josephine Tomas.

Born in Jessup, PA, he was the son of the late Michael and Mary Gorel Maceyko. He was a graduate of St. Patrick's School in Olyphant, PA, and was employed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and later worked for Woodlawn and Dairylea Dairies for many years until his retirement. He was a member of Queen of Angels Parish, St. Michaels Church and was active as an usher and for-

mer president of the Holy Name Society.

He was a member of Teamsters local 229.

Also surviving are two daughters, Patricia Gatto and husband Thomas, Old Forge, and Colette Pagnotti and husband Dominic, Midlothian, VA, a son Michael Maceyko and wife Ann, Moosic Lakes, a brother, Edward, Warminster, PA, grandchildren; Christopher Gatto, Alissa Roswick, Matthew, Marcus and Morgan Maceyko, and step grandchildren, Celina, Bianca and Aleya Palfrey and three great grandchildren, and two nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Brian Gatto.

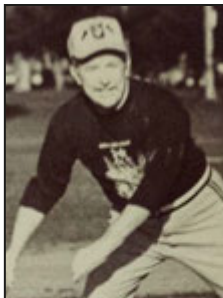
The family would like to thank the staffs at Mountain View Care Center and the Old Forge Manor for their exceptional care, kindness and compassion.

The funeral was Saturday, January 24, 2015, from the Louis M. Margotta Funeral Home, Jessup with Mass at St. Michael's Church at 10:30am. Interment followed in the Parish Cemetery. Friends called that Saturday morning from 9 to 10 AM at the funeral home.

- Submitted by Patricia Gatto

EDDIE ZOLNA SR BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Eddie Zolna Sr. of Frankfort, IL, died Tuesday January 20, 2015, at his home in Frankfort, IL, of Alzheimer's complications. Born on September 15, 1929, the youngest of five born to John and Johanna Zolna, Slovak barkeeper parents who ran Zolna's tavern at 51st & Washtenaw in Chicago, IL.



Eddie's assembled, managed and pitched for his team the "Bobcats" as they won 12 national titles throughout the 1960s-1970's. He was Chicago's 16 inch "Mr. Softball" and was the only 16 inch slow pitch softball player inducted into the Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, in Oklahoma, besides the Illinois and Chicago ASA Hall of Fame. He was the chairman of the March of Dimes "Sno-Ball Softball" tournaments held annually in January throughout the south side parks. His niece Judy Pitak, (Sister Ann's daughter) had Spina Bifida, so the charity tournaments ran close to his heart.

He became a Chicago detective, then opened his own insurance agency while he and his wife Lorraine (Zaitz) raised a family of four: Edward Zolna Jr., Judith Zolna, Jayne Zolna and Jeanne Zolna (Dresden). He had seven grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

We had enjoyed many fun sunny afternoons watching Dad play softball at the many parks throughout Chicagoland, and he would always find us a pool nearby so we could get in some of our own fun, while Eddie and Judy were batboy/batgirl for the games and afterwards riding in his ragtop Cadillac to cool off after the sweaty games and, of course, always stopping at the tavern for some goodies!

There is much sadness with this disease that we could not do any more for him as we watched it progress, but there is contentment in our lives knowing we were there during the struggle and helping him the way he had helped others throughout his lifetime.

- Submitted by Jeanne Zolna Dresden

Editor's Note: For more about Mr. Zolna, go to <http://tinyurl.com/k6c6mnt> to access

the Chicago Daily Tribune's January 23rd article LEGENDARY CHICAGO 16-INCH SOFTBALL PLAYER'S NAME ENTWINED WITH GAME. Or to go to <http://sun-tim.es/1t0saMZ> to access the Chicago Sun Times's January 22nd article ONLY CHICAGOAN IN AMATEUR SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME.

FRANK J. VERNON BRANCH 175 – READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Frank J. Vernon, 81, a resident of Emerson, PA, for 38 years, passed away on Sunday, January 11, 2015. He was born in Reading, PA, to Frank and Helen Vojtasek. Beloved husband of Annette Vernon. Devoted father of David Vernon, Lisa Licameli and her husband Michael, Donna Katen and her husband Matthew.

Loving grandfather of Brandon and Meaghan Vernon, Justin and Corey Licameli, Candace and Mallory Katen. He is predeceased by eight brothers and sisters.

Frank graduated from Reading Catholic High School and Penn State University. Before retiring, he was employed as an advertising executive for many years at Cunningham and Walsh in New York City and subsequently at West Bank Creative, Pompton Lakes. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a parishioner of Church of the Assumption, Emerson.

Frank was a caring, creative, generous and beloved man. He was the ultimate fam-



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Annual Statement for the year 2014 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Year			Prior Year
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	4 Net Admitted Assets
1. Bonds (Schedule D).....	310,841,123		310,841,123	300,535,784
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	200,000
2.2 Common stocks.....	3,392,431		3,392,431	5,756,573
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	1,233,860		1,233,860	1,416,745
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	982,322		982,322	1,009,340
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	733,770		733,770	772,830
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	697,050		697,050	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....18,176,699, Schedule E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$.....0, Schedule E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$.....0, Schedule DA).....	18,176,699		18,176,699	11,129,071
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,095,600		1,095,600	1,046,960
7. Derivatives (Schedule DB).....			0	
8. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	10,084,740		10,084,740	10,133,875
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets (Schedule DL).....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	347,237,594	0	347,237,594	332,563,852
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,170,118		4,170,118	3,840,970
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	18,837		18,837	26,470
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....			0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 to 25).....	351,427,099	550	351,426,549	336,431,292
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. TOTALS (Lines 26 and 27).....	351,427,099	550	351,426,549	336,431,292

Annual Statement for the year 2014 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life certificates and contracts (Exhibit 5, Line 9999999) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	274,860,000	261,839,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (Exhibit 6, Line 16, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (Exhibit 7, Line 14, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	42,849,920	40,717,575
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, Column 1 less sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid (Exhibit 4, Line 10).....		
6. Provision for refunds payable in following calendar year-estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Col. 1, sum of Lines 4 and 14).....	286,400	286,787
8. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 6).....	646,991	609,141
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	28,595	7,223
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	90,961	65,127
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued (Exhibit 3, Line 8, Col. 6).....	13,589	22,835
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	5,106,290	6,010,086
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve (AVR, Line 16, Col. 7).....	2,311,775	2,461,429
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....		
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	372,835	1,020,967
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	327,276,867	313,749,681
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	327,276,867	313,749,681
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	24,149,682	22,681,610
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	24,149,682	22,681,610
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	351,426,549	336,431,291

