



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

Volume 121

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

NUMBER 5861

Message from the President

Unless you live in Alaska the winter of 2011-2012 has been unusually mild for most of us. Whether it is because of "global warming" or the coming of a new "ice age", I have no idea.

I do know however, that 2012 is a new year for all of us. Like they say: "Nothing is certain, but death and taxes". And speaking of both, I would like to urge you to confront these unpleasant facts of life.

First, let's talk about taxes. As I write this, many of you are probably either preparing your Form 1040 or gathering the paperwork so you, or whoever prepares your returns, can do it soon.

For those of you or your children who are employed, the use of either a Traditional or Roth IRA makes so much sense, it is almost a sin not to use them. You get tax savings and deferral advantages that cannot be ignored. This is especially true for workers who do not have company paid pension plans and/or younger people who cannot rely on today's Social Security benefits being there when they want to retire.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has excellent IRA (both Roth and Traditional) annuity plans that pay excellent returns. This is available for all ages. Check out our notices in the Jednota or our website: www.fcsu.com.

Younger people often say, "I don't have the money". But since you get a tax deduction and tax free build-up, it helps pay for itself. It is almost like the IRS is paying you to save your money. Even if you have already filed your 2011 return you can start now by putting your



Andrew M. Rajec

continued on page 3



A Slovak Psalm for the Season

Ovečka Stratená – Lost Little Lamb

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS. C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA

Our Good Shepherd, Jesus, speaks to us personally, poignantly, in the hymn Lost Little Lamb (Ovečka Stratená). Here we see Christ's profound vulnerability. The pain He experiences is the price and hallmark for the risk of loving.

When an individual is a precious treasure in another person's life, the loss of this unique person is devastating. So it is with us and the Lord. He continues to search and call us home. His pursuit is enduring. His mercy and compassion are boundless.

Not only during the Lenten and Easter Seasons, but throughout the year, this hymn has been a favorite prayer of mine. Let us now share this prayer.

Editors Note: Sister's English translation of the Slovak Psalm Ovečka Stratená – Little Lost Lamb – can be found on p 3

Inside

Editorial/Commentary	2
Executive Easter Messages.....	3
Slovakia's First Independence.....	7
Branch/District Announcements	14 -15
Slovak	21-244



In Christian artwork – such as this painting "Ghent Altarpiece" by Jan van Eyck, 1432 – the Agnus Dei (Latin for Lamb of God) is a visual representation of Jesus as a lamb. The title Lamb of God for Jesus appears in the Gospel of John, with the initial proclamation: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" in John 1:29. In this rendering, the lamb is depicted bleeding from the area of the heart, symbolizing the shedding of Christ's blood to take away the sins of the world.

*IRA deposits for the 2011
tax year must be made by
April 17, 2012*

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IRA'S ARE AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH

Eight-Year Flexible Premium	3.75%*	minimum	3.00%
Six-Year Flexible Premium	3.50%*	minimum	2.00%
Six-Year Fixed Rate	3.25%*	minimum	2.00%

* Current rates

For more information and forms, please contact our Home Office, your local Branch Office, or visit our Website at FCSU.com

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION • 6611 ROCKSIDE RD
• SUITE 300 • INDEPENDENCE OH 44131
PHONE 1-800-533-6682 • EMAIL FCSU@AOL.COM

Insights and Viewpoints



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

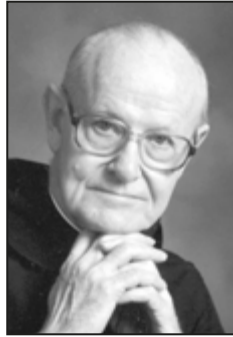
April 15, 2012

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20: 19-31

Gospel Summary

The first thing that we notice in today's gospel is the amazing effect of that the presence and words of Jesus have on his confused and frightened disciples. He finds them in hiding, completely immobilized by the terrible realization of the death of their beloved leader. He



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

addresses them cheerfully with the standard greeting: "Peace." Under normal circumstances, this simply means that one wishes another well. But it means far more than that when spoken by the risen Lord. The disciples feel that the world is out of control. Jesus assures them that such is not the case. In fact, he is there to offer them the gift of deep and unshakable confidence. In spite of dire appearances, all is well.

The reason that all is well is because Jesus now offers them the Spirit. This Holy Spirit has the ability to enter the deepest recesses of their being and to make Jesus more truly present to them than he ever was when they knew him in the flesh. Jesus offers the same Spirit to us also and this Spirit can make Jesus wonderfully present to us. For it is this same Spirit who convinces us of the love of God for us...and, to the extent that we know that, we have nothing to fear.

