



Jednota

THE UNION

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

Volume 120

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

NUMBER 5838

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



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



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

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

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

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

The rules and requirements are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 9th this year. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration, christened with Holy Water and scented by exposure to incense. They are used to make the sign of the cross by the priest or minister who presides at the service on the foreheads of congregants – both as a sign of penance and contrition, but also as a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.

The 2010 IRA Contribution Deadline Is April 15

Act now with any of the following FCSU products:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2010

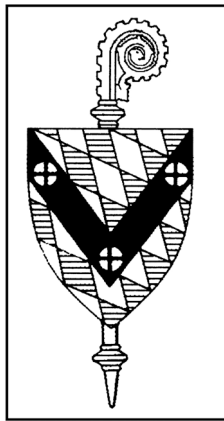
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred IRA	3.65% (3.585% apr)
With the "Cash Interest" Option	3.40% (3.344% apr)
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred IRA:	3.90% (3.826% apr)
New Park Free Plus IRA – first year guarantee Maximum deposit is \$25,000.00	3.00% (2.956% apr)
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred IRA	3.40% (3.344% apr)



If you have any questions about our Annuities or IRA's, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 or your local Branch Officer.



Insights and Viewpoints

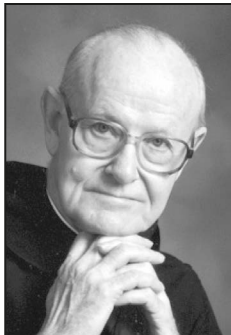


St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B.

March 20, 2011
Second Sunday of Lent
Matthew 17 1-9

Gospel Summary

The fact that Jesus takes his more intimate disciples to the top of this nameless mountain alerts us to the deeply personal nature of the episode to follow. When they arrive there, the appearance of Jesus suddenly changes and he is radiant with a light whose source is not identified. When Matthew notes that the face of Jesus "shone like the sun," he wants us to recall how Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with luminous face after having spoken with God (Exodus 34:29). Matthew considers Jesus to be the new Moses who brings a new revelation from God.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

It has been customary to attribute the illumination of Jesus to a beam of light from heaven intended to reassure the disciples who have just heard that the Messiah must suffer and die. However, most of the disciples are not present, nor do those few present seem to have been reassured and there is no mention of a light from heaven. It is far more likely that this illumination derives from within Jesus who, for the first time, comes to a full realization that God wants him to save the world, not by feats of power or by killing Roman soldiers (the human way), but by loving and therefore suffering and dying (the divine way). This would be then an ecstatic moment of discovery as Jesus becomes fully aware of the true nature of his messianic mission.

If that is so, it is entirely appropriate that Moses and Elijah should join him there, for they too had met God on a mountaintop and received a revelation that illumined their futures. The face of Moses glistened from the divine encounter on Mt. Sinai and Elijah outran the chariot of Ahab after meeting God on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:46). Peter knows that he is in the presence of God and makes a generous but unnecessary offer to build tents for the others. Finally, when the voice of God is heard, the baptismal affirmation is repeated and significant new words are added: "Listen to him." This tells us that Jesus is now ready to teach the ultimate divine wisdom of salvation through loving and self-giving.

Life Implications

We Christians are asked to follow Jesus, not only by listening to his words, but also by sharing in his experience of human life as an opportunity for ultimate victory and freedom. We have heard with Jesus the liberating baptismal words, "You are my beloved child," and as we have grown in confidence we have learned to be a beneficent presence in our world within our limitations.

However, the time soon comes when we begin to doubt whether building monuments or achieving status is really the purpose of life. Then, in middle age (sometime between the ages of 30 and 70 or so!), we are invited to the mountaintop for a transfiguring experience which will hopefully enable us to discover that brain-power and money-power, though very useful, are not nearly as important as love-power. Suddenly it becomes clear that being kind and gentle in an often violent world is the ultimate wisdom for us humans. Moreover, we discover to our relief that age is not an obstacle to being a loving, caring presence.

Indeed, the touch of an octogenarian is often more tender than that of a 20-year-old.

We also learn that true loving is always a kind of dying. However, after we die in countless small ways, we discover that our real dying is just the last and best opportunity to trust a gracious God who has illumined all our days. In this way, bright promise and luminous hope can conquer dark and frightening fear and despair.

March 27, 2011
Third Sunday of Lent
John 4:5-42

Gospel Summary

It is high noon when Jesus stops to rest by the well of Jacob. His revelation about life-giving water will provide a light that challenges the sun. When he asks the Samaritan woman for a drink, she is amazed that he seems so unaware of how things really are. Does he not know about the human conventions that have condemned her to social invisibility? After all, women were supposed to be ignored in public and she was also a despised Samaritan. How can Jesus be so out of touch?

When Jesus answers her, we discover that it is she who is out of touch. For she does not know about the "gift of God" that Jesus offers—a gift that is as refreshing and enlivening as bubbling, cool spring water, and thus so much better than the stale, stagnant well water on which she has been trying to survive. The woman's eyes must have sparkled as Jesus awakened in her the dream of a life of freedom and dignity. "Sir, give me this water."

We learn about the nature of this "living water" a bit later when the woman asks Jesus whether it is better to worship in Jerusalem or on the Samaritan Mt. Gerizim. Jesus defers to Jerusalem but adds immediately that such considerations are no longer relevant. What counts now is to welcome the Spirit who can transform the hearts of people by enabling them to experience the ultimate truth of God's love for them. Religious places and rituals remain important but only insofar as they lead to this experience of God's love made manifest in one's personal union with Christ.

Life Implications

It is all too easy for most of us to identify with the Samaritan woman when she experienced life as often unfair and unjust, that is, as stale well water. Many powerful human institutions conceal systemic injustice in the sense that opportunities and rewards are too often provided on the basis of connections rather than of ability or merit. Even those who benefit from such arrangements will sense the lack of that joy that comes from a life where love is more important than security. To shrug off injustice as simply "the way things are" is to be condemned to the half-life of stagnant well water.

Today's gospel invites us to dream about the possibility of a world where opportunity and hope replace the bondage of fear and despair. God really does not want us to live a life of quiet desperation. Jesus has come to reveal the Father's love and the Spirit is ready to convince us of that fact. The Spirit of Jesus whispers constantly to us: "If you only knew the gift of God..." Our eyes too can sparkle as we dare to imagine a world, at least within our hearts, where the experience of God's invincible love becomes a source of refreshing, life-giving water to quench our thirst for goodness and justice.

In order to avoid a cynical attitude toward life, we need to realize that the Holy Spirit wants us to redeem our own little corner of the world. We do not need to be a Messiah, but we do need to inject some messianic hope into the area of life that we can influence. The conversion of the world begins with the conversion of a kitchen or a dining room or a workplace. If each one of us would do that, the larger world would soon become what God intended it to be—a place where justice blossoms and where love bears wonderful fruit.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR 16	MONDAY, MAR 7
WEDNESDAY, MAR 30	MONDAY, MAR 21
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27	MONDAY, APRIL 18

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

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

JEDNOTA

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Scholarship Information

continued from page 1

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

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

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

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

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

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA 3.65% (3.585% apr)

Rate Effective November 1, 2010

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

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



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Radio host/producer, The Christophers

The Spiritual Transformation of a Nun

The season of Lent helps us realize that sacrifices and hardships can draw us closer to God. But for some people, those experiences last well beyond forty days.

I'm thinking specifically of Mother Dolores Hart who I once had the opportunity to interview on our Christopher Closeup radio show. You may remember Mother Dolores from her years as an actress during the late 1950's and early 1960's when she co-starred in movies with Elvis Presley, Robert Wagner, and Anthony Quinn.

In 1963, she left that life behind - and even broke off her engagement to the man she loved - in order to follow a higher calling. Choosing to become a cloistered Benedictine nun at the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut, Mother Dolores has dedicated her life to serving God for more than 40 years. After all that time, you might think there's nothing new she could learn about her faith. But pain has a way of being a great educator.

Twelve years ago, shortly after a three-hour dental operation, Mother Dolores got up from bed and discovered her feet were tingling so badly, she could hardly put any weight on the floor. She traveled from doctor to doctor seeking an explanation but no one could adequately diagnose her ever-worsening condition. The 120- pound nun eventually lost twenty pounds, grew increasingly weaker, and was confined to a wheelchair. Doctors suggested she receive psychoanalysis because they theorized the whole illness was in her head.

Finally, Mother Dolores found neurologist Dr. Norman Latov in New York City. He told her, "Mother, pain is not in your head unless it's something that is a serious disorder in your head...We're going to find out what this is about."

Dr. Latov diagnosed Mother Dolores with peripheral neuropathy. She explained, "It's one of the most common diseases that most people have never heard of. It's a neurological disorder that disrupts and damages the body's ability to communicate with itself. It's a deterioration of what are called the peripheral nerves, ones that send signals to our feet, our hands, muscles, organs and tissues."

The neuropathy didn't just produce a physical challenge but a spiritual one as well. Mother Dolores admitted, "No matter how much you think that you have come to a capacity of understanding your faith, when a person is struck with a serious disease where you can't do what you want to do, you can't go where you want to go, where you can't feed yourself, you can't apply your own medical needs...you begin to say, "Where is God?"

This complete reliance on other people taught Mother Dolores a new view of the way God works in our lives - "All of a sudden you find out that God relates to you through persons. Persons do, in the final analysis, become the incarnation. You have to become dependent on the gift of human beings, and you discover that God is an incarnate reality. In the beginning, God was always a pie-in-the-sky reality. Now I had to realize that Jesus was there through the people who were assisting me, caring for me and doing the things that were bringing me through. That metanoia had to take place in me to submit to the gift of others."

Happily, Dr. Latov got Mother Dolores back on track to the point where she can lead a normal life. Her spiritual transformation, however, may be the most important gift of all.

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

WANTED

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

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

Please call or e-mail:

President

Andrew M. Rajec -

1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) or

Vice-President

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. -

1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)

E-mail: president@fcsu.com



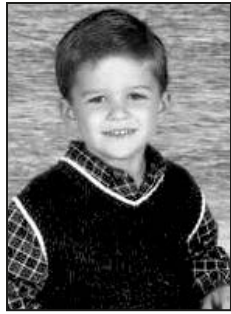
2010 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6



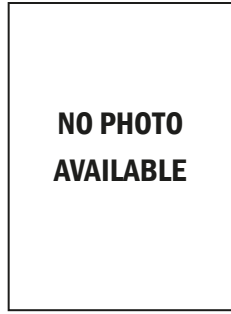
Katherine Labay
First Place
Langhorne, PA



Peter Monks
Second Place
Trumbull, CT



Lia Mercure
First Place
Seymour, CT



Christopher Figura
Second Place
Carmel, NY



Christina Figura
Second Place
Yonkers, NY



Sarah Garris
First Place
Matawan, NJ



Sarah Grega
Second Place
Hazelton, PA

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 1

..... Age Group 10-12



Kayla Mercure
Third Place
Seymour, CT

REGION 2

..... Age Group 10-12



Carissa Rohrbach
First Place
Whitehall, PA



Phylcia Ann Beitler
Second Place
Whitehall, PA



Anna Pechmann
First Place
Cullowhee, NC

REGION 3

..... Age Group 4-6



Briana Slovenkai
Second Place
Scranton, PA



Julia Rudat
Third Place
Moscow, PA

REGION 3

..... Age Group 7-9



Karlie Marie Heinz
First Place
Wilkes-Barre, PA



John J. Slovenkai, Jr.
Second Place
Scranton, PA



Leah Covalesski
Third Place
Elizabethtown, PA



Aliah Rodriguez
First Place
Scranton, PA



Amanda Covalesski
Second Place
Elizabethtown, PA



Emily Davis
First Place
Ramey, PA



Eric Childs
Second Place
Charleroi, PA

REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6

REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6

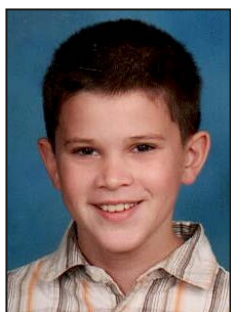


Elizabeth Dlugos
Third Place
Greensburg, PA



Andrew Wilhelm
First Place
Amarillo, TX

..... Age Group 7-9



Charles Baker
Second Place
Danville, PA



Daniel Dlugos
Third Place
Greensburg, PA

..... Age Group 10-12



Kayla Wilhelm
First Place
Amarillo, TX



Ryan Soltis
Second Place
Massillon, OH



Abbey Scekeres
Third Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA

2010 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Josiah Meinert
First Place
Buford, GA



Janelle Meinert
Second Place
Buford, GA



Michael Costel
Third Place
Butler, PA



Jenna Meinert
First Place
Buford, PA



Andrew Windsheimer
Second Place
Pittsburgh, PA



Julia Windsheimer
Third Place
Pittsburgh, PA



Andrew Shemon
First Place
Imperial, PA

REGION 5

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 6

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9



Daniel Shemon
Second Place
Imperial, PA



Maria Belechak
Third Place
Pittsburgh, GA



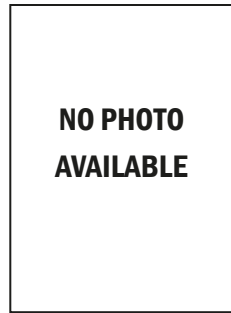
Kailey Smith
First Place
Vandalia, OH



Sarah Fels
Second Place
Greenville, SC



Faith Vale
Third Place
Stow, OH



Rylee Smith
First Place
Vandalia, PA



Jackie Madal
Second Place
Parma, OH

REGION 6

Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 7

..... Age Group 4-6



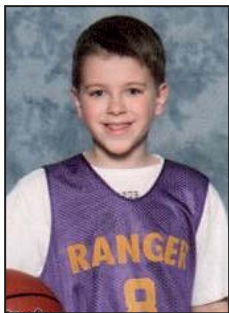
Adam Hornack
Third Place
Parma, OH



Paul Spencer
First Place
Brunswick, OH



Julia Madal
Second Place
Parma, OH



Jared Dubber
Second Place
Lakewood, OH



Emma Graves
First Place
Streator, IL



Ayden Fayta
Second Place
Lake Villa, IL



Rachel Rossman
Third Place
Griffith, IN

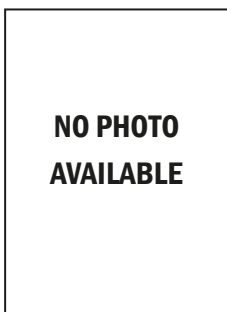
REGION 7

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



Page Remenar
First Place
Bannister, MI



Stephanie Colby
Second Place
Schererville, IN



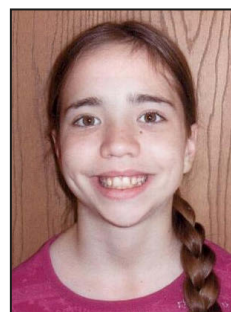
Jennifer Manzella
Third Place
Normal, IL



Britney Johnson
First Place
Tinley Park, IL



Joseph Hawes
Second Place
Greentown, IN



Kayla Morgart
Third Place
Dixon, MO

2010 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 8

Age Group 4-6



Age Group 7-9



Age Group 10-12



Sarah Hergel

First Place

Toronto, Canada



Mayva Hergel

First Place

Toronto, Canada



Ethan Joiner

Second Place

Aurora, Canada



Jason Chadwick

First Place

Mississauga, Canada

Reminder...

