



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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2012 Annual Report Of The National Chaplain March 2013

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the FCSU:

It is an honor to be your National Chaplain. I was happy to be present for and participate in several events during the last year.

In January I joined others from across the country in Washington, DC, for the annual March for Life.

I attended either in person or by means of teleconference all Board of Directors meetings that were held in 2012. I opened and closed each session with prayer and offered Mass at those meetings I was personally present. At the invitation of the National President, I also attended the Executive Committee meeting that was held in March.

I participated in our two main fraternal activities during the year: the annual Bowling Tournament, which was in Eastlake, OH; and the Golf Tournament, held in Sharon, PA, for a second consecutive year. I offered Mass at both locations.

In July I traveled to Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA, for the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association's Annual Slovak Day and concelebrated the Mass held there.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

continued on page 12



2012 Annual Report Of The Executive Secretary March 15-16, 2013

Reverend Father, Mr. President and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada; it is my pleasure to present this report to you, the Board of Directors of the FCSU.

The Society experienced successful operating results for the year 2012. Operating profits and net income were higher than 2011 and continued a long string of profitable years. Net gain from operations before capital gains amounted to \$1,321,333. Total asset value increased 7.1% (+\$20,373,754) with realized capital gains of \$198,857 and \$364,955 of unrealized capital gains. Liabilities increased \$18,711,198 (7%) and surplus increased 8.8%.

The increase in surplus resulted from the strong operating gains and realized capital gains: which were more than sufficient to offset the increase in the AVR.

continued on page 12



Kenneth Arendt

Deadline for the 2012 tax year on IRA deposits is April 15, 2013. There's still time!

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President's Annual Report For The Year 2012 Presented At The Annual Board Of Directors Meeting Friday, March 15, 2013

Fellow Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

First I would like us to remember and pray for all of the Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who have reached Eternal Life since our March 2012 Board Meeting, including our recently departed, retired long-term Regional Director, George Sprock, whose funeral I attended on February 28, 2013.

I want to thank our employees for their efforts and the Board of Directors for their support and our Members, for your continued interest in and support of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The U.S. stock markets have reached new highs in certain indexes and while unemployment remains stubbornly high at over 7% + there seems to be evidence that the general U.S. economy is improving.

While "sequestration" is the topic in Washington, D.C. its effects are widely speculated. Will "sequestration" harm the economy to the extent causing a "double - dip recession" or will it prove to be the impetus that leads the United States to gain control of its budget crisis and lead to long term fiscal health? Time will tell. In the mean time our Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, must prudently invest our Members funds, while also trying to grow our membership, promote Slovak culture and our Catholic faith.

In 2012 we did not want to unnecessarily take added risk in our portfolio. Our number one priority is the protection of funds entrusted to us by our Members, whether it be in insurance or annuities. Some other companies, including some fraternal, have chosen to substantially increase their annuity liabilities in a manner we believe is not in our Member's best interest in today's investment environment.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has made a conscious decision not to aggressively increase our annuity sales. In 2012 we had about \$18 million dollars in annuity sales compared to \$15 million in 2011.

That being said, I am proud to report that our December 31, 2012 financial report filed as *continued on page 3*



Andrew M. Rajec

AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH ACCOUNTS

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA


INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.35% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.10% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee	3.25% APY
(new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	1.90% APY
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% APY

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, Please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

Email: fcsu@aol.com

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Check out our Part II Winners of the National Coloring Contest on Pg 14-15

Insights and Viewpoints



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

April 7, 2013

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Gospel Summary

It is surely an understatement to say that the disciples were filled with joy as Jesus appeared to them, alive and well, on that first Easter day. It will take years for them to draw out all the wonderful implications of this dramatic moment in their lives but for now it is sheer joy. Jesus then gives them a mandate to bring peace to the world by translating their happiness into the difficult but rewarding gift of forgiveness.

The story of "doubting Thomas" is presented as a warning to those of us who have trouble trusting the spiritual side of life. Thomas is called the "twin," possibly because he had a striking physical resemblance to Jesus, but he discovers that this does not give him any advantage at all. What counts now is a spiritual relationship. We often assume that those who knew Jesus in the flesh had a great advantage over the rest of us and we may even envy them. In fact, however, the risen Lord is far more present to us now in the Spirit than he ever was in the flesh.

Finally, the author of the gospel reminds us that everything he has written is intended, not primarily to give us information about Jesus, but rather to bring us to faith in him and thereby to lead us to real "life in his name."

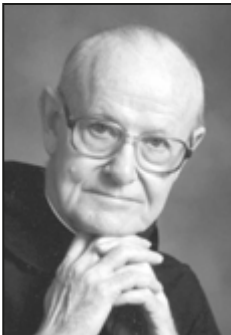
Life Implications

The last verses of this gospel passage are among the most challenging passages in the entire gospel. In the first place, we are told that the whole gospel of John is intended to bring us to "believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God." This does not mean simply that we accept the fact that Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's hopes and, much more than that, the very Son of God, equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit. To believe in Jesus means also that we accept the message, found in his words and in his example, of total self-giving for the sake of others. When we truly accept this message, we pledge ourselves to live and love as much as possible Jesus did.

What is the consequence of such a radical way of living? It enables us to participate in the very life of Jesus. As the gospel puts it, the whole purpose of believing is that "you may have life in his name." This statement is far more daring and revolutionary than we may think. For it means that, through love of others, we begin to participate in the love and life of God. To love unselfishly is to love as God loves, and that means sharing in God's life, insofar as mere creatures can do so.

In other words, we are invited to share in a life that is far superior to the fragile, uncertain life of our mortal existence. This new life is given in baptism but it must be nourished by our commitment to loving service and by our participation in the Eucharist, the ultimate sacrament of love and concern for others.

St. Paul expresses the same conviction when he writes those wonderfully consoling words: "Therefore, we are not discouraged; although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor 4:16). This inner renewal is nothing less than the growth of God's life within us.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

Third Sunday of Easter

John 21:1-19

Gospel Summary

Simon Peter and his companions after fishing all night catch nothing. At dawn as they approach shore, someone on the shore whom they do not recognize directs them to cast out their net. When the net is filled with a large catch, the beloved disciple recognizes Jesus, now risen from death, and says to Peter, "It is the Lord." When they reach shore, they see a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus invites them to eat with him. He takes bread and gives it to them and in like manner the fish. Jesus then asks Peter three times if he loves him, and says to him in turn, "Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep." Jesus then speaks of the kind of death Simon Peter will undergo, and says to him, "Follow me."

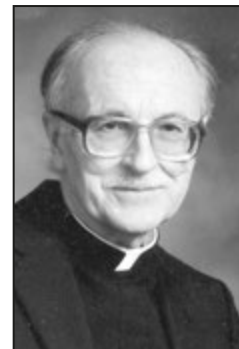
Life Implications

Friendship with Jesus is the one essential thing of life, regardless of any other circumstance—sickness or health, poverty or wealth, low or high position in society or church. That is the supreme truth John wants to tell us in his gospel. The good news is that Jesus desires our friendship, and offers it to all who welcome him in faith. We can identify with many of the persons Jesus encounters in the gospel—the Samaritan woman, Martha and Mary, Lazarus (at whose death Jesus wept), Peter, Mary Magdalene, the beloved disciple. The gospel also warns us not to identify with those who reject friendship, and even betray friendship with Jesus. Jesus can also call us his friends because he has told us everything he has heard from his Father (Jn 15:15). The titles that we use to address Jesus (Messiah, Lord, Son of God), however orthodox and exalted they may be, are inadequate to express the full meaning of Jesus for us unless they include "Beloved Friend."

A personal, loving relationship with the Risen Lord clearly was a distinguishing characteristic of John's community. Sad experience, however, soon revealed that individual relationships with Jesus were not sufficient to hold the community together. We can see from the First Letter of John that various individuals, claiming to speak with the Spirit of Jesus, began to teach false doctrines. Eventually they formed splinter groups that separated people from the community. In our gospel passage today, John shows us that individual friendships with Jesus must be complemented by authority within the community. The Risen Lord commissions Peter to serve that function.

That authority that Jesus gives, however, must be exercised out of deep friendship with him. "Do you love me?" Jesus asks Peter the crucial question three times as he commissions him to tend and to feed his sheep. The principle, of course, applies not only to the successor of Peter, but to everyone who exercises authority in the church, from the family to the chancery. Only in this way does human authority become an expression of the authority of Jesus, the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

In today's gospel passage, John also links friendship with Jesus with his real presence at our Eucharistic meal. The meal Jesus shares with his disciples together with the feeding of the large crowd (John 6) and the Last Supper Discourse reveal the meaning of the Eucharist for us. Jesus, the Risen Lord, truly is with us at our sacred meal—speaks to us, prays with us, leads us in self-giving to the Father, gives himself to us as our bread and wine. He calls us his disciples and his friends: the life implications remain the same. Jesus also says to us: "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). The way we will fulfill his request to follow him as disciples in service of others is unique and particular for each of us. We can count on the Spirit of Jesus to guide us in discerning what that service will be.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24	MONDAY, APRIL 15
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8	MONDAY, APRIL 29
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22	MONDAY, MAY 13

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

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Message From President

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required with the State of Ohio, our state of domicile, as confirmed by our outside Actuary Bruce and Bruce, and audited by the outside Auditors Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP, shows that the Society has reached another new record in total assets of \$305,479,561 million dollars.

In addition, and more importantly, surplus for 2012 increased by \$1,662,556 million dollars to another new record of \$20,646,573 at 12/31/2012 even after giving a dividend to our Members approximately the same as in 2011. Some fraternal continue to lose surplus.

As I noted in my 2011 report we cannot expect a new record of profits and increased surplus every year. However, in 2012 the FCSU showed another net gain from operations of \$1,718,622.

As of December 31, 2012, FCSU solvency ratio exceeded 107%, another new record high. The solvency rate means that there are assets of \$107 dollars for every \$100 dollars of liabilities.

The FCSU continues to fully fund its annuity reserves from the date of deposit, which means that FCSU's reserving method establishes annuities at full fund account value without adjustment for surrender penalties. FCSU is one of only a handful of fraternal insurers that uses this conservative reserving method, another step to protect Member's funds.

The NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) and the various State Insurance Departments have been more aggressive in monitoring the financial strength of all insurance companies and fraternal.

As a measure of an insurance company's financial health, States require each company's Actuary to run and provide what are called "Cash Flow Studies" every year. These are complex and costly to the FCSU and to all other insurance companies and fraternal.

A very important test was added in the past few years, called "Risk Based Capital Calculation" (RBC). Many State regulators consider the test to be an extremely important tool. State Insurance Departments consider a RBC ratio of under 300 as a red flag warning, under 250 they contact companies by written letter (action response required) to determine what action a company intends to take to improve their surplus, and overall financial health, and under 200, a State Insurance Department can start regulatory action, which could include forcing the company to raise capital, cease writing new business, and even liquidate.

I am pleased and proud to report that the First Catholic Slovak Union has a Risk Based Capital ratio of 640%, a sign of financial strength. Surplus is very important. If we want to attract young, financially savvy new Members, we must show financial stability and strength.

The challenge however continues for us in many areas and for various reasons, which I will discuss.

2013 Challenges

The challenges the Society faces in 2013 are varied and some are not new. They include the investment environment, interest rates, the number of Recommenders, new agents, existing and new Branches, membership and fraternalism.

Investment Yields

The year 2012 was another positive year for the Society. In my 2010 and 2011 reports I noted that the coming years would provide challenges. The investment climate for bonds, in which the Society by law must invest most of its assets, has continued to provide historically low yields. With the stagnant economy, companies have not gone to the bond market to raise funds. Also, the Federal Reserve has provided almost unlimited dollars at historically low rates to try to stimulate the U.S. economy. The Society has had to adjust its annuity rates to maintain our "spread" and increase our SPWL rates to adjust to the market yields.

Membership and Marketing

We have made some strides in membership aided by our very competitive insurance and annuity rates. Our annuity rates were attractive during 2012 and we reached the budgeted amount of money we would accept. We could have sold \$100,000,000 if we had wanted. But as I have said previously, we want controlled growth to protect our Members. Our model has proved successful.

We want to emphasize life insurance, especially whole life, rather than annuities in 2013. To accomplish this we need additional participation from our Recommenders and we need to add more independent agents. We have taken steps in 2012 to take the necessary steps to set and reach certain goals, which may include the addition of needed resources.

As you know we applied to be admitted to sell our products in more states. From the original 15 states, the First Catholic Slovak Union can now in 2013 sell our products and attract new Members in 26 states including Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, with California soon to be approved.

The situation of our Branches has been discussed previously. As you know, the Society has experienced decreased activity in too many Branches with the aging or passing of older long-time Officers. We have initiated the merger of certain Branches as we had previously reported to the Board. We prefer to find Officers for existing Branches. Can you help us? We are not alone; other fraternal are experiencing a similar situation.

We have considered a program to utilize new independent agents to help organize new Branches in areas we currently do not have Branches and in new states. Some other fraternal have taken this approach, unfortunately, our information is that they have had limited success.

We encourage current and new Recommenders to be state licensed to sell more products by incentivizing them to get licensed. A program was announced but with limited response. More complex products require more information and training. Some states will require full agent licensing to sell products. We currently have over 125 independent agents contracted to sell our products and that number will increase.

Our Society has clearly said we want to preserve Slovak Catholic heritage. We showed that at the 2010 FCSU Convention with our emphasis on Slovak culture, music, dance and speakers. We will keep this goal in mind in planning our 2014 Convention.

We also continue to publish and improve the contents of our newspaper, the Jednota, our own FCSU website, as well as support various Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, including the Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America as well as many others. I pledge to continue to support our Slovak heritage and Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, as well as a continuing relationship with the Slovak Republic through its Embassy in Washington, D.C. I think you will agree that our Jednota Editor Terri Ivanec has done an excellent job in 2012. I want to thank Anna Sutherland for her work on the Slovak section of the Jednota.

Fraternalism

The Society was originally founded by Slovak immigrants in 1890 and attracted and served as means of bonding together like-minded people sharing a common language, heritage and religion in a strange new land. As time passed newer generations gradually assimilated into the American fabric and common ethnic bonds stretched, as to be expected and as experienced by all ethnic fraternal.

We are a fraternal and intend to remain that way for our Members' benefit. Branches and Districts are important and we must strive to maintain and support them for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is fraternalism.

The FCSU currently has two national fraternal events, the National Bowling Tournament and the Golf Tournament. In 2011 we held a National Picnic on August 14th, in Novelty, Ohio. In 2013 our National Picnic will be held August 11th in Millstone Township, New Jersey. Many years past the Society, through its Branches, supported Jednota baseball teams, gymnastic events, etc. Times changed after World War II and most of those activities ceased. As I have said many times previously, the Slovak fraternal should get together to better serve all their members both financially, culturally and fraternally. In May of 2013 we will participate in a Joint Bowling Tournament with the National Slovak Society, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. In summer 2013 we will co-host a Golf Tournament with NSS. Thanks to our Activity Director Susan Ondrejco for her efforts. We would like to do more and have advanced some proposals.

We continue to add to and change displays in our new Museum at our Home Office in Independence. I again ask that if you or anyone you know has articles to be donated or loaned for the Museum, please contact me. We have had several contributions already. We want to preserve our valuable heritage. We are especially eager to find the large banners Branches used in church processions.

Personally, 2012 has again been a very busy year. I have attended Branch and District meetings, picnics, Vilijias and other events in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey,

Connecticut, New York, Illinois and Wisconsin. I have participated in seminars with our Vice President.

Some people may question the need for making personal visits and/or hold seminars. I still believe that the Society, our Officers and myself need to be visible to our Members and potential members. Members want to know that the Home Office is interested in them and their activities. We are interested and want to support them.

I also made several visits to our properties in Middletown, PA to meet with our Jednota Slovak Editor Anna Sutherland and the maintenance personnel of our land and properties. We have previously discussed the Middletown properties. There will be a report on them later. Building No. 1 is fully rented at this time. However, absentee property management is difficult and does not get easier with time and complications.

The sewer line serving the Jednota Printery building and Building # 2 in Middletown, Pennsylvania runs through land owned by a third party by an Easement Agreement signed by the FCSU in 1978. As you know the owner of that property has filed suit regarding improvements to that easement that the owner of the property claims is the obligation of the FCSU. We now are in the discovery stage of litigation.

There has been no recent activity regarding the vacant Middletown land due to the continuing real estate downturn, however we do see signs of some hope.

As I have said previously, we will move the Jednota soldier monument from behind the Printery, up to Rosedale Road, create a small park to make it visible and honor our deceased Jednota veterans from several wars. It would also be appropriate to honor the site of the former Jednota Orphanage at that time. With the help of our Regional Director Jim Marmol we have hired a project manager and expect to do this project in 2013. We will make it possible for our Members and Branches to participate in this project. More news to come.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Board for their help and cooperation. With continuing and new challenges, 2013 will require all of our skills and efforts to continue and expand our success. It does not get any easier. This year's results show, that with the cooperation of our Home Office, the Executive Committee, and all our Officers working together as a team, we can accomplish outstanding results.

Also, I want to thank our Members and especially our Branch and District officers for their continued support and commitment to our Society.

Ďakujem. Thank you. Za Boha a Národ – For God and Nation.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

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

Annual Statement for the year 2012 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Year			Prior Year
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	4 Net Admitted Assets
1. Bonds (Schedule D).....	281,561,350		281,561,350	255,081,164
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	700,000		700,000	2,927,429
2.2 Common stocks.....	3,178,369		3,178,369	2,757,043
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	1,587,886		1,587,886	1,737,103
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,020,772		1,020,772	1,074,301
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	811,890		811,890	843,809
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....7,916,511, Schedule E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$.....0, Schedule E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$.....0, Schedule DA).....	7,916,511		7,916,511	5,245,506
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,014,147		1,014,147	992,342
7. Derivatives (Schedule DB).....			0	
8. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	3,746,150		3,746,150	10,600,462
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets (Schedule DL).....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	302,099,750	0	302,099,750	281,821,834
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	3,361,023		3,361,023	3,252,818
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	18,788		18,788	31,155
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	10,250	10,250	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	19,287	19,287	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 to 25).....	305,509,098	29,537	305,479,561	285,105,807
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. TOTALS (Lines 26 and 27).....	305,509,098	29,537	305,479,561	285,105,807

Annual Statement for the year 2011 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life certificates and contracts (Exhibit 5, Line 9999999) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	243,149,000	227,605,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (Exhibit 6, Line 16, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (Exhibit 7, Line 14, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	29,587,520	26,045,653
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, Column 1 less sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid (Exhibit 4, Line 10).....		
6. Provision for refunds payable in following calendar year-estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Col. 1, sum of Lines 4 and 14).....	293,109	313,734
8. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 6).....	171,618	1,332,565
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	14,903	25,692
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	562,268	364,187
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued (Exhibit 3, Line 8, Col. 6).....	21,858	24,066
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	7,022,497	7,140,958
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	10,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve (AVR, Line 16, Col. 7).....	2,350,068	2,145,008
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....	535,709	
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	414,927	414,927
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	284,832,989	266,121,790
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	284,832,989	266,121,790
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	20,646,572	18,984,017
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	20,646,572	18,984,017
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	305,479,561	285,105,807

Annual Statement for the year 2011 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Line 20.4, Col. 1).....	19,650,874	15,290,804
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	13,393,552	13,294,944
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	310,954	293,139
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....		
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.1, Col. 1).....		
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....		
8. Miscellaneous Income:		
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....		
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....		
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	79,911	54,655
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	33,435,291	28,933,542
10. Death benefits.....	2,696,560	3,043,177
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....		1,085
12. Annuity benefits.....	10,003,697	20,483,778
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	659,904	545,361
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	273,274	284,035
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	15,544,000	799,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	29,177,435	25,156,436
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only) (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 31, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....	216,199	220,845
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.2, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....		
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses (Exhibit 2, Line 10, Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).....	2,639,407	2,421,858
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	141,005	80,954
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....		
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(457,377)	(467,794)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	31,716,669	27,412,299
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,718,622	1,521,243
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	397,288	393,805
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,321,333	1,127,438
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$.....(849,993) transferred to the IMR).....	198,857	(1,269,681)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,520,191	(142,243)
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	18,984,017	17,519,864
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,520,191	(142,243)
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	364,955	964,771
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....		
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	9,823	20,162
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....		
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease (Exhibit 5A, Line 9999999, Col. 4).....		
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(205,060)	621,146
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....		
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts statement.....		
42. Change in surplus notes.....		
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....		
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....		
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	(27,352)	317
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,662,556	1,464,153
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	20,646,573	18,984,017

An Easter Message From The National Treasurer

As you read this issue of Jednota, chances are you have already celebrated Holy week – the saddest and holiest time of the church year. We, as Christians, automatically recall the suffering and ultimately the Lord’s death on the cross and his glorious resurrection.

