



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furdik
Our Founder

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

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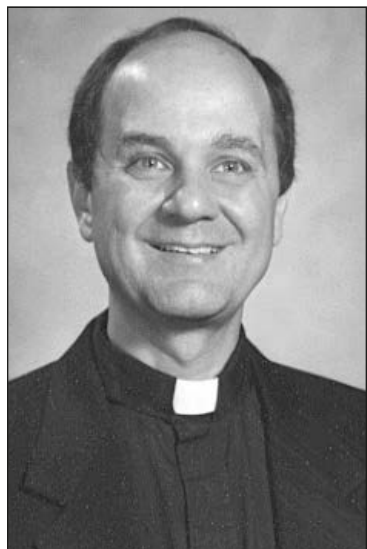
Number 5775

Easter Message From The National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Pope Benedict XVI in his most recent encyclical, *Spe Salvi* (On Christian Hope), gives the example of individuals who persevered in hope during their most personal trials and persecutions.

In addition to the graces it brings a person in his/her darkest hours, hope is a vital element in our life of prayer, for by it we entrust the future to God. It is with hope that we pray for divine wisdom to open the minds and hearts of all persons so that there may indeed be a universal respect for

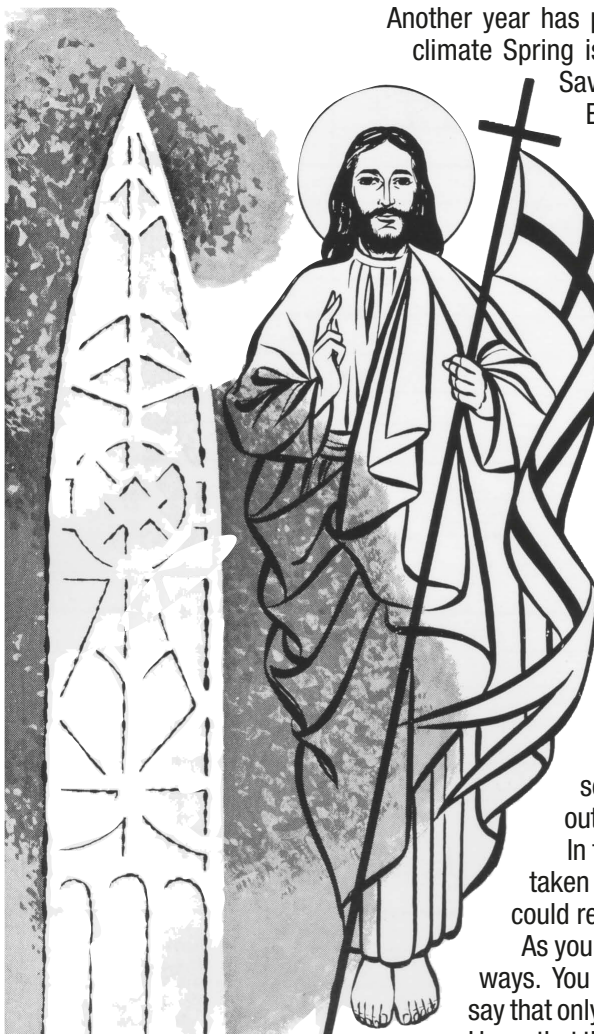


Fr. Thomas A. Nasta

human life and the sanctity of marriage. It is with hope that we pray for divine consolation and healing so that justice, mercy and peace may become lived realities in every corner of the earth. It is with hope that we pray for our faithful departed, that they may receive a merciful judgment and be welcomed to the everlasting joy of heaven.

It is this last hope and prayer that means so much to us now at Easter. Jesus said during his public ministry that he will raise up on the last day anyone who eats his flesh and drinks his blood. He promised to bring to eternal life those who believe in him, the Resurrection and the Life. He promised to welcome into the kingdom of heaven whoever exercises love and compassion to the least of our brothers and sisters.

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"he is risen"

President's 2008 Easter Message

Another year has past. For those in the northern climate Spring is desperately needed. Daylight Savings Time has been moved up. Easter approaches.

In today's fast-paced secular society the celebration of Easter Week and Easter itself is almost a non-event. It comes and goes without much anticipation and without much celebration. And yet, Easter is the event the Catholic faith is based on. Christ's rising from the dead is the foundation of the Christian religion.

We look at modern society and can see how the observance of Easter has declined as a religious event.

I never had cable television in my home, until this past year, when I was required to subscribe if I wanted any television at all. I now understand the mesmerizing effect this machine with 75 or more channels can have, not only on adults, but also more importantly on children and young people. Television and movies have become in too many cases the moral teachers of our children, whether we like it or not.

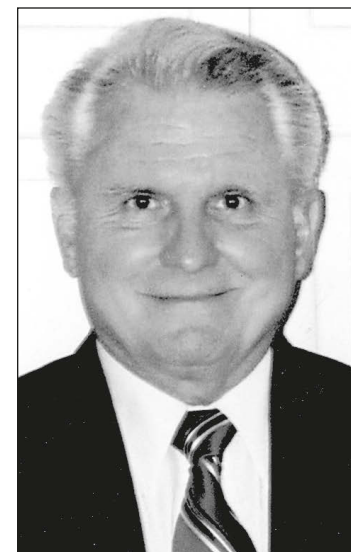
Christian fundamentalists have challenged this trend of modern society. Pope Benedict XVI has been called a "hard liner" in speaking out for basic truths.

In today's modern society rules have been bent and teachings formerly taken for granted are being disregarded. Wouldn't it be great if the 1950's could return, at least in some ways?

As you have heard many times "History repeats itself". This is true in many ways. You have heard that "There are no atheists in foxholes". Similarly, some say that only war, economic turmoil or personal crisis will bring people to religion. I hope that this is not required to reinvigorate the Catholic Church and again create "standing room only" at Holy Week services and Easter Sunday Mass.

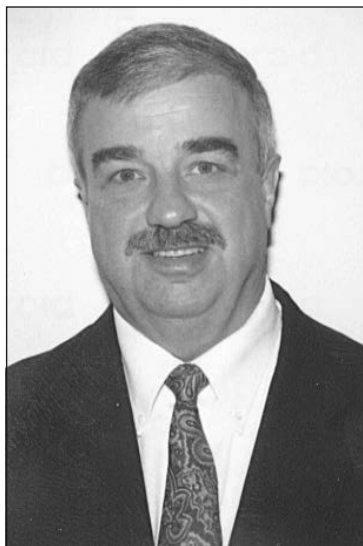
Best wishes to you and your family. Happy Easter. Christ is risen, let us rejoice and be glad. Pan Jezis Kristus vstal z mrtvych, radujme sa.

Andrew M. Rajec
President



Andrew M. Rajec

Easter Greetings From The Executive Secretary



Kenneth A. Arendt

Dear Members,
Easter is the time for renewal. A new season is approaching ... that of our Lord's Resurrection. The Easter Season is one of hope and renewal. The Lenten Season of darkness and penance is gone and a time of rejoicing and spiritual growth is here. Let us take time to reflect on our Lord's sacrifice for us and rejoice.

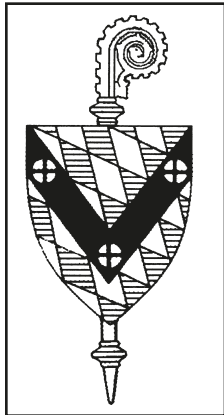
On behalf of my wife, Theresa, my family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish a Joyous Easter to all of our members and their families.

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch/District Announcements.....	6, 7
Obituaries	9
Youth	8
Slovak.....	15-20

Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 30, 2008

Second Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

With allusions to the Eucharistic liturgy, this passage describes the appearance of the Lord to his disciples on the day of his resurrection. The disciples experience the peace and joy of his presence as he had promised (Jn 14:27 and 16:22). Then, assuring them that he is the same Jesus whom they had known before his death, he breathes the life of the Holy Spirit into them, and sends them to bring forgiveness to a sinful world just as the Father had sent him.

Thomas, one of the twelve, was not present; and upon hearing what had happened, said that he would not believe unless he could see and touch the Lord for himself.

A week later, again on Sunday, Jesus appears to the disciples, and this time shows Thomas his wounds and tells him to touch them. Thomas at once responds, "My Lord and my God." Jesus in reply gives us the beatitude that is the climax and expresses the purpose of John's gospel: "Blessed are those who have not seen and believed."

John concludes by stating that he has written about these events so that we the hearers of the gospel might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and thus have life in him

Life Implications

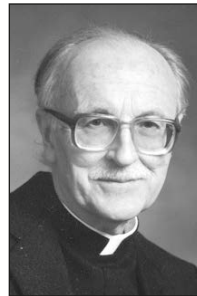
We can readily identify with that early community which John is addressing in this gospel. It is now at least fifty or sixty years since Jesus died and then appeared to his disciples as Risen Lord. We like John's community, and like Thomas, were not present in that room to experience for ourselves the reality of the resurrection. Did it make sense for that early community, and does it make sense for us now, to believe without seeing and touching the Lord?

John's gospel proclaims the good news that we who were not present to see and to touch the Lord can believe in truth that Jesus is the Son of God, and have life in him.

A privileged moment for us to experience the reality of the Lord's presence is when we, like the first Christians, gather on the first day of the week to be with the Lord. We have heard the good news from those who have seen the Lord. Now we pray that we might be among the blessed who are able to experience the peace and joy of that divine presence. And in that experience it may be given to us to say from our hearts: "My Lord and God."

Through the gift of faith we believe that the Risen Lord also breathes the Holy Spirit into us. We the church are sent into a sinful world to bring forgiveness, not only as priests through the sacrament of reconciliation, but as disciples who are present anywhere there is need of forgiveness. Perhaps that we are able to forgive those who trespass against us is the surest sign that our faith is not illusion, but that we truly do live in the Spirit of Christ.

John 20: 19-31



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

Third Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

Two disciples on the road to a village called Emmaus meet a stranger and proceed to discuss with him what happened to Jesus of Nazareth a few days before. This Jesus was executed by Roman soldiers. Now there are rumors that he is alive. The stranger then explains to them how all of Scripture points to the Messiah, and how the Messiah had to suffer before entering into glory.

As they are about to go their separate ways upon reaching the village, the two disciples in a gesture of hospitality urge the stranger to dine with them. At table, the stranger takes bread, says a blessing, breaks the bread and offers it to them. In that familiar ritual they recognize that the stranger is Jesus. Jesus then vanishes in their sight.

When the disciples return to Jerusalem, they explain to the other disciples how they met a stranger on the road, and how they recognized him as the Lord in the breaking of the bread.

Life Implications

Luke's Emmaus gospel is a beautiful, theological dramatization of one of the encounters with the Risen Lord during those wonder-filled days after the discovery of the empty tomb (Mk 16: 12-13). This passage has a purpose different from the proof-pattern accounts whose intent is to demonstrate that the Lord is truly real in a new spiritual way, yet is the same Jesus the disciples had known before his death.

This gospel of the encounter of the two disciples with Jesus on the road to Emmaus and in the breaking of the bread is a story of friendship. The Risen Lord is a friend who talks with them as they walk, a friend who shares a meal with them. Luke describes an intimate, personal encounter marked by tenderness and hospitality.

We are reminded of the same tender quality of friendship in the meeting of Jesus and Mary of Magdala on the day of the resurrection. Here we have the drama of Mary by the empty tomb, weeping with the love she had for Jesus. The climax is reached at the moment of recognition when Jesus says to her, "Mary" (Jn 20:11-17).

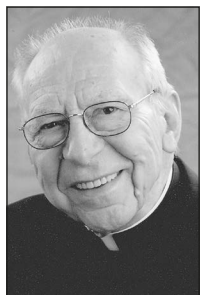
The life implication of the Emmaus gospel is good news spoken to our hearts: Jesus, now freed from the space-time limits of his earthly life, is present in our midst and wants to be our friend. It is the Lord who speaks to us in the reading of Scripture. It is the Lord we speak to in prayer. It is the Lord we join in giving thanks to the Father. It is the Lord who gives himself to us in the breaking of the bread. The Lord is with us.

We who enjoy the gift of friendship with Jesus ought to tell others about it, just as the two disciples did when they returned to Jerusalem. Everyone is invited to share in that divine-human friendship. The Lord asks us to extend hospitality to the strangers we meet on the road, inviting them to share not only the bread of heaven, but the daily bread of earth which the Father intends for all to share.

April 6, 2008

Luke 24: 13-15

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

You Have Been Purchased, and at a Price

We are body and soul. The soul is the spiritual or immaterial part of us that is immortal. It is the mind, our seat of judgment; it is our ability to make choices, a free will, and it is our capability to have and to express emotions, our "heart." Since our soul has no parts as does the body, it cannot die when the body does.

Together in life, body and soul complement each other, the body being the instrument in effecting the wonders of the soul. Hands bring architectural drawings to reality. Sailors cross oceans through storm and darkness. Ideas appear on the printed page.

Body and soul, too, live in conflict with each other. "I know that no good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh the desire to do right is there but not the power... My inner self agrees with the law of God, but I see in my body's members another law at war with the law of my mind; this makes me the prisoner of the law of sin in my members... So with my mind I serve the law of God but with my flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:18, 22-23,25)

Our redeemer, our savior, our champion at sunrise and guardian at sunset is God in the persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God provides us with the rules of ethics and morality, which show us the correct way in which to confront the flesh and choose instead the law of God which dwells within us. Beyond the rules, God supplies us with his grace, divine assistance, which transforms our nature, elevating it to a level above the body, and giving us an existence and activity focused upon the Trinity.

The body, the flesh, is not the *raison d'être*, the purpose or reason for our existence. Paul, in Second Letter to the Corinthians, describes the body as an "earthy tent in which we dwell," (5:1) and yearns "to have the heavenly dwelling envelop us." (5:4) "We know," he writes "that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord." (5:6) "I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (5:8)

The body grows, blossoms for a time, and then begins to fall apart. Its beauty fades,

continued on page 6

REMINDERS

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057.

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

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FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2008

THRU JUNE 30, 2008

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

The annual yield on a new
"Park 2 Annuity" is 4.50% (4.402% APR)

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

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

*If you have any questions about our annuities
or IRA's, please contact the Home Office!*

1-800-533-6682

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING AVOID STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR* ANNUITY

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*Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years
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Our FIXED RATE 6-YEAR annuity offers you the following benefits:

- A much higher interest rate than other current low rates available
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The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR annuity has the following features and terms:

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Independence, OH 44131-8013

Call 1-800 JEDNOTA or 1-216-642-9406

Attention Members of the George Onda District 3 Greensburg, PA Seminar

On Sunday, April 20, 2008 starting at 2:00 p.m. the Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a Sales Seminar at the Bishop Connare Center located at 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

These seminars are open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union interested in acquiring knowledge about our insurance and annuity portfolio.

At the seminars, sales brochures and new 2001 CSO rate charts will be distributed and discussed. All branch officers, district officers, recommenders and First Catholic Slovak Union members interested in learning and selling our insurance and annuity products are urged to attend these seminars. Form car pool...lets get involved in establishing new membership.

Please be sure to make your reservations by calling either Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt at 1/800-533-6682 or Clarence Pfeifer at 724/423-2983 by April 14, 2008.

Until we meet at the seminar...

Good Luck and God Bless

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.,

National Vice President & Membership and Marketing Chairman

Run to Him

Don't ask me to fight your battles
don't ask me to forgive your sins
run to Him in the Tribune of Mercy
and receive His loving, eternal embrace
His forgiveness complete-all-giving
alas, return to me in joy, thanksgiving!

Francis X. Markley, OPL



Blessings

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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



Slovak Heritage Society Holds Lenten Event

The Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA held a Lenten Slovak Hymn-Sing and Križová Cesta - Traditional Stations of the Cross devotion in the native Slovak language on Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 2:00 pm in the St. Joseph Slovak Church, 49 Hillside Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA Msgr. Thomas V. Banick is pastor of St. Joseph.

The Society was delighted to have this devotion because many people miss singing our beautiful and inspirational hymns that are seldom heard today. At one time, the Stations of the Cross were held every Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent in our Slovak Churches.

Rev. John T. Albosta, pastor of St. Mary Church, Waymart and SHSNEPA chaplain, presided at the Križová Cesta and Benediction. Joseph Kowatch served as cross bearer. Anna Hudock and Elaine Palischak were candle bearers. The following led the prayers, Magdalen Benish, Theresa Chupka, Mary Chupka, Mary Migatulski, Catherine Makuch, Tony Palischak, Betty Pirnick, Philip Tuhy and Bob Zavada. We were pleased to have Rev. Philip Altavilla in attendance. Before each of the fourteen stations, the traditional hymn Krestania Sem Pospiechajte was sung.

Bernadette Yencha led the congregation in singing the six Lenten hymns. John Simkovich was the organist. The hymn-sing affords the opportunity for our English speaking faithful to better appreciate the wealth of Slovak hymnology. English translations of all the Slovak hymns were provided along with the station booklets, however something is usually lost in the translation.

Magdalen Benish, who coordinated the service, said her mother always said if you sing these Slovak hymns and understand the meaning, you would be afraid to go out and sin, because the words are moving and

penetrating.

"O Srdce Kamenné" – O heart of stone, pause and reflect with shame. Look on the suffering Christ, head bowed in pain. The time of grief and woe is now at hand, ah; cease your wickedness, your sinful way. Christ is tortured, oh so cruelly, on the cross of wood slain so brutally.

Other hymns sung were: O clovece preco mna tak sužujes? (Oh my people why do you torment me so); Krestania Nariekajte (Christians, voice your lamenting!); Môj Milý Ježišu (My dearest Jesu, grant my soul salvation!); Ach, Križ Svätý (Ah, Holy Cross, precious tree.); and Matka Place, Ruky Spína (Mother weeping, hands beseeching).

The Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA began the Lenten hymn sing in 1996 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Sacred Heart Slovak Church in Wilkes-Barre. It has continued in several Slovak parishes since then. In 2001 the Križová Cesta was included; it was held at St. Joseph Slovak Church Wilkes-Barre with Rev. Philip Altavilla presiding.