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

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



Exciting new features for the 2011 Jednota Bowling Tournament.

Mixed Events

Bowlers can enter in Mixed Teams and Mixed Doubles.

Multiple Entries

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

Single Women

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

The Particulars

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

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

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

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

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

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

The new annuity plan that combines features from our most popular annuities...
The Park Annuity and the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

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

Hey Kids.....



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

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

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

Mail your entry to:

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

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Branch 853 Member Celebrates Pinewood Derby With His Scout Pack

Webelos II Cub Scout Pack 601, including Charles Boone, of FCSU Branch 853, Pittsburgh, PA, celebrated their annual Pinewood Derby January 22, 2011.

Charles' teal blue car, racing against the Webelos II den, finished first in each of the 4 races. Race 2 earned Charles' car a triumphant three length victory over the second place finisher.

In addition to the first place earned in his Webelos II den, Charles' sleek Pinewood car raced to an outstanding second place finish in the overall Pack competition.

The den leaders constructed trophies presented to the competition's overall winners, including Charles, who received second place. Each boy celebrated sportsmanship by enjoying the day of exciting racing.

Scout Boone designed and built his unique car with guidance from his father.

Branch 853 extends sincerest congratulations to Charles Boone for his exceptional performance.

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



Happy Sixth Birthday Regina Marie Turner



Regina Marie Turner recently celebrated her 6th birthday with a party at her home near Gays Mills, WI. Friends and cousins, along with their parents, arrived for a "giftless" party at her parents' organic dairy farm. Regina's 10-month old brother John also enjoyed the festivities. Regina is a kindergarten student who lives with her parents, brother and grandmother out in the country. Her uncle, Pete Turner, serves as the Sgt. At Arms for the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District 2. Regina is a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, IL.

Successful Fundraiser Helps FCSU Members Fight Cancer

Family, friends, FCSU Officers and members, along with generous strangers, came together last November to raise money and give Branch 40 Members, the Harcar-Manzella family, the means to fight cancer. The fund-raising event was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Streator, IL, on Saturday, November 13, 2010. An evening filled with food, beverages, entertainment, raffles, auctions, and prizes, gave the family much needed support and encouragement in the face of devastating diagnoses last year.

In March, 2010, Rich Manzella – a 44-year old avid runner and cyclist – was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Three months later, while he was undergoing aggressive chemotherapy/radiation treatment, his wife Veronica Harcar-Manzella, 45, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Rich and Veronica, along with their children, are determined to beat their illnesses and stay together as a family. The circle of support in evidence at the November Harcar-Manzella Family Benefit – coordinated by many wonderful volunteers and attended by hundreds of community members – is helping them do just that.



–The Harcar-Manzella Family is grateful for the circle of support provided by family, friends and fellow FCSU members.

Thank You, First Catholic Slovak Union

On behalf of the Harcar-Manzella Family Benefit we would like to send a heartfelt "Thank You" to the entire FCSU Board of Directors! We would also like to thank the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District, as well as all of the other branches that sent us cards, letters and donations. We also appreciate all of the prayers and good thoughts that have been sent our way as well. Your words of encouragement have helped us more than words can say during this very difficult time. You have all made our benefit a huge success. We could not have done it without you. We continue to update our website, so please visit www.familybenefit.org.

God Bless and Thanks Again!
Theresa Graves
Chairman of the Harcar-Manzella Family Benefit



Hundreds of community members attended the Harcar-Manzella Family Benefit last November at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Streator, IL.

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1911 – Slovak Catholic Federation – 2011 100th Anniversary Year 33rd Annual Slovak Catholic Federation SS Cyril & Methodius Appeal

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

The 2010 Appeal collected \$58,229.89

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

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

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

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

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

Dolores Evanko
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201

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

(L-R) Theresa Graves, Wendy Gould, and Rick Anderson help the benefit's auctioneers.



Emma Graves helps fill the donated baskets at home.



The Manzella children, Matthew and Jennifer, with benefit volunteer and fellow Branch Member Aggie Hatzer.



Youngstown Sister Cities' Tour Set

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

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

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

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

Bernie
bdemechko@aol.com

St. Thomas A'Becket Annual Lenten Fish Fry

The Fish Fry will begin on Friday, March 11, 2011, at the St. Thomas A'Becket School Building on 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA. It will be held from 3:30 – 7:00 pm. Take-outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

All the baked and breaded fish is quality cod. The dinners that are served are the fried platter (shrimp and fish), fried fish, baked fish, and fried shrimp – along with two sides.

The ala carte items are: giant fried fish sandwich, baked fish sandwich, tuna melt sandwich, French fries, baked potato, haluski, macaroni & cheese, pizza, coleslaw, applesauce, soup, and beverage.

There will be a special dinner of homemade crab cakes on March 15 and April 15, and a pirohy/pierogie dinner on Good Friday, April 22. There will also be a different soup each week: potato cheese dumpling, New England clam chowder, and cream of broccoli. Home-made desserts also will be available.

The public is invited to enjoy these delicious foods.

For more information, call: 412-655-2885 or 412-653-4322.

WPSCA Offers Slovak Classes

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

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

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

ORDER TICKETS NOW For Branch 743 90th Anniversary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joseph C Rimarcik
President and Financial Secretary

Slovak Catholic Federation Announces The 100th Anniversary Of Its Founding

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



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

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

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



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

Rate Effective November 1, 2010

Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you make a **one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00** into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a **guaranteed rate for two years**. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- ✱ The FCSU **guarantees your initial interest rate for two years**. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- ✱ The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- ✱ The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- ✱ Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'Beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- ✱ Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- ✱ Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- ✱ The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

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



Accent on Activities



2011 International Tournaments

March 2011



Bowling Tournament

Plans for the 2011 International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held in North Brunswick, New Jersey, the weekend of April 30 - May 2. Registration forms can be under Fraternal Events at www.fcsu.com.

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

NEW THIS YEAR

Multiple entries for all 3 events are available to bowlers. Details are also available under Fraternal Events at www.fcsu.com.

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

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2011 International Bowling Tournament in North Brunswick, New Jersey. Hope to see you there!

Joint Tournaments - Softball

This year, we are beginning to team up with other Slovak Fraternal and will hopefully have more joint events. In 2011, all Jednota members are invited to participate in the Slovak Catholic Sokol Softball Tournament.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Softball Tournament will be held June 25 - 26 at the Nichols and Mullholland Fields in Perryopolis, PA. Participants must be at least 14 years of age by June 25. Teams are comprised of 15 members. Groups with less than 15 members will be paired up with other groups. The entry fee is \$350 per team and registration is due May 20.

For more information, or registration forms, contact:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Iliion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held in Sharon, Pennsylvania. On Saturday, July 16, tee times will be scheduled from the Oak Tree Country Club golf course. The course was built around four lakes that come into play on seven holes. The course is known for its large undulated greens and beautiful landscaping. A scenic covered bridge on the 8th hole is visible from several areas on the course. There are approximately sixty large sand bunkers on the course. The fairways are tree lined and bordered by a generous cut of rough. The course's signature hole is #18, a 407 - yard, par 4, requiring an accurate tee shot between two fairway bunkers, then an approach shot over a lake, highlighted by a scenic fountain, to the green.



On Sunday, July 17, a shotgun start on the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course will occur. Tam O'Shanter is known for its lush green watered fairways and fast bentgrass greens bordered by large native hardwoods and pines. The signature hole is the 115-yard Par 3 #14 known as "Death Valley" because of the many good scores that have died in its depths. Your tee shot is through a narrow corridor of large trees to a plateau green. A ball falling short makes a par difficult. A tombstone memorializes those that have fallen in its depths.

NEW THIS YEAR

The "Senior" Flight will be placed into each respective, "A", "B", "C", etc., flight, increasing the available prize money for each flight. The Seniors will tee off from the Senior tees to have an advantage over the other players in the flight.

Also new this year, your hotel arrangements will be made through your Fraternal Activities Director. Rooming information will be requested on the registration forms. Registration forms will be available in April.



Hope to see you there!

July 16 - 17, 2011

Tam O'Shanter and Oak Tree Golf Courses
Sharon, PA

It's that time of year again! Our Annual Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, April 30, through Sunday, May 2, 2011. The Jednota sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

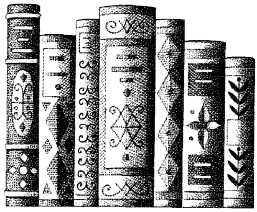
Lane Sponsor: \$25 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Branch, District, or Region name.

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to "FCSU Activities" to:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Iliion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 15, 2011.





Book Corner

New Book On Slovak-US Relations Launched

On February 10, 2011, the Embassy of Slovakia and the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States Peter Burian hosted the launch of the book *Friend-Partner-Ally* by a German Marshall Fund (GMF) Senior Transatlantic Fellow Pavol Demes, which tells the story of the relationship between Slovakia and the United States from the Velvet Revolution to today. The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) is a non-partisan American public policy and grant-making institution dedicated to promoting better understanding and cooperation between North America and Europe on transatlantic and global issues.

The first U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Russell also spoke at the launch, thanking Demes for his commitment to furthering the partnership between these two countries. "Pavol Demes was a major player in events described in his excellent book covering the maturing of U.S. - Slovak relations into friendship, partnership and alliance," said Ambassador Russell. "I was pleased to know Pavol as a friend during my rewarding service as the first U.S. Ambassador to independent Slovakia."

The Friends of Slovakia awarded Demes the Medal of Honor for his contributions to the development of U.S.-Slovak relations. The book, published in English and Slovak, aims to outline the milestones of the Slovak-American relationship over the past two decades, and to remember the key diplomats and their staff who operated in Bratislava and Washington.

Current U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick wrote in his introduction to the publication, "It is of particular significance to me that this book was composed by another strong advocate of U.S.-Slovak relations, Pavol Demes. Pavol brings a special insight into this relationship as someone who has played an active role in its development, both from within and outside of government."

For more on this event, and the book *Friend-Partner-Ally*, please go to:
http://www.gmfus.org/events/event_view?event.id=1315

10th Consular Tour to Slovakia

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

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

March Meetings of Jednota Thursday & Friday Golf Leagues

The Thursday Jednota Golf League will meet Sunday, March 13, 2011, at Bedford Trails Gold Course, Rt. 422, Lowellville, OH, 1:30 pm. Members and new members are urged to attend. Call Paul Ritz at 330-774-4276.

The Friday Jednota Golf League will meet Sunday, March 27, 2011, at Knoll Run Golf Course, 1421 Struthers Coitsville Rd, Lowellville, OH, 1:30 pm. Members and new members are urged to attend. Call Paul Ritz at 330-774-4276.

Rivers Casino Bus Trip

Sponsored by: **The Rev. Joseph Kostik District**

Date: **Saturday, March 19, 2011**

Bus departs at 7:45 a.m. from:

The former Value City Parking Lot, Boardman
 Bus departs Rivers Casino at 2:30 p.m. for return trip

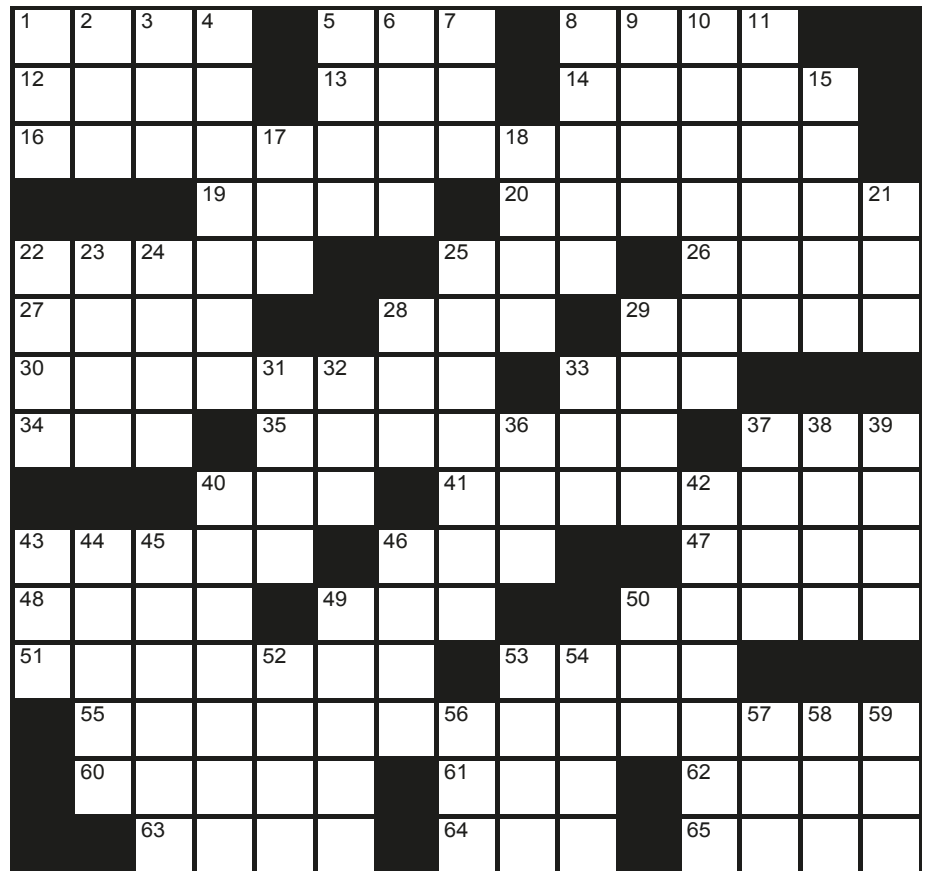
Cost: \$30.00/person (\$15 free slot play, \$5 in food) given at the casino

Games and refreshments provided on the bus!