Annual Statement for the year 2014 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Line 20.4, Col. 1).....	16,870,446	22,216,307
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	14,710,566	14,149,981
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	476,440	380,661
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....		
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.1, Col. 1).....		
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....		
8. Miscellaneous Income:		
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....		
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....		
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	21,467	203,442
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	32,078,919	36,950,391
10. Death benefits.....	2,933,628	2,430,466
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....		3,270
12. Annuity benefits.....	10,266,961	9,947,089
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	923,246	823,140
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	159,895	211,732
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	13,021,000	18,690,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	27,304,730	32,105,697
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only) (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 31, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....	183,350	263,752
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.2, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....		
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses (Exhibit 2, Line 10, Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).....	2,867,853	2,840,415
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	100,024	127,719
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....		
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(151,245)	(247,883)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	30,304,712	35,089,700
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,774,207	1,860,690
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	405,722	405,055
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,368,485	1,455,635
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$.....514,290 transferred to the IMR).....	690,629	553,505
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	2,059,114	2,009,140
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	22,681,611	20,646,573
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	2,059,114	2,009,140
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(723,683)	192,118
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....		
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	6,414	(22,573)
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....		
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease.....		
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	149,654	(111,361)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....		
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts statement.....		
42. Change in surplus notes.....		
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....		
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....		
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	(23,428)	(32,287)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,468,071	2,035,037
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	24,149,682	22,681,611

Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislavu a Trnavu by mohla spojiť asi 50-kilometrová vinohradnícka cyklocesta

Bratislavu a Trnavu by mohla v budúcnosti spojiť cyklotrasa. Približne 45- až 50-kilometrová cesta by mala čiastočne viesť po jestvujúcich miestnych komunikáciách, čiastočne medzi vinicami a pozdĺž potokov. Cyklistom má ukázať nielen rôzne pamiatky, ale aj doviesť ľudí na železniciu. Hotová by mohla byť v roku 2018. Cyklocesta má tak posilniť cestovný ruch a priviesť návštevníkov do obcí pod Malými Karpatmi, avšak majú byť na nej i väzby na železničnú dopravu. Cyklotrasa má viesť z hlavného mesta do Svätého Jura, Pezinka, potom do Vínosadov, Modry, Dubovej, Častej a Dolian. V trnavskom okrese sa predpokladalo riešenie cesty v dvoch variantoch.

Podľa stavebného inžiniera môže byť cyklotrasa hotová za dva roky. V mestách využije jestvujúce miestne komunikácie, niekde sa povrchy opravujú, pozdĺž potokov alebo medzi vinicami sa vytvorí nová konštrukcia. Trasa by mala využiť i existujúce poľné či hospodárske cesty. Projekt majú finančne pokryť hlavne prostriedky štátneho rozpočtu.

Slovensko je v hodnotení slobody tlače na 14. mieste

Slovensko obsadilo 14. miesto spomedzi 180 krajín hodnotených v rámci najnovšieho rebríčka indexu slobody tlače, ktorý každoročne zostavuje organizácia Reportéri bez hraníc (RSF). V správe Index slobody tlače vo svete 2015 hodnotí RSF Slovenskú republiku indexom slobody tlače s hodnotou 11,66. Slovensko sa tak posunulo o šesť miest vpred oproti správe z roku 2014, keď v tomto rebríčku zastávalo 20. miesto. Najhoršie hodnotenie mala SR v roku 2009, keď ju RSF zaradili na 44. miesto. Naopak v roku 2004 bolo Slovensko spomedzi vtedy hodnotených 158 krajín na prvom mieste, uvádza sa na webovej stránke RSF. Rebríček vždy hodnotí predchádzajúci rok a organizácia sídliaca v Paríži používa na vypočítanie indexu sedem hodnotiacich kritérií. Z najnovšieho rebríčka vyplýva, že mnohé krajiny, vrátane Ruska, Spojených štátov, Japonska a viacerých európskych krajín, si v indexe slobody tlače oproti minulosti pohoršili, napísala agentúra AP. Medzi desiatimi krajinami s najnižším hodnotením indexu slobody tlače sú Čína, Vietnam, Irán a Severná Kórea. Na poslednom mieste rebríčka je Eritrea. Medzi kritériá, na základe ktorých RSF posudzuje umiestnenie krajín v rebríčku mediálnej slobody, patria útoky na novinárov, zatýkanie a cenzúra žurnalistov.

O podiel v Slovenských elektrárnach sa zaujíma aj fínsky Fortum

Do boja o podiel Enelu v Slovenských elektrárnach vstúpil nový záujemca. Ako informuje vydanie Hospodárskych novín (HN), je ním fínska spoločnosť Fortum, ktorá už komunikuje so súčasným 66-% akcionárom elektrární.

Potenciálny investor záujem zatiaľ oficiálne nepotvrdil. Fínska firma si už pritom mala prebrať potrebné dáta o elektrárnach v rámci procesu due diligence, ktorý predchádza predaju. Jej súpermi sú český ČEZ, maďarský MVM Group v konzorciu so Slovnaftom a česko-slovenská finančná skupina Energetický a průmyslový holding (EPH).

Fortum pôsobí vo viacerých európskych krajinách. Okrem Škandinávie a Pobaltia medzi nich patrí aj Poľsko či Rusko. V prospech firmy môže zaväzovať fakt, že sa má vo Finsku podieľať na výstavbe tamojšej jadrovej elektrárne Oikiluoto. Od nového investora v SE sa pritom očakáva, že úspešne dokončí projekt dostavby Mochoviec.

Či by boli Fini pre štát preferovaným partnerom, ministerstvo hospodárstva nekomentovalo. Ako pre HN povedala hovorkyňa rezortu Miriam Ziačková, podiel v Slovenských elektrárnach predáva Enel, nie štát.

Pokles predaja áut v Rusku je pre výrobcov väčší problém než sankcie

Pre slovenských výrobcov automobilov je väčším problémom pokles predaja áut v Rusku, než samotné ruské sankcie. Skonštatoval to v diskusnej relácii na TABLET.TV prezident Zväzu automobilového priemyslu (ZAP) SR Jaroslav Holeček.

Zároveň doplnil, že Slovensko má výhodu v tom, že väčšina výrobcov áut ako aj subdodávateľov vyváža automobily na globálny trh. Pre Slovensko je však automobilový priemysel kľúčovým. Dokazujú to aj čísla o počte vyrobených vozidiel. Holeček vyčíslil, že vlni sa na Slovensku vyrobilo viac ako 974.000 automobilov.



Stretnutie prezidenta SR Kisku s predstaviteľmi EÚ a NATO

Slovenský prezident Andrej Kiska sa zúčastnil od 2. - 4. marca pracovnej návštevy v Bruseli, kde sa stretol s najvyššími predstaviteľmi Európskej únie a NATO. Kiska rokoval s predsedom Európskej rady Donaldom Tuskom a so šéfmi Európskeho parlamentu Martinom Schulzom a Európskej komisie Jeanom-Claudom Junckerom. Okrem toho prezident Kiska čakala diskusia s generálnym tajomníkom NATO Jensom Stoltenbergom.