Some of the parishes that hosted the Lenten Hymn Sing and Stations were; St. Joseph Hazleton, St. Joseph, Nanticoke, St. John the Baptist Pittston, St. John the Baptist, Taylor, St. Steven Plymouth, Holy Trinity Swoyersville, Chapel-Marie Hall Danville, and St. Michael Lansford.

The society continues our time-honored Slovak saying: "Kde Je Slovak Tam Je Spev"

"Where There Is A Slovak There Is Song"

A CD or cassette of the Lenten Hymn are available. Write Slovak Heritage society of NEPA, P.O. Box 5004, Station A Wilkes-Barre PA, 18710-5004 or check the Web Site www/shsnepa.org.

From the desk of the Executive Secretary –

Visit our web site! www.fcsu.com

Exciting News – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site

Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

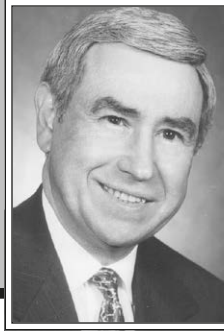
If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is fcsu@aol.com if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements.

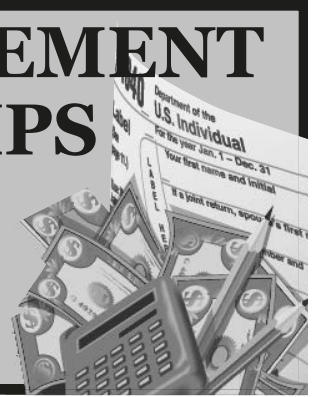
WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Don't Miss Out on Valuable Tax Deductions

When you overlook tax deductions, you overlook tax-savings opportunities. While taxpayers are generally familiar with common deductions-mortgage interest, medical expenses and so on- they often fail to claim others. Here is a rundown of tax deductible expenses to keep in mind as you prepare your 2007 federal tax return.

Charitable Contributions - Most people know that charitable contributions of cash can be deducted as an itemized deduction. Not everyone realizes that you can deduct noncash donations such as used clothing, furniture, and household goods. The deductible amount is based on the item's fair market value.

Student Loan Interest - Interest paid on student loans is deductible as an adjustment to gross income- up to \$2,500 per year for as many as it takes to repay the loan. This deduction is subject to a phase out, depending on your adjusted gross income.

IRA Contributions - Contributions to a traditional IRA might be deductible, depending on your age, total income, and whether you are covered by a retirement plan through your employer.

Health Insurance for Self-Employed Workers - Premiums you pay to cover yourself and your family are 100 percent deductible as an adjustment to gross income.

Early Withdrawal Penalty - If you incurred a penalty as the result of an early withdrawal from a certificate of deposit or other type of time deposit savings account, the amount of the penalty is deductible as an adjustment to gross income.

Social Security Taxes for the Self-Employed - In computing your adjusted gross income, you can deduct up to one half of self-employment taxes paid during 2006.

Home Equity Loan Interest - The IRS permits you to deduct interest payments on up to \$100,000 of home equity loan debt.

Military Reservists Travel - Reservists who serve more than 100 miles from home and stay overnight are eligible to deduct non-reimbursed travel expenses.

Alimony - Divorced taxpayers may write off alimony expenses as an adjustment to gross income, but not child support.

Miscellaneous Itemized Deductions

There are a number of deductible expenses that fall into the category of miscellaneous itemized deductions. These expenses are deductible to the extent that their total exceeds 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. The most common are listed below.

Unreimbursed Employee Business Expenses - This category includes business expenses you incur in connection with your job, such as dues paid to a union or professional society, business-related travel, courses you take to improve your job skills, professional books and journals, and work clothes and uniforms.

Job Search Expenses - The money you spend looking for a job is deductible as long as you're looking for a job in your current line of work. You may deduct the cost of travel—only if the trip relates primarily to seeking a new job—resume preparation, postage, and telephone calls, even if you don't get the job.

Investment Expenses - This category of miscellaneous itemized deductions includes investment fees, safe deposit box rental, subscriptions to investment publications, and other expenses incurred in managing your investments.

Tax Preparation Fees - You can claim a deduction for fees you pay to a tax preparer, as well as expenses paid for tax preparation software, tax publications, and electronic filing.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16	MONDAY, APRIL 7
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30	MONDAY, APRIL 21
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14	MONDAY, MAY 5

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Anthony Sutherland, Editor
"JEDNOTA"

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

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE AND ACADEMIC PREPARATION BRATISLAVA SCHOOL OF LAW

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

*Are you interested in discovering Slovakia – a beautiful
country in the heart of Europe?*

Do you wish to understand the language of your forefathers or colleagues at
work or Slovak relatives of your boy/girlfriend?

Do you wish to exercise informal communication with Slovak students?

Are you looking for wonderful holidays in an international community?

WHEN: July 7 – 25, 2008 (or July 7 – 18, 2008 just a 2-week course)

WHERE: Bratislava – Petržalka, Tematínska 10 (nearby the lake)

PROGRAMME:

- **Intensive Slovak language study - 30 lessons per week**
(Language lessons, conversation lessons, lessons in multimedia language labs, series of lectures on present Slovakia and other attractive forms of language teaching)
- **Social and cultural programme**
 - sports and cultural events
 - Slovak folk traditions
 - presentation and practice of folk songs and dances
 - guided tours in Bratislava and its surroundings
 - 2-day trip around Slovakia

CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION: July 23 – 24, 2008

Participants may take an exam assessing their Slovak language proficiency and receive a certificate – levels B1, B2 or C1 accredited by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

TUITION FEE: EUR 460 (or EUR 330 for a 2-week course)

Costs for trips, entrance fees to museums, public transport etc. as well as travel expenses and insurance are not included.

Examination fee is in amount of **1,000 SKK** (ca 30 EUR).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 3, 2008

On-line enrolment and more information at: www.uninova.sk/clap

ACCOMMODATION

Summer School participants can book accommodation in the premises of our partner hotel for special rates:

Address: **INCHEBA HOTEL**
Viedenská cesta 3-7
Bratislava-Petržalka

The hotel is situated in the Congress and Exhibition Centre INCHEBA on the bank of the River Danube – opposite the historical centre (across the river) and not far away from the Summer school venue (about 10 - 15 minutes' journey).

There will be a shuttle bus service taking participants from the hotel to CLAP in the morning.

Detailed information on the hotel can be found at: www.incheba.sk/services/hotel_EN/669

Option A/ INCHEBA Hotel ***

- single and double rooms with a bathroom (WC and bath), satellite TV, radio, telephone, a free connection to the Internet
- suites (2 persons)

Price for a single room per night: 1,200 SKK (ca. 37 EUR)

Price for a double room per night: 1,520 SKK (ca. 47 EUR)

Price for a suite per night: 2,080 SKK (ca. 64 EUR)

(Tourist tax in amount 30 SKK (0.9 EUR) per night per person is not included.)

Option B/ INCHEBA Hotel *

- two double rooms form a unit with shared bathroom and toilet
- radio, telephone

Price for a double room per night: 800 SKK (ca. 24 EUR)

(Tourist tax in amount 30 SKK (0.92 EUR) per night per person is not included.)

CANCELLATION POLICY: Confirmed reservation can be cancelled without any cancellation fee no later than June 23, 2008.

Attention: Book the chosen option and send it including your payment card details by e-mail to clap@uninova.sk or by fax to No. ++421 2 6353 3149.

Do it as soon as possible – the number of places is limited!

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING DEADLINE: June 2, 2008

BOARD

Breakfast: at INCHEBA Hotel - a buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant
200 SKK / person (ca 6 EUR)

Lunch: at the Summer School venue - a students' canteen with an offer of:

- 2 daily menus for 89 SKK (approx. 2.7 EUR) and
- a choice from dishes upon order (À la minute)

Dinner: on your own – a variety of restaurants, café, pubs, pizzeria in the downtown of Bratislava or at the INCHEBA Hotel

Exchange rate – purchase (February 7, 2008): 1 EUR = 32.54 SKK

PRESENTATION



On November 4, 2007 in Los Angeles, Paul Skuben presented a rare copy of the authentic 17th century painting "Praying in the Garden" by Bernardino Ferrari, as a gift of First Catholic Slovak Union and Slovak American Center in Los Angeles to Saint John Bosco Fathers as an appreciation and thank you for the opportunity to celebrate Slovak mass in their chapel and the use of the cafeteria for fraternal activities. We are allowed to do the activities four times a year. Father Leo Baysinger accepted the great painting with appreciation. Pictured L.-R.: Fr. Joseph Lockwood, Fr. Alojsius Pestun, Dr. Alice Skuben, Paul Skuben, Fr. Leo Baysinger, Milan Konkol, Dr. Maria Cyprich.

Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District Annual Coloring Contest

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

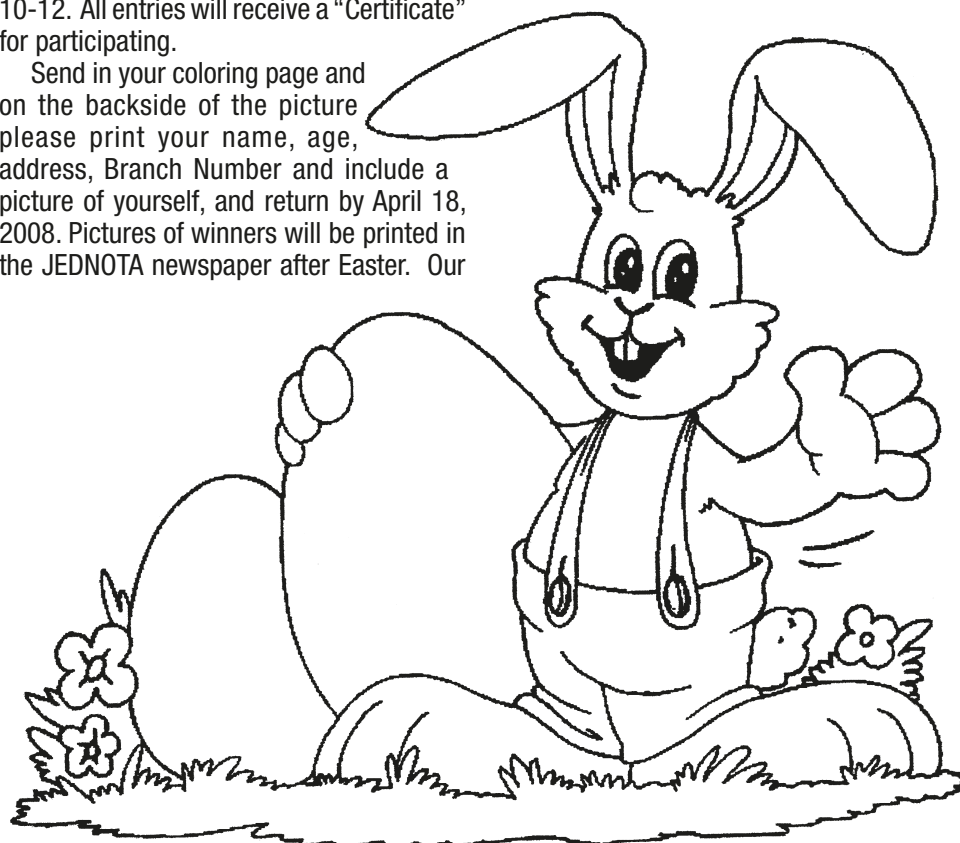
Send in your coloring page and on the backside of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself, and return by April 18, 2008. Pictures of winners will be printed in the JEDNOTA newspaper after Easter. Our

lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on April 20, 2008.

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

Good luck to all.

**Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest**



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 1 — CLEVELAND, OHIO

The officers of St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, wish all the members a Happy New Year! Meetings will be held on March 11, June 10, September 9 and December 16, 2008. All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. Come and enjoy some fraternalism at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall.

Mary Dubber, Secretary

Branch 7 — HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

Branch 45 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

Branch 228 — LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, is canceling the March 2008 meeting due to St. Patrick's Day activities at the American Slovak Club and the commitments of our Branch members and officers. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30th and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio.

Our meetings are held on the 3d Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the activities of the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come in and become more active in these fine organizations. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fscu.com, and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

Branch 276 — MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold the first meeting of the year on Sunday, March 30, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in St. Martin de Porres Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

The annual meeting was held in November and the election of officers was held. The following were elected: Margaret Nasta, President; George Gerdich, Vice President; Joan Goodall, Treasurer; David Matta, Financial Secretary; Nancy Gerdich, Recording

Secretary; and James Bertoty and Norene Morrissey, Auditors.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

Branch 313 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at the Mother of Sorrows Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. On the agenda will be a discussion of how to find unknown addresses for our lost Jednota members. We are trying to locate the following members: Kenneth W. Michalik, Charles Morinec, Phyllis Morinec, Barbara E. Perkins, Kimberly Rozema, Thaddeus C. Rozema, Robert Ruby, Josephine Ruzon, and Angela Schandor. If you have addresses or telephone numbers for any of these members please call Joseph Bugel at 708/349-7873.

**Joseph M. Bugel,
President/Financial Secretary**

Branch 456 — HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the Lincoln Club Meeting Room. All members are urged to attend.

Frank Danko, Secretary

Branch 567 — ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold its next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Members are urged to attend the meetings and take an interest in our work and support our activities. A homemade baked goods sale was held on March 1 in the church social hall. It was a huge success. We wish to thank everyone for their support and also the ladies who baked for us.

May God bless and watch over you.

Helen Fiala, Secretary

Branch 580 — WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 580, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary Mary Perun, 3621 Outlook Drive, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the officers' reports and the election of officers. All members are urged to attend.

Mary Perun, Financial Secretary

Branch 682 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Materials Research Center, Struthers, Ohio. A planning agenda is on the schedule.

Andrew Hirt, President

Branch 716 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda

will be a financial report and a discussion of activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

Branch 746 — LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. This will be an abbreviated meeting prior to the District Meeting at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will

be a discussion of a spring bus trip, summer picnic, and a fall dinner dance. Refreshments will be served after the District Meeting.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 764 — WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, Warren, Ohio. On the agenda will be a discussion of coming events sponsored by the branch.

Joanne Odom, Secretary

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

its strength weakens, and if life continues within it, it is reduced eventually to sitting in a wheelchair tied to a chair railing in a senior care facility awaiting the inevitable.

When the choice is made for the body instead of the soul, the body seeks glorification and immortality. In our country, this desire goes back to April 13, 1513, the season of "Pascua Florida," the Easter season known as "Feast of Flowers," when Juan Ponce de Leon landed in the present vicinity of St. Augustine seeking the Fountain of Youth, eternal youth. (You can visit this site at 11 Magnolia Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084.) He died eight years later of a poisoned arrow wound to the shoulder.

Eternal youth! We pursue it through diet, exercise regimens, personal trainers and surgery. Others live life to the fullest. The Prodigal Son "squandered his money on dissolute living." (Luke 15:13) The rich man said to himself, "You have blessings in reserve for years to come. Relax! Eat heartily, drink well. Enjoy yourself." (Luke 12:19)

There is no fountain of youth. There is no eternal youth. Cemeteries are not closing for lack of bodies. Funeral directors are not disposing of their hearses.

We have a duty of course to care for our bodies so that they may do the work of the soul, which inhabits the body and propels it to acts of good judgment, sound ethical and moral choices, and bears witness to compassion, understanding and aid to those less fortunate. The body is to serve as the instrument of the immortal soul.

The body that rejects the soul is doomed to die an agonizing death in this life and is dammed in the life to come in eternity. Reject God and the body has no defense against violence, against being hunted down like beasts in the forest, and against diseases which turn away the eyes of those who witness them. The body without a soul wreaks havoc in society, taking innocent lives, and causing fear among the just.

For all men, Jesus Christ died on the Cross, a death whose pain we cannot begin to measure. "...he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) As the crown of thorns tore into his scalp, as the blood that flowed from his beating colored his body red, as he gasped to exhale, we are reminded of his words, "The Father love me for this; that I lay down my life to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down freely." (John 10:17-18) He lay down his life freely for us. Who can surpass his gift?

"I give you a new commandment," he said. "Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you as my disciples; by your love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

"Anyone who loves me will be true to my word, and my father will love him; we will come to him and make our dwelling place with him." (John 15:23)

The gift of his life for us, the pledge of his word are founded on the word "love." This is the design of God in uniting us as body and soul.

We have been purchased and at a price.

What blessings are those to whom body and soul are complementary!

What punishments to those in whom body and soul are in conflict!

Spitkovsky District Theater Outing

Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District are invited to attend a brunch and matinee performance, "The Buddy Holly Story" on Sunday, May 25, 2008, at the Drury Lane Theater, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Brunch is at 12:00 noon followed by the show at 2:30 p.m. The show tells the three years during which Buddy Holly became the world's top recording artist and how he sang his way from a Nashville recording studio and turned into a global success. Come and see Holly's rise to stardom with a show that features over twenty of Buddy Holly's greatest hits.

The cost is \$50.00 per person. The District voted to subsidize FCSU members who attended last year's performance with a rebate of \$20.00, making their cost \$30.00. New first time FCSU members will receive a \$10.00 rebate, making their cost \$40.00. Nonmembers will pay the full price of \$50.00. The Director of Fraternal Activities George Kelchak has reserved 40 tickets. You are advised to make your reservations early. The deadline is April 5, 2008. Make checks payable to the Spitkovsky District 2 and mail to: George Kelchak, 953 Portage Ave., Porter, IN 46304. Your tickets will be available at our District meeting on April 20. If you are unable to attend the meeting, I will have the tickets with me before the brunch. On arriving, see the reservation clerk and ask for Spitkovsky reserve seating. If you have any questions call George Kelchak at 219/926-2410.

George Kelchak,

Director of Fraternal Activities, Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT —
New Jersey**

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its next Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Branch 746 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Mary Kapitan at 732/225-2658 with the number of members who will be attending. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

**REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT —
Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin**

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches in District II are encouraged to send delegates. A delicious meal will be served. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food and beverages, please contact District II President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 if you plan to attend.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008 at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church, 127 East Howard Street, Stowe, Pennsylvania.

Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. followed by the meeting at 10:30 a.m. in the social hall. Dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$10.00. Please make your checks payable to Branch 857 and send it with your credentials by April 7th. Please send your check and credentials on time so I can tell the host branch how many will attend. Directions will be included.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

**MICHIGAN DISTRICT —
Michigan**

The Michigan District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan, located just north of 18 Mile Road.

The day will begin with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. The District meeting will take place in Room 118 at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Branch 743 will be the host branch. Please notify Joe Rimarcik at 586/254-0225 by April 20, 2008 on the number of delegates attending the meeting from your branch.

Spring is beautiful time to renew old friendships and see our new church facilities. Our District President Victor Jiomkowski encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

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

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik district will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be a discussion of the year's activities. The upcoming Jednota Bowling Tournament scheduled for April 25-27 will also be discussed. Also on the agenda will be the planning for a one-day casino bus trip.

Carlie Peshek, President

**GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT —
Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania**

The George Onda District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Representatives from each of our branches are expected to attend. A Sales Seminar will be held following the meeting.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

**MSGR. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT —
Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset and Bedford Counties, Pennsylvania**

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church of Holy Spirit Parish, Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale (Lloydell), Pennsylvania. The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will be the host. Holy Mass will be offered earlier in the day for the living and deceased members of the District.

All District lodges are urged to send delegates to the meeting. Branches may pay their dues at this meeting. Hope to see you in Beaverdale.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

**PITTSBURGH DISTRICT —
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 213 will be the host. The Father's Day Brunch and the Annual Meeting will be discussed. Also on the agenda will be the officers' reports and a discussion of FCSU business. In particular, a host branch is needed for the Father's Day Brunch. All branches are expected to send representatives. We urge all members to attend. A light luncheon will be served after the meeting.

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

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

FCSU Reintroduces Senior Promotion Program

The Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union will introduce a number of programs in the coming months for the benefit of our membership. Back by popular demand is our Senior Promotion Program. This program is available now through March 31, 2008.

Initial Program (Current Members)

The Senior Promotion Program is directed to all current members between the ages of 55 and 80. Each member in this age group, subject to current reasonably good health, may purchase the amount of Whole Life insurance that a \$200.00 annual premium will purchase, based on their current age. See the attached Life Insurance Chart. To help offset the cost for the first year, a special fraternal dividend equal to 50% of the first year premium, amounting to \$100, will be provided to each participating member. This means that if each member takes advantage of the Society's offer, they will not only increase their family's life insurance protection, but will receive a generous fraternal dividend.

Application

As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting will be waived except for serious illnesses, injury, or medical conditions, which required medical treatment or hospitalization in the last five years. This is not a guaranteed issue program. The FCSU may require the applicant to take a physical exam and /or provide additional medical information.

New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year allowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

Please allow sufficient time for your branch proposer or secretary to contact you (up to thirty (30) days.) If contact is not made by November 2007, please contact your branch proposer, branch secretary or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

In the coming months, additional programs directed to various groups of members will be introduced. Watch for announcements in future issues of our JEDNOTA.

FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE 2007

AGE	SCHEDULE 1		AGE	SCHEDULE 2	
	MALE NON SMOKING	FEMALE NON SMOKING		MALE SMOKER	FEMALE SMOKER
55	6,498	7,927	55	4,988	6,928
56	6,175	7,413	56	4,760	6,605
57	5,922	7,145	57	4,598	6,359
58	5,677	6,885	58	4,439	6,122
59	5,438	6,627	59	4,282	5,893
60	5,204	6,380	60	4,129	5,671
61	4,979	6,135	61	3,981	5,456
62	4,762	5,898	62	3,839	5,247
63	4,554	5,666	63	3,702	5,043
64	4,353	5,438	64	3,571	4,845
65	4,157	5,216	65	3,444	4,652
66	3,958	4,999	66	3,317	4,465
67	3,784	4,788	67	3,193	4,283
68	3,604	4,581	68	3,069	4,105
69	3,428	4,379	69	2,946	3,932
70	3,257	4,182	70	2,824	3,766
71	3,091	3,990	71	2,704	3,606
72	2,933	3,804	72	2,588	3,451
73	2,780	3,622	73	2,474	3,301
74	2,632	3,445	74	2,365	3,158
75	2,490	3,275	75	2,253	3,018
76	2,352	3,109	76	2,146	2,883
77	2,221	2,948	77	2,043	2,751
78	2,095	2,791	78	1,943	2,623
79	1,975	2,638	79	1,848	2,497
80	1,866	2,577	80	1,758	2,378

Benedictine Monks and Notre Dame Nuns Kept Us in Line at School

By Frank M. Stipkala

As was customary at St. Benedict School in Cleveland, Ohio, our pastor, Father Leo Rehak, O.S.B., came to each classroom to distribute report cards. If you were an average student, you had nothing to fear. If you didn't have problems with behavior, punctuality, attendance or discipline, you could sit back at your desk without a worry till the 45-minute ordeal was over. But if you had a "D" or "F" grade on your card, or received a "poor" score for behavior, deportment or punctuality, you could expect a "tongue-lashing" from Father Leo. But if you had several failing marks, you knew that Father Leo would grab your ear lobe till you said, "ouch."

Worse yet, when you took your report card home and showed it to your parents, you often suffered a worse fate than Father Leo's punishment. Out came dad's strap and you got several whacks on your derriere, or were forced to kneel in the corner for an hour. After undergoing this double dose of humiliation, most students vowed to improve their grades or behavior, so as to avoid Father Leo's wrath or parents' beating at subsequent report card distributions.

For many of us, it was our first brush with "tough love" and was to prepare us well for later life perils, such as army life, when a hard-nosed Sergeant commanded us to "pick up those cigarette butts or else you get K.P. (Kitchen Patrol) duty for a week."

Talk about discipline, when I was in the sixth grade, all our girls were expected to conform with the dress code, which meant bobby socks and loafers, or saddle shoes, to go along with their uniforms. One of the gals thought she'd test the rule by wearing nylon stockings to class. Our sharp-eyed nun didn't take long to spot the infraction. She asked the girl to step into the cloak room (where we hung our clothes). Next thing we heard was several thuds on the girl's behind and accompanying sobs. A few minutes later she emerged, still teary-eyed, and in pain, from the nun's thrashing. Needless to say we saw no more nylon stockings at St. Benedict School!!

When tragedy strikes a school today, all

kinds of counselors show up to give solace to the students. When I was in the fourth grade, I went to my classroom to join my school mates prior to attending the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass. Our good nun picked up a piece of chalk and printed this sobering message on the blackboard: Jean Kaplafka has died. What a shock that was. I couldn't understand how this vibrant 10-year old girl could have left us so suddenly! Then Sister Protase told us that Jean had suffered a ruptured appendix on Friday night. That was it. No counselors. No discussion. We simply went to the Mass and prayed for Jean. Back then, you bit your lip and kept going.

About twice yearly our good nun advised us that a movie would be shown in the church hall. If we wanted to attend, we'd have to bring a nickel from home. Of course, my parents had to worry about putting food on the table, so asking them for a nickel was out of the question. So I was content to stay in the classroom while my classmates viewed a Tom Mix movie. But on the morning of the showing, after my classmates had left for the movie, our Sister asked the six of us who hadn't paid our nickels to step out in the hallways. She instructed us to join in with the other kids in the church hall, "but don't tell them you haven't brought in your nickels," she exhorted.

We were thrilled to say the least, and we would never admit to not bringing in our nickels. Now some 65 years later, I'm breaking my vow of silence to thank Sister Mary Theodore, S.N.D. for her act of kindness to allow the six of us to see the Tom Mix movie. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Sister!

Back in the 1940's, St. Benedict Church was blessed to have a monk named Brother Benedict Klucas, O.S.B., as its cook/baker for the four Benedictine priests in residence. Because I lived in the shadow of the church, Brother Benedict and I became good friends. One of my perks that came out of our friendship was the sharing of his fantastic tasting apple pie with me. Even though I consider myself a very astute apple pie connoisseur, to this day I've never had a slice of apple pie and savored it more than Brother Benedict's. Unfortunately for St. Benedict's word soon filtered back to the abbey about Brother Benedict's baking and cooking skills and, just like that, he was reassigned back to his home base, St. Andrew Svorad Abbey. Now he would ply his expertise for the 70-plus monks residing there. With his departure, my apple pie treats came to an end. Thank you, Brother Benedict for converting me into a lifetime apple pie addict!

My first exposure to the game of golf came at age eight. Everyday I went across the street to the convent grounds to join my buddies in a game of baseball. One day an elderly gentleman approached us and asked if one of us could caddy for him at Highland Park Golf Course, some 14 miles away. I knew my parents would be upset if I ventured that far away with a stranger. Later on I found out that the stranger was Benedictine's first abbot, Stanislav Gmuca, O.S.B., a man who loved the game of golf.

Because I had been responsible for all printing projects during my 35-year career

with the American Red Cross, when I became the Public Relations Director at Benedictine High School and St. Andrew Abbey, the first monk I sought out was the one who ran the print shop-Father Lawrence Sevcik, O.S.B. We became very good friends during the six years that I worked there. I was in his print shop daily in the abbey basement to check on the progress of my printing projects.

Even though his printing equipment was ancient, Father Lawrence produced outstanding quality work. He was particularly proud of the holy cards he printed whenever a monk passed away, also the Mass program.

One day I told Father Lawrence that my mother, Helen, had broken her favorite rosary. "Tell her not to worry. I'll give her one blessed by the pope." Sure enough, the next day he handed me a beautiful white-beaded

rosary that measured 24 inches across and glowed in the dark. Father Lawrence indicated that Pope John Paul had given him the power to grant special indulgences to anyone who used one of the rosaries.

When my dear mom died in June 2007, it was that same white-beaded rosary that was entwined around her fingers as she lay in the coffin.

As my mom grew weaker by the hour that June 28th, I decided to call Father Lawrence to "hurry over" and give her the Last Rites. He came within the hour and gave her the final blessing.

At her wake, Father Lawrence kept busy imparting his special blessing to anyone who had a rosary. Since this rosary was blessed, its owner could expect to receive more than 1000 days of indulgences.

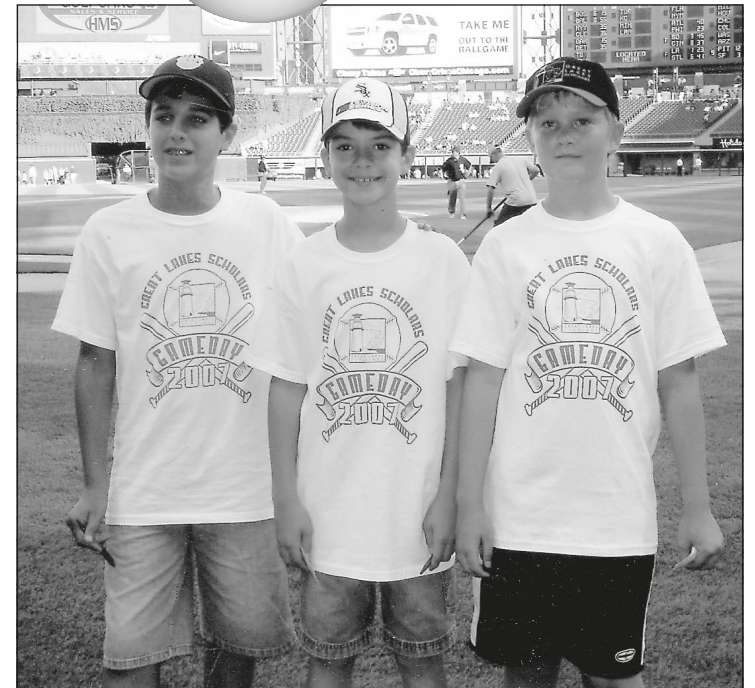
(to be continued)

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Congratulations are in order to Jacob Rossman Jr., a member of Branch 706 in South Chicago, Illinois. Because of his high academic achievement, he has received several awards including nominations for the People to People Student Leadership Program, the National Young Scholars and the Great Lakes Scholars. Jacob also participates in Spellbowl and Mathbowl competitions for his school, St. Mary's in Griffith, Indiana. Jacob also plays soccer, basketball and baseball. When he is not busy with all that, he enjoys video games and fishing at his family's cottage in Rapid River, Michigan.

Jacob's parents are JR and Donna Rossmann and his sister is Rachel. His proud grandparents are Will and Marion Fayta. They are all members of Branch 706.

Congratulations and keep up the good work, Jacob!



Great Lake Scholars Jacob Rossman (right) and his friends were given the honor to walk on to Cellular Field in Chicago before a White Sox game.

Beauty of Soul

Beauty of soul from above makes us one in Christ-if we wish to be like Him in all things, then our souls must possess a beauty too.

Alas, this is accomplished by our sincere understanding of His everlasting Love for us... 'you can give without loving you cannot love unless you give.'

Hence, this becomes a lesson for we children daring to celebrate Holy Mass which is 'Divine Love' by sacrifice that blesses, forgives, adorns souls in His majestic 'Beauty of Love'!

Francis X. Markley, OPL

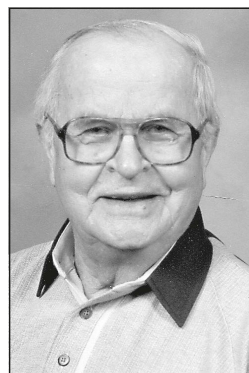
2008 International Tournaments

Bowling
April 25-27
Wedgewood Lanes ~ Youngstown, Ohio

Golf
July 12-13
Tam O'Shanter ~ Canton, Ohio

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Frank R. Petrus
Branch 1
Cleveland, Ohio



Frank R. Petrus

Frank R. Petrus, 87, of Mayfield Heights, Ohio, died recently. He was the husband of Florence Svec Petrus and the late Margaret Fazekas.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by children Les (Barbara) and Edward and Audrey (Dick) Marcellino and Joseph A. Klimko; grandchildren, Daniel and Kelly Petrus, Michelle, Anthony (Kris), Michael (Nicole), Angela, Nicholas and Leslie Marcellino; and a great-grandchild, Julia Noel. He was predeceased by a brother, John, and a sister, Rose Horvath.

Mr. Petrus was a veteran of the U.S. Army 377th Infantry, 95th Division in World War II.. He was a member of DAV, Catholic War Veterans, American Legion Post 104, St. Pius X Golden Agers, Hillcrest Hospital Volunteers and Hillcrest Concert Band.

Mr Petrus was also a longtime member of the St. Joseph Society, Branch 1 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He served as treasurer of Branch 1 for over 50 years.

Friends were received at the St. John Funeral Home, Bedford, Ohio. Funeral services were held at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Pius X Church, Bedford. Interment was in All Souls Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

Florence Petrus

Stanley J. Wawrynowic
Branch 7
Houtzdale, Pennsylvania



Stanley J. Wawrynowic, 85, of Philipsburg, Pennsylvania, died Friday, February 22, 2008, at the Ridgeview Elder Care and Rehabilitation Center, Curwensville,

Pennsylvania.

Born September 3, 1922, in Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania, he was the son of Anthony and Helen (Sokol) Wawrynowic.

On May 29, 1948, in Osceola Mills, he married the former Gladys A. Morgan, who died September 20, 1994.

He is survived by a daughter, Jane A. Stark and her husband, Greg, of Osceola Mills; two sons, Stanley J. Wawrynowic Jr. and his wife, Kay, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, and Thomas A. Wawrynowic of Clinton, Maryland; and a grandson, Matthew Stark of Osceola Mills.

He was the last of his generation.

In addition to his wife he was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Anna Hefferon; and four brothers, Joseph, Chester, Anthony and Frank Wawrynowic.

He was a 1939 graduate of Osceola Mills High School and was a railroad brakeman for many years with Conrail before retiring in 1984.

Stanley Wawrynowic was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was a charter member of the Osceola Mills Veterans of Foreign wars Post No. 5020. He was also a member of the Osceola Mills American Legion Gorman-Peters Post No. 313 and the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Wawrynowic was a member of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Philipsburg and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at SS. Peter and Paul Church with Father Robert J. Kelly as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, Osceola Mills. Military honors were accorded at the Beezer-Heath Funeral Home, Philipsburg, prior to going to the church by members of the Osceola Mills Honor Guard.

The officers and members of Branch 7 extend their deepest sympathy to the family of our deceased member, Stanley. May he rest in peace.

Marie Sedlak

Coming Events

MARCH

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

APRIL

13 – The. Msgr. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey.

13 – The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Semiannual Meeting at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church, 127 Howard Street, Stowe, Pennsylvania. Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by meeting at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at 1:00 p.m.

13 – The Pittsburgh District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

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

27 – The Michigan District's Semiannual Meeting at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Mass at 11:30 a.m. followed by refreshments. Meeting and lunch at 1:00 p.m.

27 – The Rev. John Martvon District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church of Holy Spirit Parish, Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale (Lloydell), Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh to be Focus of Family History Conference

The 2008 Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) Conference will be held August 1-3, 2008, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel, 777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

The theme will be "Pittsburgh: The East European Magnet", reflecting the vast number of immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe who came to the city and its neighboring towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The conference will feature presentations from leading experts in the fields of Central and East European Genealogy, DNA testing, Online Databases, one-on-one research consultations and more! The keynote speaker on Friday morning will be Dr. Stephen P. Morse, Creator of the "One Step Web Pages." The Saturday evening banquet will feature the talk, "Don't Stop for Red Lights: The Story of the Creation of the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning" by Joseph Bielecki. On Sunday, August 3rd, an optional event, The Rivers of Steel "Babushkas and Hard Hats Tour" will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vendors specializing in East European merchandise are welcome.

The full 2-day FEEFHS member or nonmember fee entitles registrants to attend any of the sessions on Friday and Saturday, both Friday and Saturday lunches, the Friday evening reception and cultural event, and the opportunity to sign up for individual consultations with participating conference speakers. Registrants will also receive a copy of the Syllabus.