For reservations, please call Carlie at 330-779-3927



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Sea eagles
- 5 Crash into
- 8 Journey
- 12 Debatable
- 13 Java canvas
- 14 Mayhem
- 16 Political second in command, maybe
- 19 Bursts
- 20 Horse defect
- 22 Break out
- 25 Your (Fr.)
- 26 Surrealist Spanish painter
- 27 Have supper
- 28 Cover
- 29 Civet relative
- 30 Polluted precipitati
- 33 High rocky hill
- 34 Connected
- 35 Salzburg location
- 37 Brim
- 40 Flatboat
- 41 Sporting shoe
- 43 Egg-shaped
- 46 Genetic material
- 47 Always
- 48 Rave
- 49 Embrace
- 50 Lead off
- 51 Booked
- 53 Seal off
- 55 Responsibility words
- 60 Spoken
- 61 Moray
- 62 Redact
- 63 Yes votes
- 64 Action word
- 65 Spice

Down

- 1 Ostrich relative
- 2 Director Howard
- 3 Gesture of assent
- 4 Locomoted
- 5 Wood file
- 6 Fruit drinks
- 7 Raincoat, for short
- 8 Muscles
- 9 Grade
- 10 Boxer Holyfield
- 11 Altaic language
- 15 Periodic event
- 17 Decompose
- 18 Woodwind
- 21 Outfit
- 22 Dutch cheese
- 23 Food grain
- 24 Building block
- 25 Dying
- 28 Fleur-de-___
- 29 Gazelles
- 31 Uncommon
- 32 Diving bird
- 33 Bind
- 36 Music co. inits.
- 37 Volcanic rock
- 38 Roman road
- 39 Saucy
- 40 Words of praise

- 42 Teapots
- 43 Pay dirt
- 44 Letter-turner White
- 45 Afr. country
- 46 Washouts
- 49 Pays attention
- 50 U-boat
- 52 Paste
- 53 Visionary
- 54 Golf aim
- 56 Yellow or Red e.g.
- 57 Crete mountai
- 58 Lance
- 59 Fr. summer

See Solution on Page 19

Loans from the Beautiful Baine/Cincebeaux

FCSU Member Helene Baine Cincebeaux began making trips to Slovakia in 1969, traveling with her mother Helen Zemek Baine, now 93 years young.

Over the years, they explored over 2,000 villages, with Helene collecting traditions, customs, stories and legends to amass an inestimable collection of Slovak folk dress, folk art and photographs.

As her reputation as a collector grew, the old women in villages throughout the regions of Slovakia began to seek Helene out, offering her gifts of their handiwork— to preserve them because their children were not interested. “It’s going to America,” they would say to Helene, satisfied that their artistry would survive and be seen.

Whether prescience or a faith in Helene, the women were right. Over the years, the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection has been exhibited in major museums and key ethnic events in dozens of states, from New York to California, and in eight countries, including castles in Italy.

Delegates to the FCSU’s 49th Quadrennial Convention at the Renaissance in Cleveland, OH, certainly will remember Helen’s outstanding exhibit on display Sat., Aug. 14 and Sun., Aug 15, 2010. It included a stunning array of 25 outfits from all regions of Slovakia, some never exhibited before.

The collection – as with all her exhibits – showcases the creativity of village people, the tremendous variety in Slovak folk dress, and – in many cases – rare techniques that are rapidly vanishing as the older generation of folk artisans die out. Thanks to Helene, the beauty that villagers created attests to their artistic skills and lives long beyond them.

So it was with great pleasure that the FCSU Home Office welcomed key pieces in the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection for a special Christmas display, as they made their way to nearby events. First, these treasures were on display as part of the christening of Helene’s latest book, “Slovakia! Traditions Old and New,” at the Slovak Embassy in

Washington, DC on November 4, 2010, and then as part of a traveling exhibit that helped celebrate the Society’s 50th anniversary at two separate events in Pennsylvania.

Below is the background on the folk dress pieces in the Baine/Cincebeaux home office. We feature them in this issue in gratitude. The Board of Directors, Officers, and Members of the Catholic Slovak Union offer sincere thanks for the generous loan of such beautiful and meaningful pieces. George Terbrack, known for his ethnographic work, and Helene on her exhibits for the FCSU.

If you have an item that you would like to donate permanently or on loan – to the Home Office or to be featured with a description of the piece, its history, and its significance to the Society at the First Catholic Slovak Union Archives, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 100, Cleveland, OH 44131. 1-800-JEDNOTA; or via email www.fcsu.org

Abelova (NOVOHRAD) Folk Dress from Southern Slovakia

On a trip to the remote village of Abelova (near Lucenec in southern Slovakia), Helene befriended a woman waiting in line for the store to open, she and her mother were invited to the woman’s cozy home and a beautiful friendship began.

Among the many memorable times the women shared with Marka and Pavol Ivanic, the most unforgettable was the day two big white hens gingerly ventured over the door step into the kitchen to join the party.

Marka gave Helene a photograph of herself as a young girl

wearing her most beautiful folk dress which took several years to complete. She insisted on giving the folk dress with it. Helene wore Marka’s treasure at many exhibit openings, always recalling that special day. The gorgeous beaded vest sparkles like the sun and tulips bloom on the embroidered blouse, vest, apron, shawl and skirt. A magnificent, solidly beaded head-dress completes the outfit. Marka died a few years ago; if her folk dress had not been passed along, this rich tradition would have died with her.



L-R: Folk dress pieces from Abelova, Ocova, and Nizne Repase in the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection helped create a stunning display at the FCSU Home Office over the Christmas holiday.



Nizne Repase (SPIS) kroj from Eastern Slovakia

Helene came upon this elegant folk dress in the shepherding village of Nizne Repase high up in the mountains over Levoca in eastern Slovakia. The woolen vest is forest green and maroon with lovely golden clasps and a gold ribbon woven through them. The apron is a pleated batik or “blue print” fabric called modro-tlac in Slovakia which was hand-printed by craftsmen long ago. What is so rare is the fabric is double-sided with different designs on each side and no one today can explain how this was done. Colorful solar symbols and hearts adorn the waistband and the hem of the apron; fine needle lace joins the two pieces of fabric. The homespun linen blouse features openwork panels with charming designs. The outfit is topped with a “part’a or virginal crown, only worn by young maidens. Once married you covered your head for life!



Babina, (ZVOLEN)

An elaborate men’s wedding dress was worn in a strange way. A shepherd held the dress over Helene’s head when it was worn at a festival. He invited them to his wedding because she said her mother gave Helene the dress (translates something like old and wouldn’t ever be getting it) in his 50s. She too wanted her mother’s dress.

The heavily embroidered and blue color scheme popular in the region is remarkable, at the wrists and ankles. The pants worn with a broad leather belt with brass buttons and decorated with a pocket has room for a few small items. The embroidered coat was worn over the pants with sleeves hanging down - it was used as most coats are as the sleeves could be stored there. The coat is decorated with silver chains, spanning the length of the body. The apron, such as a bridegroom would wear, at the waist completes this dress. The men from this region dance in traditional coats sway to a stunning effect.

Collection Enrich FCSU Home Office Museum

); and then they were part of her Slovakia and Slovak heritage at on November 5 and 6, 2010.

dress on loan at the FCSU issue of Jednota, along with our cers and Members of the First rks to Helene for her gener- gful Slovak folk dress – and to s displays, and for his work with

like to donate – either perma- Museum, please contact us ory and/or its significance to k Union, Home Office Museum 300, Independence, OH, 44131, su.com.



Central Slovakia

ing ensemble came in a d an umbrella over Helen began to rain at Detva folk is village of Babina where is kroj she made for his e was a “stary mladenc” ld young one, a bachelor) married, he was already in work to go to America. shirt features a black, grey lar in this region and most d shoulders it is embroi- outfit features loose wide her belt (opasok) studded rative buckles. A tiny hid- ew coins. The fine woolen n over one shoulder with s never meant to be worn eves were sewn shut and A Detva-style hat is deco- gles and a flower corsage ave worn. A paisley sash ashing outfit. When young - the shawls swirl and the ct.



Dobra (TRENČIN) kroj, western Slovakia

Helene is able to share this remarkable treasure only by a fluke. She was enchanted by the folk dress of this region with its hardanger type open-work embroidery and vivid colors and sought an example of it for 20 years. As she walked through Dobra in western Slovakia one day, a woman greeted them and led them to a home where there were beautifully dressed dolls in the elaborate folk dress. After taking pictures Helene and Helen left and were getting into their old Skoda car when the woman arrived with a big cloth on her back. She tossed it on the ground; her folk dress spilled out and the apron gleamed in the sunlight. When we went to say hello the next summer, we were shocked to learn the woman had died and this wonderful kroj would most certainly have gone into the burn pile, as she was a childless widow.

This stunning outfit features rich yellow embroidery on the sleeves depicting two birds, the Slovak symbol for the soul. The apron is truly a work of art and one of the most precious pieces in the entire collection. The main panels are stylized flowers and grape clusters worked so that the base ground threads are wrapped and not a bit of the original material shows. This technique was called “Zilina window”. Helene was told that if one mistake was made, you had to toss it all away and begin again. The panels are embellished with colorful flowers in satin stitch, lovingly embroidered with expensive silk thread. The rare colored bobbin lace trim matches the colors in the embroidery. The entire ensemble took over a year and a half to make and was proudly worn by our village friend on her wedding day. A be-ribboned, beaded headband completes this confection.



Headdresses

Three colorful wedding bonnets feature glass beads in floral designs, matching beaded ribbons hang down the back. One bonnet took over a year to make, they are priceless.

This magnificent head dress from Ocova features embroidered and open work ribbons over six feet long adorned with floral appliques.



Photos courtesy of Mark Sutkowy

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OH

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

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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

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

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

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5 - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Leonard J. Zavada, President

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

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

The Margaret Evancho Award of US Savings Bonds will be given to the following members

who have reached their 16th birthday in 2010:

Paul Kavanewsky
Adam Kocurek
Brandon Madar
Paul Monks

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

We cordially invite our members to this special meeting.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

Ticket costs are as follows:

Nonmembers:	\$52.20
FCSU members:	\$42.20
Branch 153 members:	\$27.20

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

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 – WINDSOR, NEW YORK

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

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

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

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

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthew Branch 260 will now hold its meetings – beginning with the next one – at Bedford

Trails Golf Course, Rt 422, Lowellville, OH. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 20, 2011, at 1:30 pm. All members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Joseph M. Bugel, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Branch 367 of Fairchance will hold a meeting on Wednesday March 16, 2011, at 4:00PM at Bogey's Restaurant, Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA.

All members are invited to attend this meeting to discuss getting new members for our Society.

Kathryn Baranek, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382 of Scranton, PA, will hold its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 6, 2011, at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. On the agenda will be future branch activities as well as District 17 programs. Copies of the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office will be available for inspection. Auditing of the books will take place. Light refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Marie Gryzko, President

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OH

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

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

On Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011, Branch 553 – St. John's the Baptist – will be holding the Traditional Meatless Dinner. The menu will consist of Haluski, Pierogies, Salad, roll and butter. Dinner will be served at the Slovak "J" Club, 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, Ohio 44311 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Dine-in for only \$7.50 (coffee, tea and pop \$.75). Carryout meals will be available for only \$8.00. You can call ahead to place your carryout order by calling 330-786-9972.

Start the Lenten Season with your friends and family sponsored by St. John's the Baptist Branch 553. Come for a good meal and great fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

continued on page 19

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Linda L. Gonta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

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

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

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

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

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

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

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

Ann Magusin, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

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

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

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

Thank you.

Fraternally,

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members



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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
002K	Dorothy Hreha	233K	Richard Koval	380K	Paul A Spilak	731K	Beverly Ann Varso
005P	Nancy A Rada	240P	Edward E Widdick	408K	Hattie Flora Kutosky	743K	Margaret T Marcy
019K	Elmer E Verespey	260K	Mike Ilich	454K	John J Skvarna Jr	746K	John C Vanco
027P	Bernard Gallo	260K	Sr Mary Therese A Raycher	553K	Robert D Brunton	762K	Joseph C Gresko
038K	Marian T Horvatt	266K	Anna Koval	553K	Edward C Janiga	762K	John G Mateja Sr
040K	Michael A Korstick	280K	Rebecca S Hazlett	563K	Joseph F Hromulak	762K	Emil O'drobinak
060K	Margaret M Perla	330K	Robert Barna	633K	Andrew John Malinich	762K	Thomas C Pavlik
085K	Michael J Krall Sr	333K	Edward F Chakan	670K	Velma J Beresh	831K	John E Halvonik
089K	Rudolph J Stefanec	356P	John Joseph Berda	700K	Raymond F Tapko	855K	Anthony P Davala
173K	Bernadine M Baloga	362K	Anne E Udodow	700K	Leonard E Wrabec	855K	Victor J Labutta
181K	Thomas Kissell	372K	Pauline Bukovsky	731K	Margaret P Palatas	855K	John F Lipaj

* Processed in the month of January 2011

OBITUARIES

MONSIGNOR EDWARD M. MATASH



Monsignor Edward M. Matash, 80, of Rutherford, N.J., died Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, N.J. Visitation was Monday, Feb. 21, at St. Joseph Church, Avenue E and 25th Street, Bayonne,

N.J., from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Vigil Mass is at 7:30 p.m. Visitation was Tuesday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. Funeral Mass was at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Church, Bayonne. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, Saddle Brook, N.J. Arrangements were by George J. Koch Funeral Home, Bayonne. Born in Passaic, N.J., Monsignor Matash was the son of the late Elizabeth (Kohut) and Joseph Matash. He entered Seton Hall University in 1948 and in 1950 he began studying for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J. Msgr. Matash was ordained on May 26, 1956, and he celebrated his first Mass at his home parish, St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Passaic, N.J. His first assignment was as associate pastor at St. John Nepomucene Church in Guttenberg, N.J., for 10 years. In June 1966 he was assigned to St. Joseph Church, Bayonne. During his first 19 years there, he was appointed as chaplain to the Msgr. A. L. Adzima Memorial Post No. 621, the Catholic War Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary; he was also the Hudson County representative of the New Jersey State Department of Catholic War Veterans and the national chaplain of the entire United States of America. Msgr. Matash received his master of divinity degree from the School of Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary in June 1982. In 1985 he was appointed to his first pastorate at Holy Family Church, Linden, N.J. For six years, he served as president of the Slovak Catholic Federation of U.S.A. and Canada. He was deeply involved in promoting the Slovak heritage by participating in various activities and events, such as the New Jersey Slovak Festival at the Garden State Art Center; he served as chairman of the Slovak Youth Federation and the head of yearly seminars for Slovak clergy held at the Pontifical Slovak Institute, which aids the Catholic Church in Slovakia. On Nov. 18, 1990, Pope John Paul II named him "Prelate of Honor" (Reverend Monsignor) and was invested to this honor by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, then Archbishop of Newark. Monsignor Matash returned to his second home, St. Joseph Church, Bayonne, on Feb. 16, 1991. He was appointed chaplain to Msgr. A.L. Adzima Post No. 621 and served as friar for the Knights of Columbus Star

of the Sea Assembly No. 675, 4th Degree, and as chaplain to Alhambra E1 Jarrow Caravan No. 154, all in Bayonne. He celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priesthood in 2006 at St. Joseph Church. After retiring in 2007, he lived at St. John Vianney Residence, Rutherford, N.J. Subsequently, he had assisted at St. Francis de Sales Church in Lodi, N.J. He was predeceased by his brother, Albert Matash. Surviving are several aunts and many cousins. Donations may be made to the St. John Vianney Residence, 64 Home Ave., Rutherford, N.J. 07070 in Msgr. Matash's memory.