During this most holy time this year, we also have experienced the joy of an election of a new pope. We ask the Lord Jesus Christ to provide his blessings on his Holiness, Pope Francis.

On behalf of my wife and my family, we extend our prayers, along with the blessings of the Easter Season, to you and to all your loved ones, as we continue our celebration until Pentecost Sunday.

George F. Matta
National Treasurer



George F. Matta



Get Ready for a New Way to Register for the 2013 National Picnic

Attention, FCSU Members. Are you ready for a fun day of fraternalism? This year, we will hold our National Picnic at the Frogbridge Resort – an 86-acre all-inclusive natural wonderland centrally located in New Jersey about an hour away from Philadelphia and New York City, and easily accessible from all major roadways including the NJ Turnpike. This year’s event – FREE to all FCSU members – promises to be a fraternal event you’ll remember for years to come – filled with fun activities to choose from such as swimming, kayaking, pedal boats, baseball, basketball, tennis, soccer, mini golf, driving range, horseshoes – plus, a delicious all-you-can-eat picnic served under a picturesque covered pavilion.

The first 200 members to register will be entered in a drawing to win a Chewy Čuvač stuffed animal, complete with “official” certification and dog tag. This year, advance reservations are required. To help you register as early as possible, online registration will be offered.

A \$15 admission fee will be charged to all non-members attending the picnic. Not an FCSU member? Sign up for FCSU membership today! Go to www.fcsu.com

Watch the next issue of Jednota for details on registration and the Chewy drawing.



A declared dividend was presented by the Jednota Properties, Inc. at their board meeting on Saturday, March 16, 2013, to the First Catholic Slovak Union, reflective of the ongoing well-run management of the for-profit Jednota Properties, Inc. Accepting the declared dividend for the FCSU are: (L – R) President Andrew Rajec and Treasurer George Matta while Jednota Properties, Inc. President and General Manager Regis Brekosky and Secretary Joseph S. Bielecki make the dividend presentation.

- Submitted by James Marmol, Photographer and Region 4 Director

Chewy & His New American Cousins

Hi, Kids (and all those Young At Heart).

It’s me, Chewy. Look what I’ve been up to ... seriously, check it out. Here I am, meeting and greeting my new American cousins and bonding with their mom, who’s kinda become my adopted Mom in the States.

Yep. Me, Chewy Čuvač, who left his littermates and mom and dad behind in the mountains of Slovakia when I traveled to the US to meet my excellent friends at the FCSU, now has a čuvač family of my very own right here in the old US of A. Eight brand spanking new cousins to be exact – five girls (sesternice, which is Slovak for girl cousins) and three boys (bratrance, which is Slovak for boy cousins).

Ever hear the saying “I wasn’t born yesterday?” Well, hey, these guys were! And yours truly was there to take it all in. See, my friend Elisabeth Pisula who I met last year when I came to Texas for a čuvač breeders show (editor’s note: see the Nov 21, 2012 Jednota, p. 5, for the full story) invited me back down for the birthing. She’s great, that Elisabeth. As the president of the Slovensky Čuvač Club in the US, she has a lot of experience breeding and caring for my kind. When those eight pups came into the world, she was right there, making sure they were breathing normally, keeping the nursery between 80 and 90 degrees, and seeing that they were able to suckle strongly. The little whippersnappers need to nurse big-time – especially within the first 24 hours of life – so that they ingest all the awesome protective immunity their mom provides through her milk, to keep them safe until their own immune systems are ready to take over.

I can’t wait to play with my newfound American family. Right now, though, cutsie as they are, they aren’t a whole ton of fun. All they want to do is eat and sleep. Heck, they can’t even see or hear for another few weeks, so maybe I’ll have to plan a return trip and bring lots of fun stuff like braided rope, rubber balls, and plenty of (wait for it ...) CHEWY rawhides for their growing zubky (that’s Slovak for teeth).

Do you have a puppy in your home, or a dog you’ve raised from puppyhood? Now that I’ve also experienced puppyhood from day one (aside from my own which of course I don’t remember), let’s swap stories sometime, OK?

Until then, keep your ears up and your tail waggin’

Your friend (tvoj priateľ),



Chewy



Me and my new čuvač cousins, born Mar 13, 2013

Awww... they just don’t get cuter than this!



A guy can never have enough Slovak moms, you know?



About the Slovensky Čuvač Dog Club

Established in 1982 under its current owner Elisabeth Pisula, the Slovensky Cucav Dog Club enjoys acceptance in the American Kennel Club (AKC). With this latest litter, there are 80 cuvac dogs registered in the United States and Canada. For more information on the club or the dogs, please contact:

Elisabeth Pisula
3719 Glenwood Dr
Richmond, TX 77406
tel: 281 344 0027
email: slovenskycucavusa@gmail.com

Branch 784 Banquet Enjoyed By All

By: Vince Bystrican

MONTREAL — Sunday, November 25th, 2012, even though somewhat coldish, it turned out to be just a beautiful and very much the kind of day you almost expect it to be, if you were living in Montreal of course. It was cold, but there wasn't snow.

Keeping in line with the 784 Branch activity calendar, a banquet bringing together more than eighty members and non-members was held on the last Sunday of November. A special thank you and our note of appreciation goes to all involved in organizing the banquet and including the food preparation, making the banquet to be a very pleasant and a festive occasion. A prayer before the meal was said followed by a nice food menu consisting of a choice of white or red wine, traditional tasty chicken soup, a winner-schnitzel, mashed potatoes, selected vegetables, cake and coffee or tea, while the sounds of the beautiful Christmas carols were played filling the hall helping everyone to immerse into the genuine Christmas festive mood. The hall, lightly decorated with Santa's faces added to the festive mood as well. If we happened to live in the 5th century, we would not be able to enjoy such an event, as those days the advent period began on 11 November and took the form of a six week fast leading to Christmas. During the 6th century, Advent was reduced to its current length and later the fasting was dropped. Because of that, today we're free to enjoy the good food and have good time without feeling guilty about breaking any rules. While enjoying the meal, sipping on the wine or on the good Slovak beer - Golden Pheasant, everyone had an ample opportunity to catch-up on family, friends and the community life. For the children, it was a lot of fun, especially those singing the Christmas carols knowing all the lyrics so well. A special thank you goes to Mr. Frank Aufdermauer, for his generous and an appreciable donation of the red roses, adding a special touch and making this occasion so much more festive. Several roses were placed on each table and around the hall, which at the end they were taken home by the appreciative banquet attendees.

From the community point of view, it is important that we participate in the community organized events, support them and also consider joining them, in order to help to preserve our Slovak traditions - our pride.

Big thank you to everyone for attending the banquet.



The 2013 Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh

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

Each year before Easter, Prince of Peace parish on Pittsburgh's South Side hosts a Slovak language Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast. This is the only Mass still offered in the Slovak language in Pittsburgh, so it is worth putting on one's calendar. Usually the event takes place each year on the Saturday prior to Holy Week, but this year it occurred on March 16, 2013, two weeks before Easter.

The Mass was celebrated at the beautiful St. Adalbert Church, the former Polish-American church which became the Prince of Peace parish church after the consolidation of seven local parishes on Pittsburgh's South Side. The former Slovak parish of St. Matthew was the original Slovak church in that quarter of the city, and today it has been converted into condominiums. The former pastor of St. Matthew, Father Pavlik (deceased since 2007), wished to make sure that the celebration of traditional Slovak Lenten and Easter season customs continued after the churches had merged.

When the faithful arrived at church on Saturday morning for 10 am Mass, greeters dressed in traditional Slovak kroj (folk costume) welcome them and provided a song sheet and booklet with the liturgy of Holy Mass entitled "Klaniame sa, vďaka a chválu vzdávame Pánovi a Bohu našmu" (We worship, give thanks and praise to the Lord our God). An accompanying brochure included Slovak prayers, blessings for foods, and a summary of Slovak customs about the various foods at the Easter breakfast at the parish hall following the Mass.

The Holy Rosary in Slovak

The morning prayers began with the recitation of the Holy Rosary in the Slovak language, accompanied by the Sorrowful Mysteries. After reciting the Rosary, Father Peter Haladej, celebrated Holy Mass in Slovak. Rev. Haladej, who is a native of the Diocese of Košice, Slovakia, currently serves at St. Aloysius Church in East Liverpool, Ohio.

Holy Mass in Slovak

Holy Mass began with the solemn processional hymn Radostou oplývám (Filled with joy). Following Scripture readings in Slovak and an English language sermon, the congregation sang the very solemn Offertory hymn Môj milý Ježišú (My dear Jesus), which recalls the selfless sacrifice which Jesus endured to redeem us.

The ushers collected for two causes, one for the Mass celebrants and the parish ministry, and a second collection benefiting two charities in Slovakia – the orphanage in Ružomberok, ministered by the Sisters of St. Francis, and the Balicka Institute, a school for disabled children in Prešov in eastern Slovakia.

After the Offertory, Hosannas echoed in Slovak. The priest recited the Prayers of the Faithful and the Consecration in the Slovak language. The Otče Náš (Our Father) resounded loudly, and most everyone present knew it well. At Holy Communion, the congregation joined in the mellow hymn Buď vždy pozdravená (Always be hailed), which invites the Lord of perfection to cleanse our immortal souls. A Meditation song followed.

For the recessional hymn, the congregation joined in singing Srdce puka (The Heart is breaking), which recalls the sorrow associated with Jesus' painful death for sinners. The second verse of the hymn calls to mind the painful drama that the Virgin Mary went through in witnessing and enduring her Son's cruel torture and death.

The Slovak hymns of passion are quite moving and spare no details in describing the sacrifice of Jesus' last days and crucifixion. They assist the faithful in feeling the dreaded torture and death Jesus endured to redeem mankind from sin.

The Slovak Easter Breakfast

After the moving spiritual experience of participation in Slovak Mass, the congregation headed several blocks away to the parish hall for a light Slovak Easter Breakfast. The meal was provided at no cost to the congregation, but donations and a bake sale helped pay expenses for the hall. Many volunteers, including Mrs. Connie Zatak and her husband Paul, worked diligently to make the event a success. The simple meal which followed included an Easter egg, a slice of šunka (ham), klobasa (smoked sausage), paska (Easter bread), hruška or syrek (cheese), chren strúhaný (grated horseradish), maslo (butter), sol (salt), and some makové koláče (poppy seed rolls) for dessert.

The program explained the significance of each food according to Slovak religious customs. In Slovak, Polish, Carpatho-Rusyn, and Ukrainian families, the mother always loaded a wicker basket of these foods on Holy Saturday, and would take them to the church for the priest to bless. The foods always tasted wonderful because devout Christians observed a fast from many meats and sweets for Lent.

The traditional paska is a sweet Easter bread with much butter and eggs, symbolizing Christ, who is our Bread of Life. Paska comes in a round form, with a golden crust, and traditionally had a cross or some other symbol of Christ on it. A braid of dough would give it the appearance of a crown. In the ancient Slavonic language, the letters "XB"



Connie Zatak and daughter



Rudy Ondrejco holds the cross during the procession at the March 16th Slovak Mass celebrated by Fr Holaday

All photos courtesy of Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.



Members Rudy and Sue Ondrejco at the Easter breakfast held at Prince of Peace Hall on March 16, 2013



Dwayne Hovanec and his mother at the Prince of Peace Easter breakfast.

were used, meaning "Christ is Risen."

Šunka (ham) was the traditional main dish on most Slovak and Slavic tables on Easter Day. It symbolized the "great joy and abundance of Easter."

Klobasa or Kolbassi (smoked sausage) was a tasty and spicy treat to remind one of the Lord's generosity and kindness. Some Slovaks also included slanina (smoked bacon) in their Easter meals, as a sign of God's mercy to sinners.

Hrudka or syrek (a special homemade Easter cheese) is a unique Slovak dish. My own mother used to spend Holy Saturday mixing milk, eggs, and other ingredients, putting it in a sheet, and then hanging it to drip-dry until much of the watery part drained off. Then she shaped into a ball and later cut it up, with each of us in the family having a taste. It has a mildly sweet taste and is supposed to symbolize the moderation that Christians should observe in all they do. For us children, it was an amazing process to watch, and we did not quite understand all the painstaking work and how symbolic it was.

Hrin consists of chren (grated horseradish) mixed with strúhané repy (grated red beets). These were to remind one of Christ's passion, especially because of the red coloring. But a bit of sugar reminds one of the Resurrection.

Maslo (butter) was typically melted and molded into religious shapes such as a Cross or a Lamb, symbolizing Christ the Sacrificial Lamb. It was to remind us of the goodness of Christ that we should always keep in mind.

Sol' (salt) was a staple in every Slovak diet. The condiment was to remind of our Christian duty to be mindful of others, loving our neighbor.

No celebration of the Resurrection would be complete without the well-known Easter egg (pysanka). It was hard-boiled and decorated with brilliant colors to recall the new life we acquire through Christ. Slovaks and other Slavs spent many long hours drawing religious symbols and other decorations made from beeswax and other dyes.

These were among the items that went into wicker basket that was covered with a linen cloth, decorated with a bright ribbon, and taken to the church for a blessing. The linen cloth served as a reminder of the shroud that covered Jesus. During the blessing, a decorated candle was also typically placed in the basket and lit. In wine-growing regions, families would often include a bottle of wine as well.

At the parish hall, those who wished to purchase Slovak specialties could take advantage of a bake sale which offered koláče, paska, klobasa, and other Slovak delicacies.

Exhibits

The exhibits at the Easter Breakfast included displays of a variety of Slovak-American items as well as imported Slovak books, cards, crystal, dolls, pottery, embroideries, a homemade klobasa-making demonstration, etc. Some exhibits demonstrated craftwork and offered the opportunity to purchase a variety of items, including pysanky, the colorful Easter eggs with the intricate details of traditional Slavic motifs, and some traditional bahniatka (pussy willow branches). Slovaks traditionally used bahniatky on Palm Sunday instead of palm branches, which were not available in Slovakia. The Western Pa. Slovak Association staffed by Rudy and Sue Ondrejco showcased some materials from the National Slovak Society Museum and publicized the programs which the NSS sponsors to teach how to make pysanky.

Besides the many displays, this was also a time to socialize with old friends and meet new ones. It provides both an uplifting spiritual experience and helps foster the perpetuation of our Slovak traditions here in America. These customs have helped define us as Catholics and Slovaks. Za Boha a národ (For God and nation). Veselé Velkonočné sviatky (Happy Easter Holidays)!



L-R) Rebecca Kopanic, Milenka Feighner, and Dr Kopanic attended the Slovak Mass.

Scenes from the 21st Slovak Ball in NYC

The 21st annual Slovak Ball hosted by the Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC) was held at the prestigious New York Athletic Club located across from Central Park in New York City on February 9, 2013. Among its attendees were special guests of honor representing the diplomatic community: Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America H.E. Peter Kmec; Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations H.E. Frantisek Ruzicka; and Consul General of the Slovak Republic Jana Trnovcova.

The evening was filled with dining and dancing. S-ACC President Zuzana Krcmar welcomed the distinguished guests and all of the Ball attendees. H.E. Ambassador Peter Kmec commenced the evening with a few words. One of the highlights of the evening for many attendees was the drawing of the raffle prizes. Thanks to generous sponsors and donors, this year's Raffle included prizes such as a canvas painting from the famous Slovak artist Daniel Brogyanyi, a round trip ticket to Vienna, two nights at the luxurious Hotel Elysee in NYC, iPad mini, VIP tickets to Slovak Fashion Night courtesy of +421 Foundation, gift certificate and goodie bag from First Catholic Slovak Union, dinner vouchers to Koliba, Milan's restaurant, Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden, and more.

The proceed from the Slovak Ball as well as donations to S-ACC fund the Joseph Stasko Scholarship Fund which awards scholarships to deserving Slovak students studying at City University.

For more information on upcoming S-ACC events, more photos from the Slovak Ball, and details on how you can become a member please visit our website: www.slovakamericanc.org.

**- Submitted by Sabina Sabados,
FCSU Branch 716 President & Supreme Court
Secretary and S-ACC Treasurer**



Ball attendees pose for a photo with the Band, Express by Marek Soltis that provided wonderful entertainment for the evening.



Consul General of the Slovak Republic Jana Trnovcova expressing her commitment to working together with the Slovak community in the tri-state area on Slovak cultural events. Pictured with S-ACC Vice President Matus Culen.



Dr. and Mrs. Lorinc with H.E. Ambassador Peter Kmec



Pictured from left to right: "Mr. Thomas Masi, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America H.E. Peter Kmec, Slovak Ball Chair and S-ACC Treasurer Sabina Sabados, Consul General of the Slovak Republic Jana Trnovcova, S-ACC President Zuzana Krcmar, S-ACC Vice President Matus Culen, and Mr. Stano Krcmar.



Marta Federkova, Sabina Sabados, H.E. Ambassador Peter Kmec, and Mr. and Mrs. Filak



Slovak artist Daniel Brogyanyi commenting on the artwork that he donated for the beautiful Raffle which included prizes from generous sponsors such as the FCSU, Milan's Restaurant, Koliba, +421 Foundation, HK Hotels, William Penn Association, Bohemian Hall and Beer Garden, and J. Palka. Flowers arrangements from Botanica Inc.



Matus Culen, Holy family, and Consul General Jana Trnovcova.



"Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations H.E. Frantisek Ruzicka and his lovely wife."



"Jane Konzelmann and Bob Mihalik former Limbora dance troop members."