An "Early Bird" registration discount (\$120 for FEEFHS members and \$150 for nonmembers) is available until June 1, 2008. Early registration is highly recommended. Additional information is available at www.feeffhs.org, or by calling 412/848-1394.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

Attention: All Jednota Michigan Members Residing in Michigan

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

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is **1-800-533-6682**.

Michigan Fraternal Congress
College Scholarship Program
16185 Markese Avenue
Allen Park, MI 48101-1937



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

Rules and Regulations

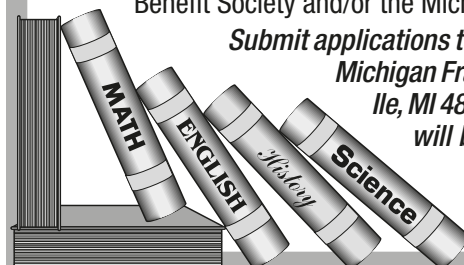
1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a fulltime student (minimum 12 credit hours) in an accredited two or four-year College, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following the receipt of proof of enrollment, which must be received by November 1, 2008. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible, or at the Annual MFC Meeting Banquet.

Selection Criteria

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

Submit applications to Brian Medved, Scholarship Chairperson, Michigan Fraternal Congress, 27620 Elba Drive, Grosse Ile, MI 48128 and postmarked by April 1. The winner will be notified by May 1.

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



World Traveler Kristina Kamensky

[Note: Dear Readers,

I want to share with our Jednota readers the writing of Kristina Kamensky, a member of Branch 743 in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Kristina is an honor student at Kettering University located in Flint, Michigan and is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Last year Kristina volunteered to participate with Blue Ventures working with marine biologists off the island of Madagascar. Since this venture would require a substantial financial commitment from Kristina and her parents, Branch 743 was pleased to contribute \$200 towards her expenses.

While her writing is somewhat lengthy it is inspirational to say the least. I hope you can find the necessary space in a future publication to print her story. Our readership will admire this young person's determination, faith in God and pride in her Slovak heritage.

Fraternally,

Joseph C. Rimarcik, Br. 743]

To Members of Branch 743 and the First Catholic Slovak Union

I remember being nine years old and wondering why I still had not been to Walt Disney World. I brought it to my mother's attention. She put it into perspective for me. "Where would you rather go, to Walt Disney World or Slovensko for the upcoming summer?" I didn't hesitate to say Slovensko. I knew that I would have a lot of fun and see a lot of new things. I already saw myself petting horses, running through castle hallways, chasing after my uncle's chickens, helping to feed the bonfires so that everyone could cook their klobasa, picking wildflowers in the meadow, buying a lot of candy with whatever five U.S. dollars exchanged into, walking through town squares where somehow my mother would run into someone she knew, visiting relatives who made sure I never went hungry in their presence, spend a day at a water park and eat langos, happily go out to the chicken coop and collect eggs, watch my older brother, cousins and their friends play some futbol, walking to church in my Sunday's best and then admiring the beautiful interior during mass, sitting in trains and watch the scenery roll by from fields of wheat, to vast expanses of poppies, to corn, to amazing stretches of sunflowers, getting delicious flavors of zmrzlina that I can never find back in the States, walking through the forest picking mushrooms, and the list goes on.

I knew that most kids my age didn't go to Slovensko for their summer vacation, but I was very lucky to have friends throughout my life that could relate to me. They were either first generation as well or moved to America while they were young, but each of them came from another part of the world: India, Croatia, Japan, Spain, Korea, Russia, Germany, Poland, Columbia, France, and Mexico. Like me, they had strong ties to the culture they were raised with along with American influences. I had the impression that I could be whatever I wanted to be when I grew up. I knew I had to work hard, so I did, and I'm currently attending Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. I'm pursuing a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and

a minor in mathematics. I was an intern for Key Safety Systems of Sterling Heights for over two years. I learned a lot through school and was amazed as to how much I could apply it to my job, but something was missing. The first year I worked on airbags and new technology, and the second year I was immersed in shift knob and steering wheels. There was never a steady workload given to me. I found myself often in my cubicle, bored, and entering data tediously in on my computer. I comprehended that it was part of testing and vital to improving the product. Understanding this was necessary, I would complete this grunt work in order to make myself available for some hands-on tasks.

There was one day, it started out like any. I woke up, got ready, drove to work, swiped my badge to get in, walked over to my desk and sat down to become productive. Unfortunately I finished everything before lunch, so I proceeded to walk around asking the engineers and program manager if there was anything to do, and there was nothing at the moment. The boredom was overwhelming so I started my lunch early by checking my email and surfing the World Wide Web. I do not know what compelled me to search for a volunteer opportunity, but I googled the words 'blue', 'marine', 'fish', 'volunteer' and the first and second page of results did not strike me, but when those words lined up and made a sentence, "Volunteer with Blue Ventures, and you will work along side marine biologists to study coral reefs and fish populations..." Clicking on it let me read more about the opportunity and it sounded too good to be true. I printed out the application, filled it out, and sent it to them. They responded quickly and welcomed me to join expedition number 27. I told my parents about it, then I told my boss about it, and that he should find a replacement for me, because I would be overseas during the period of my next work term and that when I returned home, I wished to pursue a career with more of an animal or marine aspect. I currently am in the process of updating my resume and sending it to zoos, scuba equipment manufacturers, and makers of mini submersibles. When I started the school term, my friends asked about how my job was going and were concerned for me when I told them that I quit and that I was going to Madagascar. "Like the movie?" was the usual response, along with, "What? Why?" I told them that I needed a break from the confines of my cubicle, engineering, and the life I currently know. Then they tried to fathom on why of all places in the world, I wanted to go to Madagascar. I long to see the world, all of it, so nothing is excluded, but nowhere in particular is favored above the rest. If the location that Blue Ventures resided their studies was in Thailand, Mexico, or Australia then I would be telling everyone that I was going there.

Although they did not fully comprehend my decision they supported me. I had originally planned to raise the whole amount needed for the trip. I forgot how busy I would be during my eleven-week school term, especially having twenty credit hours. Because I made my education my top priority, I only did a little fundraising, and took out a student loan to cover everything else. I'm lucky to have such supporting parents, because they

bought my plane tickets, and I do not doubt that it was a hard decision to send their young and only daughter to the other side of the world. I wasn't surprised when they brought it to my attention that a Slovak had been there some two hundred years before. Maurice Benyowsky was an avid explorer, and participated in the history of a lot of countries. His legacy and how he reached Madagascar made me even more proud of my heritage and fueled me to get ready.

There is a lot of preparation involved. I had to get a visa, go to the doctors countless times to get a complete physical, prescription for antimalaria pills, and huge list of immunizations. I was taking scuba classes through my university. I was too excited to wait until Madagascar to start breathing underwater. I had to get my own fins, mask, snorkel, and wetsuit. A friend from school got me an underwater camera for Christmas. I sure looked like a scuba diver all suited up. So far I had equipment for the water, but not the bugs. I still had to get a mosquito net, mosquito coils, insect repellent, and anti-itching cream. Unfortunately, money was getting tight because even though I had to buy stuff for my trip, I still had to buy groceries and pay for my trip, I usually did not drive much when living in Flint, because I would usually walk from my house a few blocks to get to class, but driving to the doctors and various scuba dive shops made me accumulate many miles.

In the midst of a hectic week of school came the news from my mom that Jednota donated money to my Madagascar fund. You do not know how much that meant to me. You are all very generous. I was touched with any support I received, but you helped me buy those last few items, plus helped with the expenses that I encountered on site, such as emailing my mother to tell her I was alive and well. I even bought coloring books, a big box of crayons, candy, and five kites for the children.

One time after a long hike to see flamingos, we stopped at a small store in the village to buy a bottle of cold water. It was covered in squid ink because it was in the fridge with fish, shrimp, octopus and squid. But it was still clean, clear and cold water, a true rarity. The medic, the Swedish scientist, and I sat in front of the store watching children playing marbles. We gave them the change we received from buying the water and they immediately ran into the store to buy some candy. They were some of the same children that we taught English a few days earlier. Over half the population of the village is under the age of fourteen, which shows that they are a healthy people but they need more resources for the more individuals they have. That's why the organization I was with, Blue Ventures, stressed the importance of Marine Conservation, so that the fishermen and their families will always have a steady supply round of many good sized fish.

The children loved us. They are amaz-



Kristina, volunteering with the Blue Ventures, enjoys the beauty of the Indian Ocean off the coast of Madagascar.

ingly smart. Blue Ventures has been there for three years now and some of the kids impressed me. They are Andavadoaka's future, they are Madagascar's future. Every Saturday we would go and meet them in the village classrooms, and play with them, read to them, and just have fun. We did a lot of "head, shoulders, knees and toes!" and the Hokey Pokey. They wore us out.

Surprisingly, the conservative adults were impressed in our cause. They did not fully understand, but tried their best to. The president of the village knew how important we were, and welcomed the new volunteers with such generous hospitality. He helps Blue Ventures whenever he's able to. His wife taught us how to make bak bak, which are like donuts, the only difference is that they are more dense. Of course, we ate all the bak bak afterwards, with the help of all the kids watching us.

It's a different life there. Madagascar is the third poorest country in the world, but the people are some of the friendliest. The land is gorgeous and there's such a variety of terrain. I spent many hours on a taxi brousse. They're basically large vans that serve as the most common form of transportation. Once we paid for a ticket, random men would grab all of our luggage and strategically place it on the top of the taxi brousse, along with the other passenger's belongings, which usually included chickens squawking in a basket. The driver was fast, and the weather unpredictable because it was cyclone season. Luckily, he knew what he was doing, even though I sometimes doubted him as we would approach one lane bridges with on coming traffic without slowing down, but we arrived at our destination in one piece.

The first time I saw the Indian Ocean it took my breath away. It was a jewel sort of blue and the wonders it held were infinite. Just like God's love. He and a lot of people helped me get there. I learned a lot about myself while I was in the southern hemisphere. My life as I knew it was turned upside down. I had left my technological tethers, so now there was no longer any direct way to contact me. I easily got used to that. No television meant that I couldn't watch my favorite shows, but it also meant that I wasn't exposed to the news of the terrible things that were constantly occurring around the world.

It's scary not knowing. I always took

continued on page 11



**54th Men's & 45th Women's
International Bowling
Tournament**

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 25, 2008

4:30 PMRegistration
Wedgewood Lanes
1741 S. Raccoon Rd.
Youngstown, OH

4:30 - 6 PMHospitality Reception
Wedgewood Lanes

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

7:30 - 9 PMHospitality Reception
Wedgewood Lanes

Saturday, April 26, 2008

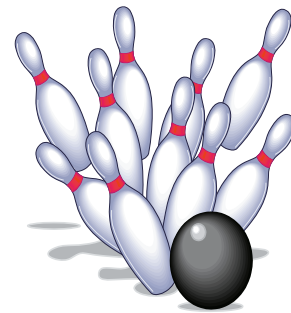
9 AM - 3 PM.....Doubles and Singles Events
Wedgewood Lanes

5:30 PMMass
Holiday Inn Boardman

6:30 PMTournament Banquet

Sunday, April 27, 2008

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



*Hotel Information
for
Bowling Tournament
April 25, 26, 27, 2008*

Tournament Headquarters: 50 rooms blocked

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Young Branch Member

continued from page 10

weather forecasts for granted. The first week we were there a cyclone came close by us. I clearly remember how I was curled up in a ball wondering if my hut was going to hold up through the strong winds and rain. I could feel the waves crashing on the cliffs. It was past midnight, I had been lying in the same position with the same things running through my head for more than an hour. "Will I ever make it through this?" "Why did I come?" "Will I make any friends?" I felt so alone. "Madagascar? I'm on an island during a cyclone season!" I did not expect a vacation, but I was not expecting this. I examined my straining walls through my mosquito net. Water was dripping through my ceiling.

I put my trust in God. He would keep me safe and make sure that the cyclone never came on top of us. After a few days and many prayers, the storm had ceased to exist. I found myself soon after scuba diving and seeing the wonderful world that exists beneath the surface. I felt honored to explore reefs that have only been seen by free diving natives. Marine conservation was our focus and I felt valuable by collecting data that would help understand the reef and fish populations. I felt like I was in school when I was learning about all the different types of coral, benthic life forms, and other invertebrates. I am able to distinguish 150 types of fish species, and I have seen them all in person. I had no run in with any

shark, which is disappointing because that only means that they are over fished. I did see one sea turtle, and I did snorkel with dolphins. It was so glorious. They have such effortless grace.

God has blessed me with supportive family and friends. I consider the Slovak parish of SS. Cyril and Methodius to be family, just because everyone has seen me grow up. I have always been proud to be part of Jednota because I have always been proud to be Slovak. I love that fact about me. It has made me the person I am today. I am accepting of other peoples' customs to be different, not better or worse than my own. Material wealth has little meaning. I rarely saw a crying child in the village of Andavadoaka. They were happy with the little they had. They were healthy and carefree. They lived and worked for today. They knew how to laugh and smile, and that's all they needed. We would learn a thing or two by spending and living with people who have the bare necessities.

As to what the future holds for me, I am not able to tell you. I have a better understanding of myself, but I still do not know what I want to be when I grow up. I will attempt, as long as I live, to make this world a better place, and I trust God will bring to light my true calling. Until that day, I wait patiently.

**Your Young World Traveler,
Kristina Kamensky**

54th Annual Men's & 45th Annual Women's JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

At The Wedgewood Lanes, Austintown, Ohio
April 25, 26, 27, 2008

Hosted by the Reverend Joseph L. Kostik District, FCSU

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Realm of SLOVAK GENEALOGY



Ray Plutko

“Jump Starting Theory to Reality”

By Ray Plutko

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of feature articles addressing the realm of genealogy. It is one specifically designed for Slovak descendants and is so structured to serve as an introductory course for the novice, meet the needs of the advanced researcher— or, if nothing else, the curious.)

This writing somewhat departs from our general pattern of “how to” in tracing one’s Slovak ancestral past, shifting its focus to more of a “why not” approach.

It is an outgrowth of one of those lulls we have all experienced in our research, a span when seemingly there are no new discoveries or even a trace of information to piece together that elusive family historical portrait. Simply said, I was desperate for yet another jump start to a pastime we have all vowed to chronicle into writing.

I have often encouraged the need to bring a sense of life to one’s narrative, be it a detailed account of an ancestor’s place of employment and working conditions, a visit to the family cemetery plot, or a trek to the village of origin in Slovakia. Each is a rich source in constructing the chapters to a storied past.

On this particular occasion I began a personal and quiet weekend journey to such a site, one that would transform into a pilgrimage of sorts and one that was bound by a time capsule of virtually a century.

My destination was New York City and more specifically, a visit to Ellis Island. Through all these years of personal research it was a site that had eluded my travels, yet one of historical significance for the Plutko Family line. It was here a Janos Plutko connected a lifeline from the small village of Krasnovce in old Zemplin County to an eventual steel town of McKeesport in southwestern Pennsylvania.

I left my hotel lobby – located just two short blocks from “Ground Zero” of 9/11 reference – for a spirited 20-minute cold and blustery walk to Battery Park. As a sidebar, I strongly urge you select a month other than January for such a visit!

Upon reaching the Castle Garden departure point I purchased a \$6.50 roundtrip ticket on the CircleLine Ferry that makes regular-scheduled runs to both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. This is the same Castle Garden receiving station where immigrants were processed from 1855-1892 and again from 1897-1900, the latter years the result of a fire that destroyed the original wooden buildings of Ellis Island.

The ferry trek across the Narrows is a mere 20 minutes and provides the option of visiting both the Statue of Liberty grounds and Ellis Island. The two miniature landscapes are a mere one-quarter mile across the water from each other and it was at this point my “Epiphany” began. I sensed my grandfather offering a prayer of thanks for a safe voyage while being awestruck at the sight of Lady Liberty and the red brick buildings of Ellis Island just off to the right.

I visualized the ship docking to discharge its first and second class passengers, and my grandfather and others from the steerage class then transported by ferry to the often-called “Island of Hopes and Island of Tears,” similar to the one I was now riding a century later. I



Youngstown Thursday and Friday Golf Leagues to Meet on April 6

The Youngstown Thursday Jednota Golf League, Bedford Trails Golf Course, will hold an organizational meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Bedford Trails Golf Course. All members are urged to attend. New golfers wishing to join are welcome.

The Youngstown Friday Jednota Golf League, Knoll Run Golf Course, will hold an organizational meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at The Holiday Bowl, Struthers, Ohio. All members are urged to attend. New golfers wishing to join are welcome.

Paul Ritz, Secretary

Cookbook Available

The “Carpathian Cookery” cookbook, now in its 12th printing, having sold over 10,000 copies, is again available for sale. The 330-page cookbook now has a new look and features a protective plastic cover and includes sections on Easter customs and recipes (and Christmas customs and recipes), traditional ethnic dishes, and many other tried and true recipes of Saint John’s parishioners. It contains many paska and kolachi recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of this cookbook is \$13.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. If ordering from Canada, please send a \$20.00 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, 185 East Main St., Uniontown, PA 15401, or call 724/438-6027 for more information.



“saw” my grandfather and others dragging their luggage into the vastness of the first-floor Reception Hall where he and his only worldly goods were initially inspected.

I then climbed the same stairwell – and possibly, just possibly, touched the identical spot on the hand-railing he once touched – to enter the large arena of the Registry Hall for processing. A few of the original wooden benches and three registry desk-podiums still remain, but the amusement park-like metal railings were gone. It was here that I wiped away the first of many tears on the day.

It was also here that my grandfather was assembled into a group of 30 for processing, still clutching an identification card that bore his name and ID number, matching an identical letter and number on the ship’s manifest sheet. Just imagine the atmosphere— guards shouting instructions, immigrants responding in a variety of languages, and children crying.

This group of 30 immigrants, Janos Plutko among them, was then channeled through a series of inspection stations in the “Great Hall.” There first was a medical area with two or three doctors looking for signs of illness that might dash the dreams of an individual. Anyone having symptoms that attracted the attention of medical examiners were sent to the hospital wing on Ellis Island where they were housed until cleared or denied clearance.