STEVE J. MARINIK BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO



MARINIK STEVE J. MARINIK, 86, of Lorain, died Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011 at St. Mary of the Woods, Avon, following a lengthy illness. He was born Feb. 19, 1924 in Czechoslovakia to the late Steve R. and Josephine (nee Mizera) Marinik. Steve graduated from Lorain High School in 1942. He then served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a sergeant. He then went on to John Carroll University, graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. Steve's career as a certified public accountant began with Haskins & Sells, in Cleveland. In 1956, he then joined Frank Seringer & Chaney, serving as president prior to retiring in 1994. He was a member of the former Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Lorain, and presently of the Catholic Church of St. Peter. He was an active member of the American Slovak Club, the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), and the Slovak Catholic Sokol. He was a member of the former Central Business Men's Association and member and past president of Amherst Rotary. Steve was an avid Cleveland Indians fan and enjoyed bowling, running and exercising. Surviving is his wife of 63 years, Agnes (nee Judak); sons Mark (Liz) of Bay Village, Kenneth (Lisa) of Tampa, FL.; daughters Mary Ann (Dieter) Domanovic of Fairview Park and Susan Marinik of Lorain; grandchildren Therese, Melissa, Jill, Bryce, Nick and Raquel; and great-grandchildren, Zoe, Melia and Nate. He was preceded in death by father in 1974, and mother in 1946; and brothers, Anthony "Tony" in 1982 and Albert in 2002. The family received friends on Sunday, January 9, from 3-7 P.M. IN THE DOVIN FUNERAL HOME, Lorain, OH where funeral services were held Monday, January 10, at 9 a.m., followed by Mass at 9:30 a.m. at the Catholic Church of St. Peter, Lorain, OH. Rev. Fr. Leonard Bacik and Fr. Craig Hovanec officiated. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery.

JOSEPH J. BIROS BRANCH 484 – CLEVELAND, OHIO



BIROS JOSEPH J. BIROS, age 83, of Bedford, OH died January 8, 2011 in Walton Manor Nursing Home. He was born May 8, 1927, a son of the late Andrew and Anna. Joseph served two years in the Navy, and then was drafted by the US Army at the beginning of the Korean conflict. His sister Helen Biros lives in Northern Cambria, PA. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, of Betty (nee Stroker); three sons: Joseph R., Christopher R. (Patricia), and Eugene; one daughter, Lorrie (John) Docherty; and grandchildren Amy, Christopher and Johnny. He was a member of the VFW and American Legion in his hometown of Barenboro (now called North Cambria), PA. He left Pennsylvania and went to work in Cleveland, OH at Republic and LTV Steel, where he worked as an electrical millwright doing maintenance and repairing overhead cranes. He worked there for 38 years, and retired in 1992. Family and friends and were received at St. John Funeral Home, Bedford, on Tuesday, January 11, from 2 - 4 and 6 - 8 P.M., where services also were held Wednesday, January 12, at 9:30 a.m., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Hope Church, Bedford, at 10 a.m, with Father Wright as celebrant. Interment followed at Bedford Cemetery with full military honors.

ROBERT GNIBUS BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

Robert T. Gnibus, 82 of Homer City died Wednesday, February 22, 2011 at Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Born October 5, 1928, he was the son of Joseph and Julia Gnibus of Red Barn. A lifelong resident of Homer City, Bob was employed at FMC in Homer City for 40 years until his retirement. He was the proud owner of Flo's Floral and Gift Shop with his loving wife Flo for 25 years. Bob enjoyed delivering flowers with his

warm friendly smile.

He was a lifetime member of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. Bob was honored to be an altar server and a member of the ushers' club. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart of Jesus Council for 36 years along with Father McNelis Assembly. Bob also enjoyed his Catholic Men's Bowling League, and was a member of the FCSU's St. Joseph Society, Branch 484. He was a founding Charter member of the Red Barn Sportsman's Club and also a member of the Good timers group.

Bob enjoyed polka dancing with his "Special" Lady Rosalie.

Bob is survived by his four children - Tiffany and Benjamin Jervis, Jonathan Cindy Jervis and husband Jeff of Garden City, Kansas; Robert Gnibus and wife Marlene of Santa Maria, California; Andre Gnibus and wife Denise and Mary Sardone and husband Brian, both of Homer City. Grandchildren - Tiffany and Benjamin Jervis, Jonathan Gnibus, Corey and Megan Gnibus and Ryan and Macy Sardone. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

"Big Bob" will be greatly missed by his Loving Flo's Floral Family: Daughter Mary, Tut, Connie, Irene, Mel, Jackie, Shawna, Brian and George.

His special "General" Marlene will never be forgotten.

In his later years Bob really enjoyed spending time with his two Grandchildren Ryan and Macy.

Proceeded in death by his loving wife Florence M. D'Aurelio Gnibus, Mother and Father Julia and Joseph Gnibus; Joseph and Marie D'Aurelio; Sister Anna Gnibus Kish and Brothers John, William, Frank, Edward and Joseph Gnibus.

Friends were received from 7 to 9 p.m. on the following Saturday and from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the C. Frederick Bowser Funeral Home, Homer City, where a vigil was recited. Knights of Columbus Sacred of Jesus Council #10960, Lucernemines, recited the Rosary at 3 PM Sunday.

A Blessing Service was held at the funeral home at 9:30 a.m. Monday, February 7, followed by a Mass of Christian burial at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Lucernemines site. Interment followed in the St. Bernard Cemetery.

Joseph Rura, Financial Secretary

If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately
THINK ABOUT IT!

Insights and Viewpoints

Slovak Trade Unions in a Huff: Challenging the New Labor Code

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

One of the challenges facing Slovakia's government is the growing discontent of organized labor with the changes proposed for a new Labor Code. Premier Iveta Radičová's center-right government claims that it needs to make labor laws more flexible so that it will improve Slovakia's economy. This would supposedly provide a more mobile job force and allow for more job creation. The trade unions staunchly disagree and have launched state-wide protests.

The trade unions in Slovakia have a central organization which has smaller member unions for specific trades. It is called the Confederation of Trade Unions (Konfederácie odborových zväzov Slovenskej republiky-KOZ SR). With its 570,000 members, the KOZ is leading the protest against the proposed Labor Code and organized a petition drive to call the government to task with a nationwide referendum on the issue.



The logo of the Confederation of Trade Unions

Trade Union Background

Before the fall of communism, the Communist Party essentially controlled the Czechoslovak trade unions. There never was a dissident trade union movement in Slovakia as in Poland. At the local level, union members did have some say in addressing minor local grievances of members. But the Party called the shots and made sure production quotas were met. Workers received low pay, but enjoyed comprehensive social security and subsidies on staple foods such as milk and bread. That is why many people still recall "the good old days" when milk cost just a few crowns a liter.

After the Velvet Revolution of 1989, the trade unions developed freely in the democratic state. Four union centers emerged in Slovakia, but only one, the KOZ Confederation, proved large enough to negotiate for employees on a statewide scale. With economic changes since the fall of communism, unions have suffered a steady decline in membership, and unemployment soared to as high as 17% in 2000, then steadily dropped as foreign investment increased. Despite the challenges, the KOZ central organization has continued to play a role in crafting a Labor Code, put together in the past by a Tripartite Commission represented by the unions, employers, and the government. Over the last two decades, the agreed upon Labor Code has provided guidelines and rules for hiring and firing workers, and for maintaining social and economic benefits and minimum wage levels for the whole state.

Unemployment Problems

Since the world economic recession that started in 2008, unemployment in Slovakia has risen from a 7.7% average in 2008 to 12.1% by May 2010. The return of many Slovak workers who had gone abroad for temporary employment to places like Ireland, England, and elsewhere in the European Union has aggravated the situation. Unemployment continues to rise and the most recent statistics put January 2011 rates at 14.68%, which was .49% higher than in December 2010.

The following chart shows the recent trends in Slovakia's unemployment, which seemed to peak in the summer 2010, but since the chart was published, it has again spiked sharply in the past few months.



One of the problems is that employment and Slovakia's economic health depends heavily upon exports, mainly to other EU states. In fact, exports accounted for 80% of the country's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 2008. Soon after the 2008 crisis unfolded, GDP dropped 4.8% and investment dropped by 20% in the following year. Firms quickly moved to reduce inventory, accelerating a further drop in production. Growth rebounded somewhat to 4.1% in 2010, but a continuing rise depends on the strength of the world economy. For 2011, Slovakia is expecting GDP growth of 3.4%, which would also help boost tax revenues. That growth is projected to pick up to 4.8% in 2012 and 2013.

Za čo bojujú odbory

Nešliapte po právach zamestnancov!

Požiadavky odborov:

- 35-hodinový pracovný týždeň
skrátiť zo súčasných 40 hodín pri nezmenenej výške mzdy
- 80 hodín ročne nadčasov
znižiť zo súčasných 150 hodín
- nemeniť Zákonník práce
súčasná právna úprava je podľa nich dobrá

CIEĽ:
ZNIŽIŤ NEZAMESTNANOSŤ



In 2009, the former government headed by Robert Fico sought to stem the tide of economic decline by deficit spending and subsidies to buy big-ticket items like new cars. While the move enabled personal consumption to remain relatively stable, it increased the budget debt and did not solve the problem of stimulating the vital export market or alleviating unemployment. The Fico concessions did restrain unions from calling strikes or demanding higher wages, so they worked in the short-term.

New Government's Proposals – The Trade Unions React

Since Prime Minister Radičová's government took power in July 2010, relations with the trade unions have steadily worsened. The government intends to pursue far-reaching long-term reforms to alleviate unemployment and stimulate growth, but those take time to kick in. An important part of the program, however, involves slashing government spending. The trade unions believe that employees would suffer and that planned changes would benefit mainly employers, and not the workers.

Troubles began in union-government relations early on. When Radičová's cabinet approved a draft budget in early October 2010, unions immediately lodged their protests. A series of demonstrations soon followed in Slovakia's major cities, some of the largest in recent years. The unions objected to proposed budget changes that would hurt employees and put at risk "the most vulnerable groups in society."

Since those early protests, relations with the government have deteriorated further. On December 16, 2010, trade union representatives walked out of a meeting with government officials at the Labor Ministry. The union leaders threatened future protests and even the possibility of blocking the entrance to companies where their members are employed.

The Trade Union Petition Drive

On January 10, 2001, the KOZ led a call to action. It published a petition to "preserve employees' rights" in response to proposed government changes in the Labor Code. In order to "humanize the working environment," the unions proposed a 35-hour work week with no reduction in wages and for a limit on overtime to be set at a maximum of 80 hours per calendar year. On the other hand, employers have argued that the union demands are too restrictive and would actually hurt business and future hiring.

The KOZ warned its members against the specific threats in the new Labor Code which would adversely affect their well-being. Here is a list of the major beefs:

- a significant reduction of employees in hiring and by firing
- an extension of the probationary period for new employees from 3 to 6 months
- a shortening of the severance from work notice to a period of one month
- an abolition of the overlapping period of notice and severance
- a deterioration in working conditions of employees
- a lowering of protections of employees against mass layoffs
- an abolition of minimum wage claims

In order to halt the proposed government changes, the trade unions started a petition drive against proposed changes to the current Labor Code. They aim to obtain the neces-

continued on page 17

Slovak Trade Unions

continued from page 16



sary 350,000 signatures, which would be enough to mandate a referendum at the ballot box on the issue. The unions have stated those signing the petition did not have to agree with all the demands, but would back the general stance of calling for a vote on the proposed changes.

The government has said it would not yield to pressure even if a referendum takes place. Current Labor Minister Jozef Mihál scoffed at the referendum threat and challenged the unions to participate in jointly drafting the new labor law rather than opposing government efforts. Opposition leader Robert Fico of the Smer Party has used the government position as political ammunition and called it "as important for us as perhaps abortion is for the Christian Democrats."

In the meantime, individual union branches have been staging protests. The KOVO metalworkers union in the eastern Slovak town of Michalovce staged a protest rally outside the Japanese-owned Yazaki plant, but only about 250 demonstrators showed up. Žilina public employees supported the KOVO position with a half hour sympathy strike on February 9. A similar strike took place in Detva on February 11.

Just as this article was going to print, more unrest occurred, as the unions accused the employer of browbeating those participating in demonstrations. Both in Michalovce and Košice, workers said that the firms threatened to fire those taking part in protests if lay-offs occurred. At the Košice City Bus Service, the unions accused the police of taking sides against the demonstrators, but police denied that this was so.

The protests should heat up as the day of reckoning approaches, and there is a talk of a nationwide general strike if a reasonable settlement is not reached with the unions. In April 2011, the government plans to draft the specifics of its proposed Labor Code changes.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Iveta Radičová stated that her government is ready to negotiate with the trade unions, but it will not do so if the unions exert threats and other forms of pressure such as nationwide strikes.

For the economy to prosper and grow, she will have to meet the trade unions halfway. Her government is already in trouble, having lost two parliamentary member allies, one due to a corruption charge, and another due to the Solidarity and Freedom Party ousting the dissident, eccentric, and "exhibitionist" delegate, Igor Matovič. These losses have reduced the government majority to 77 of the 150 parliament members. With a slim majority of just two members, a few additional defections could easily swing to the benefit of the opposition parties.

For her ambitious plans to lower Slovakia's budget to a reasonable level of near 3%, Radičová will need the cooperation of the trade unions. So the next couple months will be crucial in determining whether social peace will reign in Slovakia. If she cannot come to an agreement with the unions, her government could easily topple.

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[please note: 4 photos (captions noted on the individuals jpegs) go with this article, as follows:]

- 1 - Don't trample on the rights of employees_hnonline.sk_Jan 11 2011
- 2 - Protest of Trade Unions in Kosice_October 10_2010_TASR_Milan Kapusta
- 3 - Trade Union KOZ protest_Bratislava_www.odborny.sk
- 4 - Žilina Trade Union protest_Oct 10 2010_Sme.sk

Three Summer Treasure Tours of Slovakia & Neighboring Countries Available



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Promoting higher education among our youth

The Slovak League of America Awards Seven Scholarship Grants to Deserving Students

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, is pleased to announce that seven scholarship grants have been awarded to deserving students of Slovak ancestry. All seven of these grants honor the memory of John and Julia Demko, wellknown Slovak fraternal and cultural leaders in Bayonne, N.J. Each of these memorial grants is in the amount of \$750.00. Selection of the winners of these grants were based on academic achievement, community activity, as well as an essay submitted on some theme from Slovak culture or history. In addition to the grant, each winner also receives a copy of the 2010 edition of Slovakia, a cultural and scholarly annual published by the Slovak League of America. This annual is edited by Dr. M. Mark Stolarik, the Chairholder of Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa. Checks were issued on December 15, 2010 and sent to all recipients. In addition, all applicants who submitted a completed application and essay were awarded a \$50.00 stipend along with a copy of the 2010 edition of Slovakia.

The following were recipients of 2010 grants from the Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc.:

Katrina Marie Flaugh of West Miffl in, Pa. She is a student at Slippery Rock University majoring in Early Childhood Education. At Slippery Rock, Katrina is active in the Leader Scholar program and the Early Childhood Club. The title of her essay was "The Joys of My Slovak Heritage. She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Katrina is the daughter of John and Mary Beth Flaugh of West Miffl in, Pa.