"S-ACC President Zuzana Krcmar with Slovak Ball Chair and S-ACC Treasurer Sabina Sabados"



S-ACC Secretary Zuzka Harvis and husband Michal Harvis.



John Masi and Angela Iannacone solidifying their love with an engagement at the Slovak Ball.

Newly-Elected Officers of the Frank T. Holly District



The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District held its annual meeting at Denny's Restaurant in Uniontown, PA on March 10, 2013. One key item on the agenda was the election of officers. The newly elected slate (L – R): Tom Kocis, Auditor; Dolores Marmol, Treasurer; Barbarba Holly, Secretary; James Marmol, President; Geraldine Buchheit, Vice President; and Kathryn Baranek, Auditor. The swearing-in of officers was read by Andrew Marmol.



Branch 45 Holds Dance Party in NYC on April 21, 2013



The members of Branch 45 extend a warm invitation to a Dance Party, held on Sunday, April 21, 2013, after the Mass at 12:30pm in the church hall of St. John Nepomucene, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Admission is \$30, and \$10 for children under 12. Lunch, coffee, and Slovak-style homemade cookies are included in the price of admission. Music for your dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by the popular and well known Slovak band Kontakty. A raffle will be drawn during the festivities, as well. We welcome everyone, and look forward to your attendance.

- Joseph Jurasi, President



Jednota Golf League Season Starts with April Organizational Meetings

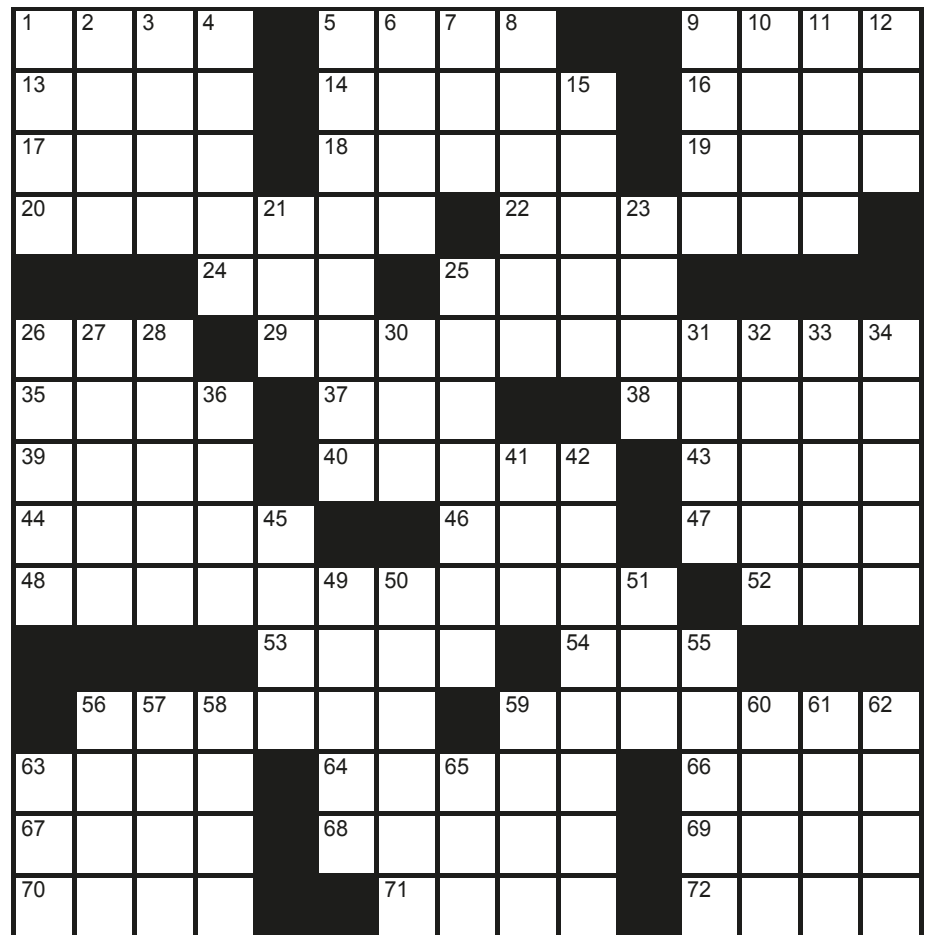
Prior to the start of Friday play, the Jednota Golf League will hold an organizational meeting Sunday April 7, 2013, at 2:00 pm at Knoll Run Golf Course. Members and new members are urged to attend. During the season, the League regularly plays on Friday mornings 8:00 am to 8:30 am and afternoons 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Call President Tom Morella, 330. 542. 3705 or Secretary Paul Ritz, 330. 501. 8768.

Prior to the start of Thursday play, the Jednota Golf League will hold an organizational meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2013, at 2:00 pm at Bedford Trail Golf Course. Members and new member are urged to attend. During the season, the League regularly plays on Thursday mornings 8:00 am to 8:30 am and afternoons 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Call President Tom Krotky, 330. 746. 3515 or Secretary Paul Ritz, 330. 501. 8768.



- Submitted by Paul Ritz, League Secretary

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Operation reminder
- 5 Magazine genre
- 9 Smudge
- 13 Jab
- 14 Mountain nymph
- 16 Mystique
- 17 Large-scale
- 18 Chivalrous
- 19 Detail
- 20 Generators
- 22 Drops off
- 24 Campaigner, for short
- 25 Outback birds
- 26 Spider's work
- 29 Alaska: Land of the ___
- 35 Sheltered, nautically
- 37 Blast maker
- 38 Chip away at
- 39 Inactive
- 40 Sheik's bevy
- 43 Tacks on
- 44 Markets
- 46 Actress Hagen
- 47 Versifier
- 48 Interlopers
- 52 ___ Miniver
- 53 Got down
- 54 Harbor craft
- 56 Temporary
- 59 Relative
- 63 Dour
- 64 Lasso
- 66 Biblical twin
- 67 Himalayan legend
- 68 Claw
- 69 Charity

Down

- 70 Former
- 71 Snoozes
- 72 Encounter
- 41 Season, in France
- 42 Our neighbors, perhaps?
- 45 Petty quarrel
- 49 On the lookout
- 50 Apelike
- 51 Hero
- 55 Twinkle
- 56 Request
- 57 Grooves
- 58 Exclude
- 59 Cease
- 60 Capri, e.g.
- 61 Appoint
- 62 Burst of wind
- 63 Cheat
- 65 Fla. neighbor
- 1 Scurried
- 2 Replicate
- 3 Blood-related
- 4 Sum up
- 5 Single great stone
- 6 Cupid
- 7 Beak
- 8 Deli offering
- 9 Can of worms?
- 10 Mandolin relative
- 12 Scottish cap
- 15 Remove errors from a computer
- 21 Soccer ___
- 23 Tennis great Arthur
- 25 Put into the care of someone
- 26 Midsection
- 27 Church leader
- 28 Miss Starr
- 30 Genetic material
- 31 Pitfall
- 32 Sin city
- 33 Milk source
- 34 Bird retreats
- 36 Congers

See Solution on Page 18

Message From Executive Secretary

continued from page 1

The amount of \$205,060 was added to the AVR, as a result of increase in Bonds owned. The AVR balance at the end of 2008 was only \$235,339 and now stands at \$2,350,068 and is at its current maximum. The capital gains resulted from sale of Surplus Notes.

The Bond Unrealized gains were a result of the increase in the book value of RBS bonds and increase in the market value of common stocks, including the Society's affiliate, Jednota Inc. An unrealized loss was experienced on the sale of Surplus Notes.

The sale of bonds resulted in a loss of \$849,993 which was absorbed by the IMR. Insurance in force increased \$3,233,000 in 2012.

The Society emphasizes Bonds and Stocks (94.5%) as its main investments. The Society had over \$7,900,000 of cash on hand at year end.

The Society uses funds available from the Federal Home Loan Bank at very favorable interest rates to help generate interest income. The funds acquired through the FHLB are managed by an investment management company.

In 2009 a significant change was made in the investment area when the Society employed the services of AQS, a fraternal benefit society experienced investment firm to assist in guiding its investment activity.

Financial Position:

Our 2012 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$1,560,739
Annuities	<u>18,090,136</u>
Total	\$19,650,874

Investment income for 2012 is broken down as follows.

Investment Income for 2012:

Government Bonds	\$ 4,019,787
Bonds	10,112,750
Preferred Stock	168,439
Common Stock	86,030
Mortgage Loans	119,448
Real Estate	300,858
Certificate Loans	58,103
Short Term Investments	52,054
Other Investment Assets	35,688
Write-ins for Investment Income	<u>(498,792)</u>
Total Investment Income	\$ 14,454,365

Investment Expenses:

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes, License Fees, etc.)	\$ 1,060,813
Net Investment Income	\$13,393,552

Listed below is a five-year comparison of assets, premium income and net income.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Assets	\$201,036,525	\$234,794,912	\$272,289,975	\$285,105,807	\$305,479,561
Prem Income	8,025,584	17,676,121	33,635,663	14,055,956	19,650,874
Invest Income	12,053,864	14,943,839	14,325,257	13,294,943	13,393,552
Net Gain	1,427,520	4,309,466	1,861,798	1,127,438	1,321,333

Bonds constitute 93.2% (+3.0%) of the Society's assets, and have an average maturity of 14 years. The Organization enjoys excellent bond quality, with 97.6% (+1.8%) of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Preferred Stocks now make up only 0.2% of invested assets; Common Stocks are 1.1% in an effort to diversify the portfolio and increase investment return. Other assets consist of mortgages (0.5%); real estate (.8%); and all others (4.1%). The Society no longer owns surplus notes. Other invested Assets represent \$3,746,150 in a bond like Hedge Fund which is listed as Other Investments on the asset page of the Society's 2012 Annual Statement. The Society's net investment rate of return



Message From Chaplain

continued from page 1

Along with our National President and National Executive Secretary, I was invited to offer greetings at the convention of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union.

As a member of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I attended both meetings that were held in 2012. The April meeting was in Hazleton, PA, and the September meeting was in Youngstown, OH. I remained one extra day in Youngstown for a meeting of the Conference of Slovak Clergy.

Throughout the year I have written articles that were published in our fraternal's newspaper and have answered correspondence that was sent to me.

The year 2012 was a special year of grace for all of us. May our Lord continue to bless us in all our endeavors.

Faternally,

Reverend Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

was 4.75%, which is comparable to the five-year average of 5.71% and competitive in the current market. The net investment rate of return dropped from the prior years because 2010 included substantial Hedge Fund income.

The most significant increases in liabilities were: life policy reserves increased 1.0%, annually reserves increased 9.6%; and Deposit type accounts by \$3,541,867. AVR increased \$205,060 to \$2,350,068, its current maximum. The IMR decreased 87.1% due to large, accelerated pay-downs on GMNA bonds. Unpaid expenses showed an increase as the Convention reserve was reestablished towards the next convention. Funds held as Trustee reduced 1.7%*. Average lapse ratio remains at a very favorable 3.54% over the past 5 years. The Society has no foreign

*Trustee funds represent idle branch funds deposited for safekeeping with the Society. Investments payable in foreign currency. The Foreign Exchange Reserve was maintained at \$9,511.

Surplus increased 8.8%. Surplus is at its highest point in the history of the Society and currently stands at \$20,646,572.

Operations:

Total life premium income showed an increase of 10.1%, with annuity premiums increasing 28.7% due to member demand for annuity products. Overall premium income increased 27.0%. Investment income increased slightly by 0.7% due to the lower interest rates available. The return is good despite the low interest rates currently available and the continuing slow economy. Overall, total income for the year increased 14.8%.

Total member benefits were 42.9% lower. Total life benefits were 11.4% lower; annuity benefits decreased by 50% reflecting low withdrawals. Annuity reserved were considerably higher (\$14,706,000) reflecting the higher premium income and lower annuity benefits. Commissions were level; operation expenses were 10.0% higher, led by General Expenses, which were 9.0% higher, and taxes were 74.2% higher. The increase in state filing fees resulted because the Society has expanded into eleven additional states. The increase reflects the fees and charges of licensing. Management continues to control expenses. Dividends to members were 0.9% higher. The Society enjoyed a gain from operations for the 18th year in a row.

Bond and Preferred Stock capital losses, both realized and unrealized, were reviewed earlier in this Report.

There are no known trends which will cause future operation results to deviate materially from 2012 results.

The AVR increased by \$205,060, and stands at the 2012 maximum. The increase in AVR was also detailed earlier in this report. The IMR decreased 87.1% and now stands at \$171,618.

The combination of surplus, AVR and IMR total \$23,168,258, an increase of 3.15% over the same items in 2011. This amount represents stable funds available for member financial safety.

Cash Flow and Liquidity:

The items which provide liquidity are \$7,916,511 of cash/short term funds, \$3,178,369 of Common Stock, over \$8,300,000 of bonds maturing in less than one year, \$19,650,874 of premium income and almost \$13,400,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends, and expenses is about \$17,000,000. The Society has more than adequate liquidity as reflected by the \$17,231,769 of cash from operations in 2012. 2012 was a year in which the Society elected to maintain moderate emphasis on annuity products.

The Society markets annuities but no other interest sensitive products. There are no plans for any major expenses or outlays.

Risk Based Surplus:

The Risk Based Surplus calculations indicate that total adjusted surplus is \$23,196,640, which is above actual surplus. This does not include the IMR. The total for 50% of the calculated RBC was \$3,620,987. The Society's RBS ratio of 641 is safely above regulatory action levels.

The Society had one IRIS Ratio outside the NAIC designated ranges. The unusual ratios results primarily from the changes in the reserves.

There are no known items which would cause the financial results to be inaccurate.

Insurance in Force:

The Society recorded an increase of \$3,233,000 for insurance in force. Insurance in force has increased only 0.8% since 2008.

Summary:

Our 2012 financial statements, quarterly and year-end were compiled and completed on a timely basis and filed with the various states in which we are licensed to do business. We are continually in contact with the regulatory agencies of the various states regarding their requirements, which are constantly changing. We are in compliance with all of the states' and NAIC accounting regulations.

In 2012 we had a loss in insurance membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels, etc.) of 810 members compared to a loss of 1,989 in 2011. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,167 in 2012 compared to a loss of 1,492 in 2011.

As of December 31, 2012, the Society had 5,176 annuity certificates. As of December 31, 2012, annuitant membership totals 1,944 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2012 was \$162,006,801.46 compared to \$142,712,772.34 in 2011. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in over \$100,000,000 in the last five years alone. This represents great confidence in our Society and its continued growth.

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Message From Executive Secretary

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The First Catholic Slovak Union's insurance and annuity portfolio contains many products, which suit all insurance and annuity needs. The Membership and Marketing Committee, along with our actuarial firm, Bruce and Bruce Company, and our Financial Consulting Firm, Bruce and DePersis, continues to explore avenues to improve and enhance our existing products and develop new products.

This past year we expanded and are now licensed in 27 states. We are licensed in the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Virginia, and Wisconsin. This will provide an opportunity to market our insurance and annuity products and recruit new independent agents in these states.

In 2012 we continued to offer training seminars to our branches and districts. These seminars are designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them. We believe these seminars will help stimulate the growth of our Society, develop motivation and strengthen the relationship between the home office, our branches and recommenders. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open among our branches, districts, recommenders and the home office. We encourage our district officers, branch officers and recommenders to personally discuss their thoughts and ideas with us.

In 2012 we did establish an incentive plan to encourage our recommenders to obtain their state insurance license. We are offering our recommenders and any member interested in representing the FCSU as a state insurance licensed agent an opportunity to do so with this incentive plan. The FCSU will pay ½ (one half) of the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the license school and the license fee (the tuition and license fee varies by state). Based on productivity the FCSU will pay for ½ (one half) of the license renewal. We will be looking into costs and education center locations that will be available to them.

Our expanded search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products has been successful. We have 128 agents with signed contracts with our Society and they are making our products available to their clients. The illustration tool we have developed has proven to be very helpful to our independent agents.

The home office maintains a supply of sales tools, which aid our officers, recommenders and independent agents with their presentation of our products. Some of these tools are sales kits, which contain information regarding our products (rates, application forms, etc.) and sales brochures describing our products. We now have available our new updated version of the pamphlet: What is the Jednota. This pamphlet gives a brief history of our Society. Our highly qualified home office staff is also available during normal business hours to answer any questions concerning rates, completing applications, etc. To better serve our members and to increase efficiency, we offer an automatic premium payment service, which enables our members to have their premium payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts. Automatic deposit for annuity checks is also available to our annuity holders. For the convenience of our members, we are now accepting Visa and Master Card credit cards which may be used for premium payments, annuity deposits, loan payments and newspaper subscriptions.

We are continually updating our computer system to be more efficient to ensure that it meets and exceeds all state and NAIC requirements.

We continue to use, direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time.

We have expanded our marketing advertising in our Jednota, our official organ, to better inform our members about our products. Teresa Ivanec, our editor, has really worked hard to improve the appearance of our paper by adding color and additional articles to the paper. All articles should be sent to the home office or they may be emailed to fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

The FCSU maintains its own web site www.fcsu.com, which contains the history of our Society and information about our products. We are continuing to update our website so that when you visit it you will not only have the latest information regarding our insurance and annuity products but also information about what is going on in the FCSU (branch meetings, district meetings, etc.). We are encouraging all branches and districts to send information about their activities to the home office so we may include the news on our website. As a service, we are notifying our members of branch meetings and branch activities through our current email addresses on record. We are encouraging our members and officers to use e-mail when corresponding with the home office and to provide email addresses so everyone is kept informed. The Jednota newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for our member's convenience four back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. The site contains links to Slovak news agencies, the Slovak Embassy and other interesting topics. We continue to offer insurance quotes on our website for the convenience of all our members.

We use the Internet daily to communicate with our members and to receive information from the Slovak Embassy and the Slovak News Agency. This information is used by our Slovak Editor to write articles about current events in Slovakia.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our home office operations. We believe a strong communication and working relationship between the home office, branches and recommenders is vital. Input from our members is necessary and very important to us. The home office always welcomes suggestions about ways to improve service to our members.

In 2012 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, con-

ducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2012. Their audits consisted of a complete review of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our home office operations. As a result of these audits our Society received an excellent review.

During 2012, we continued merging inactive branches with active branches. This process will be continued through 2013. This is an ongoing problem for our home office since many of our branch officers are unable to continue to service the members in their branches and not only is it difficult to find replacements for them within their branches, but it is also difficult to find other branches to merge with them. Our home office staff employees will work closely with our branches and independent agents and provide support, information and generally to be available and answer questions.

Per FCSU bylaws the branches are still required to meet the requirements set forth by our FCSU Convention to qualify for the branch stipend. We encourage our branch officers that if they are unable to perform their duties and cannot find anyone in their branches to take over their duties, to call the home office. We will try to merge them with an active branch. For those branches that do not wish to merge, the home office can offer you guidelines as to how you can meet the requirements and receive the stipend. Throughout 2012 the requirements for the financial obligations (bylaw section 4.05) has been mailed to all branch officers and published in the Jednota newspaper as a reminder of the expectations for each branch.