The Registry Interview Station was next and no doubt the most stressful for my grandfather and others. Each was asked a list of 29 questions and the language communication barriers were no doubt telling: Your name? How did you pay for your passage? Do you have promise of a job? Your occupation? What is your destination in the United States?

The entire process was a mere 45 minutes, yet one that no doubt seemed a lifetime. My grandfather received a card stamped “Admitted” and the lifeline was now a reality! He was cleared for a currency exchange, pay a head tax of \$2 and receive his prized ferry ticket to the mainland.

Later that Saturday afternoon, I completed my return trip on the CircleLine Ferry, my mind rushing a mile a minute with thoughts and feelings of what I had just experienced. The ferry was crowded, just as it must have been 100 years past. I took one last glance at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty in the background and then to the person standing next to me on the inner railing. Just for a moment, just for a fleeting moment, I had a strange sensation it was my grandfather standing there with me. We were both wiping away a tear. . .

Thank you for joining with me on my weekend trek and I trust that in the near future you too will have the occasion to bring life to your writings.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There is now available a completely revised and updated Slovak Genealogy Research Kit (from 18 to 52 pages, plus forms), one designed exclusively for those tracing their Slovak roots. The kit may be ordered for \$13, plus \$1.75 postage. Also available is a detailed historical summary and comprehensive area map for any village you specify in Slovakia at \$5 plus \$1 postage— make check payable to Ray Plutko, 6862 Palmer Court, Chino, CA 91710-7343).



Lillian and Joseph Minarovich Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

Lillian and Joseph Minarovich of Bridgewater, New Jersey, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, February 17, 2008, at a special service in St. Joseph Slovak Catholic Church in Raritan officiated by Father Ken Kolibus. The couple exchanged their wedding vows as they did 50 years ago at the same altar. The service was followed by a luncheon at a local restaurant. A family trip to Aruba is planned.

The anniversary couple have three children, Michele MacMath, Joanne Peppe and Stephen Minarovich, and five grandchildren. The family is 100 percent Jednota. Lillian serves as financial secretary of Branch 290 while Joseph is president, and their son Stephen is recording secretary. Joseph also serves on the FCSU Board of Director as Region 1 Director.

We pray that Lillian and Joseph will have many more years together.

Last Man on the Moon Reaches the Mountain Top

"When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward. For there you have been and there you will always long to return."

Leonardo da Vinci, over 500 years ago, quoted by Astronaut Eugene Cernan, December 14, 2007.

By John Karch
Part I

At its December 14, 2007 60th annual Wright Memorial Dinner at the Washington Hilton, hosted by the Aero Club, Astronaut Eugene A. Cernan, CAPT, USN, Ret., was honored with the prestigious Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy. Its meaning, expressed emotionally by the much honored Astronaut, was "reaching the top of the Mountain."

Over 800 guests participated, including many family and friends of CAPT Cernan, some of whom he introduced at the Dinner: His "beautiful and lovely" wife Jan, their three children (Tracy, Katie and Danielle), and four of their nine grandchildren. Also, he called on his sister, Dolores who, with her husband James Riley, came from Seattle. Among his friends were his long-time Executive Assistant Claire Johnson and her husband Randell.

Astronauts Honorees

CAPT Cernan joined previous Astronauts awardees Neil A. Armstrong (2001) and Senator John Glenn (2003).

Aero Club of Washington

The Aero Club is an organization chartered in January 1909 to "encourage and give recognition to significant achievements in aviation." The Club sponsors the annual Wright Memorial Dinner to honor the recipient of the prestigious National Aeronautic Association (NAA) Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy.

The purpose of the Aero Club is "to foster interest in the principles and development of aeronautics. The Aero Club meets these objectives by conducting monthly luncheon meetings on timely aviation issues, sponsors aviation programs, and actively supports the National Air and Space Museum through the Aero Club Foundation."

The Aero Club's President is elected annually. Its 2007 President was Paula Hochstetler, President, Airport Consultants Council. Activities of the Club are administered by a Board of Governors and the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) by a Board of Directors. Nancy Hackett, Executive Director and Board member of the Aero Club, has helped this writer with information and photos. Her two children—Amelia (14) and Tyler (16)—have attended the Dinners since they were born. Ms. Hackett was recognized at the Dinner by President Hochstetler to appreciative applause.

Path to the Trophy

A happy and "spirited" reception preceded the Dinner at which hundreds of guests congratulated CAPT Cernan who posed for photos with them. The often asked question to him was whether the U.S. will return to the moon and when.

CAPT Cernan's book—"The Last Man on the Moon"—was donated to all guests by Bombardier, Inc. and, together with the program, was set at the seating places. Bombardier, headquartered in Montreal, Canada is a world-leading manufacturer of innovative transportation solutions. The Astronaut has been a Bombardier "Aerospace Ambassador" since 1997.

Aero Club President, the Host, conducted the Dinner festivities, welcoming the assembled, saying that each year the Aero Club of Washington and the NAA "join together to present the most prestigious" award in aviation, the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, which is given to a "living American for significant public service of enduring value of aviation in the United States."

She introduced the 30 at the head table one by one by name, title, and organization, a veritable "Who's Who" in aviation. Honoree Eugene Cernan was then introduced with "great pleasure" to generous applause. The life of Recipient Eugene Cernan, she said, set the approach for an enjoyable evening, with this "significant aviator" to inspire and challenge.

The Presentation of Colors by the Armed Forces Color Guard and the rendition of The National Anthem by the U.S. Air Force Band followed. Appropriately, all present stood.

Tributes

To honor especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, the host called on Ed Hazelwood, AVIATION WEEK, to read the inspirational poem penned by pilot-poet John Gillespie Magee, Jr. (1922-1941), HIGH FLIGHT, which has been embraced by aviators and here is relevant to the honoree. The first and last lines of the poem, spoken so passionately, are:

"Oh, I have slipped the surly
Bonds of Earth — Put out my hand,
and touched the face of God."

Tribute to Honoree

The President first thanked the sponsors, name by name, especially Bombardier and NAA, and cited Aero Club's education program allowing Cardozo High School of Washington students to attend this event. She attributed the achievements of CAPT Cernan to his studied and serious approach to challenge and diligence leading him to success. This reminded her of words on the Wright Brothers Monument:

"...Achieved by Dauntless Resolution
and Unconquerable Faith."

She said that the Astronaut's accomplishments have been "outstanding" and "inspirational" but the core of his leadership lies in his "resolution and commitment." This evening, she said, "we honor Eugene Cernan for having accomplished so much during a truly remarkable career in aviation space history."

Agostino of Bombardier

The Host mentioned a special tribute to the Awards Recipient followed by a video to convey a very fascinating and unique series of events. She called on Bob Agostino of Bombardier. In his tribute to the awardee, he said he was humble to be with all of the participants. On behalf of Bombardier, he congratulated CAPT Cernan on receiving the 2007 Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy.

The literal translation of "Astronaut" means "star singer," he said, "a truly fitting description for my friend Gene." In the history of civilization, he pointed out, less than 450 people have ever left this planet and only 12 other people set foot on another world and



Honoree Eugene Cernan was presented the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy by Jonathan Gaffney, President, National Aeronautic Association.

returned. "This is no small achievement. Every flight is a major event."

He said that CAPT Cernan, as all of us, is not exclusively defined by a single accomplishment, by a single event. Gene is "widely known for his accomplishments in every day of the U.S. space program" and cited these. "Gene is most remembered for Commanding Apollo XVII, arguably the most successful Apollo mission in history, almost 35 years to the exact hour today." He assured the guests that "the man is far greater than any single accomplishment."

"Gene refused to be limited by past achievements and past glories," he emphasized, "but continued to be active, including advocacy for aviation safety." The video they were to see would give a better insight into the honoree. "Life is precious, short, and just like freedom and liberty," he concluded, "we also take it for granted. When you leave the Wright Memorial Dinner this evening, my wish is that you will have CAPT Cernan both as a historic figure and as the man who loves and lives each day with passion and commitment. Thank you very much."

Presentation of Trophy

Following the video the President introduced colleague and friend Jonathan Gaffney, President of NAA, to present the Trophy. He voiced some remarks about the honoree and said "On behalf of the NAA and those who support their work, please accept their thanks to the Aero Club for hosting one of the really great evenings for aviation."

"Just over 102 years old, the NAA is one of the oldest national aviation organizations in the world dedicated to the expansion of art, sport, and science of aviation. We have at our core the basic mission of supporting all facets of aviation in America—from commercial and military aviation and space flight to aero modeling, soaring, and skydiving. NAA is the official aviation record keeper in our country."

He noted that "One of our nation's most prestigious aviations awards, which brings us all together this evening, and has every December for the last 59 years, is the awarding of the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy."

He continued: "With the immortal words—'As we leave the moon...we leave as we came and, God willing, we shall return for peace and hope for all mankind. As I take these last steps...for some to come, I would like to record that American challenge of

today is forged destiny of tomorrow. God bless the crew of Apollo XVII."

Mr. Gaffney added that with these words, on December 14, 1972 which is 35 years ago tonight at 6:00 P.M., our 2007 Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy winner, CAPT Gene Cernan, closed out the greatest adventure, the mission of Apollo. His flight, which included crew members Harrison H. (Jack) Schmitt and Ronald Evans, "was not the first...but "Captain Cernan's flight was the most productive."

Moreover, he said, CAPT Cernan "drove his Moon Rover 21 miles, conducted 20 different experiments, and brought 244 pounds of lunar samples." Also, Apollo XVII broke several records and he cited the Astronaut's earlier performances in the race to the moon. "He was a "Naval Aviator, NASA Executive, international Aviator safety advocate, television personality, author, and a very successful businessman," Mr. Gaffney said, and "the line to connect all these accomplishments is a "man with a vibrant personality, great humility, and extraordinary success." He repeated the criteria of the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy and proclaimed "there is no person more deserving of this extraordinary award than Gene Cernan. Therefore, on behalf of the NAA, it's my tremendous pleasure to present the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy for 2007 to Captain Eugene Cernan." The applause was lengthy as the NAA President handed the Trophy to CAPT Cernan.

Part II: Astronaut Cernan's response/remarks in next issue

My Prize

Ah, what noble prize have I adoration before the Blessed Sacrament a quiet silent time-full of peace beholding His august gift to mankind yes, my tears of joy and sorrow for sin are ever united to His Calvary suffering and I a sinner now dare come forward to His holy banquet and am giving daily His 'Body' to eat and His 'Blood' to drink.

Henceforth, my soul rejoices in this holy Eucharistic Visit in perfect adoration...

"Hail-Precious 'Body and Blood' of Jesus I adore Thee-Forever!"

Francis X. Markley

News From Slovakia

Slovak Sheep Farmers Provide Around 120,000 Lambs Every Easter

Slovak sheep farmers provide around 100,000 to 120,000 spring lambs every Easter it was reported recently.

Italy is the largest purchaser of live small lambs, taking 99 percent of Slovakia's total production. The rest goes to markets in Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Farmers are currently negotiating prices with their foreign partners. "The farmers would be relatively content if they could get 86-90 Slovak Crowns per kilo of live lamb," said Sheep Farmers Production-Trade Cooperative (OVOD) chair in Banska Bystrica Stanislav Heruch.

The quality of Slovak lambs is very good, said Heruch. They (the farmers) try to match the requirements of Italian clients so that they can achieve the premium quality category, reaching 8-16 kg in live weight."

Heruch also spoke about the domestic meat market. "This year, two slaughterhouses in Slovakia in Puchov (Trencin region) and in Sabinov (Presov region) plan to process meat from 65,000-70,000 spring lambs."

There are approximately 900 sheep farmers in Slovakia, including some 650-700 breeders of spring lambs. The best conditions for this type of farming are in northern and eastern Slovakia, especially in the areas of Liptov, Turiec, Spis, Zamagurie, and Saris, and near the towns of Banska Bystrica, Puchov, Zilina, and Ziar nad Hronom. **TASR**

Fico: I wish People Would Rid Themselves of Eurofear

The introduction of a new currency, the Euro, will bring Slovakia more positives than negatives, Prime Minister Robert Fico said recently.

"If we knew that the Euro was not good for Slovakia, we wouldn't have decided to adopt it," the premier said at a conference called "The Role of Law in the Process of Monetary Succession" at Comenius University's Faculty of Law in Bratislava.

"I wish people would rid themselves of Eurofear," Fico said, adding that the term 'Eurofear' concerns groups in society in particular, such as senior citizens and pensioners, and usually stems from worries that prices will increase at an unjustifiable rate after the Euro is introduced.

"We'll be taking serious socially-orientated measures in this respect," said Fico, who added that the Government is planning to keep an eye on the prices of between 12-15 basic foodstuffs in order to watchdog possible excessive hikes. **TASR**

YOUTH ROUND-UP

If you know of a young Jednota member who has recently graduated, received a special award, been confirmed or made a First Holy Communion, achieved a sports or scholastic "first" or in some other way has something to be proud of, send in

the details and a photo, if available, to our "Youth Round-Up" column. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are all eligible to "brag" about those special youngsters in their lives. The only stipulation is that the young person must be a member of the FCSU. Be sure to include the Branch to which he or she belongs when you send in your write-up to 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. We look forward to hearing from you!

Useful Websites

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

Sramko: Entry into Eurozone Won't Speed up Inflation

Slovakia's Central Bank (NBS) Governor Ivan Sramko called recent statements that the country joining the Eurozone will speed up inflation "a great myth."

"The Euro might contribute to speeding up inflation, however, its influence will be less than 1 percent," said Sramko at a conference focused on the Euro adoption organized by the M.R. Stefanik Conservative Institute held recently in Bratislava.

According to Sramko, there were worries about high inflation in Slovenia following the Euro adoption, but on the other hand, there's a 7 percent inflation in the Czech Republic, which doesn't plan to adopt the currency for now. High inflation doesn't depend on Euro adoption, said Sramko, who added that for ordinary people the development of real salaries is more important than inflation. **TASR**

Foreign Affairs Ministry Welcomes Visa-Free Regime with Canada

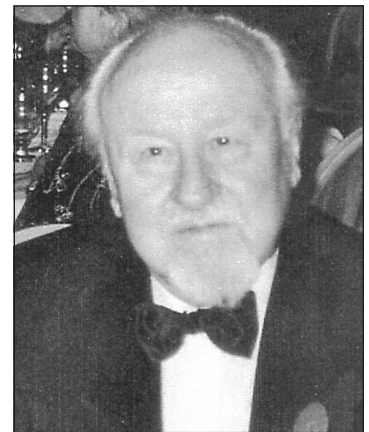
Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry welcomed the recent decision by the Canadian Government to immediately cancel visa regime with Slovakia, SLOVAKIA has learnt from ministry spokesman Jan Skoda.

Canada has decided to scrap visa duty for Slovaks who travel there as tourists and for short-term visits

Skoda said this move will boost Slovak-Canadian relations. "Also, we understand it as an expression of trust in positive economic and political development in Slovakia, and as a fulfilled principle of reciprocity in bilateral relations," he said, adding that Slovaks will still need a visa for working in Canada. **TASR**

Stefan Hreha Celebrates 90th Birthday

In March of this year, in the Montreal suburb of Cote Saint-Luc, Stefan (Steve) Hreha, prominent Slovak patriot, founding editor of Kanadsky Slovak and pioneering journalist in Canada, celebrated his 90th birthday in the company of Pauline, his wife of over 60 years, his son Steve and daughter-in-law Lucille.



Steve Hreha

Stefan Hreha was born on March 25, 1918, in Cemerne (today part of Vranov nad Toplou) in the eastern part of Slovakia. He came to Canada in December 1936 with his mother and two younger brothers, Albert and Jim (both now deceased) to join their father in Montreal. He has a Canadian-born sister, Stella.

Almost immediately upon his arrival in Canada Stefan completely immersed himself in the social, cultural and fraternal life of Montreal's Slovak community. His principal passion, however, was journalism. For a number of years he was the editor of the then-published Slovak newspaper, Slovak v Kanade (Slovak in Canada) later renamed Slovenske Bratstvo (Slovak Brotherhood). During his tenure as editor of this newspaper, because of his defense of Slovak sovereignty, he was sued by forces opposing Slovak nationalism and Slovak identity in Canada.

Hreha is credited with the successful launching, in 1942, of a brand new Slovak newspaper in Canada called Kanadsky Slovak (The Canadian Slovak). The newspaper, which started its long journey on March 5, 1942 during the course of the Second World war, was the official organ of the Canadian Slovak League. Kanadsky Slovak has the distinction of being the only Slovak weekly in North America to be published, without interruption, for over 65 years.

Stefan Hreha is also known for his cultural and literary contributions to Slovak life in Canada. Over the course of his lifetime, he has written several stage plays, text for musicals, a cycle of poems and epigrams, as well as a manuscript on the origins of Slovak people in Canada which was published in the Encyclopedia Canadiana.

For his lifelong involvement in Slovak affairs in Canada he received numerous awards, including a Honorary Recognition from his native Vranov nad Toplou. Recently the Canadian Slovak League, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary celebration, presented him with a Jubilee trophy and the National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada awarded him a medal and the citation Honoris Causa for his lifetime achievement in journalism.

Ad multos falisesque anno!

Letná škola slovenského jazyka a kultúry 2008

CENTRUM JAZYKOVEJ A ODBORNEJ PRÍPRAVY
BRATISLAVSKÁ VYSOKÁ ŠKOLA PRÁVA

Bratislava, Slovenská republika

Máte záujem objavovať Slovensko - nádhernú krajinu v srdci Európy?

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Chceli by ste neformálne konverzovať so slovenskými študentmi?

Hľadáte tip na úžasnú dovolenku v medzinárodnej spoločnosti?