Témami rozhovorov boli aktuálne výzvy, ktorým obe tieto pre SR kľúčové zoskupenia čelia v ekonomickej i zahraničnopolitickej a bezpečnostnej oblasti. Návšteva sa niesla aj v kontexte príprav prvého predsedníctva SR v EÚ, ktoré sa začne v druhej polovici roka 2016. Hlavu štátu v Bruseli sprevádzal aj minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Kancelária prezidenta

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska (vľavo) sa 3. marca 2015 v Bruseli stretol s generálnym tajomníkom NATO Jensom Stoltenbergom.

Slovak President Andrej Kiska (left) met with the General Secretary of NATO Jean-Claude Juncker during the NATO meeting in Brussels, March 2-4, 2015.

Nový internetový časopis Kapitula

Spišská diecéza vydala prvé číslo diecézneho internetového časopisu Kapitula (1/2015). Prináša niekoľko aktualít zo života diecézy a ďalšie zaujímavosti. "Prioritou duchovného života v tomto roku je zasvätený život. Tejto problematike sa budú venovať aj jednotlivé čísla časopisu a v závere roka pridáme aj tému rodiny," uvádza v úvodníku generálny vikár Spišskej diecézy Mons. Anton Tyrol.

V prvom tohtoročnom čísle upriamila redakcia pozornosť na otázky zasväteného života vo všeobecnosti. Hlavné články sa preto zameriavajú na plány a očakávania zasvätených osôb v tomto roku zasväteného života a na duchovný a kultúrny prínos reholí a rehoľných kongregácií. Ostatné články v aktuálnom čísle vychádzajú zo stálych rubrik, ktoré v časopise vytvorili: ide o ďalšiu časť exhortácie Svätého Otca Františka Evangelii gaudium, portrét ďalšej osobnosti našej diecézy, tentoraz biskupa Jozefa Bélika a do galérie kostolov zaradili kostol Očisťovania Panny Márie v Smrečanoch. Keďže Spišská diecéza bude opäť hosťiteľom celoslovenského stretnutia mládeže, redakcia urobila rozhovor s jedným z hlavných organizátorov stretnutia P15.

(TK KBS)

Tohtoročná zima patrila na Slovensku medzi päť najteplejších od polovice 20. storočia

Tohtoročná zima 2014/2015 patrí na Slovensku medzi päť najteplejších od polovice 20. storočia. Uvádza to Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav (SHMÚ) na svojej stránke.

Priemerná priestorová teplota vzduchu sa dostala tesne k 0 stupňom Celzia. Najvyššia teplota dosiahla 10. januára tohto roka v Moravskom Svätom Jáne, kde namerali 17,8 stupňa C. V daný deň sa aj teplota v Bratislave v Mlynskej doline vyšplhala na 17,5 stupňa C. Najsilnejší mraz bol na Lomnickom štíte, kde vlni 30. decembra klesla teplota vzduchu na -26,7 stupňa C. V nižších polohách bola najnižšia teplota zaregistrovaná 7. januára v Podolínci, a to -25,4 stupňa C. Podľa SHMÚ najteplejšia zima bola na prelome rokov 2006/2007, kedy priemerná priestorová teplota vzduchu dosahovala takmer 1,5 stupňa C. Naopak, najchladnejšia zima bola v roku 1962/1963, kedy klesla pod -7 stupňov C.

Tajomstvá tisícročného kláštora

V Hronskom Beňadiku opravujú vzácnu pamiatku - kláštor s tisícročnou históriou. Okrem toho, že ukrýva vzácnu relikviu Kristovej krvi, sa bude môcť čoskoro popýšiť aj novým múzeom a kaviarňou. „Máme už za sebou opravu strechy komplexu, teraz rekonštruujeme sýpku. Na jej opravu je vyčlenených viac ako tri milióny eur,“ povedal ekonóm diecézy Martin Štofko. Práce majú ukončiť do apríla 2016. História tohto miesta siaha až do roku 1075. Dokazuje to listina, na ktorej bol súpis majetku kláštora, ktorý prevítal až do 16. storočia.

Tesco možno zo Slovenska odíde

Britská obchodná sieť Tesco zvažuje, že po devätnástich rokoch opustí Slovensko a predá 155 obchodov, 18 púmp a dva veľké distribučné sklady. „Zatiaľ sa o ničom nerozhodlo,“ povedal pre denník britský investor, ktorý je oboznámený s ozdravným plánom Tesca. Podnik už podľa neho sondoval, či by bol o jeho stredo európske aktivity záujem. Briti prehodnocujú svoje ďalšie podnikanie nielen na Slovensku, ale aj v Česku, Maďarsku a Poľsku. Súvisí to aj s tým, že Tesco je pod tlakom lacných diskontov Aldi a Lidl, navyše ho ťaží nevládnuté rozširovanie do USA a Japonska.

Výkop štadióna riadi firma Alexeja Beljajeva

Spoločnosť EBA, v ktorej je spoločníkom známy podnikateľ Alexej Beljajev, získala zákazku na realizáciu výkopových prác Národného futbalového štadióna. Išlo o vôbec prvé výberové konanie súvisiace s výstavbou Národného futbalového štadióna. Spoločnosť EBA ponúkla v elektronickej aukcii najnižšiu z piatich predložených ponúk. Hodnota zákazky predstavuje sumu 1,37 milióna eur. Podľa informácií sa v elektronickej aukcii udial najväčší duel medzi spoločnosťami EBA a ZIPP. Ich licitovanie znížilo cenu za výkopové práce o viac ako polovicu. Predpokladaná hodnota zákazky predstavovala sumu 2,8 milióna eur.

„Balík príde na pumpu“ a „Dobierku si vyzdvihneme aj v noci“

Príde v noci na čerpaciu stanicu a vyzdvihneme si balík. Nejakto takto si Slovenská pošta predstavuje tohtoročné leto, uvádza denník SME. Slovenská pošta plánuje doručovať zásielky na vybrané pumpy, podľa informácie denníka, môže ísť o čerpacie stanice Slovnaftu. Na ďalších miestach by pošta chcela samoobslužné balíkomaty, z ktorých si možno vyzdvihnúť zásielky či zaplatiť za elektrinu, plyn či koncesionárske poplatky. Balíkomaty majú byť napríklad vo vysokoškolských internátoch. Dôvodom nových služieb je zrejme tlak konkurencie i fakt, že časť balíkov sa poštarom nedarí doručiť. Napokon končia na poštách, kde si po ne musia ľudia sami zísť.

TASR a zo slovenskej tlače

In memoriam

V pondelok 9. marca 2015 vošiel do radosti svojho Pána Don Rudolf Blatnický stály diakon vo veku 87 rokov života a 67 rokov zasväteného života v saleziánskej rodine. Záušnú svätú omšu s pohrebnými obradmi pre Slovákov žijúcich v Ríme celebrou J. Em. Jozef kardinál Tomko v sobotu 14. marca v Kaplnke sv. Cyrila a Metoda Pápežského slovenského kolégia v Ríme. R. I. P.