The FCSU has an outstanding scholarship program, which is available to our members who meet the requirements. Members may contact the home office for information concerning the scholarship program. We continue to award 75 one-time scholarships in the amount of \$750.00 each year to the highest ranking applicants.

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, which is separate from the Society's scholarship program, is available to any person pursuing post-secondary education. To be eligible for this one-time scholarship, the applicant must be of Slovak descent and Catholic faith. At this time, ten non-renewable scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each are expected to be awarded.

Our Society is very active in fraternal activities. We sponsor bowling and golf tournaments each year. A coloring contest and photo contest for the younger members of our Society is held each year. Family picnics are now held on the District and Branch level and are more centrally located for our members. There were activities for the young and older members of the FCSU at the picnics. We hope to continue this practice annually. This year we are planning a National Family Picnic on August 11, 2013 at FROGBRIDGE Picnic and Park located in Millstone Township, New Jersey. One of the activities that the FCSU takes part in each year is the March for Life, which is held in Washington, D.C. in January. Members of our Society join with all others who respect the rights of the unborn. We will continue to explore possible joint adventures with other fraternal for the future.

As I have stated in the past, the economic success of our Society hinges on four factors: the effective sale and promoting of our insurance and annuity products to increase premium income; the effective management of our investment portfolio to increase our investment income; continuing to control our operating expenses; and also investigate new ways to attract new members. New members are vital to our growth.

As your Executive Secretary, I represented the FCSU on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Slovak League as well as a Director of the Secretary Section of the American Fraternal Alliance I have attended and represented the Society at fraternal functions not only within our FCSU but also other fraternal societies. I represent the society at various branch and district meetings throughout the year. Each year I attend the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention. I also attend many seminars, including the Bruce and Bruce Seminars, which are always very informative regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU. I am in constant contact with all state Departments of Insurance to ensure that FCSU is at all times in compliance with state regulations. We continue to meet all federal requirements.

My wife, Theresa, and I appreciate your trust and support as your Executive Secretary. I will continue to work and do my very best for our society. I will work towards a stronger society and address all issues with honesty and integrity. We are the First Catholic Slovak Union and I pray for our Society's continued growth. We have outstanding products with competitive rates and we all need to be involved in reaching new members and promote our society.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of my fellow officers and board members who assisted me throughout the year. A special thank you goes to our home office staff, a very hard-working entity of our Society.

**Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt**



Attention: FCSU Mobile Members!



Use your smart phone to download a QR-code reader. Then take a photo of this icon for more information on our Society wherever you are - at home or on the go.

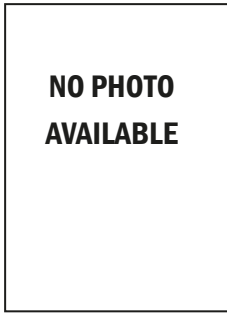
2012 JEDNOTA COLORING

REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6



Abby Dlugos
First Place
Greensburg, PA



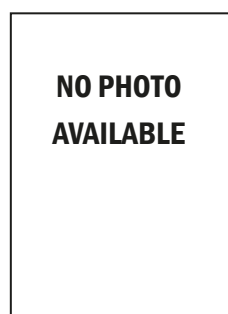
Isabel Owens
Second Place
Murfreesboro, TN



William Jeffries
Third Place
Export, PA



Daniel Dlugos
First Place
Greensburg, PA



Katrina Mullen
Second Place
Springfield, VA



Aaron Soltis
Third Place
Massillon, OH



REGION 4

..... Age Group 10-12



Jessica Pendrick
First Place
McClellandtown, PA



JJ Davis
Second Place
Ramey, PA



Anna Grace Catherman
Third Place
Clearfield, PA



Josiah Meinert
First Place
Buford, GA



Mary Hlozek
Second Place
Oxford, GA



Annabella Barnes
Third Place
Pittsburgh, PA



REGION 5

..... Age Group 7-9



Jamie Meinert
First Place
Buford, GA



Janelle Meinert
Second Place
Buford, GA



Julia Windsheimer
Third Place
Pgh., PA



Jenna Meinert
First Place
Buford, GA



Sierra Vehec
Second Place
Melbourne Beach, FL



Andrew Windsheimer
Third Place
Pgh., PA



..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 6

..... Age Group 4-6



Joseph Valencik
First Place
Brooklyn, OH



Sofia Fedoriouk
Second Place
Seven Hills, OH



Allison Gizewicz
Third Place
E. Hampton, CT



Kaylin Tassinari
First Place
E. Stroudsburg, PA



Rylee Smith
Second Place
Vandalia, OH

..... Age Group 7-9



CONTEST RESULTS, PART II

REGION 6

Age Group 7-9



Mary Adamic
Third Place
Huntsburg, OH



Jason Yuknavich
First Place
Brecksville, OH



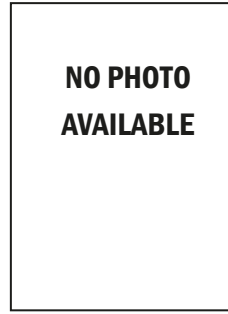
Allison Vale
Second Place
Stow, OH



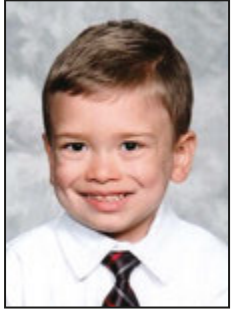
Jimmy Adamic
Third Place
Huntsburg, OH



Miles Mokosaik
First Place
Roseville, MN



Mandi Wyatt
Second Place
Streator, IL



Jacob Albers
Third Place
Saginaw, MI

Age Group 10-12

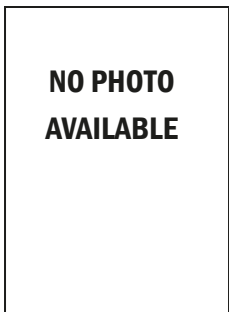
Age Group 4-6

REGION 7

Age Group 7-9



Emma Graves
First Place
Streator, IL



Evan Jurcenko
Second Place
Chicago, IL



Alexa Bahu
Third Place
Brighton, MI



Sarah Peters
First Place
Highland, IN



Jennifer Manzella
Second Place
Normal, IL



Paige Remenar
Third Place
Bannister, MI

Age Group 10-12

REGION 8

Age Group 4-6



Sarah Hergel
First Place
Toronto, ON



Andrew Boyce
Second Place
Roxboro, Quebec



Mayva Hergel
First Place
Toronto, ON

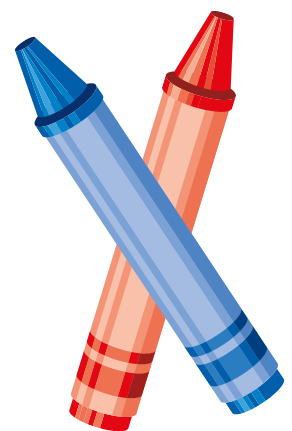
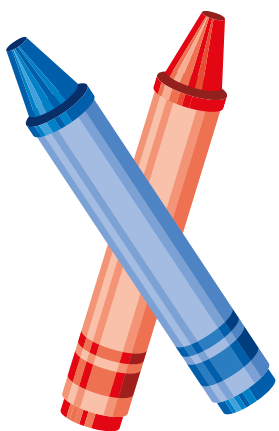


Jason Chadwick
Second Place
Mississauga,
Ontario



Ethan Joiner
Third Place
Aurora, Ontario

Age Group 10-12



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 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 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, Vice President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA.

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

All members are encouraged to attend.

Marion Rubino, Vice President

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2013, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Members are encouraged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 7, 2013, at 12:30PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1st Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

Branch 132 will hold a meeting on Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 2 PM, at the home of President, Susan Salko. Plans will be finalized for our Slovak Union National Picnic on Sunday, August 11, 2013, in Frog-bridge, NJ. The picnic is free to all members. Three of our members have won in the Christmas Contest. "Congratulations." Also, we had a winner last year in our scholarship contest. We are an active, participating group. Please, join us for our next meeting. For directions, call Sue in Whippany.

Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Congratulations to the following members who will be receiving their 50 year pins:

Edward Bonk	Donald Hakala
Edward Hanacek	Stephen Hubeck
Richard Hudziak	Gerald Jamrich
Susan Messina	Ronald Pekelnicky
Gary Sergey	James Stepuncik
Ignac Wons	

Happy Easter to all of our members.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 1:15 P.M., at Ponderosa Steak House, 1261 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Sue Gabriel at 607-729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 25, 2013, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, regularly holds meetings 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 on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 16, 2013. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. The First Catholic Slovak Union will conduct

another convention next year and we will be sending delegates to voice our local's concerns. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend a luncheon at the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 21, 2013, at 1:00PM, at Paolo's in Charleroi, PA. There will be no cost to members; however, there will be a \$10.00 charge for nonmembers. Please make your reservation by calling Fran at (724) 929-9788 before April 15, 2013, and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Ignatius, Branch 380, will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 2:00PM, at King's Restaurant, Canonsburg, PA.

Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 382, of Scranton, Pa., is updating their files and looking for the following members:

Stephen Bonick, Jared Brown, Taryn Brown, Nanette Contardi, Nicholas Edward Cook, Paul Crambo Sr., Ronald Crambo Jr., Tara M. Crambo, Christopher Czankner, Jessica Czankner, Sarah M. Czankner, Jami Lyn Dougherty, Ryan J. Dougherty, Cheryl A. Glinsky, Thomas Hanis, Jillian Louise Hetsko, Michael Kapacs, Kenneth G. Kochis, Michael J. Kolebar, Mark Kosko, Edward Kucha, James T. Legg Jr., Michelene Malosh, Nicholas August McDonald, Henry Moeller, Bevin Monaghan, Colleen Monaghan, Todd Morgan, Margaret Opsasnick, Dianne Parsons, Ann Polovitch, Joanne Rovon, Lynn M Schultz, Sarah Ann Scotchlas, Darlene M. Skrip, Charlene Strodoski, Carol Swartz, Erin Walsh, Beverly Marie Yedinak.

If you are, or know any of these members, please contact:

John J. Slovenkai Sr.
Financial Secretary
FCSU Branch 382KJ
318 Fourteenth Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania
18504-2512

John J. Slovenkai, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. at Bob Evans of Uniontown, Route 40 W, Uniontown, PA.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The officers of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, IL, wish to congratulate our branch members who recently received their 50 year pins: Shirley Bruss, Scott Hepner, Elizabeth Moravcik Johnson, Charles Ondrusek, and Imrich Sprocha.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

Attention Branch 553, St. John the Baptist, members. Mark your calendars for the year 2013 – the following dates have been chosen for lodge meetings this year:

April 21
June 23
November 24

All meetings will start at 2 pm and will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. Come to the meeting to learn what is happening with your branch and learn about all the exciting offers from the Home Office.

All members are invited to join us on Friday's during Lent for our famous All You Can Eat Buffet. It's just \$8.00 per person and we offer children's meals at \$4.00. Join us for a great meal.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hanko, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLEN TOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ,

will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 1:00pm at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109. Fundraising plans for 2013 will be discussed at this meeting.

Officers for the year 2013 are: President, Bernadine Gerhard; Financial Secretary/Treasurer, William Micek; Recording Secretary/Auditor, Loretta Dashner.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 580 will hold a meeting on Sunday April 7, 2013 after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Ave Ext. West Mifflin, PA. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 633 - FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its first meeting of the year at 1:00PM, on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at Teppanyaki Grill & Buffet (former Old Country Buffet located by the Target store) at G-3583 Miller Road in Flint, MI. All members are asked to attend.

Eva Craine, Secretary

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 11:30AM at King's Restaurant, located in Bentleyville. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 706 – ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

St. Anthony of Padua Branch 706 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Friday, April 12, at 3:00pm at the home of Vice President, Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN. If you plan on attending, please call Barbara at 219-864-8251, so arrangements for refreshments can be made. Dinner will follow the meeting. On the agenda: discussion on insurance Sales, and new business also will be discussed. If you have moved or know of a member who has moved; please send us their address so we may update our files.

Sincerely,

Barbara Fayta, Vice President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will



Update to FCSU 2013 National Sales Seminar Schedule

The FCSU Membership and Marketing Committee is hosting seminars around the country in 2013 to help membership grow, and help keep our Society strong and vibrant far into the future.

The following seminar has been added to the list:

- Sunday, April 14, 2013 – The Pittsburgh District will hold a seminar at Trinity Catholic Church Hall in West Mifflin, PA, after their 1PM district meeting (editor's note: see p 15 of this issue for district meeting details).

The other finalized April seminar:

- Sunday, April 21, 2013 – Sts Cyril and Methodius District (17). The seminar will be at 1 p.m. with the district meeting to follow at St. Anns Basilica Hall, St. Anns Street, Scranton, PA. Please RSVP District President Michael Slovenkai (570) 342-7562 or National Secretary Kenneth Arendt (800) 533-6682 by April 18th.

The following seminar is tentatively scheduled for 2013:

- Rev. John J. Spitkovky District 2 – June 23, 2013 - Time and place to be announced.

The following districts are tentatively planning seminars (time and place to be determined and announced):

- Michigan District 5
- Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8
- Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10

Please attend a seminar in your area...form a car pool. If any other district would like a seminar this year, please contact the home office.

Until then

Good Luck and God Bless
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President

hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 1:00PM, in the Parish Hall of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East, 66th St., New York City.

On the agenda will be a financial report and discussion of plans for next season. All members are urged to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Attention all members: Branch 731 has a corrected date for its Patron Saint Mass. Due to a conflict, the Branch 731 Patron Saint Mass previously schedule for Sunday, April 28, 2013, will instead be held on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 4:00 pm. The location remains the same, at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Please try to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding it's semi annual meeting Tuesday April 16, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 6673 on Whitaker Way Munhall, PA. The meeting will include planning for the bi-annual members appreciation dinner this fall. Please bring your ideas and suggestions to the meeting. All members are welcome.

BRANCH 764 WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 held their monthly meeting on January 30, 2013 at Bella Women's Center.

We were happy to learn that we had 16 new members last year due in part to the JEP program. Future activity plans were discussed with several projects that haven't been done before.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at 12:00 noon at Bella Women's Center, 1192 North Park Road, NE, Warren, OH. All members are encouraged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship, with the meeting starting at 2:00 pm. A delicious, catered dinner will be served. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. If you plan to attend, please notify District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810, so enough food and drinks can be ordered. Individual members of District 2 branches who wish to become active in district activities are also encouraged to attend.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2013 following the 5:00P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. We look forward to a great attendance from all of our branches. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 21, 2013, at Ss Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Hts, MI.

Our day will begin with Mass at 11:30AM followed by coffee and fellowship in the Fr. Mikus Hall. A 1PM business meeting will be held in the Slovak Heritage Room. A luncheon will follow immediately. The church 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Hts, MI (north of 18 Mile Road).

Branch 743 is hosting the meeting and Joseph Rimarcik Jr should be notified at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch by Thursday, April 18, 2013.

Spring should be here by then, so let's make it a good turnout. Our District President Robert Kristofik encourages all branches to send delegates.

Remember branches must attend these meetings in order to get branch compensation from headquarters.

Anna Magusin, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 35 will host. Please RSVP by April 7 to Janet Sullivan at 412-824-4185 with the number of members attending.

The meeting agenda will include officers' reports and discussion of national and district business items. We will also discuss upcoming national and district events for 2013. Please email the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net if you have an item for the agenda or an upcoming Slovak cultural event that you would like to advertise. The Annual Meeting in the Fall is still in the planning phase. There is, as yet, no host branch. Please consider hosting and contact the district president in April.

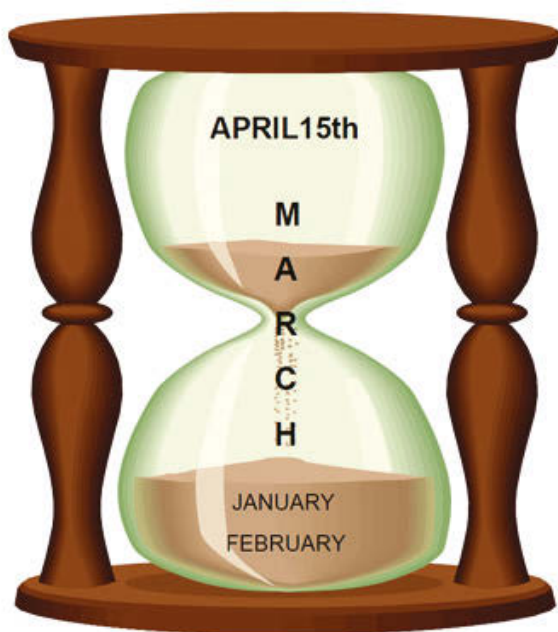
Plan to attend the District Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 16. Branch 60 will host and district vice-president Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. Further details will be provided later.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon



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Public Library: March 4: Slovakia Today vs the Slovakia or our Ancestors, Rev Johannes Oravec; April 1: Life of a Tammy, Katka Gallagher; May 6: Folk Customs of Eastern Slovakia, John Righetti; June 3: Overview of Slovak Folklore and Crafts, Larry Kosloski.

** Slovak Language Classes will be held Tuesdays in the spring. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-9000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** Saturday programs at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum in McMurray: March 23: Easter egg designs & Easter customs; April 27: Straw ornaments & nut cookies; September 21: Christmas in September. Guided tours are available by appointment. Call 1-800-488-1890.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is Thursday, July 18.

** The Pittsburgh Area Folk Ensemble will be performing at Slovak Day and at the McKeesport International Village on August 13, 14, & 15. Look for their booth at the craft pavilion.

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

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

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2013, in the meeting room of Cuzi's Restaurant, 41 South Main St., Homer City, PA, 15748. The St. Joseph's Society, Branch 484, will be the host branch. The meeting will start at 1:15PM and a meal will follow at the restaurant. If delegates have any questions or need directions, call 724-479-8181 or 724-479-2298.

Member branches that have not paid their dues may do so at this meeting. Spring is here; the weather is nicer, so let's show our fraternalism with a good turnout of delegates.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The Semiannual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 28. Time and place are 2:00 PM at the C.U. Club 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All Branches should identify their representatives who will attend to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 by Apr 27. Per FCSU By-Laws, Branch representation at one District meeting per year is required to qualify for receipt of the annual Branch stipend."

Grace M. Charney, District Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – SS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – LUZERNE AND LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA; AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The District's semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2013, at 1:00PM at St. Ann's Basilica Hall, St. Ann's Street, Scranton, PA, with parking available in the lot to the left of the church. Books will be audited prior to the meeting.

On the agenda are reports from Officers and the Regional Director of updates from the Home Office, and upcoming summer activities.

Call District President Michael Slovenkai at (570) 342-7562 to notify him of the members who will be attending from your branch. Light refreshments will be served.

COME ... join in FRATERNALISM.

Fraternally,

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2013. The Mass will be at St. Catherine Drexel Church, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pa. 18232 at 10:30 AM.

Dinner will be served at 12 noon. The meeting will take place at 1:00 PM. The dinner and meeting will take place at Kelley's Irish Pub, 636 East Patterson Street, Lansford, Pa. 18232. The Pub is about 6 blocks from the church.