Strávte leto s nami a prídte do Bratislavy na našu

LETNÚ ŠKOLU

SLOVENSKEHO JAZYKA A KULTÚRY 2008

KEDY: 7. - 25. júla 2008 (alebo 7. - 18. 7. 2008 ako 2-týždňový kurz)

KDE: Bratislava - Petržalka, Tematínska 10 (na brehu jazera)

PROGRAM:

- Intenzívny kurz slovenského jazyka

30 vyuč. hodín týždenne (hodiny jazykovej výučby konverzácia, práca

v multimediálnom jazykovom laboratóriu, prednášky o Slovensku a jeho súčasnosti

a ďalšie zaujímavé a príťažlivé formy výučby)

- Kultúrno-spoločenský program

športové a kultúrne podujatia

slovenské ľudové tradície

prezentácia a nácvik slovenských ľudových piesní a tancov

vychádzka po Bratislave a výlety do blízkeho okolia

víkendová exkurzia po Slovensku

CERTIFIKAČNÁ SKÚŠKA: 23. - 24. 7. 2008

Účastníci majú možnosť absolvovať skúšku na získanie certifikátu o jazykovej kompetencii na úrovni B1, B2 or C1 (akreditácia Ministerstvom školstva SR).

POPLATOK: 460 EUR (za 2-týždňový kurz 330 EUR)

V poplatku nie sú zahrnuté náklady na výlety, vstupné do múzeí, miestnu dopravu a pod. ako aj ubytovanie a poistenie.

Poplatok za skúšku je 1 000 SKK (cca. 30 EUR)

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Bližšie informácie nájdete na <http://www.incheba.sk/services/hotel/EN/669>

Upozornenie:

Rezerváciu spolu s údajmi o Vašej platobnej karte oznámte e-mailom: clap@uninova.sk

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REZERVÁCIA UBYTOVANIA JE MOŽNÁ DO 2. 6. 2008

STRAVOVANIE

Raňajky: v hoteli INCHEBA - formou bufetových stolov v hotelovej reštaurácii

Obed: V študentskej jedálni v budove CJOP

Večera: individuálne - Bratislava ponúka široké možnosti stravovania v reštauráciách, puboch, pizzeriách, letných terasách, príp. v hoteli INCHEBA.



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na Františkánskom námestí v Bratislave sa 10. marca 2008 otvorili stánky s veľkonočnými ozdobami.

Takto slávil Páter Sv. Pio svätú omšu

Pokračovanie zo str. 16

Ľudia, ktorí v San Giovanni Rotondo boli prítomní na svätej omši pátra Pia, boli hlboko dojatí. Pozorovali jeho plač, krvácanie, pritom mali vnútorný pocit, že sa tu odohráva dráma, ktorá je opakovaním obety na Golgote.

Z rozhovoru, ktorý je citovaný v knihe "Cosi parló Padre Pio", sa dozvedáme niektoré skutočnosti.

Otče, čo je Vaša sv. omša?

Účasť na utrpení Ježišom. Moja zodpovednosť na zemi je bezpríkladná - hovorím plačúc.

Čo musím poznať na Vašej sv. omši?

Celé utrpenie na Kalvárii.

Otče, povedzte mi, čo trpíte na sv. omši?

Všetko, čo trpel Ježiš, to trpím i ja, aj keď nie rovnako.

Trpím to bez mojej zásluhy a to len vďaka Jeho добрote.

V ktorom okamihu svätej omše trpíte najviac?

Vždy a stúpajúcou mierou.

Je určitý čas, kedy trpíte najviac?

Od premenenia až po sväté prijímanie.

Kto z vás stiera krv počas sv. omše?

Nikto.

Otče, trpíte počas svätej omše trpkosťou žlče?

Áno a veľmi často.

Ste na oltári priklincovaný ako Ježiš na kalvárii?

Akože sa môžeš také pýtať!

Ako to môžete vydržať?

Tak, ako vydržal Ježiš na Kalvárii.

Otče, otočili kati kríž, aby upevnili klinec?

Áno, to urobili.

Upevňujú aj u Vás klinec?

A ako!

Trpíte smäd i Ježišovu opustenosť?

Áno, po premenení. Obyčajne až po prijímanie.

Čo je sväté prijímanie?

Samé milosrdenstvo. Úplné zjednotenie. Môžete Ježiša poprosiť, aby vám to ďalšie precítil?

Čo robí Ježiš pri svätom prijímaní?

Teší sa svojmu stvoreniu.

Pri svätom prijímaní čo máme pre vás prosiť od Božského Spasiteľa?

Aby som bol druhý Ježiš, celý Ježiš, vždy Ježiš.

Trpíte aj počas svätého prijímania?

Tu je vrchol.

Pokračuje vaše utrpenie aj po svätom prijímaní?

Áno, ale to je utrpenie lásky.

Komu patrila posledný pohľad umierajúceho spasiteľa?

Jeho matke.

Umierate i vy pri svätej omši?

Áno, pri svätom prijímaní, ale mystickým spôsobom.

Otče, povedali ste, že pri svätom prijímaní obeť umiera, do číh ramien ste položený?

Do ramien svätého Františka.

Otče, ako veľmi milujete Ježiša?

S nekonečnou túžbou. Ale v skutočnosti sa moja láska rovná nule a ja sa zato hanbím.

Aké bude naše zjednotenie s Ježišom v nebi?

Eucharistia nám daruje určité poňatie.

Je Matka Božia pri vašej svätej omši prítomná?

A čo si myslíš, matka sa nestará o svoje dieťa?

Sú pri svätej omši prítomní aj anjeli?

Áno v húfoch.

Čo robia?

Zbožňujú a milujú.

Otče, kto stojí pri vašom oltári najbližšie?

Celé nebo.

Radi by ste denne sláviť viac ako jednu svätú omšu?

Keby to bolo v mojej moci, nikdy by som oltár neopustil.

Otče, myslíte i na mňa pri svätej omši?

Pri svätej omši je stála spomienka, od začiatku až do konca.

Otče, miluje Pán obeť?

Áno, veď obeťou pretvoril svet.

Ako je Pán Boh svätou omšou oslávený?

Nekonečným spôsobom.

Čo máme robiť počas svätej omše?

Spoluprieť a milovať.

Otče, ako máme byť pri svätej omši prítomní?

Ako Najsvätejšia Panna a zbožné ženy. Ako Ján pri poslednej večeri a pod krížom.

Otče, akých dobrodení sa nám dostane, ak spoluoslavujeme svätú omšu?

To sa vyčíslí nedá. V nebi to spoznáte.

PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS

Slovania vyrábali kraslice už v 7. storočí



Predchodkyne dnešných kraslíc, ktoré ženy rozdávali mužom, sa volali pisanky. Našli ich najmä v ukrajinskom Kyjeve, v poľskom Woline, moravských Lužiciach u Hodonína, Záblačanech a v Olomouci. "Východní a západní Slovania vyrábali tieto pisanky už v 7. storočí. Boli bohato polievané hlinené alebo skutočné maľované vajcia - symboly obnovy života," uviedol historik Liptovského múzea v Ružomberku Jozef Karika.

Spájanie vajca so symbolikou zrodu života však podľa neho nie je výhradne slovanské. "Jeho reflexie nachádzame

v Indii, v antickom Grécku v podobe orfického vajca," povedal. "Symbolika veľkonočných vajec je takisto predkresťanská a v podobe kraslíc bola do kresťanskej Veľkej noci včleňovaná iba postupne," poznamenal Karika. Vajce bolo u starých Slovanov vnímané ako symbol životnej sily, obnovy života, znovuzrodenia. Z tohto dôvodu boli vajcia od 7. do 11. storočia vkladané do hrobov, najčastejšie do lona zosnulého. "Táto životodárna sila sa počas svätenia jari prenášala na dobytok kotúľaním vajca po jeho chrbte alebo pod končatinami," uviedol. SITA

SVÄTÁ OMŠA

Spracoval Dr. M Havrilla

Obsah čerpaný z rozličných prameňov

BOŽIA LÁSKA

"Toto je moje telo." Nikdy nebola vyslovená veta, do ktorej by bolo vložené toľko lásky, ako práve do tohto výroku Božského Spasiteľa. A to preto, lebo miloval svojich, ktorí boli na tomto svete, až do konca ich miloval.

"Toto je moje telo." Tento nepatrný kúsok chleba, táto hostia je moje telo. Tak mocne ma poháňa moja láska k vám, že som si volil krajne ponížujúcu formu, v ktorej som úplne bezmocný a bezbranný. Túžim po ľudských srdciach, preto sa dávam ako pokrm v podobe chleba.

"Toto je moje telo." Tento malý kotúč chleba je moje telo. Nie symbolicky, je to moje opravdivé, skutočné telo s celou mojou podstatou. Milujem vás nielen slovami, ale svojou skutočnou Božskou láskou.

"Toto je moje telo." Telo nášho Boha, Boha z Boha, Svetlo zo Svetla. Je pravým Bohom, ktorý sa odial do tohto kúska chleba, aby bol jedným z nás. Chcel, aby sme jeho lásku spoznali a nadobudli odvahu Ho taktiež milovať. Volil túto cestu, aby nás jeho majestát, jeho veľkosť nezhrozila. Aká to veľkosť, aká krása lásky! Je čistý duch, býva v nedostupnom svetle. V hostii je však prítomný, dotknuteľný, viditeľný i zraniteľný. Vzal na seba i riziko, že bude zneuctený, znevážený i potupený.

Uvážme, svätý Ján Krstiteľ sa neodvážil dotknúť Kristovej hlavy, anjeli a serafíni sú šťastní, že sa môžu dívať do tváre Božej a my ľudia berieme Ho do rúk i do úst. Taká je odvaha jeho lásky!

Eucharistia je majstrovským dielom lásky. Nikdy neporozumieme láske Božej, keď neporozumieme eucharistii. Musíme uznať, že eucharistia je zázrakom, ktorý vymyslela všemohúca láska. Boh je láska a Pán pozná iba jednu mieru: lásku. Božského Spasiteľa musíme len obdivovať, chváliť a zbožňovať za Jeho lásku k nám.

Matka Tereza z Kalkaty raz povedala: "Križ je znamením toho, ako veľmi nás Ježiš miloval a eucharistia je znamením toho, ako veľmi nás Ježiš miluje ešte i dnes."

STREDOBOD SVÄTEJ OMŠE

Práve tento výrok: "Toto je telo moje", je stredobodom a podstatou svätej omše. Preto je svätá omša neoceniteľný poklad. Je to najväčší poklad, ktorý Boh svojmu stvoreniu-človeku mohol darovať. Konfrontoval nás s najkrajším a najväčším zázrakom Božej lásky k človeku, ktorého od počiatku nekonečne miluje. Môžeme si vôbec predstaviť väčší poklad, ako keď sa Boh ľudom bez prestania obetuje vo forme vína a chleba? Mohol vôbec Boh urobiť väčší zázrak svojej lásky, ako premeniť chlieb vo svoje telo a víno vo svoju krv, aby takto svojmu stvoreniu poskytol duševný pokrm?

ČO JE VLASTNE SVÄTÁ OMŠA?

Svätá omša je mystérium, tajomstvo viery, prístupné len tomu, kto je vo viere otvorený pre zjavenie Božie.

Svätá omša je vrcholom celého kresťanského života a súčasne prameňom, z ktorého vyviera celá jeho sila. (2. Vat. koncil). Je sprítomnením obete Kristovej na Golgote. Najdokonalejšia obeť pre zadosťučinenie za naše hriechy. Zmierený touto obeťou dáva nám Boh milosť pokánia a odpúšťa nám priestupky i hriechy, nech sú akokoľvek ťažké. Lebo je to tá istá obeť, ktorú svojho času priniesol sám Kristus.

Svätá omša je najväčšia úcta Bohu, vrcholom i stredom kresťanského náboženstva. Ak sa zbožne zúčastňuješ na svätej omši, vzdávaš Spasiteľovi tú najväčšiu úctu. Na svätej omši činí Kristus zadosťučinenie za všetky tvoje hriechy. Svojou prítomnosťou na svätých omšiach môžeš pomôcť aj dušiam v očistci a skrátiť čas ich utrpenia.

Jedna svätá omša, na ktorej si sa zbožne zúčastnil počas svojho života, ti priniesie väčší úžitok, ako nespočetné omše, ktoré budú obetované po tvojej smrti. Svätá omša je i miesto, kde sa stretáva nebo so zemou, časnosť s večnosťou. Svätá omša je i najvyššia chvála Bohu, najkrajšie zvelebovanie Boha. Pre vypočutie našich prosieb je najúčinnější obetou. Svätá omša, eucharistická obeť je centrom kresťanského života. Bez svätej omše je opravdivá viera nemysliteľná, kresťanský život by zostal bez životnej sily, bol by iba suchou ratolesťou a prameňom, z ktorého sa nedá piť."

SVÄTÁ OMŠA -

DÔVOD K RADOSTI A LÁSKE

Krása svätej omše je v tom, že je živou obetou Krista, ktorý sa obetuje za nás všetkých. Ak chceme svätú omšu ozaj sláviť, musíme si byť vedomí, že oslavujeme niekoho, kto nás veľmi miluje. On je vždy pripravený sám seba obetovať, a to bez akejkoľvek výhrady a meškania.

Krása svätej omše sa prejavuje tým, že Boh je pripravený nám odpustiť, daruje nám svoje milosrdenstvo a chráni našu dušu a telo. Kto spozná túto krásu, sám sa ponorí do hĺbin Božej lásky a bude sa usilovať, aby láska prevládala i v jeho živote. A to je dôvod k veľkej radosti. Prítomnosť na svätej omši má byť poznačená hlbokou vierou a má odzrkadľovať presvedčenie o osobnej prítomnosti Kristovej. Stretnutie s Kristom je chvíľou radosti a lásky.

Svätá omša je stretnutím so živým Bohom, na ktoré sa máme pripraviť. A počas svätej omše by sme sa mali duchovne obrodíť. Nie je bez zaujímavosti, čo povedal istý chorvátsky herec. "Keby ľudia opúšťali divadlo tak ako kostol, nechcel by som byť viacej hercom." Teda: svätá omša nás musí pozmeniť, urobiť lepšími, šlachetnejšími.

HODNOTA SVÄTEJ OMŠE

Svätý biskup Antonius Maria Gianelli (1789-1846) raz povedal: "Jeden jediný akt lásky k Bohu má väčšiu hodnotu ako tisíc svetov". Lebo všetky i tie najväčšie nebeské telesá raz vyhasnú, ale každý akt lásky potrvá na veky. Akú hodnotu má teda jedna svätá omša? Hodnotu preveľkú, nekonečnú. Všetky tvoje modlitby nemajú takú hodnotu ako jediná svätá omša. Vo svätej omši Kristus obetuje sám seba nebeskému Otcovi a to má hodnotu nekonečnú. Svätá omša je v očiach Božích nekonečne cenná obeť. Nemôžeme vzdať Bohu väčšiu úctu, zbožňovanie, žiadnu vrúcnejšiu vďaku, nijaký vznešenejší chválospev, ako svätú omšu.

Taký drahocenný poklad vlastní naša cirkev. Svätá omša je zárukou našej budúcej spásy.

Pokračovanie na str. 15

Gorazd Zvonický

Kňaz Tiso

Blahoslavený, kto sa nezaknísal
a stál jak Tiso, keď dopíjal kalich
a zatváral svoj mučenícky misál

Ó, aprílové mraky!... Vietor hnal ich
nad naše duše... Kto stál hromozvodcom
v tom hromobití veľikášov malých?...

Kňaz Tiso! On bol sviecou pred národom,
hromničkou svätou, z ktorej na smrť chorý
nespúšťa zrak... Bol jeho jasným bodom,

o ktorom sa dnes doma nehovorí,
ani nenačím, lebo do srdc vrastá,
je teplom krbu, vatrou na pohorí.

I zaprisahám otcov na križ: Ščasta
čítajte jeho závet pred obrazom,
nech vaše deti sajú jak med z plásta

protíliek na lož, súcít voči plazom
a lásku k pravde o zhanenej snahe,
že bol nám otcem, sprievodcom a kňazom

a čistou žertvou za Slovensko drahé!

Kežmarok má najstaršiu historickú knižnicu v strednej Európe



Expozičné a depozitné priestory lýcea.

Kežmarok (TASR) – Lyceálna knižnica v Kežmarku je najväčšou školskou historickou knižnicou v strednej Európe. Jej fond tvorí 150 tisíc zväzkov, medzi nimi je 55 prvotlačí - najstarších a najcennejších kníh z 15. storočia. Má najbohatší fond tlači zo 16. storočia na území Slovenska. Tvorí ho 3 tisíc kníh, medzi nimi napríklad originály diel Erasma Rotterdamského, Martina Luthera či Filipa Melanchtona. Okrem kníh a starých tlačí dotvára zbierku 1,520 titulov novín a časopisov zo 17. až 20. storočia, 600 grafických listov zo 16. a 19. storočia a 600 titulov hudobní. Zaujímavá je aj zbierka máp a rukopisov. K svetovým unikátom patrí napríklad rukopis kroniky mesta Kolín nad Rýnom z roku 1437, svadobný poriadok mesta Augsburg z roku 1581 s matrikou zosobášených príslušníkov šľachty či rukopis o histórii mesta Schwabisch Hall z roku 1490.

Knihy prinášali do školy vyučujúci, ktorí pochádzali z Nemecka, Sliezska, Čiech i Moravy i samotní študenti, ktorí vyhľadávali kežmarskú školu kvôli jej vynikajúcej povesti. Najstaršie knihy boli písané rukou a boli veľmi drahé. Historici, tvrdia, že hodnotou zodpovedali až štvrtine ceny menšieho domu. Služby knižnice využívali také osobnosti slovenských dejín ako Karol Kuzmány, Pavol Jozef Šafárik, Pavol Országh Hviezdoslav, Peter Bohúň a ďalší, ktorí v Kežmarku študovali alebo pôsobili.