Jeffery J. Hames of Pittsburgh, Pa. Jeff is a student at the Community College of Allegheny County where he is majoring in United States History. He is active in the work of his parish's after school program for children and is a religious education teacher there. He also served as president of the Minority Inspector of Elections for the Millvale District 4. The title of his essay was "The Slovak National Uprising of 1944." Jeff enjoys membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Jeff is the son of Jeffrey and Diana Hames of Youngstown, Oh.

Michael J. Hricik of Mt. Pleasant, Pa. Mike is a student at Penn State University - University Park where he is majoring in journalism. He is active in a number of school clubs and serves on the editorial staff of the university's newspaper "The Daily Collegian." The title of his essay was "A Survey of Contemporary Slovak Musicians." He is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Kyle G. Kessler of Myerstown, Pa. Kyle is a student at the University of Pittsburgh where he is majoring in physical therapy. A gifted athlete, he has been active in several university sports activities. He was selected to participate in the Rotary Leadership Conference and was selected as the September 2010 Rotary Student of the Month. In December 2010, he was named the World Language and Science Department's Student of the Month. He is also active in his parish where he serves as a religious education teacher. The title of his essay was "Slovak Faith Traditions." He enjoys membership in the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. Kyle is the son of Gregory and Patricia Kessler of Myerstown, Pa.

Lisa Marie Laboskie of Sunbury, Pa. Lisa is currently a student at Bloomsburg University where she is majoring in accounting with a minor in fraud examination. She is active in a number of university clubs, including the Art Club, the Spanish Club, the Future Business Leaders of America and the Spanish Club. She is a volunteer at Elijah's Soup Kitchen was a bell ringer for the Salvation Army and is a member of her parish's roadside clean-up program. The title of her essay was "My Rich Slovak Heritage." She is a member of the National Slovak Society. Lisa Marie is the daughter of Gregg and Lois Laboskie of Sunbury, Pa.

Michelle Marie Warner of Kenosha, Wis. Michelle is currently a student at the University of Wisconsin in Parkside where she is majoring in psychology. At the university she is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and the Psi Chi Psychology Club. She volunteers at several outreach programs. The title of her essay was "Slovak Forever." She enjoys membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Michelle is the daughter of Dale and Deborah Warner of Kenosha.

Lauren Nicole Wietchy of Sterling Heights, Mich. Lauren is currently a student at Saginaw Valley University. She is a communications and business major. She was named to the President's List of Academic Achievement. The title of her essay was "Slovak Immigration to the United States." She is active in several outreach organizations and enjoys Slovak folk dancing as a member of the Sarisan Slovak Dance Ensemble of Detroit. She is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Lauren is the daughter of Mark and Susan Wietchy of Sterling Heights, Mich.

The Slovak League of America is a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry which was founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1907. Promoting higher education among American students of Slovak ancestry has been an important project of the organization. The Slovak League is pleased to assist students of Slovak ancestry achieve their educational goals. Established in 1972 at the initiative of the late Dr. Peter P. Hletko, a prominent American Slovak fraternal and cultural leader, the Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc. over the years has assisted hundreds of students on both the undergraduate and graduate levels of education. Tax deductible donations in support of this important program may be made by making checks payable to: Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund and send same to: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, N.J. 07055. All donations, however large or small, will be much appreciated and will contribute to the promotion of higher education among students of Slovak ancestry during these diffi cult economic times.

Our congratulations and best wishes go out to this year's scholarship recipients. Each of this year's seven recipients belong to one or more of our Slovak fraternal which enjoy continuous membership in the Slovak League of America. We are grateful to all who have supported the work of the Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc. over the years which allows the awarding of these scholarship grants. All scholarship checks were mailed to the recipients by the end of December 2010.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

All members are cordially invited to attend. Thank you.

Rosalie Favere, Recording Secretary/LD

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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

Our monthly breakfast is held the fourth Sunday of each month. We serve from 8:30 a.m. until

noon. We serve a wide variety of breakfast items. The cost remains at \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

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

Thank you,
Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday March 20, 2011 with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members. The Mass is at 11:30 a.m. At SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

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

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

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

Joseph C Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

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

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

mation.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 WARREN, OHIO

SS Cyril & Methodius Jednota Branch 764 will host a Free 'Get Acquainted' Breakfast at St Mary/St Joseph Church, 131 W. Quarry Street in Newton Falls on March 6, 2011 after the 8:00AM Mass. This Mass intention will be for the living and deceased members.

The breakfast menu will be cheese strata, sausage, potatoes, pastry and fruit cup served with coffee or milk. Everyone is encouraged to join us for breakfast.

We will be accepting non perishable food items for the benefit of the Newton Falls Food Pantry.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 17 at Christ Our King Church Social Hall, 1000 Tod Avenue, Warren, OH at 12:15PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

News From Slovakia

Analysts: Poor People Feel Price Hikes Most

Bratislava, February 12 (TASR) - It's the price hikes for food, shelter and transportation that are having the most significant impact on overall increase in prices in Slovakia. "Poor people feel these price hikes the most, as items such as food, shelter and transportation form a big part of their expenditures," UniCredit Bank analyst Lubomir Korsnak told TASR.

According to the Statistics Office, the consumer prices went up by 1.9 percent month-on-month in January 2011, with prices for products and services increasing on average by 3 percent year-on-year. "Price hikes are no surprise, they took place exactly according estimates. We expect the inflation to remain at 3-3.5 percent in first half of the year, and then slightly rise to 4 percent in late 2011," Slovenska Sporitelna analyst Maria Valachyova told TASR.

The change in indirect taxes increased the inflation in January by 0.54 percentage points. "However, in all likelihood the hike in VAT didn't fully translate to prices for products and services, as it was partially absorbed by retailers' margins. Post-Christmas discounts also didn't allow the effects of increased VAT to manifest in the case of clothing and electronics yet," said Korsnak.

"After many months of slow growth in prices, the growing commodity prices along with the need to consolidate public finances have begun to translate more significantly into the consumer prices. This effect is so strong that it has begun to attract attention from the European Central Bank. However, the prices will grow in Slovakia at higher rate than 2 percent limit set up by the bank," said Tatra banka analyst Boris Fojtik.



Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

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

14.01 General Rules

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

Attention Members:

Branch 743 Needs Your Help

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

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

Any assistance provided will be greatly appreciated.

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

Branch 743 Missing Address As December 09, 2010

Name	Year Born	Name	Year Born
Anderson, Shirley S	1936	Litwin, Madonna	1958
Appleby, James B	1988	Maas, Pauline E	1919
Atkinson, Frances	1917	Madar, Douglas	1956
Baldwin, Irene	1926	Madar, Judith	1940
Batchik, Mary E	1962	Markovich, Laura	1957
Bratley, Susan	1951	Matejcik, John	1947
Bertolini, Angelo P	1925	McKolay, Peter	1959
Bradham, Jonathan M	1973	Mracna, George W	1942
Calcaterra, Grace	1956	Nosal, John M	1929
Cassar, Louis	1947	Nosal, Marisa	1957
Churchran, Donald	1942	Osebold, Christine	1955
Comito, Dorothy	1932	Osebold, Maureen	1952
		Schulte, Dennis	1969
Dutchik, Brandon R	2004	Smiscik, Maria	1954
Fetter, Beverly	1947	Smolos, Andrew E	1921
Sopcik, Albert E	1921		
Greslikova, Natalia	1974	Strode, Karen	1958
Korpak, John	1914	Stvrtecka, Anna	1919
Gordon, Josephine	1913	Szymanski, Karen	1975



The 2011 Men's World Ice Hockey Championships is part of the Ice Hockey World Championships and will be hosted in Slovakia's two biggest cities — Bratislava and Košice. This will be the first time the independent Slovak Republic has hosted the World Championships, making them the only team to win a WC (2002) before hosting them. However, this will be the third time that Bratislava has co-hosted the World Championships. The first two times were 1959 and 1992, each time with Prague, and while part of Czechoslovakia.

Slovakia won hosting with 70 points. Other candidates: Sweden (20), Hungary (14). The International Ice Hockey Federation made this decision in Riga (2006).

For more information, go to www.ihwc2011.com.



Upcoming Events of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern PA

Slovak Language Classes and "Slovak Stations of the Cross and Hymn Sing" are upcoming events being sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, according to President Philip R. Tuhy, Wilkes-Barre.

Slovak language classes will be held starting on March 10, 2011, from 6pm to 8pm, and continue on subsequent Thursdays through May 5, 2011, at St. Matthew Slovak Lutheran Church, 663 N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Registration will take place the first night of class. Tuition is \$30; textbooks are available at a nominal cost. The chairperson is Andrew Sofranko, Wilkes-Barre (823-2568).

The "Slovak Stations of the Cross and Hymn Sing" is scheduled for March 13, 2011, at 2:00pm in St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, 124 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, PA. The presiding priest will be Rev. John Albosta, SS. Peter and Paul Church, Plains, PA. The organist is Carol Yanowski. The public is invited to participate, with station books and music provided. For more, contact Benish at 823-1222.

You also may visit www.shsnepa.org where these events are posted.



Czech & Slovak American Genealogical Society Bus Tour in Chicago

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

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

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

Robert Tapak Magruder



Prince of Peace Parish

81 South 13th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 (412) 431-0168 / 481-8380



The annual celebration of a traditional Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2011, at St. Adalbert Church, (160 So. 15th Street) South Side. The Holy Rosary, prayed in Slovak, will begin at 10:45 a.m., followed by the Holy Liturgy at 11:00 a.m.

Following Mass, guests are invited to gather at the Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) to sample a traditional Slovak Easter breakfast of sunka (ham), kolbasy (sausage), pysanky (dyed eggs), paska (sweet bread), sirek (cheese made of eggs), hrin (beets and horseradish sauce), and kolace (sweet cakes). Cultural displays, craft demonstrations, a "Slovak Auction," and unique gift items will also be available. An Easter basket, brimming with all of the goodies needed for your own Slovak Easter breakfast, under a unique hand-embroidered basket cover, will be raffled.

Please call ahead if you plan to attend: 412-481-8380. There is NO CHARGE for admission, but donations are gratefully accepted. Doors to the breakfast hall open following the Mass (approximately Noon). For more information a display or to make a donation, call Paul Zatek at (412) 488-8238.



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

12-Day Tour, June 25 – July 7, 2011

17-Day Tour, September 4 – 20, 2011

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

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

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

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

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

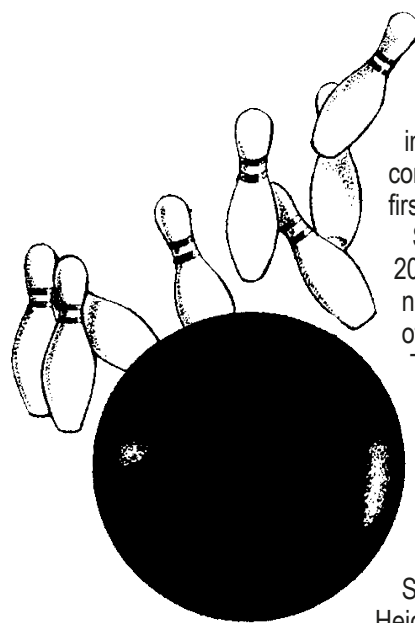
John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA, 15690

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



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

Come Join America's Foremost Slovak Sports Event



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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank You,

John "Jack" M Golias (National Tournament Committee)

14. marec v historickom kontexte slovenského národa

MILAN S. ĎURICA

Slovenský štát, či presnejšie Slovenská republika z rokov 1939 – 1945, je nepochybným historickým faktom. Jeho jednohlasné vyhlásenie zákonodarným orgánom autonómnej Slovenskej krajiny – ktorý bol vtedy najvyšším orgánom politickej vôle občanov Slovenska – súhlasne prijala väčšina obyvateľov. A v pomerne krátkom čase ho uznala aj väčšina vtedy jestvujúcich štátov na svete, medzi nimi aj všetky vtedajšie veľmoci (Nemecko, Francúzsko, Veľká Británia, Taliansko, Japonsko a ZSSR) s jedinou výnimkou Spojených štátov amerických.

Vznik Slovenského štátu práve 14. marca 1939 bol podmienený geopolitickou situáciou v strednej Európe, ktorú západné mocnosti prenechali exkluzívnej svojvôli Nemeckej ríše. Prispela k tomu aj krátkozraká hegemonická a odnárodňovacia politika česko-slovenských vlád, konkrétne prezidenta republiky Tomáša G. Masaryka a Edvarda Beneša, s cieľom utvoriť neexistujúci „československý národ“. Nemecký diktátor Adolf Hitler totiž už 5. novembra 1937 oznámil najvyšším veliteľom nemeckej armády svoje neodvolateľné rozhodnutie rozbiť Česko-Slovensko. Všetko čo nasledovalo, boli iba politické sondovania, akým najvhodnejším spôsobom a s čím najmenšími stratami realizovať toto jeho rozhodnutie. Mnichovský diktát bol výsledkom tejto Hitlerovej politiky. Vtedy aj Beneš, ktorý okrem iného bol aj agentom ruského krvavého diktátora Stalina, pochopil, že jeho štátu je koniec a odišiel do Londýna. Českým a slovenským politikom ostávala iba úloha zachraňovať, čo sa ešte zachrániť dalo. Preto sa všetci usilovali získať si priazeň Hitlera. Pražský minister zahraničných vecí František Chvalkovský už 13. októbra 1938 oznamoval Hitlerovmu ministrovi zahraničných vecí von Ribbentropovi, že ČSR obráti svoju politiku o 180° a v decembri ho prijal aj Hitler. Keď však už bolo jasné, že Hitler vojensky obsadí Česko a Moravu, slovenským zodpovedným štátnikom neostávalo iné, ako sa podobne pokúsiť zachrániť tým, že podľa návrhu Hitlera vyhlásili samostatnosť, ktorú on bol ochotný zaručiť. Alternatíva, pred ktorú ich postavil bolo totiž rozdelenie Slovenska medzi Nemecko, Maďarsko a Poľsko. Žiaden zodpovedný politik by nemohol pred národom zodpovedať za túto druhú alternatívu. Aj preto ani jeden z poslancov Slovenského snemu nehlasoval proti, ani sa nezdržal hlasovania.

Kto pozná dejiny, vie, že prakticky všetky malé, ale aj väčšie štáty mohli vzniknúť iba vtedy, keď to bolo v záujme rozhodujúcich mocností. Takto vzniklo Belgicko, Bulharsko, Fínsko, Estónsko, Lotyšsko, Litva, ale aj Poľsko, Taliansko, bývalé Česko-Slovensko, bývalá Juhoslávia, Írsko, Rakúsko, neskôr Izrael; a takto vznikajú aj v súčasnosti nové štáty. Vyčítať Slovenskej republike, že pri jej zrode stála Nemecká ríša, je úplne mimo tejto logiky.