We recall how God took his good spirit from King Saul and gave it to King David (1 Sam 16:13-14). The consequence was dramatic. Saul would slip deeper and deeper into darkness and despair, while David seemed to lead a charmed life in spite of sins and tragedies. In fact, he became the model of the Messiah and has been a favorite subject for sculptors and painters ever since.

Thomas was not there to receive the Spirit and so he could not trust the good news that the other disciples shared with him. However, when he met Jesus later, everything changed and he allowed Jesus to become thenceforth the center of his life. The witness of others is always important, but nothing can replace a personal encounter with the Lord.

Life Implications

One need not look far in our world today for attitudes of cynicism and distrust. We should avoid becoming gullible or naïve, of course, but we must at all cost learn how to trust. The risen Lord offers us his Spirit and, if we open our hearts to that best of all gifts, we will be able to trust when it is proper to do so.

Most of all, we will trust God's promises, which tell us, in essence, that we can share in the life of Jesus if we dare to be kind and thoughtful and loving in a world that is too often thoughtless and cruel. We really cannot be trusting without the help of God, but with that help we can avoid the terrible pessimism of Saul and acquire the positive, hopeful spirit of David. This positive spirit is found everywhere in the Psalms, which have been attributed to David, not because he wrote more than a few of them, but because the authors of these beautiful prayers were all people like David.

A special gift of the Spirit is the confidence and freedom that allows us to forgive others. Life is just too short for holding grudges or for nursing old injuries. And when we let go of these burdens we will enter more and more into the joy and generosity of the Spirit. In this way, we will not only be free to face the future with courage but we will also become much more pleasant fellow travelers for those who are making the journey with us.

April 22, 2012

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:35-48

Gospel Summary

On that first Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection, two disciples return to Jerusalem from their journey to Emmaus and recount to their friends how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. Suddenly, Jesus appears in their midst and says, "Peace be with you." They are terrified and think they are seeing a ghost. Jesus says to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?" He then asks them to look at him and to touch him. After assuring them that he is the same person they knew before his crucifixion, he eats some baked fish with them.

Jesus then explains how the Scriptures reveal that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead; and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. He then adds, "You are witnesses to these things."

Luke concludes his gospel with this Easter Sunday appearance of Jesus to his disciples as the threshold to its climax and also to its meaning for us. After telling his disciples that they are "witnesses to these things," Jesus declares: "And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." The first reading of this Sunday's Mass from the Acts of the Apostles (also written by Luke) tells us the good news that Jesus kept his promise by sending his Spirit, the promise of his Father. The age of the Church has begun: Peter with the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus proclaims those things the disciples had witnessed.

Life Implications

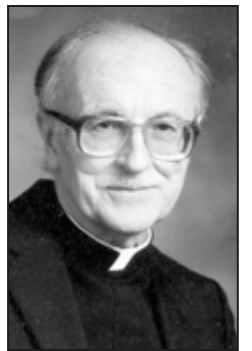
Luke first wants to assure us that though faith in the Risen Lord is a divine gift and a decision of acceptance beyond reason, nevertheless its basis is the solid ground of reason. The Christ of faith is not the creation of the disciples; he is the one they knew during his earthly life. The same words that are used to describe everyday realities are used to describe the reality of Jesus. Yet, here as in other New Testament appearance accounts, it is clear that the new, transformed reality is not subject to the laws of chemistry or physics. This is to assure us that Jesus does not possess a body revived from the dead. He exists in a divine mode of existence; he is able to appear suddenly, no longer bound by the laws of space, time, and matter.

Luke's gospel together with his Acts of the Apostles may well be called the good news of the Holy Spirit. Its background is the bad news that all humanity is in a state of alienation from God and alienation within itself. The divine action of merciful forgiveness and reconciliation began with presence of the Spirit guiding the chosen people, Israel (Acts 28:25). It is the same Spirit who from beginning to end enabled Jesus to advance the divine plan to its next stage. "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit... The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." (Lk 4:4-21).

Now in the final climactic appearance to his disciples, the Risen Lord authorizes them to begin the end stage in fulfillment of the divine plan. It is the age of the Spirit's action in the Church whereby Christ's mission to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins is extended to all nations. Jesus knew that without his Spirit the disciples and those who would follow them would be totally incapable of fulfilling his mandate.

Each Sunday we listen to readings from Scripture in order to learn how the Spirit was with Jesus, and how the Spirit wishes to inspire us. Thus, in the first reading of this Sunday's Mass from Acts, we see a new Peter speaking through the power of the Spirit. Now he and the other disciples are no longer paralyzed by fear. They speak, often in hostile situations, with the confident, joyful candor and boldness of Christ himself. (This is the "parrhesia" of Acts 2:29; 4:13,29,31; 28:31.) It is the Spirit who enables us to know Christ and to live as he lived. In the second reading, John tells us we can be sure that our knowledge of Christ is true faith if we keep his commandments — essentially to love others as he has loved us.