Prvá písomná zmienka o školskej knižnici v Kežmarku je spred vyše 400 rokov, hoci reálne je oveľa staršia a jej začiatky sa viažu k prvopočiatkom školstva v tomto meste. Vplyvom reformácie, ktorú prijalo prevažne nemecké obyvateľstvo Kežmarku, dostala mestská škola po roku 1531 protestantský charakter a zmenila sa na klasické gymnázium. V poslednej štvrtine 18. storočia bola postavená nová budova školy i knižnice. Knižnica sídli na prvom a druhom poschodí budovy lýcea, ktoré bolo v roku 1985 vyhlásené za národnú kultúrnu pamiatku. Vlastníkom lyceálnej budovy a knižnice je kežmarský Cirkevný zbor Evanjelickej cirkvi a.v. na Slovensku. Tamojší farár Roman Poruban doplnil, že knižnicu okrem bádateľov navštevujú turisti a hlavne školské výpravy. Priestory lýcea si ročne prezrie takmer 5 tisíc návštevníkov.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Polročná členská schôdza spolku č. 716 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu 6. apríla 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New Yorku City.

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

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku, že v nedeľu dňa 20. apríla 2008 o 12:30 hodine sa uskutoční po slovenskej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66-tej ulici členská schôdza. Láskaovo žiadame všetkých našich členov o hojnú účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v N.Y.C.

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku pripravuje za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Spolku sv. Štefana, Spolku sv. Matúša, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických slovenských spolkov, Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti na ktorú si dovoľuje srdečne pozvať širokú slovenskú verejnosť z New Yorku a okolia. Oslava sa bude konať 30. marca 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66th Street, New York City.

Program sa začne modlitbou farára Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Rev. Martina Svitaňa, americká a slovenská hymna zaznie v podaní skupiny Kontakty. Program otvorí a pred-

stavi hostí predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy, Milan Dait. Básne prednesie Henrieta Daitová - Andrej Sládkovič: Nehaňte ľud môj; Gorazd Zvonický: Náš Prvý prezident. Slávnostná reč zaznie na tému: Právo Slovákov na sebaurčenie národa a štátnosti. O hudobnú vložku sa postarajú Renáta Jurášiová spolu s Jozefom Ivaškom. Za tým odznejú pozdravy oficiálnych hostí a diskusia. Na záver prehovorí tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá. Na koniec programu sa zaspieva God Bless America a Hej Slováci. Po programe bude otvorený bar a možnosť zakúpenia dobrého slovenského občerstvenia. Vstup je voľný. O bližšie informácie volajte na telefónne čísla: Milan Dait: (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bílik: (718) 463-2084.

Kresťania v celom svete si pripomínajú umučenie a smrť Ježiša Krista

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Bielou sobotou si veriaci pripomínajú pochovanie a zmŕtvychvstanie Ježiša Krista

Bielou sobotou, ktorou si veriaci pripomínajú pochovanie a zmŕtvychvstanie Ježiša Krista, pokračuje na Zemplíne a v Šariši reťazec kresťanských pamätných veľkonočných dní. "Biela sobota je venovaná najmä príprave tradičných veľkonočných pokrmov, medzi ktorými nechýba biely koláč - paska, syrec či syrok pripravený z rošťahaných vajec a mlieka, šunky, klobás, varených vajčiek a podobne, uviedli zdroje zo zemplínskych múzeí.

Počas tejto soboty si katolícki veriaci dávajú tieto dobroty do košíkov, ktoré kňazi v kostoloch posväcujú. V rámci kresťanských cirkví v strednej Európe má v sobotu večer dominantné postavenie oheň, ktorý zakladajú katolícki veriaci pred kostolmi. Po odmlke od Zeleného štvrtka sa počas večernej veľkonočnej vigílie rozozvučia "na glóriu" zvony. Pôvod pomenovania Bielej soboty nie je dodnes celkom potvrdený. Niekde ho dávajú do súvisu s veľkým množstvom pokrstených ľudí odetých do bielych košíel, inde sa traduje na základe častého pitia mlieka.

Oslava zmŕtvychvstania Pána, ktorej predchádzal Zelený štvrtok so spomienkou na Pánovu večeru a Veľký piatok s umučením a smrťou na kríži, pokračuje počas Veľkonočnej nedele. Zjavenie Pána si veriaci pripomenú počas Veľkonočného pondelka. U pohanských Slovanov a Germanov bolo toto obdobie, časovo situované do prvej nedele po jarnom splne mesiaca, slávnosťou príchodu jari a oslavou precitnutia prírody zo zimného spánku.

Katolícki prichádzajú k poklone pri Božom hrobe, večer slávia Veľkonočnú vigíliu

Katolícka cirkev slávi Veľkonočné trojdnie. Na Bielu sobotu veriaci spo-

mínajú na mŕtveho Krista, prichádzajú do kostolov k modlitbám a poklone pri Božom hrobe. Vo večerných hodinách však už cirkev slávi Veľkonočnú vigíliu (bdenie) ako radostnú slávnosť vzkriesenia, znovu sa rozozvučia zvony, ktoré od štvrtka večera mlčali. Obrady Bielej soboty sa v katolíckych kostoloch začínajú večer po západe slnka. Podľa pradávnej tradície je táto noc očakávaním Pána, noc bdenia. Oslava Kristovho zmŕtvychvstania sa začína Veľkonočnou vigíliou večer, pôvodne v noci, keď sa začínala aj židovská Pascha - sviatky Židov venované pamiatke poslednej večere v egyptskom zajatí, keď anjel smrti prešiel okolo príbytkov Izraelitov a neuškodil im, lebo mali veraje dverí pomazané krvou baránka, teda sviatky, pred ktorými bol Pán Ježiš ukrižovaný.

Pôvodne bola Veľkonočná vigília veľmi dlhá bohoslužba, ktorá trvala celú noc a končila sa v nedeľu ráno krsťom katechumenov. V súčasnosti sú pobožnosti skrátené, ale obrad zostáva liturgicky veľmi bohatý. Začína sa posvätením ohňa a veľkonočnej sviece - paškálu. Od tejto sviece sa po slovách "Kristus, svetlo sveta - Bohu vďaka" zapalujú sviece, ktoré si priniesli veriaci, ako symbol zmŕtvychvstaleho Krista. Súčasťou liturgie slova sú potom čítania zo Starého zákona pripomínajúce veriacim dejiny od stvorenia sveta až po narodenie Ježiša vrátane čítania o vyslobodení Židov z Egypta. Súčasťou Veľkonočnej vigílie je posvätenie krsťnej vody a obnovenie krsťných sľubov, svätá omša s veľkonočnými spevmi a na záver slávnostná procesia zmŕtvychvstania Pána. Po 40-dňovej prestávke opäť zaznie víťazný spev Aleluja. Vo viacerých chrámoch sa vykonáva krsť, prípadne birmovka dospelých. Oslava Pánovho zmŕtvychvstania pokračuje slávnostnými omšami na Veľkonočnú nedeľu. Zdroj: TASR

Štefan Hreha 90-ročný

Koncom marca t.r. v Montrealskom Côte Saint-Lue, v spoločnosti svojej manželky, syna a jeho manželky, dožíva sa 90 rokov svojho plodného života slovenský rodolub Štefan Hreha, zakladajúci redaktor Kanadského Slováka, popredný budovateľ národného, fraternalistického a novinárskeho neodlučného života slovenského etnika v Kanade.

Narodil sa 25. marca 1918 vo východoslovenskej obci Čemerné, dnes súčasť okresného mesta Vranov nad Topľou, kde prežil svoje mladé roky. Do Kanady odišiel začiatkom decembra 1936 s matkou a dvoma mladšími bratmi (už na večnosti) k otcovi, ktorý ich tu predišiel na jar 1927 s vlnou hromadného vystaňovalecťva Slovákov do Kanady. Má tu ešte v Kanade narodenú sestru Mrs. Dr. Weisnagel.

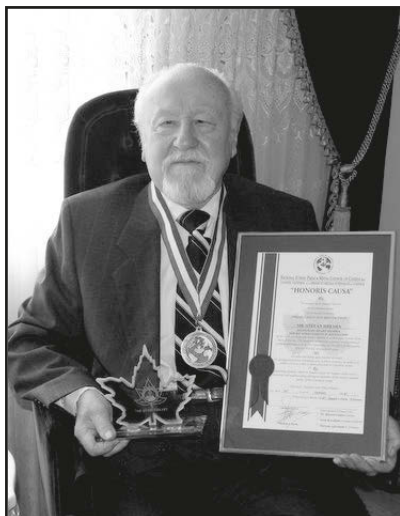
Hneď po svojom príchode do Kanady aktívne sa zapojil do osvetovej, spolkárskej a neskorej novinárskej pôsobnosti. Za viac rokov účinkoval ako redaktor vtedajších novín Slovákov v Kanade neskorej premenované na Slovenské Bratstvo. Jeho zásluhou bol tu založený dnešný Kanadský Slovákov, úradný orgán Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy. Prvé číslo nových slovenských novín v Kanade vyšlo 5. marca 1942 a odvtedy - už vyše 65 rokov - Kanadský Slovákov neprestajne vychádza s prívlastkom "jediný slovenský týždenník na americkom kontinente".

Treba mať na mysli, že Kanadský Slovákov začal vychádzať uprostred druhej svetovej vojny. A len ten kto tu prežil tie neprajné vojnové roky, arogantné útoky na slovensky orientované noviny zo strany nežičlivcov slovenskej identity v Kanade, spomaľujúce normálny vývin tunajšieho národného a spolkárskeho diania, pochopí bremeno ťažkostí a neistoty vtedajšej doby.

Štefan Hreha svojou činnosťou vyznamenal sa aj na poli kultúrnej a literárnej tvorby. Napísal niekoľko divadelných hier, texty pre spevohry, cyklus básní a epigramov novinársky uverejnených a heslo o Slovákoch v Kanade pre Encyclopaedia Canadiana.

Za svoju tvorivú činnosť v radoch kanadských Slovákov, obdržal niekoľko záslužných odmiem včítane Čestného uznania jeho rodného mesta. Posledne Kanadská Slovenská Liga, pri príležitosti svojej 75-ročnej existencie, udelila mu Jubilejnú trofej a National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada, pociť ho Medailou a certifikátom doživotného členstva Honoris Causa v koncile za jeho novinárske zásluhy v Kanade.

Pri tomto vzácnom medzníku jeho vysokého veku, prajeme mu dobré zdravie, veľa Božích milostí, pozdravujúc ho ako vzácného človeka slovenskej tvorby a borby v Kanade.



Štefan Hreha

Národný inštitút slovenského jazyka a literatúry Matice slovenskej

Martin (TASR) – Národný inštitút slovenského jazyka a literatúry (NISJaL) Matice slovenskej (MS) zastrešuje vedecké a odborné pracoviská, ktoré majú byť nápomocné pri zveľaďovaní, ochrane, ale aj pri aktivitách, spojených s potrebou starať sa o štátny jazyk. Na tlačovej besede inštitútu to 5. marca v Martine skonštatoval poverený riaditeľ NISJaL a zároveň prvý podpredseda MS Miroslav Bielik. Podľa Bielika ide o Slovenský literárny ústav MS, archív MS, literárne redakcie, ale i niektoré malé pracoviská, ako je napríklad kabinet štátneho jazyka. "Je tam súčinnosť i s vedeckými a záujmovými odborníkmi MS, s jazykovým odborom, s národopisným odborom MS a s akademickými vedeckými pracoviskami," spresnil Bielik. MS má podľa jej prvého podpredsedu v tradičnej oblasti slovenskej literatúry a jazyka predpoklady byť činná cez vydavateľskú produkčnú prácu až po niektoré vedecké výskumné projekty. "Samozrejme, v úzkej kooperácii s renomovanými

vedeckými pedagogickými výskumnými pracoviskami a v úzkej súčinnosti s nimi. Čiže matica nevstupuje dramatickým postupom do tohto procesu, ale prirodzenou kooperáciou so zložkami, ktoré v matici už boli vytvorené, vrátane záujmových a vedeckých odborov MS," povedal Bielik.

Na margo personálnych zmien uviedol, že rozpočet MS na rok 2008 je rovnaký ako rozpočet v predchádzajúcom roku. Dodal, že vnútornou koordináciou alebo aj prihladnutím na priority v zmysle programu MS dochádza aj v samotnej matici k istému pohybu pracovníkov. "Štruktúry sa menia a treba otvorene povedať, že niektoré pracoviská sa musia vystúžiť a personálne dobudovať. No a na týchto programoch mieni matica stavať aj do budúcnosti. Čiže záujem o vedu, výskum, ale aj výstupy v podobe vydavateľských činov sú pre maticu úplne prirodzené a tieto bude aj ďalej podporovať a presadzovať," uzatvoril Bielik.



Nech Zmrŕtvychvstalý posilní Vašu vieru,
povzbudí Vašu nádej a roznieti Vašu lásku.

To všetkým svojim čitateľom a priaznivcom želá REDAKCIA JEDNOTY

Čemerné, moje Čemerné

Hoc aj meno môjho valala z mapy navždy vymazali
a nové, okresného mesta slávnostne mu dali,
predsa ho nosím v srdci ako starých predkov poklad
a len Boh vie, čo by som dal na jeho posledný pohľad.

Baľko čas obielil vlasy, spomalil rezké kroky
a na plecía navalil života neodvratné dlhé roky,
len z duše nevytrel spomienky starého vandrovníka
na prežitú mladú letá v lone tepla rodného sveta.

Kto vie koľko ráz som prešiel rodisko krížom-krážom
a zbožne sa poklonil pred oltárom i poľným krížom?
Kto vie koľko ráz som vyhnal kravy na pastvisko
a krdel gagotavých hús do večne čurčiaceho jarku?
Kto vie koľko ráz som premeral zlatoklasé polia
a dlhé záhony úzkych rolí neprehľadnej zelene?
Kto vie koľko ráz som načrel vody z bubľavej studničky
a odbehnul do Lazu na sťa dľaň veľké kapustné roličky
i na kručovské senné lúky a okolné plodné parcely,
kadiaľ Topľa od ľudu nepamäti šumivo sa valí a valí ...

Pamätám na vrúcne modlitby starých babiek
i na kade-tade vyšliapané dlhé poľné chodníky.

Pamätám na odpusty doma a blízkej okolici
i na rozkošné pri cigánskej muzike nedeľné veselice.
Pamätám na školské majálesy, na starých učiteľov
i na mojich dávnodávnych starokrajových priateľov.
Pamätám na šumné, koketné dievky z mladých liet,
ktoré sa lepili na parobkov ako muchy na med.

Pamätám na mamičiek akoby vymaľované záhradky
i na večerné posiedky a žien klebetné priadky.

Pamätám na dlhé zimy, rozprávky starých materí
i potnú robotu na roztratených poliach v chotári.
Pamätám na slzy radosti-starosti mojej dbanlivej mamky
i na vráskami zbrázdnené moje prítuľné staré babušky.
Pamätám na reľaz ďalekých hôr obzorom olemované
i na večne mĺkve hroby a rušné vojenské kasárne.
Pamätám na všetko, čo mi vtedy bolo milé a sväté
i keď už navyše sedem dekát liet žijem v Novom svete.
Pamätám, hej pamätám, len návratu sa už nedočkám,
bo život ako mydlová bublina, nenávratne sa míňa
a ja neraz rozmýšľam: Koľko rovesníkov ešte tam mám?

Už to inak nebude. Čo Boh dal to bude, no predsa
poza veľkej mláky svojeti vyznávam vrúcny odkaz:
Čemerné je mojej mladosti nevymazateľný obraz!
Štefan Hreha

PS. – Pri príležitosti mojej 90-tky, túto skromnú spomienku venujem mojej rodnej obci Čemerné, dnes súčasť okresného mesta Vranov nad Topľou.
Montréal, Kanada, 25. 3. 2008



FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Ruina Čachtického hradu. Hrad vznikol v druhej polovici trinásteho storočia a patrili medzi prvé hrady, ktoré zabezpečovali západnú hranicu Uhorska. Medzi najznámejších majiteľov hradu patrili Matúš Čák, Ctibor zo Stiboríc a Nádasdyovci. V roku 1772 hrad vyhorel a odvtedy chátra. Spájajú sa s ním najmä legendy o krvilačnej grófke Alžbete Bátorovej, ktorá na hrade mučila mladé dievčatá a kúpala sa v ich krvi.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Zdravotné sestry, ktoré odišli za lepšie platenou prácou do zahraničia, nahradia v nemocniciach už čoskoro študenti. Príkaz poslať ich na rok do praxe dostali začiatkom februára všetky zdravotnícke a lekárske fakulty. Zmena vyplýva z novely vysokoškolského zákona. Len tri mesiace pred štátnicami sa tak časť študentov dozvedela, že musia prerušiť školu a ísť na rok pracovať. Študenti sú pobúrení, obmedzenia považujú za diskrimináciu. Myslia si, že cieľom tohto opatrenia je nahnať do zdravotníckych zariadení lacnú pracovnú silu, keďže sestry a ošetrovatelky zo Slovenska odchádzajú. Ministerstvo školstva potvrdilo, že o zavedenie povinnej praxe žiadalo ministerstvo zdravotníctva.

Scenár, ktorý bol pred niekoľkými rokmi nepredstaviteľný, sa naplňa. V chudobných regiónoch nemá kto robiť. Najnovšie na to doplácajú investori v Rimavskej Sobote, ale i v Michalovciach či Snine. Personalisti zahraničných firiem konštatujú, že ľudia, ktorí vedeli a chceli pracovať, sú preč. Ostali väčšinou dlhodobozamestnaní bez vzdelania. Kým pred niekoľkými rokmi si mohli vyberať, teraz siahajú už po ľuďoch aj s nedokončenou základnou školou. S týmito problémami zápasia investori ako Sewon ECS Slovakia v Rimavskej Sobote, Jas Elmont v Snine či Yazaki Wiring Technologies Slovakia v Michalovciach.

Slovenský veľvyslanec v USA Rastislav Káčer v spojitosti so zrušením víz pre obyvateľov Slovenska uviedol, že Slovensko je v podobnej situácii ako sú Maďari, Litovčania a Lotyš. V Bielom dome je silné odhodlanie dostať Slovensko do bezvízového programu do konca roka. Slovensko má 95-percentnú šancu dostať sa tento rok do bezvízového programu. Ak nevyužijeme tento rok, tak na to môžeme najbližších päť rokov zabudnúť.