O kvalite prvej Slovenskej republiky možno diskutovať. Jej hodnotenie bude vždy závislé od uhla pohľadu a od konkrétnych hodnotiacich parametrov. Lebo ešte nejestvoval na svete štát, ktorého zriadenie, zákonodarstvo a všetky administratívne, kultúrne, ekonomické i vojenské opatrenia tak vnútroštátneho, ako aj medzinárodno-politického charakteru a ich výsledky v rovine sociálneho rozvoja, výšky životnej úrovne a všeobecného súhlasu obyvateľstva by vykazovali iba pozitívne hodnotenie. Je celkom zrejme, že aj Slovenská republika mala svoje nedostatky, chyby a dopustila sa nepravostí. Ale ak sa jej jestvovanie porovnáva s povinným rozhľadom na situáciu v okolitých štátoch nášho stredoeurópskeho priestoru, každý objektívny pozorovateľ musí uznať, že vykazovala nepomerne viac pozitívnych ako negatívnych stránok. Nikdy predtým – a žiaľ ani nikdy potom – nebolo na Slovensku toľko pokoja a slobody v pestovaní národnej kultúry a vedy, v rozkvetení umení a duchovnej tvorby, v slobodnom prejave náboženskej viery a s ňou spojených ľudových tradícií, v ekonomickom rozvoji a v citelnom zlepšovaní životných podmienok väčšiny obyvateľov, ako práve za krátkych šesť rokov Slovenskej republiky. V tomto sa dnes zhoduje už časť aj zahraničných historikov, iba niektorí historici na Slovensku ostali lipnúť na „jedine správnych tézach“ neblahého sovietsko-čechoslovakistického režimu.

Závislosť slovenského štátu od Hitlerovej ríše bola nevyhnutným dôsledkom medzinárodnej situácie. Preto aj Slováci sa museli zúčastňovať na obetiach najhroznejšej vojny ľudských dejín. Museli vyslať na front desaťtisíce svojich vojakov a státisíce svojich pracovných síl do Nemeckej ríše, kde pracovali v živote nebezpečných podmienkach. Do tohto rámca patrí aj účasť Slovenska na nacistickom prenasledovaní židovskej menšiny. Bol to jeden z hlavných zámerov Hitlerovej politiky „prečesať Európu a zbaviť ju Židov“. Bolo to protiprávne, nemravné a neľudské celkom tak, ba ešte viac, ako celá vojna. Ale ak sa tomu nevyhli oveľa staršie, historicky zakorenené a väčšie štáty vo vtedajšej Európe, je historicky nekorektné predpokladať, že to bol mohol urobiť najmladší a ledva založený štátik s necelými 3 miliónmi obyvateľov. Ako Hitler reagoval na pokusy odporu v tejto otázke, to sa ukázalo v Holandsku, kde náznak odporu zapríčinil deportáciu aj dovtedy chránených Židov, a neskôr aj v Bulharsku, kde to stálo život samého cára Borisa. Preto je paradoxné a eticky nekorektné, ak dnes už nikto nevyčíta spoluprácu na tomto diabolskom Hitlerovom diele ani samému Nemecku, ani napríklad Maďarsku, kde tých obetí bolo nepomerne viac, ale iba prvej Slovenskej republike. V objektívnych dejinách nemožno postupovať s aplikovaním rozličných meradiel na podstatne tie isté situácie a činy.

V širokom historickom kontexte význam 14. marca 1939 však znamená neporovnateľne viac než spomenuté pozitívne stránky zachovania národného spoločenstva na jeho životnom priestore počas nepredvídaných hrôz, ktorými druhá svetová vojna postihla celú Európu. Najdôležitejším obsahom toho, čo sa udialo 14. marca 1939 bolo obnovenie slovenskej štátnosti. Tej dávnej a slávnej štátnosti, ktorej základy položili kniežatá Pribina a Mojmir, ktorú až do uznávania medzinárodného partnerstva vo vtedajšej Európe rozvinul kráľ Rastislav, a ktorú svojimi výbojmi až na veľkú ríšu pretvoril slávny kráľ Slovákov Svätopluk I. Veľký. Vyhlásenie slovenského štátu v roku 1939 bolo obnovením tej dávnej jedinečnej slovenskej štátnosti, ktorú naši stredovekí predkovia v prvých desaťročiach 10. storočia stratili včlenením sa do novej uhorskej štátnosti a znamenalo oživenie dávnej pamäti slovenského národa. Aj pomerne krátka skúsenosť samostatného života vo vlastnom štáte zanechala potom dušiam a mysliam drivej väčšiny Slovákov a Sloveniek takú hlbokú stopu spojenú s túžbou po jeho obnovení, že ani štyridsať rokov opätovne im cudzími mocnosťami nanútenej štátnosti z rokov 1918 – 1939 nedokázalo ich odradiť od toho, aby využili prvú ďalšiu príležitosť prajnej medzinárodnej situácie a 1. januára 1993 si po druhý raz obnovili svoju štátnu nezávislosť. Bez historického obnovenia slovenskej štátnosti zo 14. marca 1939 sotva by sme sa boli dožili dnešnej Slovenskej republiky. Toto je najhlbší a najdôležitejší obsah výročia 14. marca 1939.



Milan S. Ďurica

Prezentácia publikácie na Veľvyslanectve SR vo Washingtone

Pavol Demeš: „Priateľ-Partner-Spojenc

„Dňa 9. februára 2011 sa na pôde Veľvyslanectva Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone uskutočnil krst a prezentácia publikácie Pavla Demeša „Priateľ-Partner-Spojenc“, v ktorej autor, prvý minister medzinárodných vzťahov Slovenskej republiky, zachytil vývoj slovensko-amerických vzťahov od Nežnej revolúcie po súčasnosť. Na prezentácii sa ako hlavný hosť zúčastnil autor publikácie, ďalšími vzácnymi hosťami boli dvaja bývalí veľvyslanci USA v Slovenskej republike – Theodore Russell a Ralph Johnson, ktorí sa významnou mierou prispeli na formovaní partnerských vzťahov medzi Spojenými štátmi americkými a Slovenskom. Do živej diskusie, ktorú moderoval veľvyslanec SR v USA Peter Burian, sa aktívne zapojili mnohí významní hostia – niekdajší zástupcovia vedúcich diplomatických misií USA v SR od roku 1990, členovia organizácie „Priatel'ia Slovenska“, zástupcovia administratívy i krajskej komunity.



Podujatie voľne nadviazalo na krst publikácie „Priateľ-Partner-Spojenc“, ktorá sa uskutočnila na Veľvyslanectve USA v Bratislave, s finančnou podporou ktorého bola práca vydaná. Publikácia, jej názov i diskusia prítomných potvrdili posun vzájomných vzťahov medzi dvomi krajinami – od priateľského usmerňovania Slovenska na jeho ceste k demokracii a trhovej ekonomike až po súčasnú pevnú väzbu medzi dvomi spojencami.“



Prezident Gašparovič sa zveril do rúk slovenským lekárom

Bratislava (TASR) - Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič sa v pondelok 14. februára podrobil operácii bedrového kĺbu. Chirurgický zákrok mu vykonali v Univerzitnej nemocnici Akademika Ladislava Dérera v Bratislave. Zákrok trval 68 minút, prezident sa prebral 10 minút po operácii.

Výmena bedrového kĺbu prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča za umelý prebiehala podľa lekárov štandardným spôsobom. „Neboli prítomné žiadne komplikácie, po operácii sa usmieval, tvrdil, že nemá bolesti,“ uviedol na tlačovej konferencii prednosta Kliniky úrazovej chirurgie Peter Šimko. Hlava štátu zápasila s problémom takmer 10 rokov, podľa lekára už musel mať najvyšší ústavný činiteľ veľké bolesti.

Ako Gašparovič povedal, že sa operácie neobáva, keďže ide v súčasnosti o štandardný zákrok. Hoci mal ponuky, aby využil komfort zdravotníckych zariadení v zahraničí, neurobil tak. „Myslím si, že naši lekári sú dostatočne odborne pripravení, že nemusím utekať za hranice,“ poznamenal. Vzhľadom na to, že s problémom bojuje už takmer desať rokov, pričom posledných šesť mu život znepriemňujú intenzívne bolesti, rozhodli sa lekári, že je najvyšší čas ho odstrániť.

Prezident verí, že jeho pohybový aparát sa po operácii zlepši natoľko, že sa bude môcť znovu vrátiť k obľúbenému športovaniu. Pacienti po operáciách bedrového kĺbu môžu zvyčajne začať chodiť po dvoch alebo troch dňoch. Celková rehabilitácia však trvá jeden až dva mesiace.



Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič



Na Slovensku prvýkrát Národný týždeň manželstva

Bratislava (TASR) - Vytvoriť priestor na informovanie o výhodách manželstva pre jednotlivcov i spoločnosť bolo cieľom Národného týždňa manželstva (NTM), ktorý sa po prvý raz uskutočnil na Slovensku od 7. do 14. februára. Záštitu nad touto iniciatívou prevzala prvá dáma Slovenska, manželka prezidenta SR Silvia Gašparovičová.

Na stretnutí s novinármi v Bratislave pri príležitosti začatia NTM Gašparovičová uviedla, že iniciatíva hovorí o manželstve a apelovať na ľudí, pretože manželstvo dôležité ako prirodzený a zdravý základ rodiny a spoločnosti, ju veľmi oslovila. Považuje to za dôležité najmä v súčasnej dobe, keď sa mnohé manželstvá rozpadávajú a rozširuje sa trend žiť v partnerskom vzťahu v spoločnej domácnosti aj s deťmi, ale bez uzavretia manželstva. Rozdielne názory, nevera, alkoholizmus či nezájem o rodinu, odcudzenie a neschopnosť prekonávať problémy patria medzi hlavné príčiny rozvodov. Podľa jej slov v každom vzťahu a služobníckych vznikajú bežné problémy a nezhody, ktoré rozumní ľudia vedia prekonať.

Ako ďalej povedala prvá dáma Slovenska, v spoločnom zväzku s Ivanom Gašparovičom žijú už 46 rokov. Ich vzťah vznikol z veľkej lásky a porozumenia a svadba spečatila ich rozhodnutie pre spoločný život. Manželstvo ju naučilo vedieť sa prispôbiť, rešpektovať aj iný názor, robiť kompromisy, vedieť odpúšťať a nemyslieť len na seba. Ako dodala, nevie si predstaviť, že by pre nezhodu s manželom ochudobnila svoje deti o otca alebo o matku.

Predseda občianskeho združenia NTM Vladimír Sochor zdôraznil, že organizátori tejto iniciatívy chcú poukázať na hodnotu manželského zväzku, povzbudiť ľudí k jeho založeniu a upevňovaniu. V rámci začínajúcej kampane je zámerom podniknúť manželov, aby si urobili spoločný program, viac sa venovali jeden druhému, pripravili si nejaké prekvapenie, zašli spolu na prechádzku či do divadla. Sochor poukázal na výsledky sociológov, ktoré potvrdzujú, že ľudia žijúci v trvalom manželstve, aj deti, ktoré v ňom vyrastajú, sa lepšie uplatňujú v živote a sú tiež psychicky aj fyzicky zdravší.

Slávnostné otvorenie NTM sa uskutočnilo 7. februára v Banskej Bystrici s hudobným programom. Národný týždeň manželstva uzavrel Koncert manželov (nielen) pre manželov vo Veľkom evanjelickom kostole v Bratislave. Medzitým sa v mestách i obciach na Slovensku uskutočnili viaceré akcie, napríklad tanečné a romantické večery, výlety, semináre a prednášky o možnostiach riešenia krízy v manželstve a pod.

Organizátori kampane konštatovali, že ich milo prekvapil záujem občianskych a cirkevných združení, miest i malých obcí zapojiť sa do NTM a pripraviť rôzne podujatia. A to nielen v Bratislave, Banskej Bystrici či Košiciach, ale aj v Nitre, Rožňave, Liptovskej Kokave alebo v Čani a iných obciach. Pozitívne zareagovali aj viacerí podnikatelia, ktorí ponúkajú manželom počas NTM zľavy či už na pobyty v hoteloch a iné.

Oznámenia o pripravovaných podujatiach spolkov

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

20. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 5. marca v Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103.St.(103 & Oklahoma) v Greenfield, Wisconsin. Zábava začne od 6:00 do 11:00 hodine večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. O bližšie informácie volajte: Betty Valent, tel. číslo: (414) 425-6137 alebo Emily Kosso, tel. číslo: (414) 464-1063. Na toto podujatie zároveň srdečne pozývame aj členov Knights of St. Mary and Joseph Society Spolok č. 89 IKSJ v Milwaukee.

Betty Valent

Fašiangová zábava v Linden, New Jersey

Kostol sv. Rodiny v Linden, NJ usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 5. marca 2011 v hale Msgr. Komára. Do tanca bude hrať hudobná skupina KONTAKTY. Vstupné za osobu je 25.00 dolárov. V cene lístka je zahrnutá večera, ktorá sa začne podávať o 8.00 hodine večer. Lístky si môžete objednať: Mary Tkáč (908) 862-2782; Zuzka Vrabely (908) 862-3161

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v New York City

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Spolku sv. Štefana a Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných slovenských fraternalistických organizácií si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 13. marca 2011 o 1:00 hodine odpoludnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

V minulom storočí Slovensko dosiahlo samostatnosť dvakrát: 14. marca 1939 a po dlhom čase boja za slobodu opäť dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie slovenského národa na jeho ceste k sebaurčeniu a štátnej samostatnosti. Na oslave si pripomenieme aj významné dni v slovenskej histórii a v tejto súvislosti chceme vzdať úctu bojovníkom za samostatnosť slovenského národa.

Presný program bude k dispozícii pred oslavou. Po programe v otvorenom bare bude možnosť zakúpenia slovenského jedla a rôznych nápojov. O bližšie informácie volajte: Milan R. Dait (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 463-2084. Vstup je voľný.

Oslavy slovenskej štátnosti aj toho roku v Detroit

34. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike usporiada peknú oslavu pod názvom Deň slovenskej štátnosti, alebo význam 14. marca v slovenskej histórii. Oslavy sa budú konať v nedeľu dňa 13. marca 2011, po slovenskej omši v hale F. Mikuša. Náš zbor kráľa Svätopluka pozýva všetkých, ktorí majú záujem o históriu tohoto druhu.

Na programe bude prednáška o význame Prvej slovenskej štátnosti v našej histórii a jej dôležitosť. Tiež si prečítame posledný odkaz pána prezidenta Dr. Jozefa Tisu. Za tým bude pokračovať prednes básne „Štefánikova matka“. Slovenské piesne nám zaznejú za doprovodu Jožka Geletku. Bude nám číťou ak aj toho roku nás navštívia Slováci zo susedného Windsoru. Po oslavách bude nasledovať pohostenie, ktoré nám pripraví Marienka a Jožko Krajčovič nás ponúkne so značkovým vínom a pivom.

Len tie národy sú národy kultúrne, ktoré dokonale poznajú svoju históriu, aj keď ona niekedy nie je taká, akú by sme ju chceli vidieť. Dovidenia 13. marca 2011.