Don Rudolf Blatnický

Don Rudolf Blatnický SDB, diakon, profesor dogmatickej teológie a redaktor zomrel v Ríme. Vyše dvadsať rokov redaktorsky spolupracoval pri vydávaní kníh v Slovenskom ústave sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme, ako profesor pôsobil aj na teologickej fakulte Pápežskej saleziánskej univerzity.

Don Blatnický sa narodil 6. januára 1928 v Trnave. Základné vzdelanie získal v rodnom meste, kde aktívne navštevoval aj saleziánske oratórium na Kopánke. Tam pod vplyvom vynikajúceho farára dona Jána Hlubíka objavil kňazské povolanie. Po úspešnej maturite na gymnáziu v Trnave roku 1946 vstúpil do Saleziánskej spoločnosti. Prvé rehoľné sľuby zložil 5. októbra 1947. Pedagogickú prax potom vykonával v Saleziánskom pedagogickom študentáte v rodnej Trnave a neskôr v Hodoch pri Galante. Rozpustenie reholí v apríli 1950 ho zastihlo v komunite v Bratislave na Trnávke. Z Podolínce sa mu podarilo ujsť a po dobrodružnom prechode viacerých hraníc sa dostal do Turína v Taliansku. Tam ho predstavení poslali na osobitný prípravný kurz filozofie (1950-51), aby mohol byť prijatý na teologické štúdiá. Po dvoch rokoch teológie štúdiá prerušil a venoval sa pedagogickej praxi v Litovskom malom seminári v Ríme. V roku 1960 pokračoval v teológii a 1. januára 1962 ho turínsky arcibiskup kardinál M. Fossati vysvätil za diakona. Napriek tomu, že veľmi úspešne absolvoval teologické štúdiá a získal doktorát (ThDr.), rozhodol sa ostať trvalým diakonom.

Po založení Slovensko-talianskeho gymnázia pri Slovenskom ústave sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme prešiel do tohto nábožensko-kultúrneho strediska, kde vyše dvadsať rokov spolupracoval tak v pedagogicko-výchovnej činnosti ako aj pri vydávaní kníh a časopisov. Okrem toho bol pozvaný aj ako výpomocný profesor na teologickú fakultu Pápežskej saleziánskej univerzity, kde prednášal dogmatickú teológiu. Dlhé roky spolupracoval aj s redakciou rozhlasovej stanice „Voice of America“. Od roku 1996 po ťažkom úraze v mestskej doprave sa jeho pracovná schopnosť značne znížila. Žil na odpočinku v jednej z rímskych saleziánskych komunít. Prof. Blatnický vyvinul bohatú literárno-vedeckú činnosť tak v spolupráci na základných teologických, biblických a liturgických príručkách až po najnovší Katechizmus Katolíckej cirkvi (1998), ako aj vlastnými vedeckými a publicistickými príspevkami v rozličných časopisoch. Ešte v roku 1998 zredigoval zborník vedeckých statí, ktorým si Pápežská saleziánska univerzita v Ríme uctila životné jubileum prof. Jozefa M. Heribana.

SSSU

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedeľu 22. marca 2015** o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši – pokladníčka

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať schôdzu na Kvetnú nedeľu **29. marca 2015**. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou v kostole St. John Paul II, Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886, o 16:00 hod., ktorú bude sláviť Fr. Pavol Sochulák z Ontária, CA. Po svätej omši bude ľahká večera so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa už tradične budú zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni. Na programe je plán aktivity a informácie o poistení prostredníctvom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Pozývame na posedenie všetky spolky v okolí.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

V Británii vyšli na DVD Hanákové Obrazy starého sveta

Na anglo-americký trh s DVD produkciou sa tento týždeň dostal jeden z medzinárodne najúspešnejších slovenských filmov. Dokument Obrazy starého sveta (1972) režiséra Dušana Hanáka vyšiel v prestížnom anglickom vydavateľstve Second Run ako tretí titul z kolekcie slovenských filmov. „DVD obsahuje tiež bonusy v podobe dvoch Hanákových krátkych filmov a hneď po svojom vydaní sa stretlo s mimoriadne priaznivými recenziami,“ informovala Simona Nótová, tlačová tajomníčka Slovenského filmového ústavu (SFÚ). Viac informácií o DVD Obrazy starého sveta v Second Run najdete na: http://www.secondrundvd.com/release_pictures.php

Obrazy starého sveta patria k medzinárodne najúspešnejším slovenským filmom našej histórie. Prináša sugestívne portréty starých ľudí z Liptova a Oravy, ktorí dokážu aj v stave civilizačného chaosu a neistoty žiť vnútorne slobodní. S veľkým úspechom sa premietal v mnohých krajinách sveta až po 17 rokoch v trezore. Získal nomináciu na Oscara, Zlatý sestercius na MFF dokumentárnych filmov Nyone, Grand Prix v Mnichove, Alcan Prize v Montreale, Cenu Don Quijote na MFF v Lipsku, Cenu Asociácie losangeleských filmových kritikov za najlepší dokumentárny film a celý rad ďalších medzinárodných ocenení. Hanák sa pri nakrúcaní filmu inšpiroval piatimi fotografickými cyklami Martina Martinčeka a pri jeho realizácii použil fotografie Vladimíra Vavreka, ktorý je spoluautorom filmového obrazu diela. Dokument je vďaka svojej téme stále aktuálny.

Vydavateľstvo Second Run, v ktorom DVD Obrazy starého sveta vyšlo, sa špecializuje na vydávanie oceňovaných artových filmov z celého sveta. Film je v HD kvalite v slovenskom jazyku s anglickými titulkami. Súčasťou nosiča sú aj krátke Hanákové snímky Prišiel k nám Old Shatterhand (1966) a Omša (1967) a rozsiahly 16-stranový booklet s novou esejou anglického filmového teoretika Jonathana Owena z Manchester Metropolitan University, špecializujúceho sa na kinematografiu strednej a východnej Európy. „Nestáva sa často, že sa človek cíti naozaj poctený, keď môže predstaviť nejaký film.“

Hanákov film vychádza v desiatom roku jeho existencie. Ide o tretí titul z kolekcie slovenských filmov licencovaných SFÚ. Prvým bola snímka Slnko v sieti (1962) Štefana Uhra v roku 2013, nasledoval ju film Vtáčkovia, siroty a blázni (1969) Juraja Jakubiska v roku 2014. DVD Obrazy starého sveta oficiálne vyšlo 23. februára a je určené pre trh v anglicky hovoriacich krajinách. Na anglické vydanie sa najbližšie pripravuje dielo Dušana Grečnera Drak sa vracia (1967).