Donation for the dinner is \$17.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 293. All checks and credentials must be returned by Saturday, April 6, 2013. PLEASE be prompt!!

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350. Thank You!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary



Slovak Embassy Chef Offers Slovak Cooking Demo in Pittsburgh



Chef Michal Šariský of the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC, is coming to Pittsburgh, PA, to demonstrate how to prepare an authentic Slovak meal. He will have recipes for traditional Slovak dishes available and everyone will have a chance to sample the food he makes.

The demonstration will be held on **Saturday**, April 13, 2013, at 1:00PM in the kitchen of St. Gregory Byzantine Church located at 2005 Mohawk Drive in Upper St. Clair. The demo is sponsored by the Western

Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA). The fee for WPSCA members is \$15 and \$20 for non-members. The fee includes the cooking lesson, lunch and a beverage, and is payable in advance. Send your checks payable to WPSCA, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Call Joe at (412) 531-2990 or Albina at (412) 343-5031 for more information.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Ordinary People Who Measure Up in the Moment

The popular film *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, which was released on DVD a few weeks ago, has got action and adventure galore, just like *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy that preceded it. But the director and actors who worked on the movie are well aware of the deeper themes that lie at the heart of the work of J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973), who authored all the original books, published between 1937 and 1955.

At a press conference in New York City, Richard Armitage, who portrays the Dwarf warrior Thorin Oakenshield, said, "One of the things I find when I look into [*The Hobbit*] is a sense of Tolkien's Catholicism, his Christianity—not necessarily in a denominational way, but in terms of his chivalric view of the world, his nobility which is expressed through kindness and mercy. It's present in most of his characters and I find that inspiring."

Tolkien acknowledged taking that approach in his stories. In a letter, he once wrote, "The *Lord of the Rings* is of course a fundamentally religious and Catholic work; unconsciously so at first, but consciously in the revision. That is why I have not put in, or have cut out, practically all references to anything like 'religion', to cults or practices, in the imaginary world. For the religious element is absorbed into the story and the symbolism."

For instance, the ideal of mercy is evident in one scene between Bilbo Baggins, the titular hero, and Gollum, a threatening creature that he meets when he falls into an underground cave. Director Peter Jackson, who also helmed *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, noted that creating this moment onscreen was a particular pleasure. Though *The Hobbit* occurs chronologically before *The Lord of the Rings*, the fact that they were shooting this prequel years after the other films allowed him to place special attention on this moment.

He said, "There was a scene in *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* where they're in the mines of Moria, and there's a quiet moment where Gandalf is talking to Frodo about the events of *The Hobbit*. He says that the pity of Bilbo rules the fate of all: meaning that Bilbo had a chance to kill Gollum but he didn't. And the fact that he didn't has now created the story for *The Lord of the Rings*. So it was very interesting to shoot that scene and show the moment where Bilbo stays his hand—and also the reason why he doesn't kill Gollum when he's got the opportunity: because Gandalf insisted that 'true courage is not about knowing when to take a life, but when to spare one.'"

Sir Ian McKellen, who returns as the wizard Gandalf, has a similar view of what Tolkien—and by extension, everyone who has worked on these films—is trying to convey through their storytelling. He finds it especially profound because Tolkien had endured World War I before *The Hobbit* was published, and World War II by the time *The Lord of the Rings* was complete.

McKellen explained, "The message I think that resonates in the books and films is—Yes, the world is organized by people who are extremely powerful and are concerned with the preservation of Middle Earth, but they are entirely dependent on the little guy. And [it's impressive] that [Tolkien], who's been through two World Wars, accepts that: that it's not the great people we build statues to through whom the world is changed—it's the ordinary people who measure up in the moment."

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

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance 2013 Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2013 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society belonging to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance or by visiting the website of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance at www.pafaternal.org

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a 2013 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2013 as a full time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "The impact of a Fraternal Organization on your daily life, family and community."

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 1, 2013.

At least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

If you or your society has not received the information on the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship, please contact Charlotte L. Androckitis, FIC, Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Chairperson at the Polish Union of the US of NA, PO Box 660, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0660. You can also call 570-823-1611 or e-mail cla@polishunionusa.com

OBITUARIES

**RICHARD J. HARCHARIK
BRANCH 667 –
RAMEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

Richard J. Harcharik 71, passed away on January 23, 2013 at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, NV of metastatic lung cancer. Richard was born in Ramey, PA. He was the 9th of 12 children born to John J. and Verna Harcharik who preceded him in death. Richard was also preceded in death by his wife Betty and two brothers (Raymond & Joseph). Richard graduated from Moshannon Valley High School in Madera, PA before moving to Los Angeles, CA. He is survived by his brothers John, Robert, Edward, James, sisters Dorothy, Helen, Joan, Mary Ann and Kathy, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Richard served in the Air Force from Feb. 1961 to July 1964. While in the Air Force Richard completed his training as data processing machine operator at the University of Hawaii. Richard lived in Torrance, CA before moving to Reno in 2009. After his military service, Richard started his professional programmer career with Continental Graphics, Sanyo Electronics, Capitol Metals; before becoming employed by Tiernay Metals/Transtar Metals in Redondo Beach as Project Leader/Sr. Analyst for five years and a Sr. Programmer Analyst for eight years. Richard's viewing and Rosary were held on Feb. 1, 2013, from 4 to 8 PM and funeral services were held on Feb. 2, 2013 at 11 AM at Gamby's Mortuary in Lomita, CA. Interment followed at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

**EVANGELINE LOUISE HODOS
BRANCH 169P –
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Evangeline Louise Hodos, 82, Upper Yoder, PA, died Dec. 30, 2012, at home. Born Nov. 28, 1930, in Johnstown, PA, daughter of George A. and Susana (Hrbal) Hanuscak. Preceded in death by parents; husband, Paul J. Hodos Sr.; sisters, Lucy Ruth Satchik, Anna Naworal, Mary Hodos and Margaret Migut; and brothers, Francis Hanuscak and Raymond Hodos. Evangeline was the last surviving member of her immediate family. Survived by children, Mary Lou Hodos, Johnstown; Paul J. Jr., married to Barbara (Fabina), Ligonier; and Janet, wife of Larry Bombatch; Ruth Hodos; and Robert, married to Beverly (Snoby), all of Johnstown; grandchildren, Tonya Harbaugh, wife of Bradley; Marli Hodos, Virginia; Jacob Hodos, Hummelstown; David, married to Debbie (Oravec), Johnstown; Paul N. Hodos, married to Renee (Suarez), Washington, D.C.; and Evan Hodos, New York; and great-grandchildren, Courtney and Cara Harbaugh; and Joseph, Selena and Alexander Hodos. Member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. She will be remembered as a kind and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who will be missed by all. Friends were received from 2 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home Inc., Johnstown, PA, where vigil for the deceased was held. Funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 3, 2013, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Franciscan Friars, OFM, Conv. Committal, church cemetery.

Branch 1 Member Joe Hornack to Receive Honor

Joe Hornack, a member of Branch 1 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, is being honored by the Czech and Slovak Society for Arts and Sciences (Svaz Vedy a Umeni) for his lifetime of work on behalf of the Slovak-American community in Cleveland. The honors will take place at the annual General Assembly Meeting of the Cleveland Chapter of SVU in April.

Joe has been active in the Cleveland Slovak-American community for many years. He developed the Surname Location Reference Project, providing assistance to others who are interested in tracing their Slovak roots, and has been active in the Czech-Slovak Genealogical Society International for which he received the 2001 Distinguished Service Award; he is a charter member of Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities; and he is the Assistant Director of the Slovak Institute and Reference Library located on the grounds of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Andrew Svorad founded by the Slovak Benedictine monks. His paternal grandparents were born in Krakovany, Slovakia and they immigrated to America in 1905. Joe was born in 1933 and married Dolores in 1954. Dolores' mother was from Tuhrina, Slovakia, and they have six children and five grandchildren.



**Svaz Vedy a Umeni Honoree
Joe Hornack and his wife
Dolores.**

Fall Genealogical Conference to be Held in Chicago

CGSI (CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International) promotes family research and cultural/historical information about the lands and peoples of former Czechoslovakia.

For those interested in attending the CGSI's 2013 Conference to be held October 23-26, 2013, at the Westin Hotel Lombard Yorktown Center, IL, please send your complete name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to receive a copy of the 12 page Conference Program and Registration booklet to: Paul Makousky, Conference Chair, at: Conference-Chair@cgsi.org or visit the CGSI conference website at:

<http://www.cgsi.org/news/events/2013/10/23/14th-cgsi-genealogical-and-cultural-conference-lombard-illinois>

Booklets will be ready to mail about May 1st.

News From Slovakia

Plans Underway to Build Science Research Center near Bratislava

Bratislava, March 18 (TASR) - Bratislava-based construction company Starland Holding is planning to build a science-research center in Bernolakovo (Senec district, Bratislava region) that will specialize in research into brain diseases, with the investments expected to reach €60 million, based on plans already submitted for an environmental effects assessment.

"During the ... first and second phase, around 637 jobs should be created at the laboratories, research centers and in the related administrative services," reads the investment plan.

The first phase of construction should commence in the second quarter of 2014 and be finalized two years after that. The second phase is scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2016 and should be completed in the second quarter of 2018.

Some 7,000 Trees Succumb to Strong Winds in High Tatras

Tatranska Lomnica, March 18 (TASR) - Approximately 7,000 trees, which equates to 5,500 cubic metres of wood, fell in the Tatra Mountains National Park (TANAP) due to strong winds that hit the area on Friday, March 15, according to TANAP State Forests deputy director Pavol Fabian.

Most of the fallen trees were withered and previously damaged by bark-beetles." The greatest damage to the forests was made by wind in the protected areas of Tatranske Matiare, Strbske Pleso and Vysne Hagy," added Fabian.

Meanwhile, although TANAP State Forests sent out workers to clear the main tourist paths on Saturday, fallen trees are still blocking a number of these. "If another bout of strong gusty wind [expected to hit] in the next few hours avoids the Tatras, all of the marked tourist paths within the area of TANAP will be passable as of tomorrow [Tuesday]," said Fabian.

Representatives of Wallenberg Foundation Meet Gasparovic

Bratislava, March 17 (TASR) - Two leading representatives of the Buenos Aires-based Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, of which the newly elected Pope Francis is a member, have met President Ivan Gasparovic during a visit to Slovakia.

Baruch Tenenbaum and Eduard Eurnekian were accompanied at the meeting with Gasparovic by chairman of the Central Association of Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia Igor Rintel, spokesperson of the association Lucia Kollarova told TASR.

The representatives of the foundation presented Gasparovic with a commemorative medal marking the 100th anniversary of Wallenberg's birth. The medal is designed to represent symbolical appreciation for ordinary Slovaks who hid their Jewish fellow citizens during World War II.

The talks between Gasparovic and representatives of the Jewish foundation included the election of Pope Francis earlier this week. Tenenbaum, who is a personal friend of the new pontiff, described him as a "nice man".

Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who rescued tens of thousands of Jews during WWII. He disappeared in 1945 following his arrest by the Soviet police.

March 17 Produces Coldest Morning of This Winter Season

Bratislava, March 17 (TASR) - The morning of Sunday, March 17 was extraordinarily cold in Slovakia, with the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMU) station in Cerveny Klasator (Presov region) recording the very lowest temperature in this winter season.

According to SHMU, the temperature two metres above ground in Cerveny Klasator was minus 24 degrees Celsius, while five centimetres above ground it was minus 29 degrees Celsius.

"This is the lowest temperature measured in the entire 2012/13 astronomical winter throughout Slovakia," SHMU wrote on its web site.

"This is an extraordinary thing, because it almost never happens that the lowest temperature in the winter half of the year is recorded in the second half of March. It usually happens in January or February," pointed out SHMU.

The extreme cold was caused by the incursion of very cold air masses from the Arctic, which caused heavy snow in northern Slovakia. The snow cover, along with the wind dropping and a clear night sky provided ideal conditions for severe cold, noted SHMU.

Slovakia Exported Goods Worth €62.8 billion in 2012

Bratislava, March 11 (TASR) - Overall exports from Slovakia in 2012 reached a value of €62.8 billion, which was up 10.7 percent year-over-year, the Statistics Office reported on

this date.

"When it comes to specific goods, the most significant increases were recorded by the export of cars and other passenger motor vehicles," the Statistics Office wrote on its web site. Apart from cars, exports were also up for telephone sets and car bodywork.

Conversely, the most significant fall was recorded in monitors and TV sets.

In terms of countries, exports rose most rapidly to Poland (22.6 percent), Germany (16.4 percent) and the Czech Republic (8 percent).

Meanwhile, exports to China and France dropped most significantly, by 9.6 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.

Overall imports reached a value of €59.22 billion, which was an increase of 6.2 percent y-o-y.

Imports of phone sets and their components, along with equipment for motor vehicles and products containing liquid crystals rose most significantly.

The opposite trend was recorded in imports of components for TV sets and black coal.

Imports from South Korea were up by a notable 32.8 percent y-o-y, followed by those from Germany (9.5 percent) and the Czech Republic (0.8 percent).

Slovakia Hopes to Host 2022 Winter Olympics Ice-hockey Tournament

Bratislava, March 9 (TASR) - The Slovak Olympic Committee and the Polish Olympic Committee on Saturday signed a general agreement on a bid to organize the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

According to the agreement, Slovakia should organize alpine skiing and the entire men's and women's ice-hockey tournaments. Special dispensation from the International Olympic Committee is still needed, however, as the main organizer (in this case Poland) can move disciplines to a different country only if it doesn't have the appropriate natural conditions to organize them itself. It's obvious that Poland has enough ice-hockey arenas, but ice-hockey is far more popular in Slovakia. Both countries believe that the dispensation will be granted or that the Olympic Charter will be amended accordingly, therefore.

Frantisek Chmelar, president of the Slovak Olympic Committee, stated that if the dispensation isn't granted, Slovakia will go ahead with the bid nonetheless, limiting itself to the alpine skiing.

President of the Polish Olympic Committee Andrzej Krasnicki pointed out that his country has recent experience with organizing a major sporting event - the European Football Championships in 2012 (co-hosted by Ukraine).

"Poprad [Slovakia] and Zakopane [Poland] have attempted to host the Winter Olympic Games in the past, but failed. Our idea is to organize the games together, therefore," said Krasnicki.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Branch 292 Celebrates SS Cyril & Methodius Feast Day

On Feb. 12, 2013 (just prior to the start of Lent) the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown, presided at a Mass for the feast day of SS. Cyril and Methodius. The Mass was held at SS. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church in Windber, PA. The Bishop commented that his father was a member of the parish from 1913 to 1914, after which they eventually settled in Michigan. Our church was the only church in the diocese he had been in prior to his being named Bishop of the diocese. He took his parents to Washington, D.C. and on the way they stopped in Windber and visited the church at his father's request. His father had worked at Mine # 40 in Scalp Level, PA. Members of Branch 292, St. John the Baptist Society, attended the Mass. A reception was held in the church hall afterward.

- Submitted by Edward T. Surkosky, Branch 292 President



(L – R) Deacon T. Papinchaki; the Most Rev. Joseph Adamec, Bishop Emeritus, Altoona-Johnstown; the Rev George Gulash, Pastor, SS Cyril & Methodius Church; Edward T. Surkosky, President, Branch 292, Windber, PA.



(L – R) Fr. Gulash, the Most Rev. Joseph Adamec, Edward T. Surkovsky, P. Paulochack, and Mr. Gulash (Fr. Gulash's brother) during the presentation of gifts to Bishop Emeritus Adamec.



The Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown, presided over a Mass for the feast day of SS Cyril & Methodius at SS Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church in Windber, PA, on Feb 12, 2013.



Members of Branch 292 and others attending the Mass enjoyed refreshments in the church hall during a reception which was held directly after the service.

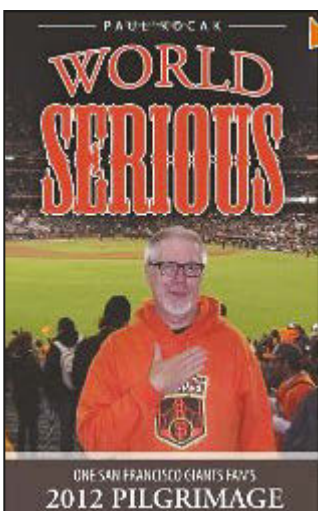


Photos by Bill Cominsky.

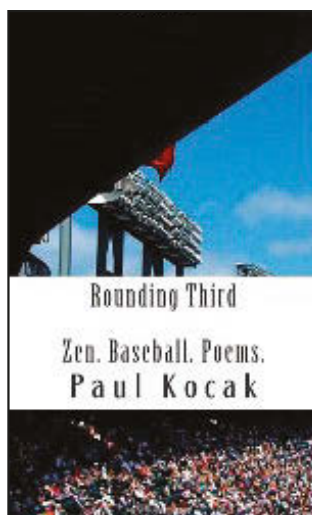


Book Corner

Two books from FCSU Branch 19 Member, Paul Kocak



Part memoir, part history, and part travelogue, World Serious is all love and devotion for the San Francisco Giants and their 2012 World Series championship. Take a journey with Paul Kocak as he goes from Syracuse to San Francisco searching for fan love in all the right places.



Baseball. Zen. Poetry. Put them all together, and you have word sketches of baseball icons: Mays, Musial, Maris, Mantle, Williams, Aaron, Ruth. A salute to the 2012 San Francisco Giants. And personal reflections of mindful observation. Even if baseball or poetry is not your cup of tea, you are sure to enjoy these portraits and snapshots in words. Celebrate the human spirit on the playing fields of the heart.

For more information, or to order these books, please go to Amazon.com and type the author's name and book titles into the search bar.



Accent on Activities



Second Annual Bowling Tournament
 May 3 – 5, 2013
 Buffalo, New York

Join us for the Second Annual Bowling Tournament with the United Slovak Fraternal.

We'll be spending the weekend at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The Millennium Hotel offers complimentary parking, an indoor pool, a fitness center, an airport shuttle, and a business center all at a convenient location, just three miles from Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Mention that you are with the United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Group when you book your room by April 3 to get a group rate of \$101 (+ tax) per night.

Enjoy shopping in over 200 stores at the Walden Galleria mall directly next door to the Millennium Hotel. It's just a short ride from several area attractions including: Niagara Falls, downtown Buffalo, and Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of the Buffalo Bills.

The Millennium Hotel will host our banquet on Saturday night. A buffet menu of sliced roast top round of beef, baked Italian herbal chicken, and penne pasta with marinara sauce will be offered, along with a 2 hour open bar. Celebrate Mass with us at 5:30 PM and stay for dinner at 6:30 PM. Tickets for the banquet are \$25.

If you want to join us for the banquet on Saturday, May 4, please send a check, made payable to FCSU Activities, to Susan Ondrejco, 234 Iliion St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207, by April 5.