Jozef Krajčovič, predseda 34. zboru kráľa Svätopluka v Detroit

Oslava 100-ročnice Združenia slovenských katolíkov v Scrantone, PA

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

„Z doliny prerástol hory“

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

tisíc exemplárov. „Keď niekto dosiahne takéto výsledky, je to záležitosť jeho vytrvalosti aj veľmi silného záujmu o oblasť, v ktorej pracuje. Mal veľmi veľký záujem o fyziku, dokonca keď študoval na výtvarnej akadémii v Mníchove, súkromne chodil aj na univerzitné prednášky z fyziky. Keď prišiel na Slovensko, bol presvedčený, že sa tu uplatní, že bude ďalej rozvíjať svoju prácu. Po odmietnutí odchádzal veľmi sklamaný a plakal, viem to od starého otca,“ povedala Murgašova praneť Blanka Kolibiarová.

Autor románu Jozef Vranka (1934) absolvoval štúdium žurnalistiky na FFUK v Bratislave, kde získal aj doktorát z filozofie. Ako novinár začínať v Slovenskom rozhlase, potom pracoval viac ako tri desaťročia v Slovenskej televízii. Písal aj poviedky a reportáže, ktoré publikoval v rôznych novinách a časopisoch. Kniha Z doliny prerástol hory bola prvýkrát vydaná v roku 2004, druhé vydanie autor rozšíril o nové poznatky.

HĽADÁME

Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota v Spojených štátoch a v Kanade hľadá zástupcov plynne po slovensky hovoriacich alebo licencovaných odporúčateľov, ktorí by reprezentovali našu organizáciu a ponúkali naše životné poisťky a anuitné produkty, najmä v oblasti štátov
New York a New Jersey.

O bližšie informácie zavolajte alebo pošlite e-mail:
Predseda, Andrew M. Rajec: 1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) alebo
Podpredseda, Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.: 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)
E-mail: president@fcsu.com



Andrej Štelmák

Po stopách vzniku slovenských priezvisk

(Pokračovanie z JEDNOTY zo dňa 16. februára 2011)

II. ČASŤ

Vznik remesiel a lokalita stavieb

Začali vznikať remeslá, ktoré tiež v značnej miere prispeli k vzniku nových priezvisk ako: Murár, Tesár, Sklenár, Kolár, Debnár, Maliar, Sítár, Tokár... či odvodených: Muránsky, Tesárčik, Sklenárik, Kolarčík, Debnárik, Maliarik, Sitarčík, Tokarčík...

Príbytky si stavali na rôznych miestach (pri rieke, za potokom, na záhumní, pod horou, na stráni, na dolinke, na lúke...) a boli vhodným podnetom pre vznik ďalších ako: Riečan, Záhumenský, Potocký, Podhora, Dolinka, Luka, Zemko... či odvodených: Riečanský, Potočka, Podhorský, Doliňák, Lučan, Zemčík...

Začiatky roľníctva

Keď začali hospodáriť (obrábať polia, chovať dobytok, hydinu), vynárali sa nové priezviská: Gazda, Sedliak, Brázda, Rólník, Koza, Baran, Ovečka, Cap... i odvodené: Gazdík, Sedliačik, Brázdovič, Rólný, Kozička, Baranik, Ovčiarik, Capko...

Pre hospodárske zvieratá bolo načim zabezpečiť vhodné krmivo, a tak sa objavovali iné: Senko, Otruba, Sečka, Obrok... a odvodené: Senik, Otrubčák Sečkár, Obročník...

Niektoré majú pôvod od ošetrovateľov zvierat, od ich umiestnenia, od postrojov, od dopravných prostriedkov, do ktorých ich priahali, napr.: Bača, Valach, Pastier, Kočiš... či odvodených: Bačiak, Valachovič, Pastierovič, Kočiško...; Teľatník, Bydlo, Kurín... a odvodených: Kurinec...; Kantár, Chomút, Strmeň... i odvodených: Kantárik, Chomucký, Strmenský...; Koč, Vozka, Sána... a odvodených: Kočík, Vozárik, Sankovský...

Keď už pestovali obilniny, hospodárske plodiny a zeleninu, vznikali také: Pšenica, Raž, Ovsík, Jačmeň, Šošovica, Repa, Konopa... a odvodené: Pšenička, Raždík, Ovsák, Jačmeník, Šošovička, Repán, Konôpka...

Zakladali si aj sady, pestovali ovocné stromy, vysádzali okrasné kríky a kvety, čo dalo podnet k vzniku priezvisk ako: Sad, Višňa, Jablň, Hruška, Slivka, Orech, Čerešňa... i odvodené: Sadovský, Višňovský, Jablončík, Hruškovič, Slivoň, Orechovský, Čerešňák...; Ruža, Kvetko, Fialka, Karafiát, Orgován... a odvodené: Ružička, Kvietik, Fiala...

Inšpiráciou bola aj príroda

V prírode pozorovali vtáctvo, lešnú zver, čo bolo podnetom pre objavenie sa priezvisk, a to po vtákoch: Orol, Sýkorka, Vrabec, Vrana, Drozd, Sokol, Havran, Sova, Straka, Pinka, Kršiak, Sluka... či odvodených: Orolín, Sýkora, Vrabček, Vranka, Drozdík, Sokolík, Havránek, Soviar, Strakoš, Pinkava, Kršiačok...; po zverine: Medveď, Jeleň, Srna, Vlk, Zajac, Líška, Bobor... i odvodených: Medvedský, Jelenčík, Srnka, Vlčko, Zajaček, Líškay, Bobřík...; po vodných živočíchoch a plazoch: Ryba, Rak, Mrena, Žabka, Had... a odvodených: Rybka, Raček, Mrenica, Žabčík, Hadek...

Aj lesné plody podnietili vznik niektorých ako: Huba, Hríb, Malina, Brusnica, Jahoda... a odvodených: Hubáček, Hríbik, Maliniak, Brusničan, Jahodník...

Priezviská vznikali aj podľa hmyzu nachádzajúceho sa v prírode, napr.: Ovád, Mucha, Osa, Komár, Včelko... či odvodených: Ovádek, Muška, Osička, Komárek, Včelík...

Príroda je bohatá na množstvo tráv, bylín a kvetín. Nie div, že sa zrodili také ako: Trávník, Zelina, Bylina, Repík, Bazalka... či odvodených: Trávníček Zelinka, Bylinský, Repčík, Bazalík...

So vznikom nových remesiel, cechov a manufaktúr pribúdali ďalšie: Tkáč, Mlynár, Kováč, Farbiak, Čižmár, Bednár, Stolár... i odvodených: Tkáčik, Mlynárik, Kolarčík, Kováčik, Farbák, Čižmárik, Bednarič, Stolárik...

Aj cirkev a školstvo vplývali na vznik priezvisk

S prírastkom obyvateľstva v obciach i mestách a udomácnovaním sa kresťanstva, sa objavovali kríže, kaplnky, kostoly, chrámy, a tak vznikali nové, také ako: Krist, Bohov, Kríž, Kňazko, Pop, Biskup, Dekan, Pápež, Farár, Kantor... či odvodené: Kristín, Bôžik, Križan, Kňaze, Popík, Biskupič, Dekánek, Farár, Kantorák...

So vznikom škôl sa objavovali s nimi súvisiace priezviská: Škola, Pisár, Litera, Rehtor, Žiak... a odvodené: Školiar, Pisarčík, Literát, Rehtorík, Žiačko...

Priezviská podľa názvov obcí miest, riek, vrchov

Keď už mali osady, obce, mestá, vodné toky i pohoria svoje názvy, stali sa aj tie inšpiráciou pre vytváranie nových: Ponický, Trnavský, Žilinský, Detvan, Vážan, Dunaj, Hnilica, Hron, Tatran, Strečno, Magura... či odvodených: Poničan, Trnavec, Žilínčan, Detvaj, Vážecký, Dunajčin, Hnilický, Hronský, Tatranský, Stražovský, Magurčák...

(Pokračovanie v budúcom čísle JEDNOTY)



Milan Vetrák nový predseda Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Úrad Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí by mal prejsť reorganizáciou

Vypracovanie koncepcie štátnej politiky SR vo vzťahu k slovenskému zahraničiu a na ňu nadväzujúce zmeny v štátnej starostlivosti sú niektoré z priorit nového predsedu Úradu Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) Milana Vetráka. Ako priblížil pred novinármi, v podstate by malo ísť o vymedzenie pravidiel v rámci slovensko-slovenských vzťahov. Teda, čo očakáva SR od svojej pomoci krajanom formou dotácií, ale aby na druhej strane boli zrozumiteľné ich záujmy. „Štátna politika by mala mať za cieľ to, aby dochádzalo k revitalizácii života našich krajanov v zahraničí, a nie k ich asimilácii tak, ako to vidíme za posledné obdobie. Myslím si, že v tomto bývalé vedenie úradu spravilo veľmi málo,“ objasnil.

Vetrák je presvedčený o tom, že koncepcia štátnej starostlivosti má okrem strednodobých priorit zahŕňať aj krátkodobé a dlhodobé priority. Ako dodal, v súčasnosti tak tomu nie je, pričom obsahuje aj nereálne stanovené úlohy. „To by sa v budúcnosti už ÚSZZ nemalo stať,“ podčiarkol.

Zmeny čakajú i samotný úrad. Vetrák avizuje zvýšenie jeho efektivity, reorganizáciu a stabilizáciu. Taktiež by rád aktívnejšie spolupracoval s podobnými úradmi, ktoré sú v členských krajinách EÚ. Viac chce využiť aj ekonomický, kultúrny či diplomatický potenciál krajanov.

Predseda ÚSZZ chce za svoje päťročné funkčné obdobie novelizovať zákon o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí. Vysvetľuje to napríklad stratou aktualnosti pojmu Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí. Ten je totiž viazaný na trvalý pobyt, ktorý nesmie mať na území SR. „Máme množstvo Slovákov, ktorí dlhodobo žijú a pracujú v inom štáte EÚ, ale z rôznych dôvodov majú trvalý pobyt na Slovensku,“ ozrejmil.

Krátké správy zo Slovenska

• **Uplatnenie** počas Majstrovstiev sveta (MS) v ľadovom hokeji 2011 nájde v Košiciach 50 až 100 dobrovoľníkov. Prioritne budú zabezpečovať navigáciu dopravy a usmerňovanie pohybu návštevníkov. Organizátori odhadujú, že denne sa bude v Košiciach počas vrcholného športového podujatia pohybovať približne 10,000 fanúšikov a turistov. „**Partneri mesta** Košice dostali aj ďalšie zaujímavé informácie, napríklad o vytvorení detašovaného pracoviska veľvyslanectiev účastníckych krajín. Bude lokalizované na Hlavnej ulici a bude k dispozícii občanom krajín, ktorých reprezentačné tímy si zahrajú na turnaji v Košiciach,“ uviedol vedúci referátu komunikácie Magistrátu mesta Košice Jozef Marko. Spresnil, že na hlavných prístupových bodoch do mesta budú dostávať návštevníci Košíc všetky potrebné informácie, aby sa spoľahlivo zorientovali a cítili sa v meste príjemne a komfortne.

• **Slovenským víťazom** súťaže Juvenes Translatores 2010 (Mladí prekladatelia) sa stal Ján Živčák z kežmarského Gymnázia Pavla Országha Hviezdoslava. Meno slovenského laureáta spolu s ďalšími 26 víťazmi z ostatných členských krajín Európskej únie nedávno vyhlásila Európska komisia, ktorá každoročne toto podujatie organizuje. Slovenský víťaz prekladal z francúzštiny do slovenčiny. Spolu s ostatnými laureátmi získa ako cenu trojdňový výlet do Bruselu, kde bude mať možnosť aj sledovať prekladateľov únie v pracovnom nasadení. Súčasťou výletu bude 7. apríla aj slávnostná ceremónia, kde si 27 najlepších študentov prevzme cenu i certifikát.

• **Medzinárodný úspech** získal slovenský fotograf a cestovateľ Filip Kulisev. Jeho v poradí tretia monografia Úžasná planéta sa umiestnila na druhom mieste v medzinárodnej súťaži o Európsku fotografickú knihu za rok 2010, The FEP European Photo Book of the Year Award 2010. Jeho Úžasná planéta uspela v kategórii Príroda hneď v prvom ročníku súťaže, ktorej organizátorom je Európska federácia profesionálnych fotografov (FEP). Ocenená kniha predstavuje 111 najkrajších miest na Zemi. Knihu vydalo súčasne v 13 jazykoch vydavateľstvo Slovart v spolupráci s Frechmann Kolon z Kolína nad Rýnom. Oficiálnu slovenskú premiéru malo nedávno v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave v rámci vernisáže výstavy Filip Kulisev Master QEP, Amazing Planet.

• **Najvyššiu hodnotu** majetku spomedzi fondov dôchodkových správocských spoločností (DSS) dosahujú rastové. Celkovo je vo všetkých troch fondoch alokovaných 3.79 miliardy eur. Vyplýva to z týždenných štatistík Asociácie dôchodkových správocských spoločností (ADSS), aktuálne k 4. februáru 2011. V rastových fondoch si sporia najviac ľudí. Najmenej peňazí si sporia Slováci v konzervatívnych fondoch. Odplata za správu každého dôchodkového fondu predstavuje 0.025 %. Slováci si môžu vybrať spomedzi 6 spoločností, ktoré ponúkajú tento druh sporenia na starobu. Ide o Aegon d.s.s., Allianz-Slovenská d.s.s., AXA d.s.s., ČSOB d.s.s., ING d.s.s. a VÚB Generali d.s.s.

• **Spoločnosť Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK)** plánuje na Slovensku v najbližších piatich rokoch reinvestovať miliardu eur. Prostriedky budú smerovať do výroby automobilov, ale aj komponentov. Medzi technologické novinky bude patriť napríklad suchý odľučovač častíc v lakovní pre vozidlá radu New Small Family. Táto technológia bude v sériovej výrobe po prvýkrát nasadená práve v bratislavskom závode VW SK. VW SK počas svojho takmer 20-ročného pôsobenia na Slovensku reinvestoval už viac ako 1.7 miliardy eur. Linky bratislavského závodu odvtedy opustilo viac ako 2.5 milióna vozidiel piatich značiek. Zároveň je devínsko-novoveský závod prvým v koncernu VW, ktorý začal so sériovou výrobou vozidla s hybridným pohonom – Volkswagen Touareg Hybrid.

• **Dôchodcovia** v Topoľčanoch majú za opatrovateľky platiť o sto percent viac. Starí ľudia sú rozhorčení z postupu mesta. „Mesačne ma opatrovateľka stála 50 eur. Teraz by som mala platiť viac ako 100 eur“, zratúva dôchodkyňa Mária Nemčeková (79), ktorá prišla o zrak pred šiestimi rokmi. Z dôchodku 320 eur nevláda platiť všetky účty. Mesto odôvodňuje zvyšovanie sumy nárastom nákladov. „Za minulý rok stála opatrovateľská služba 399-tisíc eur. Opatrovaní uhradili 47-tisíc eur, čiže 88 percent zo sumy platilo mesto“, vysvetlila Eva Jančeková, vedúca odboru starostlivosti o občanov.