Vydávanie filmov zo zlatého fondu slovenskej kinematografie v spolupráci so zahraničnými vydavateľstvami je jednou z aktivít SFÚ v oblasti prezentácie slovenskej kinematografie v zahraničí. Ustav spolupracuje aj s parížskym vydavateľstvom Malavida, ktoré sa zameriava na vydávanie a distribúciu DVD nosičov nekomerčných európskych diel a doteraz vydalo 14 slovenských filmov pre trh vo Francúzsku, Švajčiarsku a v Belgicku.

TASR



Prednáška vo Washingtone, DC

„Milan Rastislav Štefánik – national hero and great traveler“

Na pôde Zastupiteľského úradu Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone sa 25. februára 2015 konala prednáška Michala Kšiňana „Milan Rastislav Štefánik – national hero and great traveler“. M. Kšiňan najskôr predstavil Štefánika ako politika, diplomata a astronóma. Prednáška však bola zameraná na prezentovanie M. R. Štefánika z iného uhla, a to ako cestovateľa. Počas prezentácie mali hostia možnosť oboznámiť sa s viacerými cestami Štefánika po krajinách ako Alžír, Maroko, Tahiti, Nový Zéland, Brazília, Ekvádor, kde uskutočňoval svoje astronomické pozorovania, ako aj diplomatické misie. V diskusii po prednáške sa hostia zaujímali hlavne o Československé légie, vznik prvej Československej republiky v roku 1918 a úlohu Štefánika v tejto otázke.

Michal Kšiňan je vedeckým pracovníkom Historického ústavu SAV. Titul PhD. získal na Univerzite Sorbonne v Paríži. V súčasnosti je štipendistom Fulbright programu na Elliot School of International Affairs na George Washington University. Je autorom knihy Milan Rastislav Štefánik (2012), za ktorú získal Cenu pre mladého vedeckého pracovníka SAV (2013) a Cenu Slovenskej historickej spoločnosti za popularizáciu (2013).

MZV SR

Prezentácia štvrtého vydania životopisného profilu o Jozefovi Tisovi



V refektári u Milosrdných bratov v Bratislave sa vo štvrtok 6. novembra 2014 uskutočnila prezentácia štvrtého vydania knihy prof. Milana S. Ďuricu Jozef Tiso Životopisný profil.

Milan S. Ďurica sa v roku 1993 stal laureátom Štátnej ceny ministra kultúry Slovenskej republiky. V roku 1995 ho taliansky prezident Oscar Luigi Scalfaro ocenil najvyšším občianskym vyznamenaním Veľkého dôstojníka Radu za zásluhy Talianskej republiky. V roku 2000 mu Historický odbor Matice slovenskej udelil Cenu Daniela Rapanta za celoživotné dielo v oblasti historických vied.

Na slávnostnej prezentácii sa zúčastnilo množstvo osobností z celého Slovenska. Všetkých na úvod, vrátane arcibiskupa Jána Sokola, privítal dôstojný pán Ján Košíar. V slávnostnej atmosfére o tejto výnimočnej knihe prehovorila Anna Kolková, šéfredaktorka vydavateľstva LÚČ, ktorá prítomným priblížila nadviazanie spolupráce s prof. Milanom Ďuricom, ktoré požehnal i zakladateľ vydavateľstva kardinál Ján Ch. Korec. „Tak ako v knihe píše Dr. Jozef Tiso, že Slovenská republika je Boží dar, tak

ja chcem parafrázovať a povedať, že profesor Ďurica je pre nás Boží dar, lebo je odvážny, statočný, pracovitý, svedomitý a nehľadá žiadne výhody. Touto cestou v mene nás všetkých mu vzdávam hlbokú úctu a hold,“ povedala Anna Kolková z vydavateľstva LÚČ.

S príspevkom o práci v tzv. demokratickom režime vystúpil i historik Martin Lacko, ktorý si svojím vystúpením vyslúžil od nadšeného auditória obrovský potlesk: „Ak ide autor svojou cestou, tzv. demokratické médiá, ktoré navonok sami propagujú pluralitu či inakosť, ho rýchle „usmernia“ nálepkovaním, osočovaním, dehonestácnou kampaňou, útokmi, tlakom na jeho okolie, ale najmä na zamestnávateľa.“ Po slávnostných príhovoroch nasledovala autogramiáda autora.

Pavol Privalinec



Pripomínáme si 40. výročie úmrtia preláta Mons. Štefana Náhalku

Na deň 6. marca 2015 pripadá 40. výročie smrti Mons. Štefana Náhalku (1916 Liptovská Teplička - 1975 Rím), pápežského preláta, spoluzakladateľa a prvého rektora Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. Ako jeden z popredných katolíckych intelektuálov bol terčom komunistického režimu a takmer tri roky sa musel skrývať. V tomto období bol jedným z tajných generálnych vikárov spišského biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka.

Po odchode do emigrácie v máji 1953 bol poprednou osobnosťou slovenského exilu, organizoval náboženský a kultúrny život slovenských katolíkov v slobodnom svete. V roku 1957 bol vymenovaný za člena najvyššej rady pre emigráciu pri vtedajšej Konzistoriálnej kongregácii Apoštolskej stolice (dnes Kongregácia pre klerikov) s poslaním starať sa o duchovnú službu slovenským emigrantom. V tejto funkcii sa pričínal o založenie slovenských katolíckych misií vo viacerých krajinách. Osobne ponavštevoval miesta, kde žili slovenskí emigranti.

V roku 1956 sa podieľal na založení Slovenského vydavateľstva sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Koncom decembra 1959 bol signatárom iniciatívy na vybudovanie Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktorý viedol v období rokov 1963 až 1973. Patril aj k zakladajúcim členom Svetového kongresu Slovákov.

Svojou mimoriadnou a všestrannou aktivitou zaujímal jedno z najpoprednejších miest slovenského katolicizmu. Patril k pravidelným externým spolupracovníkom Slovenskej redakcie Vatikánskeho rozhlasu. V roku 2014 boli telesné ostatky Mons. Štefana Náhalku exhumované z rímskeho cintorína Prima Porta a po prevezení na Slovensko uložené v rodnej obci Liptovskej Tepličke.

TK KBS, RV

Minister Kaliňák hovoril s krajanmi v Kanade

Podpredseda vlády a minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák (vľavo) sa počas návštevy Kanady stretol 4. marca 2015 na slovenskom veľvyslanectve v Ottawe s krajanmi. Na snímke vpravo vedúci katedry slovenskej histórie a kultúry na Ottavskej univerzite profesor Marián Mark Stolarík.



Vice President of the Government and Minister of the Interior Robert Kalinak stopped at the Slovak Embassy in Ottawa on March 4, 2015 during his visit to Canada and met with representatives of the Slovak community in Canada including Professor Marian Mark Stolarik, the holder of the Chair of Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa.