We hope see many of you there.

~~~~~  
Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held in Canton, Ohio, at the Zoar and Wilkshire Golf Courses. The tournament will be held the weekend of July 20 and 21. Details are still being planned for this event.

**NEW THIS YEAR**

Seniors (75 and over) and women have an option to participate in a 9 hole event each day. More details will be provided.



March 2013

Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be a 12 - 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned. Judging is based on creativity.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

- \$50 - First Place
- \$30 - Second Place
- \$20 - Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, Branch number, age, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a **separate sheet of paper**. DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE

Mail your entry to:

Susan Ondrejco  
 Photo Contest  
 234 Iliion St.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

postmarked by October 1, 2013.



It's that time of year again! Our Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, May 3, through Saturday, May 4, 2013. The Jednota sponsors the tournament Friday through Saturday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor: \$50 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Individual, 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 5, 2013.



# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

## (TELECONFERENCE)

### OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked the National Chaplain, Fr. Thomas Nasta, to offer the opening prayer.

### ANTHEMS

The President asked Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Directors, to lead in the singing of the anthems.

### ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;  
 Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;  
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President – present via telephone;  
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;  
 George F. Matta, National Treasurer – present;  
 Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;  
 Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;  
 Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1 – present via telephone;  
 Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;  
 Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3 – present via telephone;  
 James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;  
 Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone;  
 Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone  
 Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone;  
 Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;  
 Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – present via telephone;

All present and accounted for.

### READING OF THE CALL

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting.

### ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2012 BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting which had previously been sent to all the Board members and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by James Marmol and seconded by Milos Mitro to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order if necessary. Motion carried.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President presented his report.

#### Annuity Rates

The President led a lengthy discussion on the current interest rates credited to our annuitants. It was decided at the Executive Committee Meeting that the interest rates will remain the same at the present time. Rates will be reviewed and adjustments will be made in the future, as needed.

#### Scholarships

The President stated the scholarship applications are available to all members who qualify. The applications may be printed from the website (www.fcsu.com), received from their branch officer, or from the home office.

#### Branches

President Rajec reported that he and Executive Secretary Arendt, with information gathered by Robert Kopco, as previously reported to the Regional Directors, are continuing to merge inactive branches with the active branches.

#### Printery Building

The President reported there has been one inquiry by a local church interested in the printery building. The President will update the Board as more information becomes available.

#### Fraternal

The President stated we have signed an agreement with another fraternal to sublease our software. Our IT Consultant, Tim Yoder, is in the process of converting their files to be compatible with our system at their cost. The President further stated we have tested our communications system between the two fraternal and everything is working

properly. We have also installed security measures to insure all data is kept separate and secure from each other. The Board will be kept informed of the progress made.

### DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Director of Fraternal Activities, Susan Ondrejco, presented her report on the joint bowling tournament co-sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the National Slovak Society and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union that will be held on May 3-5, 2013 in Buffalo, New York. The Slovak Catholic Sokol has decided to hold its own tournament. Fraternal Director Ondrejco further stated plans were in place for the joint golf tournament with the National Slovak Society July 20-21, 2013 in Canton, Ohio. The President has requested Fraternal Director Ondrejco to pursue other opportunities for joint activities with other fraternal for the future.

The President announced the FCSU National Family Picnic will be Sunday, August 11, 2013 and as more information becomes available the Board will be informed.

### AQS – ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC.

Larry White, of AQS Asset Management Company, LLC, presented his report to the Board via WebEx and teleconference. A copy of his presentation was distributed to each Board Member prior to the meeting. Following his report, he answered all the Board's questions.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2012

#### Executive Secretary's Report

Secretary Arendt presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2012. After his report he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2012 third quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary presented a 2012 comparison between the actual expenditures and the projected expenditures for the year. The 2012 budget was on target for the year. The 2013 budget was presented to the Board. Damian Nasta made a motion to accept the 2013 budget as presented and James Marmol seconded. Motion carried.

#### Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors which gave a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

#### Matlin Patterson (MPAM)

Executive Secretary Arendt presented the Matlin Paterson Report and answered the Board's questions. The President stated that we are not increasing our investment with MPAM at this time and will consider other investment opportunities with UBS and MAI that follow our investment guidelines. Once a decision is made the President will give a report to the Board of Directors.

#### Portfolio Custodian

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Board's questions.

#### FCSU Employee Pension Plan

At this time the President invited Edward DePersis from Bruce and DePersis Financial Consultants to join the meeting. Mr. DePersis presented a 2012 Defined Benefit Plan Interim Amendment for Board approval. Enactment of The Pension Protection Act of 2006 by Congress requires defined benefit plans, such as that of the FCSU's, be amended.

IRS rules require all plans to adopt this amendment whether or not a plan is sufficiently funded above the 80% level. FCSU is funded over 103%. Therefore, even though the FCSU's defined benefit plan is sufficiently funded above the 80% level and is not subject to any benefit restrictions, this amendment is still required to be adopted on or before December 31, 2012. Andrew Harcar made a motion to adopt the amendment (see attached amendment) and James Marmol seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Single Premium Whole Life Insurance Policy

The President led a discussion on our Single Premium Whole Life Insurance Policy. Edward DePersis, Financial Consultant, explained because of the low interest rate environment right now; he has reviewed the single premium life insurance policy we now offer. It was determined that the internal cash build-up was not supportable and this product needed to be repriced at the current interest rate. It was decided after the review, the new rates will be effective January 2013. New brochures will be printed to reflect the

*continued on page 21*

# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

*continued from page 20*

change. The website and the illustration will be updated. The new rates will be sent to our independent agents, recommenders, sent in the branch mailings, and published in the newspaper.

## MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed the sales production by Districts and also by General Agents and Independent Agents and answered the Board's questions.

The Vice President updated the Board on the recruiting process for independent agents to sell our products. He informed the Board we already have 130 agents.

The Vice President further led a discussion regarding seminars for 2013 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region.

The Vice President reported the November Membership Meet in Las Vegas was very successful and everyone had a wonderful time.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Middletown Monument Project

The President stated the final plans have been completed on the Middletown Monument Project. The work will begin this year.

### 2014 Convention

The President said possible sites are being investigated for the 2014 convention. Hotels are being checked to make certain they will meet our criteria for meeting space, banquet facilities, break-out rooms, and reasonable rates. Several cities are being targeted at this time.

## CHAIRMAN OF AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented the Auditor's Report for the third quarter of 2012 and answered the Board's questions. She stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything was in order.

## PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the directives adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

### Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, comprised of professional educators, and stated scholarship applications are now available to all qualified members. Applications are available on the website, through the branch officers, and at the home office. Results should be in our home office by May in order to notify the various schools in time for their awards program.

## SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota, Inc. The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report to the Board of Directors and, after answering the Board's questions, he turned the meeting over to the President of Jednota Properties, Inc., Regis Brekosky, who presented his report to the Board. The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

## GENERAL COUNSEL

Gary Matta, General Counsel, gave a report and answered all the Board's questions.

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by James Marmol to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

## PAYMENTS OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by James Marmol to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

## DONATIONS

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

## ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Andrew Harcar to adjourn. Motion carried.

It was announced the next Board Meeting will be held March 15-16, 2013.

The President asked Father Thomas Nasta to end the meeting with a prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary



## Year of Faith: Ecumenism

Dear Friends,

The Decree on the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite (*Orientalium ecclesiarum*) was promulgated by Pope Paul VI on November 21, 1964. It was the third of three Documents from Vatican II promulgated on that. The others were the Pastoral Constitution on the Church (*Lumen gentium*), which we read about earlier, and the Decree on Ecumenism (*Unitatis Redintegratio*), the summary of which was in the previous issue of the *Jednota*.

What the Eastern Catholic Churches share in common with each other and with the Western (Roman) Catholic Church is belief in the dogmas and doctrines of faith taught by the Universal Church, the seven sacraments, and under the pastoral governance of the Roman Pontiff. Each and every Catholic is to retain one's own rite, cherish it, and observe it to the best of one's ability.

At the same time, Eastern Churches are separate and distinct from each other. They are equal in dignity, so that one is not superior to others. Each Rite differs in liturgy, ecclesiastical discipline and spiritual heritage. They have a full right and are in duty bound to rule themselves, each in accord with its own established disciplines and are to retain their traditions, whole and entire.

The Decree then discusses the means by which this is accomplished. A patriarchate is a territory led by a patriarch (bishop). All patriarchates are equal in dignity, regardless of when each was established. The Council desires the establishment of new patriarchates, if and when the need were ever to arise.

A patriarch is a bishop who is accorded special honor by being set over his patriarchate as father and head. He has special authority over all bishops and faithful in the patriarchate and rite(s) in accordance with canon law and without prejudice to the primacy of the Holy Father.

Patriarchs with their synods are the highest authority for all business of the patriarchate. This includes the right of establishing new eparchies (dioceses) and of nominating bishops of their rite within the territorial boundaries of their patriarchate. Both actions are subject to the consent and approval of the Holy Father, who retains the right to intervene in individual cases.

The Council confirmed and approved the ancient discipline of the sacraments existing in the Eastern Churches, and also the ritual practices by which sacraments are celebrated and administered.

Regarding Eastern Christians who are not in union with the Catholic Church (Eastern Orthodox, for example), the Council teaches that they may receive the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick provided that they ask of their own accord, have the proper dispositions, and access to their own minister is physically or morally impossible. The reverse is also true. Catholics may ask for these same sacraments from those non-Catholic ministers whose churches possess valid sacraments, provided they ask of their own accord, have the proper dispositions, and access to a Catholic priest is physically or morally impossible.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2013

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN:**

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
George F. Matta, Treasurer  
Damian Nasta, Regional Director (By invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the January 2013 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered all the Executive Committee's questions.

**INVESTMENT UPDATES:**

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM) and gave a complete transaction report for the month.

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt submitted a written report to the Executive Committee, which gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

**PORTFOLIO REVIEW:**

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Committee's questions.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation by Teleconference and WebEx and the Executive Committee each had a copy of the presentation. Mr. White presented an extensive monthly transactions report and briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio. After the report, Mr. Larry White answered the Executive Committee's questions. The President asked Mr. Larry White to give a more detailed explanation on the CMO investments in response to one of the Executive Committee Member's questions.

**CLUTTERBUCK CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC:**

By invitation of the President, Robert T. Clutterbuck, Managing Partner of the Clutterbuck Capital Management, was invited to give a presentation on alternative investments available to FCSU.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:**

The President updated the Executive Committee on the National Picnic which will be held on August 11, 2013 at FROGBRIDGE Picnics & Special Events Entertainment Park in Millstone Township, New Jersey. The President stated the contract has been signed to secure the date. The picnic will be advertised on our website, newspaper, and included in the branch mailing. The President stated that we are considering on-line internet registration for the convenience of our members. The President stated he is expecting around 300 members to attend the picnic.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the joint activities planned with the other Slovak Fraternals. He reminded everyone of the FCSU Bowling Tournament on May 3-5, 2013, in Buffalo, New York, which will be held jointly with the the National Slovak Society, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. The Golf Tournament will be held July 20-21, 2013, in Canton, Ohio. The President stated he is encouraging the Fraternal Activities Director to explore activities with the other fraternals.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report for the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President reviewed the 2013 seminar schedule. He is asking the Regional Directors for their assistance in setting up the seminars for 2013.

The Vice President said he and the Executive Secretary will advertise an incentive plan they are developing to help the recommenders receive their state license. Recommenders are to contact the home office for more details.

The Vice President stated he has begun looking at sites for a 2013 Membership Meet, and as more information becomes available, he will inform the Executive Committee.

**ADVERTISING:**

The Executive Secretary stated he will continue advertising our products and annuity rates in our Jednota newspaper, mailings, and on our website. The Executive Secretary further stated we will continue to add new addresses as we receive them and using the current e-mail addresses we have on record to advertise our products and inform our members of updated information.

**CURRENT ANNUITY INTEREST RATES:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., rejoined the meeting to discuss the annuity interest rates. Mr. White discussed the possibility of re-positioning some of the bonds in our portfolio. The President led an extensive review on the current annuity interest rates and it was decided the rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the March Executive Committee Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:****MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of January for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

**MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of January:

Disbursements for the month of January 2013:

|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Death Benefits & Accumulations     | \$ 183,060.39 |
| Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations   | \$ 58,518.80  |
| Matured Endowments & Accumulations | \$ 0.00       |
| Trust Fund                         | \$ 1,475.27   |

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President stated convention sites for 2014 are being investigated and the Executive Committee reviewed the information we have on hotels so far to determine if we need to expand the search to other areas.

The March Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2013. The March Board of Directors Meeting will be held March 15-16, 2013. Meetings of Jednota, Inc., Jednota Properties, and the FCSU Pension Board will take place on March 16, 2013.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

## Štefan Hreha, otec Kanadského Slováka, 95-ročný

Koncom marca tohto roku sa dožíva 95 rokov svojho bojovného života, azda už posledný z mladej starokrajovej generácie starej emigrácie v Kanade – Štefan Hreha, významný národno-slovenský, osvetový, spolokársky a publicistický buditeľ v slovenskej Kanade, ktorého tvorba znateľne poznačovala všestranný život kanadských Slovákov.

Pochádza zo Zemplína, z obce Čemerné, dnes súčasť Vranova nad Topľou, kde sa narodil 25. marca 1918 v remeselníckej rodine. Tam prežil svoju mladosť a študentské roky. V decembri 1936 odišiel s matkou a dvoma mladšími bratmi, Arpádom a Gejzom už na večnosť, do Kanady k otcovi v Montreale, kde prežil takmer celý život až na štyri roky v kanadskej armáde počas druhej svetovej vojny. V Kanade do rodiny pribudlo dievčatko, Stella (Mrs. Dr. Weisnagel).

Kanadskí Slováci neboli mu neznámi. O ich spoločenskom a tvorivom živote sa dočítal z novin a kalendárov, ktoré dostával od otca v Kanade. Zladen div, že hneď po svojom príchode do Kanady, plný ambícií, s elánom mladého národovca zapojil sa do tvorivej, namä novinárskej, činnosti medzi Slovákami v Kanade, čím získal širokú známosť v slovenskom spoločenstve. Za čas redigoval vtedajšie noviny Slováka v Kanade, zmenené na Slovenské Bratstvo, ktoré sa nekompromisne exponovalo za národnú suverenitu Slovenska a za slovenskú identitu v Kanade, následkom čoho zarytí nepriatelia slovenskej štátnosti a všetkého, čo dýchalo slovenskosťou, obžalovali ho „zo šírenia nepriateľskej propagandy“.

Po odchode od spomenutých novin z existenčných dôvodov, vynaložil svoje úsilie a svoje nadobudnuté novinárske znalosti k založeniu novin pre Kanadskú Slovenskú Ligu pod menom Kanadský Slováka, ktorých sa stal zakladajúcim redaktorom, pionierskej emigrácii známy ako otec Kanadského Slováka. Nové noviny začali svoj apoštolát medzi slovenským ľudom v Kanade 5. marca 1942, v krútnave druhej svetovej vojny a politickej situácie nežičlivej Slovákom od rodu, ktorej nedopodľahli. Ostali verní aspiráciám svojho gniaveného národa.

V spolokárskom podnikaní zastával početné funkcie. Zostavil príležitostné dobové rezolúcie a memorandá na vládne kruhy v záujme slovenského národa a jeho právnej zvrchovanosti. Prispieval článkami a úvahami s historickým obsahom a biografickými spomienkami. Za poznaním svojich do slovenských novin, kalendárov Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a knižných edícií. Bol činný aj na poli literárnej tvorby. Napísal divadelné drámy, veselohry a texty pre spevohry, z ktorých v pamäti svojej rezonuje folklórne pásmo Včera, dnes a zajtra prezentované na Slovenskom národnom dni Expo 67 v Montreale, cyklus básní a epigramov novinársky uverejnených, heslo o Slovákoch v Kanade pre Encyclopedia Canadiana a do slovenčiny preložil kanadskú štátnu hymnu O Canada. V slove a reči proponoval utvorenie Pamiatkového ústavu na zbieranie a zachovanie memorabií Slovákov v Kanade. Za svoju dlhoročnú aktívnu účasť v slovenskom novinárskom a fraternalistickom dianí obdržal príležitostné ocenenia.

Po návrate z vojny oženil sa s Pavlinou Marejkovou, dcérou prominentnej slovenskej rodiny. Spolu s manželkou, ktorú nazval „môj anjel strážca“, do jej odchodu do nenávratna v novembri 2010, prežili 65 rokov v manželstve. Mladých manželov obohatil syn Steve, ktorý po vyškolení s akademickým titulom PhD, bol profesorom filozofie, ľudskej vedy a koordinátorom Medzinárodného Bakalauraátu (IB). Počas jeho vojenskej služby, noviny redigoval František Kvetan.

Pri tomto vzácnom mílniku jeho plodného pionierskeho života v Kanade, žičíme mu v hojnej miere dobré zdravie a veľa Božích milostí do ďalších jemu nameraných rokov s privolaním: Živio!

(srh)



Štefan Hreha

## Storočnica básnika G. Zvonického

Saleziánsky kňaz, prominentný slovenský básnik Gorazd Zvonický získal cenu Fra Angelico in memoriam za celoživotné dielo

Významnému básnikovi, prekladateľovi, pedagógovi, katolíckemu kňazovi, saleziánovi a misionárovi Gorazdovi Zvonickému bola 14. februára 2013, v Primaciálnom paláci v Bratislave slávnostne udelená cena Fra Angelico (in memoriam) za celoživotné dielo a prínos kresťanských hodnôt do umenia. Cenu Fra Angelico udeľuje Konferencia biskupov Slovenska prostredníctvom Rady pre vedu, vzdelanie a kultúru. Odovzdávania sa zúčastnili bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Msgr. Stanislav Zvolenský, predseda Rady pre vedu, vzdelanie a kultúru pri KBS Msgr. František Rábek a ďalší hostia. Cenou Fra Angelico bolo ocenených viacero osobností. Ocenenie pre Gorazda Zvonického prevzal provinciál Saleziánov Jána Bosca na Slovensku, Karol Maník.

Gorazd Zvonický (29.6.1913 – 27.7.1995), vlastným menom Andrej Šándor, sa narodil v Močaranocho, dnes súčasť Michaloviec v Zemplínskej župe na východnom Slovensku. Je významnou osobnosťou slovenských dejín a tzv. slovenskej katolíckej moderny. V júni 2013 si verejnou pripomenie sté výročie jeho narodenia. Pri tejto príležitosti pripravuje provincia Saleziánov don Bosca na Slovensku v spolupráci s mestom Michalovce, Zemplínskou knižnicou Gorazda Zvonického a Maticou Slovenskou v Michalovciach viacero aktivít a podujatí.

Životné dielo a tvorba Gorazda Zvonického výrazne ovplyvnili vývoj literatúry na Slovensku. Zaslúžil sa o bohatú básnickú tvorbu – vydal viacero básnických zbierok (napr. Sejsba perál, Mýtnik pred Madonou, Prebúdza sa zem, Len črepy, Smer Mariánska hora a mnohé iné), cyklus sonetov s názvom Na igrícovom kare. V roku 1973 vyšiel na jeho počesť zborník s názvom Rozsievateľ perál, ktorý vydal Slovenský ústav svätých Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme pri príležitosti jeho šesťdesiatin a 25. výročia kňazskej vysviacky. Písal tiež eseje a novely, napr. Okolo kľúčovej diery či Keď mlčať nie je zlato. Osobitným spôsobom sa venoval mariánskej poézii. V roku 1993 vyšiel výber z jeho básnickej tvorby s názvom Chcem sa ti ozvať (pri príležitosti 80-tych narodenín) a dielo Si krajšia moja vlasť.

Gorazd Zvonický bol významným prekladateľom, k jeho najväčším prekladateľským prínosom patrí trojväzkové dielo Hymny na posvätenie času, ktoré sa používajú v súčasnej liturgii. V roku 1974 vydal výber päťdesiatich ôsmich básní zo zbierky Rerum vulgarium fragmenta, ktoré aj prebásnil. V roku 1985 preložil z taliančiny životopis svätého Františka Saleského z pera Adolfa L'arca. Zvonický pomáhal pri redakcii Rímskeho misálu latinsko-slovenského, ktorý vyšiel v roku 1966. Z latinčiny prekladal aj pápežské encykliky. Bol veľmi aktívny pri pastoračnej službe Slovákom v emigrácii. V roku 1959 stál pri zrode Zahraničnej Matice Slovenskej, v roku 1966 sa stal redaktorom básnickej edície Lýra, ktorá sa stala vlajkovou loďou slovenskej exilovej poézie. Gorazd Zvonický vykonával aj pedagogickú prácu – pôsobil ako profesor na slovenskom gymnáziu v Ríme.

V roku 1984 Ústredie slovenskej katolíckej inteligencie (ÚSKI) so sídlom vo Švajčiarsku udelilo Gorazdovi Zvonickému Veľkú zlatú cyrilo-metodskú medailu. V roku 1993 mu prezident Talianskej republiky Oscar Luigi Scalfara udelil vysoké štátne vyznamenanie Commendatore Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana - Rytiersky rád Za zásluhy o Taliansku republiku.

J. M. Rydlo



## Mentoringový program Women Entrepreneurship Forum organizuje Veľvyslanectvo USA na Slovensku

Mentoringový program Women Entrepreneurship Forum určený začínajúcim podnikateľkám z celého Slovenska organizuje Veľvyslanectvo USA na Slovensku v spolupráci s Vidieckou organizáciou pre komunitné aktivity VOKA v troch mestách, okrem Košíc a Bratislavy aj v Banskej Bystrici. „Som tu na to, aby som podporil ženy v podnikaní,“ uviedol 26. februára pred slávnostným otvorením programu v v Banskej Bystrici veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Theodore Sedgwick.

Základom programu je, že skúsené ženy - podnikateľky alebo muži - podnikatelia spolupracujú so ženami, ktoré chcú začať alebo začínajú podnikáť, aby im odovzdávali vedomosti. Program má webovú stránku aj skupinu na sociálnej sieti a Sedgwick bude podľa vlastných slov rád, keď si ich ženy pozrú. „Na tých stránkach zdieľame informácie - jednak zapojené ženské združenia zdieľajú svoje aktivity a my tam dávame tiež užitočné informácie,“ uviedol.

Sedgwick pokračoval, že v októbri robili konferenciu na tému žien v podnikaní. „Nechceli sme, aby to skončilo len konferenciou, chceli sme nejaké konkrétne hmatateľné výsledky,“ dodal veľvyslanec s tým, že preto sa rozhodli robiť mentoringový program a to v spolupráci so slovenskými mimovládnyimi organizáciami a ďalšími ženskými združeniami.

Prvou hodnotou pre organizovanie programu bolo postavenie žien, druhou podpora podnikania a podnikavosti. „To je niečo, čo sa snažíme rozvíjať aj v USA, pretože podnikanie pomáha ekonomike, vytváraniu pracovných miest a to je to, čo chceme podporiť,“ dodal Sedgwick. Pripomenul, že bývalá ministerka zahraničných vecí Hillary Clintonová prišla s myšlienkou pozdvihnúť status žien vo svete aj v Amerike.

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## Vyšli historické životopisy Cyrila a Metoda

Karmelitánske nakladateľstvo prináša v Roku svätých Cyrila a Metoda nové vydanie vzácných historických životopisov slovenských vierozsvestov - Život Konštantína Cyrila a Život Metoda v spracovaní kňaza a jazykovedca Štefana Vragaša.

Obidva životopisy vznikli pravdepodobne ešte za Metodovho života v 9. storočí. Autorstvo Života Konštantína sa pripisuje Klementovi Ochridskému, Život Metoda napísal zrejme Gorazd. Texty, ktoré sa zachovali už iba v odpisoch, sú prerozprávané do súčasnej slovenčiny, preto sú prístupné aj dnešnému čitateľovi. Publikáciu ilustroval a graficky upravil uznávaný slovenský výtvarník Miroslav Cipár.

Vďaka spolupráci s Konferenciou biskupov Slovenska budú knihu distribuovať do všetkých škôl na Slovensku. Dostupná bude aj v obchodnej sieti, informovalo Karmelitánske nakladateľstvo.

TASR

## Slovenským dôchodcom sa žije lepšie ako americkým, tvrdí prieskum

Podmienky pre život dôchodcov sú na Slovensku lepšie, ako napríklad v USA alebo vo Veľkej Británii. Vyplýva to z prieskumu, ktorý uskutočnila spoločnosť Natixis Global Asset Management. V rebríčku krajín, ktorý táto spoločnosť zostavila na základe indexu hodnotiaceho kvalitu života dôchodcov, sa Slovensko umiestnilo na osemnástom mieste, tesne za Českom. Informovala o tom americká CNN.

USA v tomto rebríčku obsadili devätnástu priečku a Veľká Británia bola dvadsiata. Index hodnotí kvalitu života v 150-tich krajinách sveta a zohľadňuje 20 ukazovateľov, ako napríklad dĺžka života, výdaje na zdravotníctvo v prepočte na obyvateľa alebo dostupnosť zdravotnej starostlivosti. V rebríčku mali na prvých desiatich priečkach najvýraznejšie zastúpenie krajiny západnej Európy, ktoré majú kvalitné zdravotníctvo a rozvinuté sociálne zabezpečenie. Na prvom mieste sa umiestnilo Nórsko, druhé bolo Švajčiarsko a tretie Luxembursko. Ďalej nasleduje Švédsko, Rakúsko, Fínsko a Holandsko. Prvú desiatku uzatvára Dánsko, Nemecko a Francúzsko.

TASR



## Americkí Slováci absolvujú púť viery do Ríma a na Slovensko

Americkí Slováci sa chystajú na púť viery do Ríma a na Slovensko. „Púť bude príležitosťou prehlibnúť si katolícku vieru a slovenskú identitu. Hoci navštívime veľa historických a kultúrnych pamiatok, pôjde predovšetkým o duchovnú púť určenú na prehĺbenie viery,“ hovorí Philip A. Altavilla, predseda Združenia slovenských katolíkov (Slovak Catholic Federation), ktorá púť organizuje od 14. do 26. apríla 2013.

Táto mimoriadna púť sa bude konať v kontexte troch výročí: Roku viery pri príležitosti 50. výročia otvorenia Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu, 50. výročia založenia Pápežského slovenského kolégia sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme, ktoré vzniklo vďaka vízií a úsiliu kardinála Jozefa Tomka a za pomoci biskupa Andreja Grutku a mnohých angažovaných Slovákov z Ameriky a Kanady a napokon Roku sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktorým sa pripomína 1150. výročie príchodu sv. Cyrila Metoda k Slovanom.

Púť je rozdelená na dve časti. Počas prvých piatich dní navštívia Slováci Večné mesto, kde zavítajú do štyroch pápežských bazilik, ako aj viacerých chrámov a historických pamiatok. Zúčastnia sa aj na oslavách 50. výročia založenia Pápežského slovenského kolégia sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. Od 20. do 26. apríla budú na Slovensku. Navštívia Bratislavu, Šaštín, Trnavu a Nitrú. Ďalší deň bude venovaný Malokarpatskej vinnej ceste. Pred odchodom do USA zavítajú aj na Velehrad do Českej republiky.

TK KBS

## Oznamy a spoločenské podujatia

### Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej omši v nedeľu 7. apríla 2013 o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66-tej ulici. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

**Mária Juráši, pokladníčka**

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

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City, že v nedeľu 28. apríla 2013 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66<sup>th</sup> Street v New York City. Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a diskusia o návrhoch na ďalšiu činnosť. Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa na tejto schôdzi zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**

## Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti bola toho roku dôstojnou oslavou za účasti oddaných Slovákov z New Yorku, New Jersey, Connecticut a Pennsylvánie. Toto podujatie tradične organizuje I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New York City v spolupráci Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, spolkami sv. Štefana a sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a Slovenským Katolíckym Sokolom. Oslava sa konala v nedeľu 10. marca 2013 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Spomienková slávnosť sa začala slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine doobeda v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Svätú omšu, ktorá bola obetovaná za prvého slovenského prezidenta Dr. Jozefa Tisu a tých Slovákov, ktorí obetovali svoj život za sebaurčenie slovenského národa, odlúžil vikár kostola, otec Štefan Chanás. Veľkú zásluhu na víťazstve slovenského národa v boji za jeho práva mala aj Slovenská liga v Amerike, ktorá udržovala slovenské povedomie u Slovákov žijúcich v Amerike.

Samotná oslava sa začala v osadnej hale kostola najprv modlitbou a následne zaspievaním Americkéj a Slovenskej štátnej hymny, ktorú viedol slovenský spevák Jozef Ivaška. Za tým predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, Milan R. Dait privítal a predstavil hosti za predsedníckym stolom a za tým predniesol slávnostný prejav o dianí a priebehu od Košického vládneho programu až do vyhlásenia Slovenskej republiky 1. 1. 1993. Svoj referát ukončil slovami: „Česť a sláva tým, čo zasvätili a obetovali svoje životy a slobodu na ceste k sebaurčeniu slovenského národa a slovenskej štátnosti. „ Prejav k 10. výročiu vzniku Slovenskej republiky v angličtine predniesol predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Daniel F. Tanzone.

V ďalšom programe odzneli dve básne: „Hoj zem drahá“ od Martina Rázusa a „Modlitba za Slovensko“ od Milana Rúfusa, ktoré zarecitovala Henrieta H. Daitová. V hudobnom čísle programu zaspieval známy slovenský spevák Jozef Ivaška niekoľko slovenských ľudových pesničiek a tiež dve árie z opery Gejzu Dusíka. Za tým podujatie zhodnotila tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá a poďakovala organizátorom ako aj účinkujúcim za veľmi peknú oslavu.

Po programe sa podávalo bohaté občerstvenie, ktoré pripravili Ján a Joan Škrkoň a ďalší členovia Spolku sv. Štefana. Na záver prítomní zaspievali „God Bless America“ a „Hej Slováci“ za doprovodu slovenského speváka Jozefa Ivašku.

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**



Pred oltárom Dr. Jozefa Tisu zľava: Daniel F. Tanzone, Henrieta H. Daitová, Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton, a Milan R. Dait.



Na Oslave slovenskej štátnosti sediaci zľava: Predseda Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ, Jozef Bilik; tajomníčka SLvA Nina Holá; predseda I. Zboru SLvA, Milan R. Dait; predseda SLvA, Daniel F. Tanzone; tajomníčka I. Zboru SLvA, Henrieta H. Daitová. Stojaci zľava: Helena Brchnel, Ján Holý, farár Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton; Jozef Ivaška, Marta Cataláno a Mary Z. Gasparik MD.

## Nebojte sa dobra a nehy, vyzval pápež

Pokračovanie zo str. 28



FOTO TASR/AP Dmitry Lovetsky

Dekan kardinálskeho kolégia kardinál Angelo Sodano odovzdáva rybársky prsteň pápežovi Františkovi počas jeho inauguračnej omše 19. marca 2013 vo Vatikáne. Argentínsky kardinál Jorge Mario Bergoglio sa ako 266. pápež v dejinách ujal úradu pápeža, hlavy katolíckej cirkvi, ku ktorej sa vo svete hlási vyše 1.2 miliardy ľudí.

**Pope Francis is bestowed the Fisherman's Ring by Cardinal Angelo Sodano during his inaugural Mass, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Tuesday, March 19, 2013.**

upozornil pápež. „Chrániť znamená bdieť nad vlastnými citmi a srdcom, lebo odtiaľ vychádzajú dobré i zlé úmysly,“ poznamenal pápež.

### Gašparovič pápeža osobne pozval na návštevu Slovenska

Gašparovič sa 19. marca tiež vo Vatikáne zúčastnil na slávnostnej inauguračnej svätej omši novozvoleného pápeža Františka. Najvyššieho predstaviteľa SR sprevádzal minister kultúry Marek Maďarič. Prezident Ivan Gašparovič pri osobnom stretnutí s pápežom Františkom zablahoželel k jeho zvoleniu a odovzdal mu pozdravy od slovenských občanov. Zároveň zopakoval svoje pozvanie na návštevu Slovenska. Tá sa má uskutočniť pri príležitosti 1150. výročia príchodu vierozvestcov Cyrila a Metoda na naše územie, 20. výročia vzniku samostatného Slovenska a s tým súvisiacim nadviazaním diplomatických stykov medzi SR a Svätou stolicou. Pápež prezidentovi povedal, že si váži slovenský národ a zároveň vyslovil prosbu, aby sa veriaci na Slovensku zaňho modlili.

V kázni sa Svätý Otec obrátil na prítomných štátnikov s výzvou, nech nedopustia, aby svet sprevádzali známky ničenia a smrti. Po skončení inauguračnej svätej omše sa Gašparovič podobne ako ďalší hostia stretli s pápežom na osobnej audiencii.

TASR



Pri čítaní hlavného prejavu, Milan R. Dait



Konferencierka, Henrieta H. Daitová



Slovenský spevák, Jozef Ivaška

## Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Bratislava** má už dlhodobo najhoršie štatistiky kriminality na Slovensku. Za minulý rok bolo v hlavnom meste spáchaných 16 vražd, z celkovej počtu 75 na Slovensku. Bratislava skončila najhoršie aj v počte spáchania lúpeží, ukradnutých áut či v drogovej trestnej činnosti. V roku 2012 sa bezpečne žilo v Pezinku. Zločinci tu nespáchali ani jednu vraždu, v porovnaní s ostatnými obvodmi v Bratislavskom kraji dosiahli najnižšie čísla v lúpežiach, znásilneniach či drogovej činnosti. Najhoršie dopadol druhý bratislavský obvod - Podunajské Biskupice, Ružinov a Vrakuňa.