The Spirit also enables us to share in the Easter joy of Christ. The complete joy of the Spirit's presence is anticipated in the disciples' experience of the Risen Lord: "They did him homage and then they returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Lk 24:52). Today in our breaking of bread with the Lord, we pray for the grace to accept the gift of the Spirit, the promise of his Father, with all our heart so that we might live and act as Christians without fear -- in freedom, in truth, in love, in joy.



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, MARCH 28	MONDAY, MARCH 19
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25	MONDAY, APRIL 16
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9	MONDAY, APRIL 30

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

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

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 22 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries -- \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

President's Message

continued from page 1

money into an IRA FOR 2012 a little at a time. (Minimum is \$ 500.00 to establish the annuity with no minimum for additions). Then when you are ready to file your 2012 return in 2013 you already have made your deposit and earned interest in the meantime. Parents tell your kids and grand kids.

Secondly, we all eventually leave this earth, some better prepared than others. While I am not the best qualified to offer advice in spiritual preparation, I can give good advice on the material issues.

You see advertised on TV and web and in the newspapers "burial insurance" or "last illness coverage". These are really our own single-premium whole-life policies under a different name. We know that a funeral today, either burial or cremation, costs \$7,000 - \$10,000 or more. Why not obtain a FCSU whole life policy with a \$10,000 benefit upon death at a much lower premium amount now? Or, put \$10,000 into an annuity and build up tax-free dollars at a very good interest rate with payments upon death? Remove the burden from your family when they are not prepared.

Our Society has many \$1,000 - \$2,000 policies purchased years ago by parents for their kids. Now those "kids" are 75-85 years old and those policies, even with dividends over the years, are not sufficient to cover funeral or last illness expenses. We urge you to prepare for the inevitable while you are insurable. Plus, the value of your life insurance proceeds will pass to your heirs free of income taxes and in many states and circumstances free of estate or inheritance taxes. During this recent recession we have had a larger than usual number of younger Members cash-out their life insurance policies. Many were purchase for them by their parents or grandparents. Unfortunately, many think that their \$10,000 face policy, payable at death, is worth close to \$10,000 cash (the policy face amount) even though the premium paid was much less.

Our Home Office staff tries to explain this, but often young people have their mind made up and want the cash immediately and cease to be Members.

The gyrations of the stock market have led many people to put their money into an annuity or single premium life insurance policy.

The value of an annuity or life policy also makes you a Member of the Society and opens the door for fraternal benefits like our sports program, branch and district events and our scholarships programs etc.

Join us in reaping the benefits of membership, make yourself some money and become a part of a 120 + year old institution that has "old fashion" family values, but is modern, and rock solid.

Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office today:

Call 1-800-Jednota; 1-800-533-6682

e-mail to: fcsu@aol.com

or visit our website: www.fcsu.com



Andrew Harcar
National Vice
President

Easter Greetings from the National Vice President

As spring arrives and Easter approaches, families throughout our Society once again are making preparations for the celebration ahead – most especially preparing for the Resurrection of our Lord. He rose again so we would believe. His Resurrection is the renewal of life; what more beautiful time to remember our Lord Jesus, as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us?

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

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President



Easter Message from the National Treasurer



George F. Matta

From Ash Wednesday, and throughout Lent, we as Christians begin to prepare for Easter – the feast of all feasts. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday enable us to understand all that our Lord Jesus Christ had gone through to prepare himself for his ultimate crucifixion.

During Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we once more relive those days of suffering that our Lord, Jesus Christ, experienced and endured until his glorious resurrection.

On behalf of my wife Florence and my family, we extend our prayers along with the blessings of the Risen Lord to all of you and your loved ones.

Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ is risen.

George F. Matta
National Treasurer



Lost Little Lamb

Where are you, lonely, lost lamb, where can you be?
Despite your wayward ways, please answer me.
With love for you, I've left heaven's glory,
I left my Father to save only one.
Still unfaithful, now trust and come;
Run to my safekeeping, Oh, my little one.

Why have you strayed so long, Oh, what did you do?
Did not my pastureland satisfy you?
My faithful sheep remain, meander and graze;
In grassy fields they are near me always.
Cause me no grief, hear me and wait,
In my own sheepfold, they rest and congregate.

I know, unfaithful one, you hid and fled me,
O'er hills and valleys you roamed aimlessly.
You failed to listen, as you shunned and grieved me;
Wounded and sorry, now come home to me.
See my mercy, sealed with my cross;
Love will bring you full life, not regretful loss.