FOTO TASR - Vladimír Benko/MV SR

Velká noc vo zvykoch a obyčajoch

Pokračovanie zo str. 24



Tesne pred Veľkou nocou (Zelený štvrtok, Veľký piatok, Biela Sobota) majú gazdinky plné ruky práce. Pečú koláče, chutné tvarohové, makové a orechové závin, štrúdl a maľujú (zdobia) vajíčka. Nachystajú si aj prútený košík, ktorý bol po celý rok odložený a je určený iba pre naplnenie veľkonočných pokrmov, v ktorom nesmú chýbať: koláč (aspoň kus, ak nie celý), závin, štrúdl, údená klobása, šunka, maslo, maľované vajíčka a špeciálny zlatistý syr, zvaný hrudka, urobený len z vajíčok a mlieka pre túto príležitosť.

Na veľkonočnú nedeľu, hneď zrána, na úsvite, nesú gazdinky ku kostolu košík s obsahom vyššie spomínaných pokrmov, prikrytý obvykle ručne vyšívaným obrúskom. Pri kostole rozložia košíky do radu, odkryjú ich a kňaz ich pokropí svätenou vodou. Potom si gazdinky opäť košíky zakryjú a náhlija sa s nimi domov, aby boli po celý rok v práci také šikovné ako teraz.

Maľovanie (zdobenie) vajíčok

Posledné dni pred Veľkou nocou sa popri pečení venujú aj ozdobovaniu veľkonočných vajíčok, ktoré sa zvyknú nazývať kraslice. Môžu sa zdobit' viacerými spôsobmi podľa toho, či ich potom chceme použiť aj na konzumovanie alebo iba na okrasu.

Najjednoduchší spôsob zdobenia: vajíčka vložíme do vriacej vody, v ktorej sú šupky z cibule. Po uvarení a vybratí z vody získajú zlatohnedú farbu, svetlejšiu alebo tmavšiu podľa toho, či sme vložili do hrnca viac alebo menej cibulových šupiek.

Iný spôsob maľovania: V obchodoch sa predávajú malé vrecúška s obsahom rôznych farieb v prášku špeciálne určených na maľovanie veľkonočných vajíčok. Technika práce je veľmi jednoduchá. Do hrnca dáme zvariť vodu, vsypeme prášok a ponoríme do vody vajíčka. Asi po 5 minútach ich vyberieme, a dáme osušiť na utierku. Oblúbené sú pestré pastelové farby: zelená, červená, modrá, fialová, hnedá, okrová... Ak sa pri varení nerozpraskli, sú vhodné aj na konzumovanie.

Zdobenie voskom

Takéto zdobenie patrí medzi veľmi staré, zaujímavé a pri trocha zručnosti a fantázie nie veľmi náročné techniky. Pripravíme si vosk, najlepšie včelí, veľkosti asi ako stolnotenisová loptička, vložíme ho do kovovej nádoby na sporák, necháme ho roztopiť a udržiavame ho neustále v teplom tekutom stave. Potom opačnú stranu zápalky (špáradlom, špajdlou, jemnou triesočkou) namáčame do vosku a rýchle nanášame na surové vajíčko, od jeho vrcholu, stále nižšie a nižšie, rôzne ťahy (čiarky, bodky, ornamenty, krížiky, zvieratká...), pričom po každom nanesení vosku na vajíčko, znovu a znovu namáčame triesočku do teplého vosku. Pri zdobení môžeme použiť aj nejaké slová, mená, úryvky pesničiek... Fantázii sa tu nekladú medze. Keď sú vajíčka vyzdobené, vložíme ich do nádoby s vodou a cibulovými šupkami a necháme povariť 4-5 minút. Pri varení sa z nich vosk oddelí a všetky voskom potreté čiary, ornamenty, obrázky... zostanú biele. Ostatné plochy budú zlatožlté od cibulových.

Modernejší a náročnejší spôsob zdobenia

Na vajíčko opatrným prepichnutím (klinčekom, ihlou, šidlom...) v hornej a dolnej časti vytvoríme malú štrbinku. Na hornú škáru priložíme ústa a začneme do nej dovtedy fúkať, pokým nám cez spodnú škáru nevytečie úplne obsah vajíčka a v rukách nám zostane iba ľahká jemná škrupina. Takto je vajíčko pripravené na zdobenie a po vyzdobení ako kraslica na dlhodobú úschovu.

Ozdobovanie robíme rôznymi technikami od farebného maľovania jemným štetcom, nanášaním a lepením kúskov slamy, nití, drobných čiastočiek textilu... až po jeho opletievanie tenkým striebřistým alebo žltým zlatistým drôtkom a tvarovaním rôznych zaujímavých vzoriek.

Takýto typ zdobenia vajíčok si vyžaduje už ozajstnú zručnosť, fantáziu, ale aj trpezlivosť, ktorá je nakoniec korunovaná spokojnosťou a potešením z vykonanej práce.

S kraslicami tohto druhu, ktoré sa vyvážajú aj do zahraničia, sa môžeme stretnúť v každom národopisnom múzeu. Sú dôkazom mimoriadnej schopnosti, predstavivosti, dômyslu a vynaliezavosti slovenského ľudu.

Oblievačka a šibačka

Po svätení pokrmov pri kostole, prichádza čas na oblievanie. Skupina chlapcov navštívi každý dom, kde bolo dospievajúce dievča alebo dospelá deva, vyvedli ju na dvor a „obdarili“ vedrom studenej vody. Ak bol dom blízko pri potoku, zatiahli ju tam, načierali vodu vedierkom, ktoré si nosili sebou a „obet“ polievali. Pravdaže dvaja chlapci ju pritom držali, pretože sa mykala, vrieskala, jačala. Bola do nitky mokrá. No bola rada, že to už má za sebou. Urobila pár tanečných prvkov s niektorým z chlapcov a bežala do domu prezliecť sa a osušiť. Chlapcov ponúkli domáci kalíškom pálenky. Tí ďakujúc, v dobrej nálade, sa ponáhľali ďalej okúpať ostatné devy, aby sa mohli osušené a prezlečené do sviatočných šiat zúčastniť na omši, ktorá začínala o 10. hodine.

Niekedy sa stalo, ale len ojedinele, že deva sa bála studenej vody, zamkla sa do komory alebo sa ukryla u susedov. Keď sa vracali z kostola a rozprávali si zážitky o kúpačke, dotýčaná bola ticho, hanbila sa a cítila poníženou. Očakávala, že budú o nej reči na dedine a zaumienila si, že sa budúcej oblievačke nebude vyhýbať.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliach



Pastiersky list k Veľkej noci

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Máriino duchovné materstvo

Ako dobrá matka trpela pre to, pre čo trpel jej syn: pre uskutočnenie Božieho plánu záchrany ľudstva, pre to, aby sme mohli byť oslobodení od straty spojenia s Bohom, aby sme mohli žiť v slobode od zla, aby sme mohli prijať dar prekonania smrti a účasť na nekonečnom a šťastnom živote trojjediného Boha.