• **Slovenská** republika vyšle v budúcom roku do vojenskej misie ISAF v Afganistane v rámci dvoch rotácií do 150 vojakov skupiny špeciálnych operácií (SOTG). Na vybudovanie špeciálneho zoskupenia vojakov poskytnú Slovensku finančnú pomoc USA, a to až vo výške okolo 20 miliónov eur. Pôsobenie ozbrojených síl v Afganistane bude pokryté z rozpočtovej kapitoly ministerstva obrany. V roku 2014 by to mohlo potenciálne predstavovať až 29.5 milióna eur. Reálna suma však bude závisieť aj od toho, koľko z maximálneho počtu 150 vojakov Slovensko nakoniec skutočne vyšle a ako dlho sa tam zdržia. Schválený mandát však počítá s návratom do februára 2015.

• V rôznych odboroch medicíny ponúka 20 najvýznamnejších nemeckých kliník 500 voľných miest pre slovenských lekárov, ošetrovateľov a pre ďalší zdravotnícky personál. Podľa predsedu Lekárskeho odborového združenia Petra Visolajského na prvom veľtrhu v roku 2011 sa počas dvoch dní 150 slovenských lekárov a zdravotníkov rozhodlo odísť za prácou do Nemecka. Teraz budú mať ďalší odborníci príležitosť zistiť konkrétne podmienky od zástupcov kliník a rozhodnúť sa. Záujem majú o internistov, chirurgov, pediatrov a iných lekárov, ale aj o zdravotné sestry či ošetrovateľov. "Naši lekári neodchádzajú preč len kvôli financiám, ale kvôli marazmu, aký tu vládne. Ľudia sú už sklamaní a skeptickí z celkového prístupu politikov k zdravotníctvu, kde 20 rokov chcú konzervovať systém, aby bol pre finančné skupiny, a nie pre pacienta," zdôvodnil Visolajský.

• **Slovenské** národné múzeum (SNM) je so svojimi 18 špecializovanými múzeami a stovkami expozícií najväčšou kultúrnou inštitúciou na Slovensku. V roku 2012 okrem stálych expozícií a výstav hostilo aj viacero podujatí, koncertov či divadelných predstavení. Zatiaľ čo v roku 2011 bola návštevnosť takmer 960,000 návštevníkov, minulý rok slovenské hrady, zámky, kúrie, kaštiele a ostatné múzejné objekty navštívilo 1,137,243 ľudí. Najnavštevovanejším múzeom bolo v minulom roku Spišské múzeum v Levoči, pod ktorého správu spadá Spišský hrad, Historická radnica a Dom Majstra Pavla v Levoči. Ich expozície navštívilo takmer 250,000 ľudí. Medzi najnavštevovanejšie patria ďalej Múzeum Bojnice, Múzeum Červený Kameň a takmer 120,000 návštevníkov si pozrelo aj zrekonštruované priestory Bratislavského hradu v Historickom múzeu SNM.

• **Mestská** knižnica (MKB) pripravila na piatok 15. marca tematické podujatie pod názvom Deň legendy Jánošíka. Ľudového hrdinu si pripomenula pri príležitosti 300. výročia smrti Juraja Jánošíka, ktorý bol popravený 17. marca 1713 v Liptovskom Mikuláši. Tematické podujatie skoncipovali organizátori ako spojenie výtvarného umenia s umením filmovým. V priestoroch galérie Artotéka na Kapucínskej ulici pripravili výstavu reprodukcii známych výtvarníkov, literárnych i hudobných diel o slávnom zbojníkovi. Súčasne premietali filmy o Jánošíkovi. Bol to napríklad film bratov Siakel'ovcov z roku 1921, či snímka Martina Friča z roku 1935. Samozrejme, neopomenuli ani legendárneho Jánošíka Paľa Bielika.

• **Zahraniční** profesori či jazykovi lektori, ktorí na Slovensko prichádzajú z nečlenských krajín EÚ, by mohli získať prechodný pobyt na päť rokov namiesto súčasných dvoch. Umožniť to má pozmeňujúci návrh k vládnej novele o pobyte cudzincov z dielne poslancu Martina Fronca (KDH). "Ide o to, že môžeme získať špičkových profesorov a vedcov na slovenské vysoké školy zo štátov, ktoré nie sú členmi EÚ. Ale keď im schvaľujú prechodný pobyt maximálne na dva roky, to pre nich nie je zaujímavé. Preto som navrhol, aby to bolo päť rokov," povedal na rokovaní školského parlamentného výboru Fronc. Zmena by mohla podľa neho prilákať aj viac lektorov, napríklad z USA, na bilingválne gymnáziá. V súčasnosti musia učitelia či vedci po vypršaní dvojročného povolenia žiadať o nové. Na problémy so slovenskou migračnou politikou pre vedcov z nečlenských krajín poukázala v rozhovore nedávno aj podpredsedníčka Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) Eva Majková. Tvrdí, že v tretích krajinách je najväčšia zásoba mladých vedcov, no prilákať ich na Slovensko je ťažké, keďže im podľa zákona nemôžu prideliť štipendium.

• **Pätica** študentov z Katedry politológie a európskych štúdií (KPEŠ) Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Konštantína Filozofa (UKF) v Nitre bude koncom marca zastupovať Slovensko na programe National Model United Nations v New Yorku. Medzinárodný model konferencie OSN je celosvetovo najväčšou a najprestížnejšou simuláciou zasadnutí OSN, uviedla koordinátorka slovenskej výpravy Mária Kočnerová z KPEŠ. Členovia slovenskej delegácie prešli výberom, ktorému predchádzala účasť na školení v českých Olomouci. Na pôde hlavného sídla OSN budú spolu s ďalšími piatimi tisícami univerzitných delegátov diskutovať o aktuálnych globálnych problémoch sveta v rámci dvadsiatich rôznych výborov. Tohtoročný program sa koná pod záštitou generálneho tajomníka OSN Pan Ki-muna.

• **Skrátiť** sa pracovný čas na Slovensku? Skrátenie pracovného času o hodinu z pracovného týždňa by malo zastaviť rastúcu nezamestnanosť a priniesť 25 až 30-tisíc nových pracovných miest. Zamestnávateľia to však považujú za absurdné. Na udržanie zamestnanosti kabinet našiel zatiaľ dočasné riešenie. Zamestnancom vo firmách, ktoré musia utlmiť výrobu, doplatí jeden neodpracovaný deň v týždni. Táto novinka by mala platiť od júna. "Je to absurdný nápad", hodnotí návrh Martin Hošťák z Republikovej únie zamestnávateľov. Pripomenul, že podobné kroky urobilo Francúzsko pred rokmi a skončilo sa to fiaskom. Podľa neho by výsledkom experimentu bolo len to, že by firmy nových zamestnancov neprijali, ale by od tých pôvodných žiadali zvládnuť za kratší pracovný čas rovnaký objem práce ako predtým. "Keďže by robili menej hodín dostali by aj menej peňazí", varuje Hošťák.

• **Popri** dosiahnutí penzijného veku, ktorý je teraz na úrovni 62 rokov, bude treba na získanie dôchodku po novom aj dlhšie pracovať. V súčasnosti je minimálna odpracovaná doba 15 rokov. Vláda ju bude zvyšovať. Dnešní päťdesiatnici tak budú musieť na pobere penzie zrejme odrobiť najmenej 20 rokov a pracovná prax sa môže predĺžiť aj na 30 rokov. Kto odpracuje menej, nebude od štátu dostávať penziu, ale nižšie sociálne dávky. Táto zmena by mala pomôcť nízkoprijmovým skupinám, ktoré po nadobudnutí penzijného veku a odpracovaní dostatočného počtu rokov získajú nárok na minimálny dôchodok. Ten by mal byť podľa ministerstva práce o niečo vyšší ako minimálne sociálne dávky.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## Poletí naša mladá matičiarka do vesmíru?

Spoločnosť A·A·S·A: AXE Apollo Space Academy, organizuje v 43 krajinách sveta (zapojené je aj Slovensko, ale napr. Poľsko nie), Národné kolá záujemcov o Let do vesmíru. Tie spočívajú zatiaľ v tom, že uchádzačov o Let do vesmíru môžeme podporovať hlasovaním, na oficiálnej stránke: [www.lynxapollo.com](http://www.lynxapollo.com) a do Národného finále postúpi najlepších 8 uchádzačov, a to podľa počtu získaných hlasov. Týchto uchádzačov potom čakajú ešte úlohy, na základe, ktorých vyberie Národná komisia jedného najvhodnejšieho uchádzača, ktorý sa potom zúčastní na Celosvetovom procese, finálneho výberu, a to priamo v Kozmickom centre Orlando – Florida. Po troch tajných úlohách tam vyberú len 22 najvhodnejších súťažiacich, na cestu do vesmíru, ktorú bude zabezpečovať Letecká spoločnosť SPACEXC a to 103 km dlhým letom do kozmu.

Zatiaľ súťaže prebiehajú v Národných kolách, a s veľkým potešením, Vám môžem oznámiť, že medzi vážne kandidátky, na Let do vesmíru sa už dostala, aj naša Mladá matičiarka, Mateja Nosil-Valčíčák, ktorá v Chorvátskom kole, tento týždeň, aj vďaka hlasovaniu Matičiarov zo Slovenska, „poskočila“ zo 14-ho miesta už na postupové 5. Miesto! To je Super výsledok, ale netreba spať na vavrínoch, lebo súťaž ešte stále pokračuje. Mateja a jej sestra s rodičmi sú členmi Matice Slovenskej v Meduriči, ktorá bola založená v roku 1997 a na jej čele je od samého počiatku, rodák z Lokce, Jozef Jazefčík. Predkovia z matkinej strany Vesny Nosil - Valčíčák, pochádzajú z Oravy, a tiež obce Lokca, ktorej je v súčasnosti dokonca starostom, pokrývajú pribrúzný, Ing. Miroslav Valčíčák.

### POLETÍ NAŠA MLADÁ MATIČIARKA DO VESMÍRU?

Prosím, „Matičiari“ organizujeme sa a podporujeme našu Mateju hlasovaním až do samého konca Národného kola! Ako? Je to veľmi jednoduché a netrvá to viac, ako 30 sekúnd. Otvorte si stránku:

[https://www.lynxapollo.com/hr\\_HR/187723/mateja-nosil](https://www.lynxapollo.com/hr_HR/187723/mateja-nosil)

**Stačí kliknúť na Glasaj, napísať svoju adresu e-mailu, prepísať dva slová a kliknúť GLASAJ!**

Ak ste správne hlasovali slovo GLASAJ, sa Vám zmení na GOTOVO, v zelenom poli. Pozvite ešte aj rodinných príslušníkov a priateľov! Ak potrebujete ešte ďalšie informácie, napíšte mi, som skoro každý deň 20 hod. na PC! Moja adresa: profab@orava.sk

Ak ste zahlasovali, pošlite mi krátku správu, aby som vedel, kto sa pričlnil! Srdečne ďakujem!

**Ing. Jozef Fábry (MO MS Trstená)**

hlavný koordinátor spolupráce Orava s krajinami v Chorvátsku

## Krajanská pomoc – nádherné gesto spolupatričnosti

Finančná pomoc v najrôznejších podobách nie je ničím zvláštna. Väčšinou ju vidíme vo forme sponzorských aktivít firiem či podnikateľov. Zvláštny nádherný však dostane, keď sa nejedná o komerčnú pomoc, robenie si reklamy – ale o gesto, ktorým chcú vyjadriť svoje čítanie obyčajní ľudia. A ešte zvláštnejšia je vtedy, keď týchto obyčajných ľudí spájajú ich historické korene – ich predkovia. Konkrétne ľudia – Slováci, ktorí odišli za hľadaním práce a šťastia do ďalekého sveta, no nikdy nezabudli na to odkiaľ pochádzajú.

Naša obec – Lúčina (vofakedy Huviz), okres Prešov – mala to privilegium okúsiť takúto pomoc už dvakrát.

V roku 1994 to bol príspevok na výstavbu rímsko-katolíckeho kostola, kedy rodina Hudáková a Korečková prispeli na vybudovanie križovej cesty, pamätného križa a samotného kostola. S Lúčinou spája rodinu Hudákovú fakt, že sa tu narodil otec Andreja Hudáka (prezidenta Slovenského inštitútu v Clevelande, OH). Samotný A. Hudák sa narodil v neďalekých Kecerovciach. Svojim príspevkom chcel p. Hudák vyjadriť postoj svojho srdca, lásku a úctu k rodnému kraju a to, že naň v cudzine nikdy nezabudol.

Druhou našou skúsenosťou s finančným príspevkom bola výstavba detského ihriska A. P. Bugasa u nás na Lúčine. Je to celkom zaujímavý príbeh.

Ako starosta tejto maličkej obce (máme len 160 obyvateľov) sa stále stretávam s finančnými ťažkosťami – keďže na Slovensku sú obce financované na základe počtu obyvateľov. Zaplatíme základnú prevádzku (elektrina, odpady...) a na rozvojové aktivity neostáva nič. A pritom nie sme vymierajúcou obcou, máme tu aj dosť malých detí a mládeže. Moja manželka Janka pracuje na univerzite v Prešove. A jeden semester prišla na hostovanie p. Nancy Emerick-Meyer z univerzity v Clevelande, OH. Nancy má tiež korene na východnom Slovensku. Ona dostala nápad, či by sme pre náš sen – vybudovať detské ihrisko, neoslovili p. Hudáka (áno, ten, ktorý prispel na kostol), ktorého osobne pozná. Keď sa vrátila späť do USA, oslovila ho a medzitým som sa s ním poštou skontaktoval aj ja. P. Hudák prišiel s nápadom, že ihrisko by mohlo byť pomenované podľa A. P. Bugasa – rodáka priamo z Lúčiny (\*1865), ktorý emigroval do USA v roku 1882. Takže následne kontaktoval Bugošovskú rodinu, ktorá je teraz rozrastená po celých USA. Komunikáciu nám pomáhal zabezpečovať ďalší pracovník Slovenského inštitútu, p. Joe Hornack. Tak sa stalo, že spoločnými silami rozbehli akciu – zbierku na podporu nášho zámeru. Ja som vypracoval rozpočet a projekt, ktorý som zverejnil na internete. Po niekoľkých mesiacoch bola zbierka hotová. Okrem rodiny Bugasovej sa do nej zapojilo viacero iných ochotných darcov. Vyzbieralo sa rovných \$3,000. Tieto peniaze nám boli poslané po duchovnom otcovi, bratovi Uháľovi, ktorý bol práve v tom čase na pobyte v Clevelande. Medzičasom sme ešte získali finančnú podporu od miestnej nadácie pivovaru Veľký Šariš, miestne združenie vlastníkov urbaniátu venovalo drevo na konštrukcie, nejaká suma bola vyčlenená z obecného rozpočtu a tak spoločnými silami sme dali dohromady všetko, čo sme potrebovali. Práce boli vykonávané svojpomocne vo voľnom čase. Celá akcia bola krásnou ukážkou ochoty a dobrej vôle.

Na záver chcem ešte raz poďakovať všetkým, ktorí sa zbierky zúčastnili a pripájam aj krátke životopisy spomínaných ľudí a zoznam osôb, ktoré nám finančne prispeli.

**Andrej P. Bugas** sa narodil v roku 13.10.1865 na Huvize – v dnešnej Lúčine, okr. Prešov. Do USA odišiel v roku 1882 a stal sa prvým Slovákom zvoleným do senátu Spojených štátov. Zomrel v roku 1948.

Jeho syn, **John S. Bugas**, sa narodil 26.4.1906 pri Rock Spring, Wyoming. V roku 1935 sa stal prvým Slovákom vo vysokej funkcii špeciálneho agenta FBI. Neskôr sa stal viceprezidentom FORD Motor Company a priamym poradcom Henryho Forda II. Zomrel v roku 1982 v Ypsilanti, Michigan.

**Andrew Hudák st.**, sa narodil v Lúčine, 22. novembra 1899. Jeho synovia sa stali známymi staviteľmi a investormi v oblasti Clevelandu, OH. **Andrew F. Hudák ml.**, bol prezidentom Slovenskej záhrady na Floride 14 rokov. Neskôr sa stal riaditeľom Slovenského inštitútu a knižnice v Clevelande, OH.

Za vznik tohto detského parku patrí vďaka aj podpore potomkov nášho rodáka, ktorí teraz žijú po celých USA. Spolu bolo vyzbieraných od rodiny Bugasovej (prostredníctvom Paul E. Bugasa) \$2,170. Zbierku ďalej finančne podporili: Andrew F. Hudák s rodinou - \$450, Joseph J. Hornack s rodinou - \$100, Anna Korecko - \$100, Nancy Meyer-Emmerick - \$75, Slovenský inštitút a knižnica v Clevelande - \$105, rod. Stanislava Bugoša z Lúčiny - €150.





Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Ročník 122

STREDA, 27. MARCA 2013

Číslo 5881

## Katolícky svet má nového pápeža

Za nového Svätého Otca bol 13. marca zvolený 76-ročný argentínsky kardinál Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ, ktorý prijal meno František. Bude vôbec prvým pápežom s týmto menom. Vyše stotisíc ľuďom, ktorí sa zhromaždili na Námestí Sv. Petra a ulici Via della Conciliazione vo Vatikáne, to oznámil francúzsky kardinál protodiakon Jean-Louis Tauran. Krátko po 20:20 h z lodžie balkóna baziliky 266. hlava Katolíckej cirkvi po prvý raz udelil požehnanie Urbi et orbi (Mestu a svetu).

Novozvolený pápež z balkónu Baziliky sv. Petra udelil prvé požehnanie. Najskôr však vyzval k modlitbe za emeritného pápeža Benedikta XVI., po ktorom preberá úrad. Vyzval k modlitbe za celý svet a za bratstvo v Cirkvi. Prítomných tiež poprosil, aby sa modlili i za neho. Po požehnaní opäť poďakoval za "vrelé prijatie". "Teraz vás už opustím. Ďakujem vám za prijatie. Modlite sa za mňa a do skorého videnia. Uvidíme sa veľmi skoro. Zajtra sa chcem ísť pomodliť k Panne Márii, aby ochraňovala Rím. Dobrú noc a dobre si odpočinite," povedal František, prvý jezuita, ktorý zasadne na pápežský stolec.

Nového Svätého Otca zvolili kardináli po piatich kolách 75. konkláve, ktoré sa začalo v utorok podvečer. Ide o druhého pápeža v treťom tisícročí. Na jeho voľbu sa zúčastnilo 115 kardinálov zo všetkých svetadielov. Novozvolený Svätý Otec nahradí nemeckého predchodcu Benedikta XVI., ktorý sa posledný februárový deň tohto roka vzdal svojho úradu.

TK KBS



FOTO:TASR/AP/Dmitry Lovetsky

**Nový pápež František žehná davu veriacich z balkóna Baziliky sv. Petra vo Vatikáne. Kardináli 13. marca 2013 zvolili počas druhého dňa konkláve nového v poradí už 266. pápeža. Novou hlavou katolíckej cirkvi sa stal Argentínčan Jorge Mario Bergoglio, ktorý prijal meno František.**

*Pope Francis blesses the crowd from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, who chose the name of Francis is the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.*

## Nebojte sa dobra a nehy, vyzval pápež

Pápež František sa dňa 19. marca 2013 ako 266. pápež v dejinách ujal úradu. V homílii počas svojej inauguračnej omše vyzval nikdy nezabúdať, že „pravá moc je služba“. Na prítomných hodnostárov apeloval, aby sa stali ochrancami Božieho plánu, a všetkých ľudí požiadal, aby sa nebáli dobra a nehy a prejavovali ju najmä tým najslabším a najkrehkejším: starým ľuďom a deťom. Dodal, že aj pápež, aby mohol vykonávať zverenú moc, „musí stále viac vstupovať do služby, ktorej žiarivým vrcholom je kríž“.

„Musí ako sv. Jozef otvoriť náruč, aby ako on chránil celý Boží ľud, (musí) prijímať celé ľudstvo, obzvlášť najslabších a najmenejších“. František zdôraznil, že len ten, kto „s láskou slúži, vie ochrániť“. K tejto úlohe je povolaný aj rímsky biskup, ale aj všetci ľudia.

### Ochraňovanie sa netýka len kresťanov

Na príklade sv. Jozefa, ktorý prijal Boží plán - mlčky, stálou prítomnosťou a vernosťou Márii a Ježišovi, aj vtedy, keď nerozumel, čo od neho Boh žiada -, pápež František ilustroval, ako odpovedať na Božie volanie: pokorne a pohotovo. „Chráňme Krista, aby sme chránili druhých i stvorenie,“ vyzval pápež.

Povolanie ochraňovať sa netýka len kresťanov. Má dimenziu, ktorá je ľudská, a týka sa všetkých, pripomenul pápež. Vyzval rešpektovať „každé Božie stvorenie a prostredie, v ktorom žijeme, starať sa o každého s láskou, najmä o deti a starých, o tých, ktorí sú najkrehkejší“, ale aj o vzťahy v rodine, medzi manželmi, rodičmi a deťmi. „Človeku je všetko zverené do ochrany. Je to zodpovednosť, ktorá sa týka nás všetkých. Chráňte Božie dary,“ vyzval pápež v homílii. Upozornil, že keď sa človek tejto zodpovednosti vzdá, „dostáva priestor skaza a srdce je vyschnuté“. „Vždy existujú 'herodesovia', ktorí ničia a kazia tvár muža a ženy,“ pripomenul pápež.

Vyzval všetkých ľudí na zodpovedných miestach, aby boli ochrancami Božieho plánu zapísaného do prírody, druhého človeka, životného prostredia. „Nedovoľme, aby znamenie skazy sprevádzalo naše putovanie. Pamätajme, že nenávisť, závisť a pýcha špiní život,“

Pokračovanie na str. 26

## Vítame nášho nového pápeža Františka

My slovenskí katolíci doma, ako aj v cudzine, srdečne vítame nášho, nového pápeža Františka, na Petrovom stolci.  
Veríme, že jeho skutky naše srdcia pravdou osviežia.  
Veríme, že bude riadiť Petrovú loď v búrkach, aj v pokoji, že každú, aj malú, svetovú situáciu, pravdou zahojí.

V modlitbách, prosíme nášho Božieho Stvoriteľa, aby doprial pápežovi Františkovi telesných, ako aj duševných síl, o ktoré slovenský národ vždy, tak úpenlivo v modlitbách prosil. Gratulujeme našim slovenským bratom a sestrám v Argentíne, že ich syn František sa stal našim duchovným vodcom vo Vatikáne. Náš slovenský ľud za neho, na kolenách s ružencom kľáči a Bohu, za Novú Hlavu Cirkvi, v modlitbách vďačí.

Jozef Smák

## Výročná schôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC

Výročná schôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v New York City sa konala v nedeľu 24. februára 2013 o 1:00 hodine popoludní v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku City. Počas programu výročnej schôdzy sa konala voľba do nového výboru I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, na ktorej si zvolili nasledujúcich funkcionárov:

Milan R. Dait - predseda; Jozef Korčák - podpredseda; Jozef Bilik - pokladník; Henrieta H. Daitová - tajomníčka a zapisovateľka; Mária Božeková - kultúrna referentka; Marta Cataláno - revizorka; Anna Korčák - revizorka.

Hlavným bodom programu schôdzy bola príprava Spomienkovej oslavy slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa konala dňa 10. marca 2013 o 1:00 hodine popoludní.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

(Viac o Oslave slovenskej štátnosti nájdete na str. 26.)



Zľava: Ladislav Korčák, Henrieta H. Daitová, Milan R. Dait, Nina Holá, Jozef Bilik, Marta Cataláno, Anna Korčák, Jozef Korčák, Mária Božeková.