Rakúska spolková krajina Vorarlbersko zaujme voči plánovanej dostavbe slovenskej jadrovej elektrárne Mochovce negatívne stanovisko. Informovala o tom nedávno oficiálna internetová stránka spolkovej krajiny, ktorá zverejnila aj podklady pre skúšku znesiteľnosti pre životné prostredie. Projekt dostavby sa "v záujme bezpečnosti obyvateľov" odmieta, napísal člen vorarlberskej spolkovej rady pre životné prostredie Erich Schwarzler v stanovisku. Dostavba jadrovej elektrárne Mochovce podľa neho "neukazuje cestu do budúcnosti". "Už mnohé roky podporujeme výstavbu obnoviteľných nosičov energie," dodal. Pri skúške znesiteľnosti pre životné prostredie môže každý podať písomné stanovisko, ktoré prostredníctvom rakúskeho ministerstva životného prostredia doručia slovenským úradom, pripomína tlačová agentúra APA.

Tucet zmodernizovaných bojových lietadiel MIG-29 odovzdali koncom februára na letisku Sliač do užívania Ozbrojeným silám SR. Obnova stíhačiek, ktorú zrealizovali ruskí odborníci v LOT Trenčín, stála 1.6 miliardy Sk a bola plne hrazená z deblokácie ruského dlhu. Podľa náčelníka generálneho štábu slovenskej armády Ľubomíra Bulíka, od tohto dňa bude na Slovensku fungovať kompletná bojová letka. Tento počet lietadiel by mal byť na niekoľko rokov stabilný. "Chceme, aby aspoň deväť strojov tejto bojovej letky bolo v dennej pohotovosti, a teda aby aj reálne lietalo," podotkol Bulík. "Počítame, že takto modernizované lietadlá by mohli byť v plnom operačnom nasadení desať až 15 rokov," povedal národný riaditeľ pre vyvojovanie Stanislav Szabó.

Nový dominantu Banskej Bystrice 22-poschodový administratívno-kongresový komplex Europa Business Center (EBC) za viac ako 400 miliónov Sk plánujú dokončiť v máji tohto roka. Inteligentná 87-metrová budova bude súčasťou nového centra krajského sídla, kde funguje už vyše roka multifunkčný nákupno-zábavný komplex Europa Shopping Center (ESC). Každé poschodie bude mať svoje obslužné jadro a okolo neho variabilné priestory. Od 3. do 16. poschodia sú univerzálne kancelárske priestory. Na 17. a 18. poschodí pripravili malometrážne apartmány a apartmánové byty. Na 19. a 20. podlaží bude výhliadková reštaurácia a kaviareň.

Na letisku v Bratislave začnú na linke z Moskvy od mája opäť pristávať lietadlá TU-154 najväčšej ruskej leteckej spoločnosti Aeroflot. S ich prevádzkou sa začne pred začiatkom leta. Prvý let z Moskvy do Bratislavy a späť by malo 130 miestne lietadlo Aeroflotu absolvovať 27. mája tohto roku. Od 24. septembra otvára svoju ďalšiu linku z hlavného mesta Slovenska aj najväčšia európska nízkonákladová spoločnosť Ryanair. V poradí 11. destináciou a piatou vo Veľkej Británii, na ktorej bude spoločnosť z Bratislavy lietať, sa stáva škótsky Edinburgh. Lety bude spoločnosť prevádzkovať strojmi Boeing 737-800 s kapacitou 189 cestujúcich vždy v pondelok, stredu, piatok a v sobotu.

Kanada zrušila začiatkom marca vízovú povinnosť Slovensku, Maďarsku, Poľsku a Litve, čo však neznamená otvorenie pracovného trhu. Ak by Slovensko začalo bezvízový styk zneužívať, Kanada môže toto obmedzenie opäť zaviesť. Po zrušení víz sa objavuje strašák azylovej turistiky. Českí Rómovia tu žiadajú o politický azyl.

"**Ceny** bytov: Bratislava je drahšia ako Viedeň!" informoval denník Nový Čas. Napríklad jednoizbový byt sa dá kúpiť v metropole Rakúska za 1.8 milióna Sk (Viedeň - Altgasse) v Bratislave na Kyjevskej ulici podobný za 3.1. milióna Sk. Pritom Slováci priemerne zarábajú niekoľkonásobne menej ako ich susedia. "Hlavným dôvodom vysokých cien nehnuteľností v hlavnom meste SR je obrovský rozdiel medzi Bratislavou a zvyškom republiky. V Rakúsku existuje väčšia vyváženosť medzi Viedňou a inými väčšími mestami," povedal odborník na reality Jaroslav Dolnák.

Minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš sa ocitol v hre o post zvláštneho vyslanca OSN pre Afganistan. Vo svojom vydaní 28. februára informoval denník Pravda. Odvoláva sa na nezávislé zdroje v NATO a OSN, podľa ktorých Kubiš patrí do úzkeho okruhu politikov, ktorí prichádzajú do úvahy na tento post. Ďalšie mená pochádzajú podľa spomínaného denníka z Kanady, Holandska a Nórska. Minister Kubiš sa k tejto otázke nechcel vyjadrovať. Americkí predstavitelia však podľa denníka o tejto ponuke s Kubišom hovorili počas jeho návštevy Washingtonu začiatkom februára.

Turizmu na Slovensku chýba väčšia podpora. Česi a Maďari si v rebríčku podpory cestovného ruchu polepšili. Slovensko naopak kleslo o jednu priečku. Nevýhodou Slovenska je nízka kvalita cestných komunikácií, nespoľahlivosť policajných služieb či infraštruktúra leteckej dopravy. Slovensko dopadlo najhoršie v časti týkajúcej sa propagácie. Obsadilo 121. miesto. "Ministerstvo o tomto probléme vie a súhlasí s konštatovaním, že treba zlepšiť marketing. Štát môže vynaložiť na cestovný ruch len toľko peňazí, koľko mu dovoľí štátny rozpočet", uviedla Dagmar Hlavatá z ministerstva hospodárstva. Podľa Roberta Kohlmanna, prezidenta Asociácie cestovných kancelárií, by stačilo každoročne investovať do propagácie aspoň 100 miliónov korún.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Kardinál Tomko uviedol do úradu bratislavského biskupa Zvolenského

Dňa 8. marca 2008 predpoludním uviedol kardinál Jozef Tomko do úradu arcibiskupa - metropolitu Bratislavskej arcidiecézy počas slávnosti v Katedrále sv. Martina v Bratislave Mons. Stanislava Zvolenského. Na začiatku pontifikálnej svätej omše boli prečítané v latinskom a slovenskom jazyku dekrétu pápeža Benedikta XVI. zo 14. februára 2008 o zriadení novej bratislavskej arcidiecézy a o vymenovaní prvého bratislavského arcibiskupa.

Kardinál Tomko odovzdal arcibiskupovi Zvolenskému biskupskú berlu a do úradu ho uviedol slovami: "Pospievaj, vyučuj a spravuj starostlivo zverený Boží ľud bez úhony chraň svätú Cirkev, ktorú vykúpil svojou smrťou zmŕtvychvstaním náš Pán Ježiš Kristus... Prijmi berlu, znamenia pastierskej služby, a dávaj pozor na celé duchovné stádo, v ktorom ťa Duch Svätý ustanovil za arcibiskupa, aby si spravoval Božiu Cirkev."

Arcibiskup Zvolenský vyjadril vo svojom príhovore poďakovanie pápežovi Benediktovi XVI. za vytvorenie samostatnej arcidiecézy s hlavným mestom Bratislava. "Tieto skutočnosti nás naplňajú osobitnou radosťou, dojatím, vďačnosťou voči Bohu a voči Svätému Otcovi a znamenajú pre nás veľkú výzvu," povedal bratislavský arcibiskup, ktorý sa chce usilovať o rozšírenie spolupráce na všetkých stupňoch medzi biskupom a kňazom, ako aj medzi kňazmi a laikmi.

Vo svojej službe sa chce ďalej zamerať na prípravu budúcich kňazov; nenahraditeľné miesto má podľa jeho slov rodina, veriaci laici pracujúci v rozličných funkciách politického a spoločenského života a katechéti. "V najbližších dňoch sa budem snažiť získať dobrých spolupracovníkov a chcel by som sa čo najrýchlejšie oboznámiť s prostredím mesta, aby som mohol ľuďom lepšie rozumieť," prezradil novinárom na krátkom brífingu po skončení slávnosti arcibiskup Zvolenský. Na záver dodal, že Bratislavská arcidiecéza je aj územím, na ktorom žijú viaceré národnosti. "Chcem sa usilovať, aby sa v náboženskej oblasti nikto pre svoju národnosť necítil znevýhodnený."

Na inauguračnej slávnosti sa zúčastnil viedenský arcibiskup kardinál Christoph Schönborn, arcibiskup Ostrihomo-budapeštianskej arcidiecézy a predseda Konferencie maďarských katolíckych biskupov Péter Erdő a iní významní cirkevní a verejní predstavitelia zo Slovenska i zo zahraničia.

TK KBS

Na ceste k tajomstvu Veľkej noci

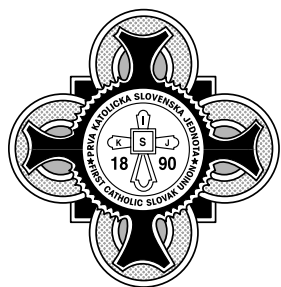
Pokračovanie zo str. 20

nie je len príbeh na rozprávanie - to je ukazovateľ smeru. To nie je záznam o zázraku, ktorý sa odohral pred dávnymi vekmi, lež prelom, ktorý rozhodol o zmysle celých dejín. Kto to pochopí, ten je schopný aj dnes s úprimnou a neumenšenou radosťou vysloviť veľkonočný pozdrav: Kristus vstal, hej, naozaj vstal z mŕtvych!

Kardinál Joseph Ratzinger
meditácia z knihy Suchen, was droben ist (preložila Z.F.)



Slávnostná svätá omša v Dóme sv. Martina v Bratislave počas ktorej uviedli do úradu nového bratislavského arcibiskupa Mons. Stanislava Zvolenského (na snímke).



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Volume 117

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Číslo 5775

VEĽKÁ NOC 2008



*Radosť z Kristovho víťazstva nad smrťou
nech prenikne do hĺbín nášho srdca.
Nech posilní nádej na naše vzkriesenie.
Nech obnoví silu krstnej milosti,
ktorá nás urobí svetlom sveta a prameňom lásky a pokoja.*

Na ceste k tajomstvu Veľkej noci

Ešte stále slávime Veľkú noc, ale nad srdcom kresťanstva sa rozprestiera pochmúrny závoj zúfalstva a z neho prameniaceho smútku; zasahuje až samotné vnútro spoločenstva veriacich a ochromuje veľkonočnú radosť; Zdá sa, akoby sa veľkonočné svetlo scvrklo do úplnej bezvýznamnosti.

Je Veľká noc čímisi zbytočným, slovom bez nádeje? Aby sme spoznali jej skutočnú hodnotu, musíme si položiť otázku opačne: Čo by sa vlastne bolo stalo, keby Kristus naozaj nebol vstal z mŕtvych, keby naozaj nebolo Veľkej noci? Znamenalo by to iba o jedného mŕtveho naviac..., alebo by to malo hlbší význam?

Bez zmŕtvychvstania by sa bol Ježišov príbeh skončil na Veľký piatok. Jeho mŕtve telo by sa bolo rozpadlo a aj o ňom by bolo platilo: "Bol raz jeden ..." To by však znamenalo, že Boh nezasahuje do dejín, že nie je schopný alebo ochotný dosiahnuť náš svet, náš ľudský život a umieranie. A to by zasa znamenalo, že láska je zbytočná, bezcenná, iba prázdna a márný sľub. Znamenalo by to, že nejestvuje súd a spravodlivosť, že význam má iba prítomný okamih a že pravdu majú iba prefíkaní, ľstiví a ľudia bez svedomia.

Nejestvoval by súd. Samozrejme, to by si želali mnohí, a nielen zlí ľudia, lebo si zamieňajú súd s malicherným počítaním a veria viac strachu ako dôverujúcej láske. Tu väzí horúčkovitú úsilie vymazať z histórie veľkonočnú nedeľu, obísť ju a zastaviť beh dejín na Bielu sobotu. Plodom tohto úteku však nie je vykúpenie, ale smutná radosť tých, čo pokladajú božiu spravodlivosť za nebezpečnú a preto si želajú aby nejestvovala. Takto sa však stáva zjavným, čo je Veľká noc: Boh zasiahol. Dejiny sveta nesmerujú k ničomu ľahostajnému. Právo, láska, pravda sú skutočnosť, tá autentická skutočnosť. Boh nás miluje, prichádza nám v ústrety. Čím dôslednejšie kráčať po jeho ceste, žijeme podľa jeho vôle, tým menej sa máme čo obávať práva a pravdy, tým väčší bude naše srdce naplňovať veľkonočná radosť. Veľká noc, to

Pokračovanie na str. 19

Veľkonočné posolstvo predsedu IKSJ 2008

Další rok sa pominul. Pre tých, ktorí žijú v severnej časti podnebia, jaro je beznádejne postrádané. Úspory denného svetla boli tiež posunuté dopredu. Veľká noc sa blíži.

Oslavy Veľkého týždňa a samotnej Veľkej noci nie sú v dnešnej hýrivej materialistickej spoločnosti skoro žiadnou udalosťou. Prichádzajú i odchádzajú bez akýchkoľvek očakávaní a veľkých osláv. A pritom všetkom, Veľká noc je udalosťou, na ktorej sa katolícka viera zakladá. Kristovo zmŕtvychvstanie je podstatou kresťanského náboženstva.

Keď sa pozrieme na modernú spoločnosť, vidíme pokles svätenia Veľkej noci ako kresťanského sviatku.

V mojej domácnosti som nikdy nevlastnil káblovú televíziu, až do minulého roku, keď som bol nútený si ju predplatiť, ak chcem mať televíziu vôbec. Dnes tomu rozumiem aký dôsledok môže mať prístroj so 75 stanicami, ktorý si podmaňuje nielen dospelých, ale tiež hlavne deti a mladých ľudí. Či sa nám to páči, alebo nie v mnohých prípadoch televízia a filmy sa stávajú mravnými vychovávateľmi našich detí.

Kresťanskí fundamentalisti namietajú tomuto trendu modernej spoločnosti. Pápeža Benedikta XVI. nazvali "nepoddajný v každom ohľade" vo vyhláseniach čo sa týka základnej pravdy. Pravidlá dnešnej modernej spoločnosti boli ohýbané a základná náuka nám daná, je zaznávaná. Nebolo by to skvelé, keby sme sa mohli vrátiť, aspoň v niektorých oblastiach, do 1950-tých rokov?

Ako ste už počuli niekoľkokrát "dejiny sa opakujú". Je to pravda v mnohých prípadoch. Počuli ste to už "Tam ateisti nie sú v liščích dierach". Podobne, niektorí povedia, že len vojna, ekonomické problémy a osobná kríza prinavrátia ľudí k náboženstvu. Dufám, že si to nevyžiada oživenie Katolíckej cirkvi a znovu-vytvorenie "priestoru pre stojacich" počas bohoslužieb Veľkého týždňa a Veľkonočnej nedele.

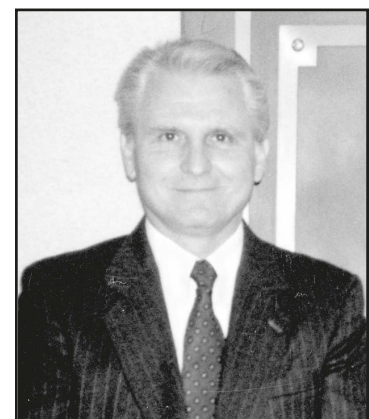
Všetko najlepšie želim Vám a Vaším rodinám.

Veselé veľkonočné sviatky.

Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, radujme sa!

Andrej M. Rajec

hlavný predseda IKSJ



Andrej M. Rajec

Kresťania v celom svete si pripomínajú umučenie a smrť Ježiša Krista

Utrpenie, umučenie a smrť Ježiša Krista na kríži si pripomínajú kresťania na Veľký piatok v rôznych častiach sveta vrátane Slovenska. Krista ukrižovali na vrchu Golgota za vlády cisára Tiberia a Pontského Piláta. Evanjelici považujú Veľký piatok za najvýznamnejší sviatok, pretože vtedy Syn Boží dokončil dielo vykúpenia sveta, prejavil svoju veľkú lásku k ľuďom a dal im nádej. V evanjelických kostoloch sa v tento deň predpoludňím konajú služby Božie, počas ktorých čítajú, alebo spievajú pašie - príbeh o utrpení a smrti Ježiša, prisluguje sa Večera Pánova. Aj v Reformovanej kresťanskej cirkvi (kalvínskej) slávia Veľký piatok ako jeden z najväčších sviatkov. V kostoloch tejto cirkvi sa predpoludňím konajú

bohoslužby, veriaci si sprítomňujú utrpenie Pána Ježiša. V rímskokatolíckej cirkvi sa v tento deň ako jediný deň v roku nekonajú v kostoloch sväté omše, ale veľkopiatočné obrady pozostávajúce z bohoslužby slova, modlitieb a poklony veriacich pri kríži a Božom hrobe. Oltáre sú na Veľký piatok bez chrámového rúcha. Je to deň prísneho pôstu a pokánia. V kostoloch a na kalváriach sa konajú krížové cesty ako spomienka na Kristovo utrpenie a smrť. Je to v cirkvi druhý deň Veľkonočného trojdňa. V gréckokatolíckych chrámoch sa v popoludňajších hodinách koná večiereň zameraná na utrpenie Krista a jeho pochovanie, do symbolického hrobu kladú platenicu.

Pokračovanie na str. 17