V tých duševných bolestiach sa Panna Mária stala duchovnou matkou všetkých ľudí. Preto zomierajúci Ježiš jej povedal z križa krátke, ale dôležité slová: „Žena, hľa tvoj syn“ – myslel tým na apoštolu Jána, ktorý stál s Máriou pod križom a ktorý tam zastupoval všetkých, čo raz budú Ježiša s vierou nasledovať. Vzápätí zazneli jeho slová Jánovi: „Hľa, tvoja matka“. Týmto nám dal to najdrahšie, čo na tomto svete mal, svoju matku.

Nádej Panny Márie, ktorá sa opierala o Boha a jeho slovo, sa na tretí deň po Ježišovej smrti dočkala svojho naplnenia: Ježišov hrob je prázdny, vzkriesený Pán sa zjavuje svojim apoštolom a ďalším a iste sa zjavil aj svojej matke. Akú radosť musela prežívať! Nielen jej syn žil novým, nadzemským životom, ale svojím zmŕtvychvstaním otvoril cestu prekonania zla a smrti pre každého, kto v neho verí a chce žiť podľa jeho evanjelia.

Patrónka Slovenska

Panna Mária mala potom ako prvá účasť na tomto víťazstve jej syna, pretože najužšie s ním spolupracovala na diele spásy sveta. Po smrti bola s telom i dušou vzatá do spoločenstva s Bohom. Ale i v nebi zostáva našou milujúcou matkou, prihovára sa za nás u svojho syna a vyprosuje nám Božiu pomoc, aby sme aj v ťažkých a bolestných chvíľach, ktoré nechýbajú v živote žiadneho človeka, dokázali sa pripojiť k postojú Krista na križi: aby sme si zachovali dôveru v Božiu lásku, aby sme premieňali naše utrpenie na obetu za odpustenie zlých činov nás i našich blízkych, aby sme mali pevnú nádej, že ak budeme verní Bohu za každú cenu, On, jeho pravda a láska zvíťazí a svoje víťazstvo prejaví aj na nás.

S touto vierou sa naši predkovia obracali na trpiacu ale i oslávenú Pannu Máriu ako na vzor pri zvládaní rozličných utrpení, ktorých nebolo málo v dejinách nášho národa; v modlitbe ju prosili o príhovor a pomoc. Čo všetko mnohí z nich s touto vierou dokázali zvládnuť!?

Zdá sa, že v súčasnosti mnohí strácajú túto vieru, strácajú aj lásku k svojej vlasti, k Slovensku – čo nás má potom držať a posilňovať v rozličných skúškach, námahách a bolestiach? Tí, ktorým chýba tento základ často strácajú nádej a prepádajú rozličným formám zúfalstva. Ako ľudia z Ozbrojených síl a ozbrojených zborov viete, že ak by niekomu z Vás v ťažkej situácii chýbala odvaha nasadiť všetko úsilie pre jej zvládnutie, výsledkom by bola prehra. Ak má náš národ, naše mladé generácie, prežiť súčasné ohrozenia, ktorých je mnoho a sú často zákerne maskované, musíme byť mužmi a ženami s pevnou vierou, ktorej najväčším vzorom je Panna Mária a musíme si osvojiť postoj zodpovednosti za svoje rodiny, za našu mládež, za našu vlasť. Sedembolestná netrpela pod križom za seba, ale za záchranu ľudstva, za každého z nás. Učme sa tak ako ona, od ukrižovaného a vzkrieseného Krista obetavej láske voči každému človeku a budme verní Bohu a jeho vôli za každú cenu. Iba takto môžeme dosiahnuť účasť na Kristovom veľkonočnom víťazstve a pomôcť k tomuto cieľu aj druhým.

Vážení priatelia, želim sebe i Vám, aby sme prežívali Veľkonočné sviatky s týmto postojom viery a nádeje, ktorému sa chceme učiť od našej Patrónky. Nech na jej príhovor pôsobí v nás sila vzkrieseného Krista, aby sme vo všetkých okolnostiach boli verní Bohu i ľuďom a prekonávali zlo.

Ak sa budeme o to snažiť, určite sa v našom živote i v našom prostredí i v celej našej vlasti bude stávať viditeľným Kristovo víťazstvo a aj my budeme prežívať niečo z radosti matky, ktorá sa teší z dieťaťa a neľutuje bolesti, ktoré ju stálo jeho narodenie.

Požehnané a radosné Veľkonočné sviatky Vám i Vaším blízkym zo srdca žela

+František Rábek, biskup – ordinár OS a OZ SR

TK KBS

Krásna Hôrka v novom šate



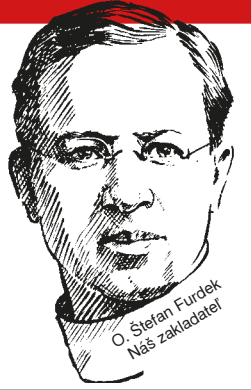
K otvoreniu zrekonštruovaného hradu Krásna Hôrka s vynovenými expozíciami by mohlo dôjsť v roku 2018. Pre novinárov to pri treťom výročí požiaru hradu uviedol generálny riaditeľ Slovenského národného múzea (SNM) Viktor Jasaň. Alternatívou je podľa neho prípadné skoršie sprístupnenie časti hradu za prebiehajúcich prác vo zvyšnej časti.

Požiar z 10. marca 2012 zničil takmer celú strechu hradu, časť interiéru, ako aj časť historických exponátov. Prvá etapa obnovy riešila dočasné prestrešenie hradu. Od minulého roku na Krásnej Hôrke prebieha druhá etapa zameraná na trvalé krovky a strechy. Zhotoviteľom je firma Hornex, ktorá sa podľa Jasaňa zaviazala ukončiť práce do novembra tohto roku.

Škridlou už položili na strednom a dolnom hrade, práce prebiehajú aj na hornej časti. Na severovýchodnej bašte bude ako strešná krytina použitý predzvetraný medený plech s takmer čiernou farbou.

Dosiaľ sa na hrade preinvestovalo zhruba 1,5 milióna eur, bez zahrnutia doterajších nákladov Hornexu, ktoré podľa dohody do záverečnej faktúry znáša samotná firma. Ministerstvo kultúry SR by malo v krátkom čase vyhlásiť výberové konanie na projektanta obnovy hradu. Záverečná tretia etapa by mala priniesť aj moderný a väčší priestor pre návštevníkov. Súčasťou budúcej prehliadky hradu by mala byť aj časť venovaná požiaru a obnove tejto pamiatky.