• **V Levickom okrese** sa opäť objavila tzv. prasacia chrípka. Mladíka (25) museli pohotovostní lekári po klinickej smrti oživiť po tom, čo prestal dýchať a zastavilo sa mu srdce. Po prevoze do nemocnice urobili pacientovi vyšetrenia s podozrením na nákazu vírusom A(H1N1), čo sa aj potvrdilo. Onedlho previezli s chrípkovými príznakmi do nemocnice aj jeho ženu a päťročného dieťa, u nich sa však prítomnosť tohto vírusu nepotvrdila. Keďže mladý muž sa predtým nezdržoval ďaleko od domova, zdravotníkov prekvapuje vôbec objavenie tejto nákazy v regióne, ako aj to, ako ťažko znášal mladý človek následky nákazy prasacou chrípkou, keďže nemal žiadne vážnejšie zdravotné problémy. Jediné, čo zistili, je, že tento pacient mal vyše roka problémy s hornými dýchacími cestami, ktoré sa stále opakovali.

• **Bývalý šéf** košickej teplárne Ján Podhorský (nominant SDKÚ-DS) si dal zvýšiť základný plat z 2,500 na 5,000 eur a potom za 40 dní práce zobral odstupné 90,000 eur. Okrem toho stihol ešte jednu vec. Spoločnosť pod jeho vedením vyhlásila v septembri verejnú súťaž na ochranu objektu. Podklady si prevzalo viac firiem, ale oficiálne sa napokon prihlásila jediná, košická G1 Monitor, ktorá konkurz aj vyhrala. Šéf G1 Monitor Jaroslav Demský je Podhorského susedom v košických Kavečanoch. G1 Monitor bude strážiť tepláreň len do konca apríla. V januári jej členovia predstaviteľstva teplárne Peter Mihaľov a Juraj Huraj (obaja z SaS) poslali list a bez bližšieho vysvetlenia oznámili, že zmluvu rušia s trojmesačnou výpovednou lehotou.

• **Tradicia**, ktorá hovorí o tom, že v každej obci majú kostol a krčmu, v obciach Ratková, Ratkovská Suchá, Ratkovská Lehota (okr. Revúca) či Bottovo, alebo Martinová (okr. Rimavská Sobota) neplatí. V dedinách na Gemeri je najväčšia nezamestnanosť. Dosahuje až 60%. Gemer sa tak stal krajom bez krčiem, tie zostali už len v mestách a vo väčších obciach pri cestách. V malých dedinkách hostince skrachovali a chlapi zostali nasucho.

• **Slovák Zdeno Mirilovič** (+25) náhle zomrel na letisku v anglickom Birminghame tesne pred odletom domov do vlasti. Na medzinárodnom letisku v sobotu (12.2.2011) chýbal lekár. Vedenie letiska totiž 24-hodinovú lekársku službu vlni zrušilo. Pracovníci medzinárodného letiska sú však trénovaní na poskytovanie prvej pomoci. „Personál pri bráne si myslel, že mladík je opitý. Nedovolili mu nastúpiť do lietadla a on skolaboval pri vchode,“ povedal svedok udalosti pre Kathryn Aviation Report. Keď videli, čo sa deje, rozhodli sa mu poskytnúť prvú pomoc. V sobotu sedemnásť minút po siedmej hodine ráno zavolali na letisko záchranku. Chlapec však napriek snahe lekárov o oživovanie zomrel. Zdeno pred svojou smrťou navštívil v Británii aj lekára. Keďže nebol poistený, poslali ho registrovať sa do inej nemocnice. Nakoniec si však kúpil letenku a rozhodol sa, že liečiť sa bude doma. Odmalička trpel problémami s obličkami.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Radomské zvony v spomienkach bijú

Rímskokatolícky kostol vo Východoslovenskej obci Radoma pri Giraltovcach postavili na vyvýšenom pahorku v rokoch 1792 – 1797. Je zasvätený Panně Márii Ružencovej a preto odpust („kermes“) sa tam koná vždy v prvú októbrovú nedeľu na slávnosť Panny Márie Ružencovej.

Nakoľko v obci Radoma sa nachádza aj farský úrad, koná sa preto v tomto kostole bohoslužba každý deň. V ostatných obciach Okružle, Mestisko a Šandal, ktoré patria pod filiálku Radomského farského úradu, sa omša koná striedavo každú druhú respektíve každú tretiu nedeľu. V pracovné dni sa bohoslužba koná v skorých ranných hodinách, no v nedeľu a vo sviatok o desiatej hodine.

Na veži Radomského kostola sú tri zvony a to veľký, malý a najmenší, tzv. signatúrka. Veľkým a malým zvonom sa vyzváňalo dvojhlasne na dva údery (bim-bam) a so signatúrkou na tri údery (bim-bim-bam). Dokonale zvládnuť tento spôsob zvonkohry vedel iba málokto a najlepšie to vedel iba kostolník. Zvonilo sa takto: veľký zvon sa rozozvučal prvý raz pred svätou omšou. S malým zvonom sa zvonilo druhý raz pred svätou omšou a tesne pred začatím bohoslužby sa zvonilo tretí raz a to so všetkými tromi zvonmi (tzv. zazváňanie). V nedeľu bolo počuť malý zvon v polovici a na konci svätej omše, pri slávnostnej svätej omši sa zvonilo už so všetkými zvonmi. Podobne so všetkými zvonmi sa vyzváňalo tiež pred príchodom veľkej burky. V kombinácii veľký a malý zvon sa zvoniením oznamovalo, že v obci niekto zomrel a podobne sa zvony používali aj počas pohrebného sprievodu. Po západe slnka sa vyzváňalo každý večer malým zvonom a po jeho dozvonení sa pokračovalo signatúrkou v trojštvrťovom takte (tzv. zvonenie „na pacere“). Počas tohto zvonenia sa všetci ľudia v obci modlievali modlitbu Anjel Pána. Signatúrkou sa tiež oznamovala nejaká katastrofa ako požiar v obci, záplava a v minulosti aj nájazdy cudzích vojsk. Od Veľkého piatku až do Vzkriesenia sa nikdy nezvonilo, povrazy od zvonov veriaci zviazali a používali iba tzv. rapkáč.

Z ústneho podania môjho otca som sa dozvedel, že niekedy v 17. alebo 18. storočí sa v močiároch neďaleko obce Štefurov našiel obrovský zvon, na ktorom neboli žiadne nápisy ani iné symboly, podľa ktorých by bolo možné zistiť kedy a kto tento obrovský zvon vyrobil a ako sa do močiara dostal. Tento veľký zvon objavil úplnou náhodou miestny pastier sviň nazývaný tiež Gondáš a to tak, že keď chcel vyhnáť svine ležiace v močiari, tak do nich začal hádzať kamene. Pri hádzaní kameňov počul ako z močiara vychádza nejaké zvonenie. Keď sa vrátil domov a porozprával o tom ľuďom v obci, tak sa tam na druhý deň všetci vybrali a po krátkom hľadaní objavili v bahne veľmi veľký a veľmi ťažký zvon. Na tento zvon sa však nikto z obce Štefurov nepamätal a to ani najstarší obyvatelia obce.

Neskôr sa tento obrovský zvon dostal do susednej obce Okružle, ale keďže bol veľmi ťažký, tak ho nemohli zavesiť do veže miestneho kostola a zavesili ho iba na veľkú asi 200 rokov starú lipu pri kostole. Nakoľko obec Okružle patrila pod filiálku farského úradu v Radome, bolo rozhodnuté, že sa tento obrovský zvon premiestni do obce Radoma, čo sa aj stalo a zvon bol napokon umiestnený do veže Radomského kostola.

Zvon bol tak ťažký, že pri zvonení jeho rozhýbanie, respektíve zastavenie museli vykonávať až traja mocní chlapi. Zvuk tohto obrovského zvona bol v jeho blízkosti veľmi ohlušujúci a bolo ho počuť do širokého okolia a to až do Stropkova, Kurimy a do Giraltovcach. Zvonenie bolo dokonca počuť až pod Chmeľovský kopec, kde ho veľmi dobre počuli furmani, ktorí vozili drevo na konských povozoch do Prešova.

Za prvej svetovej vojny, keď do Radomy dorazili Ruské vojská, tak ich vojaci zvon z veže kostola zhodili s tým, že bude roztavený na vojenskú muníciu. To či z toho veľkého zvona ešte bola vyrobená munícia sa už nevie, pretože vojna sa krátko potom skončila a pravdepodobne ho ruskí vojaci zobrali so sebou do Ruska.

Od tej doby sa spomienky na tento obrovský zvon odovzdávajú v obci Radoma z generácie na generáciu.

Juraj Pavlišin, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia



A meeting of the Minister of Culture Daniel Krajcer and representatives of church and religious organizations was held February 24, 2011, at the Červený Kameň castle in Častá. The theme of the meeting was the question of financing church and religious organizations, preserving cultural buildings, and preparations for the 1150 anniversary celebration of the arrival of SS. Cyril and Methodius to Slovakia.

In the photo are from left, Archbishop Stanislav Zvolenský of Bratislava, Minister of Culture Daniel Krajcer, Evangelical Bishop Miloš Klátik, and Honorary President of the Union of Jewish Communities Pavel Traubner.

Prvé stretnutie ministra kultúry Daniela Krajcera s predstaviteľmi cirkví a náboženských spoločností na Slovensku 24. februára 2011 na hrade Červený Kameň v Častej. Ústrednou témou pracovného stretnutia boli predovšetkým otázky financovania cirkví a náboženských spoločností, ochrana kultúrnych pamiatok, príprav na oslavy 1150. výročia príchodu svätých Cyrila a Metoda ako aj iné aktuálne otázky.

Na snímke v popredí zľava katolícky arcibiskup - metropolita Bratislavskej arcidiecézy Stanislav Zvolenský, minister kultúry Daniel Krajcer, generálny biskup Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania na Slovensku Miloš Klátik a čestný predseda Ústredného zväzu židovských náboženských obcí Pavel Traubner na tlačovej konferencii.

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke spoločné rokovanie predsedov krajín V4, Nemecka, Rakúska a Ukrajiny 15. februára 2011 v Bratislave.

A meeting of the presidents of the Vysegrad 4 was held on February 15, 2011 in Bratislava, Slovakia. This summit was held on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of this regional association of Central European states. Present at the meeting were prime ministers of Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Poland. Representatives from Germany, Austria and Ukraine were present for a second part of the conference.

V Bratislave sa stretli predsedovia vlád V4, Nemecka, Rakúska a Ukrajiny

Bratislava (TASR) - Bratislava sa stala v utorok 15. februára v rámci ročného predsedníctva SR vo Vyšehradskej štvorke (V4) miestom stretnutia predsedov vlád Slovenska, Maďarska, Česka, Poľska, Nemecka, Rakúska a Ukrajiny. Summit V4 bol naplánovaný presne na deň 20. výročia vzniku tohto regionálneho združenia stredoeurópskych štátov.

Na základe pozvania Ivety Radičovej sa na druhej časti rokovania zúčastnili aj nemecká kancelárka Angela Merkelová, rakúsky kancelár Werner Faymann a ukrajinský premiér Mykola Azarov. Kľúčovými témami v rámci rozšíreného formátu V4 bola najmä energetická problematika, európska susedská politika a Východné partnerstvo, ako aj regionálna spolupráca v oblasti krízového manažmentu.



Milan Vetrák nový predseda Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Milan Vetrák is the new president of the organization Slovaks Living Abroad

Bratislava (TASR) - Novým predsedom Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí je JUDr. Milan Vetrák, PhD. Do tejto funkcie ho dňa 10. februára na päť rokov vymenovala vláda. Jeho súčasnej šéfke Vilme Prívarovej vypršalo funkčné obdobie. Tento post zastávala od januára 2006. Vetrák sa podieľal na zriadení Generálneho sekretariátu pre zahraničných Slovákov a Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ). Spolupracoval tiež pri tvorbe zákona o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí a rovnako je autorom článkov o právnom postavení krajanov v zahraničí.

FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškás
JUDr. Milan Vetrák, PhD.

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pripravil tlačovú konferenciu, ktorá sa uskutočnila vo štvrtok 17. februára 2011 v priestoroch Úradu vlády Slovenskej republiky na Námestí slobody v Bratislave. Témou bola Štátna politika starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí na najbližšie obdobie z pohľadu Milana Vetráka, nového predsedu Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Vychádza 2. vydanie románu o živote Jozefa Murgaša „Z doliny prerástol hory“

Bratislava (TASR) –Na slovenský knižný trh prichádza v týchto dňoch životopisný román Z doliny prerástol hory, o známom slovenskom vynálezcovi Jozefovi Murgašovi, ktorý vyšiel vo vydavateľstve Arimes a 17. februára ho v bratislavskom Zichyho paláci prezentoval autor Jozef Vranka. Medzi hosťami bola aj Murgašova praneter Blanka Kolibiarová.

V románe o rodákovi z Tajova Jozefovi Murgašovi (1864-1929) ho autor sprevádza na jeho ceste od žiaka v Tajove, gymnazistu v Banskej Bystrici, študenta výtvarnej akadémie v Mníchove, jeho kaplánskeho pôsobenia na Slovensku až po vedeckú činnosť v Amerike. Pôbil vo Wilkes Barre a pre tamojšiu slovenskú kolóniu vybudoval školu, kostol aj knižnicu. V Amerike získal trinásť patentov v oblasti bezdrôtovej telegrafie.

Po vzniku Československa sa Murgaš vrátil na Slovensko so zámerom vyučovať elektrotechniku. Od Ministerstva školstva v Prahe však nedostal povolenie na pedagogickú činnosť, pretože údajne nemal príslušnú kvalifikáciu, ponuku vyučovať náboženstvo odmietol a sklamaný sa vrátil do Ameriky, kde bol držiteľom trinástich patentov.

“Materiály zbieram od roku 1960, čiže 50 rokov. Je to veľmi namáhavá robota najmä v tom, že na Slovensku nebolo veľa materiálov a väčšinou sa opakovali. Potom sa mi po roku 1990 podarilo dostať do Ameriky a tam som získal veľmi dobré materiály, ktoré predtým na Slovensku neboli. Zberal som a zbieram ich dodnes,” uviedol Jozef Vranka a dodal: “V doplnenom vydaní sú nové veci, podarilo sa mi získať fotografie Murgašových obrazov, ktoré namaľoval v Amerike. Podarilo sa mi aj získať všetky výkresy patentov priamo z patentového úradu. To všetko je publikované prvýkrát.”

Podľa autora bol Murgaš veľmi dobrý človek, dbal o ľudí, aby sa vzdelávali, písal básne, náučné články, bol vášnivý rybár, obdivoval prírodu, jeho zbierka hmyzu mala deväť

Pokračovanie na str. 22

The High Tatras saw more skiers during spring break this year. Here skiers enjoy the slopes at Park Snow by Štrbske Pleso.



FOTO TASR - Lukáš Furcoň

Vysokotatranské lyžiarske strediská zaznamenávajú počas jarných prázdnin výrazný nárast počtu návštevníkov, medzi ktorými dominujú rodiny s prázdninujúcimi deťmi. Na snímke lyžiarske stredisko Park Snow na Štrbskom Plese 15. februára 2011.