TASR

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Velká noc 2015

„Aký zmysel má pre nás udalosť zmrtvychvstania? Znamená, že Božia láska je mocnejšia ako zlo i ako samotná smrť; že Božia láska môže premeniť náš život a dať zakvítuť púšti v našom srdci. Boh túži rozšíriť túto správu: Ježišovým zmrtvychvstaním ti svitla nádej. Už nie si pod vládou hriechu a zla. Zvíťazila láska, zvíťazilo milosrdenstvo! „Veľký týždeň so Svätým Otcom Františkom“



Požehnané a radostné Veľkonočné sviatky želáme všetkým členom a čitateľom JEDNOTY

Pastiersky list k Veľkej noci

František Rábek, biskup – ordinár OS a OZ SR

Milí priatelia,

opäť sa Vám prihovám touto formou, ktorá chce aspoň trochu nahradiť osobné stretnutie. Dôvodom sú blížiacie sa Veľkonočné sviatky. Rád by som poukázal na význam udalostí, ktoré v tieto dni slávime, čo znamenajú pre každého z nás, prečo sú dôvodom našej nádeje a radosti.

Jedným zo štátnych sviatkov v našom kalendári je aj sviatok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie. Dôvod, prečo si tento sviatok ctí aj štát je v tom, že Sedembolestná Panna Mária je patrónkou, to znamená nebeskou ochrankyňou Slovenska.

„Sedembolestná“ by sme mohli vyjadriť aj ako veľmi trpiaca, prežívajúca najväčšiu bolesť. Takouto sa Panna Mária stala vtedy, keď jej syn Ježiš Kristus zomieral na kríži a ona musela bezmocne pozeráť na jeho trápenie a bolestnú smrť. Hoci bolesť, ktorú prežívala bola ako čierny mrak, ktorý zahalil jej dušu, predsa i v tých dramatických chvíľach Mária verila v jespovanie Slnka, ktoré tieto mraky rozptýli a prinesie nový život. Týmto „Slnkom“ je Boh, ktorý pre záchranu nášho sveta poslal svojho Syna a chcel nám dokázať svoju lásku vrcholným spôsobom tým, že Ježiš Kristus sa za nás dobrovoľne obetoval na kríži. Počas jeho života sa Panna Mária postupne oboznámila s týmto Božím zámerom a preto, keď prišlo k dramatickým udalostiam Veľkého piatku, nezrútila sa, nestratila nádej, lež dôstojne stála pod krížom. Prežívala síce neopísateľnú bolesť, ale súčasne spájala svoje utrpenie s obetou svojho božského Syna. Tento Máriin postoj znázorňuje aj detail mozaiky, ktorá ilustruje tento list. Ježiš na kríži je oblečený do kňazského rúcha. Umelec chcel tým vyjadriť, že Kristus svojím utrpením a smrťou uskutočňoval obetu lásky nebeskému Otcovi v mene celého ľudstva – konal teda kňazskú službu v tom najplnšom slova zmysle. Panna Mária, stojaca pod krížom objíma svojho Syna a dotýka sa otvorenej rany na jeho boku. Takto je znázornené jej stotožnenie sa s láskou Kristovo srdca voči Bohu ale i voči nám.

Pokračovanie na str. 23

Velká noc vo zvykoch a obyčajoch

Slovensko je bohaté na zvyky a obyčaje. Zachováva sa od pradávna, no niektoré sa vytrácajú podobne ako ľudové kroje. Nie sú všade rovnaké. Každý región má iné, no všetky majú niečo spoločné.

Predveľkonočné obdobie

Veľkej noci predchádza 40 dňové pôstne obdobie, ktoré začína stredou po fašiangoch a trvá do Veľkej noci. Fašiangami sa končia aj všetky plesy a radovánky.

V pôstnom období sa dodržiava prísny pôst - nekonsumovanie mäsitých jedál. Ináč po celý rok je pôstnym dňom piatok, ktorý sa už nie všade prísne dodržiava a týka sa to len rímskokatolíkov, gréckokatolíkov a pravoslávnych.

Na Kvetnú nedeľu ľudia chodia do prírody a donášajú si do svojich príbytkov vetvičky z rakyty alebo vrbové prútiky, zvané bahniatka alebo maňušky, aby im doma vo váze rozkvitli do Veľkej noci.

Príprava na Veľkú noc

Keďže príprava nie je na celom Slovensku rovnaká, zmienim sa iba o takej, ktorá je charakteristická pre moju rodnú obec Radomu (región Šariš) na severovýchodnom Slovensku tak, ako sa mi uchovala v pamäti.

Pokračovanie na str. 23



Kaliňák prevzal v USA ocenenie za boj proti terorizmu

Podpredseda vlády a minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák prevzal 9. marca 2015 vo Washingtone z rúk amerického ministra zahraničných vecí Johna Kerryho ocenenie za boj proti terorizmu. Informovala o tom hovorkyňa Ministerstva vnútra SR Andrea Dobiášová. Uviedla, že Kaliňák odovzdal Kerrymu slovenský hokejový dres. Stretnutie sa uskutočnilo na pozvanie šéfa americkej diplomacie v budove Ministerstva zahraničných vecí USA vo Washingtone.

Na ocenení, ktoré prevzal R. Kaliňák je nasledovný text: „Za trvalý prínos a výborné výsledky pri presadzovaní medzinárodnej spolupráce v boji proti terorizmu. Vaše odhodlanie a obetavosť posilnili americko-slovenskú spoluprácu v oblasti presadzovania práva a boja proti terorizmu a zvýšili aj našu kolektívnu bezpečnosť.“

J. Kerry vysoko ocenil osobný príspevok R. Kaliňáka k posilňovaniu spolupráce Slovenska so Spojenými štátmi v rámci globálneho boja proti terorizmu. „USA si vysoko vážia spoluprácu so Slovenskou republikou, a Vami osobne, ako aktívnym a zodpovedným spojencom,“ uviedol.

Na pracovnom stretnutí sa zúčastnil aj americký veľvyslanec na Slovensku Theodore Sedgwick. R. Kaliňák potvrdil záujem Slovenska naďalej udržiavať vysokú úroveň bilaterálnych vzťahov s USA a pokračovať v spolupráci v oblasti bezpečnosti, zahraničnej politiky a pri boji s korupciou.

Počas návštevy Washingtonu sa slovenský minister vnútra stretol aj s ďalšími predstaviteľmi americkej administratívy, s ktorými diskutoval o možnostiach spolupráce v oblastiach rezortu vnútra. Stretnutím s americkým ministrom zahraničných vecí ukončil R. Kaliňák svoju pracovnú cestu v Severnej Amerike.



FOTO TASR - Vladimír Benko / MV SR

Podpredseda vlády a minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák (vľavo) pózuje s ministrom zahraničných vecí USA Johnom Kerryom po prevzatí ocenenia za osobný prístup šéfa rezortu v posilňovaní spolupráce SR a USA v boji proti terorizmu vo Washingtone 9. marca 2015.

Slovak Vice President of the Government and Minister of the Interior Robert Kalinak accepted an award from the U.S. Minister of Foreign Affairs in Washington, D.C. on March 9, 2015, for Slovakia's cooperation in the war against terror.

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