Ovečka Stratená
Ovečka Stratená, ach, kde si, kde?
Ozvi sa s bolesťou, ozvi sa Mne!
Hľa, láska veľa Ma stiahla z neba,
Z lona Otca Môjho len pre teba.
Si neverná? Buď Mi verná.
Pod sem, ja ťa vezmem na ramená!

Povedz mi, tak dlho kdes' blúdila.
Paša moja sa ti neľubila?
Hľa, verné ovečky Moje iné
Pašu sa v ľúbeznej pastve pri Mne;
Nehnevajú, poslúchajú,
Radostne v ovčinci prebývajú.

Tys' ale neverná Mňa nechcela,
Po horách, dolinách sa túlala,
Poslúchať Mňa nečeš, hnev Mne robíš,
Hriechy rozmnožuješ, čo z toho máš?
Už je mnoho, chráň sa toho,
Bys' večnú nemala škodu z toho.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SS. C.M.
March 16, 2012



Can your bank do this?

ANNUITY AND IRA INTEREST RATES MARCH 1, 2012

Two Year Park Annuity 2.50%

Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA 3.25%

Six Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA 3.50%

Eight Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA 3.75%

We Can!

FCSU LIFE

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD • SUITE 300

INDEPENDENCE OHIO 44131

PHONE: 1-800-533-6682

FAX: 1-216-642-4310

E-MAIL: FCSU@AOL.COM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT FCSU.COM



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS



The Home Office and
Jednota Estates Office will be
closed on April 6, 2012,
in observance of Good Friday.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Radio host/producer for The Christophers

The Choice to Save Mothers and Babies

In 1981, Kathy DiFiore reached a defining moment in her life. The NYU graduate with an MBA and a successful career as a Wall Street executive was feeling spiritually unfulfilled. Raised in a Catholic family, Kathy was especially influenced by her grandmother, who always taught her to keep Jesus at the center of her life.

One day, Kathy asked for God's guidance while praying the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi ("Lord, make me an instrument of your peace..."). She felt inspired to learn more about the saint's life, and discovered that he took Jesus's words and the call to live them out very seriously—feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless. As Kathy recalled to me on Christopher Closeup, "It motivated me to do something unique."

With a heart for the unborn—and an awareness that many families would throw their daughter out of the house when they discovered she was pregnant—Kathy decided to offer her New Jersey home as a shelter for a pregnant teenager. After taking in that first girl, Kathy believed she had found the right mission. She put an ad in the local newspaper with her phone number and the message, "Pregnant? Need help?" Sure enough, she got numerous calls and welcomed more young women over the next several years, helping to care for them materially, emotionally and spiritually.

In 1984, her mission hit a speed-bump when the state of New Jersey fined her \$10,000 for running an illegal boarding house. Kathy tried to show the government that she was running a shelter, not a boarding house. At first, it looked like they might pass a bill that would exempt her from the rooming and boarding-house laws. Then, Governor Tom Kean said he would veto the legislation because most people don't have the kind of heart that Kathy does. Kathy explained to me what happened next: "I said my morning prayers, and in my prayers I heard a voice that said 'Contact Mother Teresa.' I did. I knew someone who worked at her soup kitchen and he put me in touch with her. She said that she would help me... Eventually, she and the Governor got into a head-to-head...and [Mother Teresa] won out." Thankfully, Gov. Kean also became one of Kathy's supporters.

In the ensuing years, Kathy's personal project grew to become the non-profit, Several Sources Shelters. They own and run five New Jersey facilities that have saved thousands of babies while sheltering young mothers, and providing them with education, ongoing support and guidance on making healthy life choices like chastity.

In addition to Several Sources Shelters, Kathy also founded a national pro-life website, LifeCall.org. It lists contact information (phone, e-mail, web address) for shelters and crisis pregnancy centers in every state in the U.S. and offers a toll-free number of its own: 1-800-NO-ABORT (662-2678).

One of the things that Kathy has learned over the past 30 years of pro-life work is how to counsel girls who are considering abortion. It's advice that anyone can follow. She says, "I always feel the best way to resolve the conflict is spiritual. God tells us...that His laws are written on our hearts. So I always say, 'You know in your heart God doesn't want you to [have the abortion]. If you're reaching out to us, you're reaching out for a reason. And there are people who will help you. Not just me. I love you and want you to have your baby. But there are [also] tens of thousands of people out there who will help you. God has brought you to us for a reason, and now He's going to bring even more people to you and surround you with His holy angels so that you can have your precious baby.'"

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

Branch 213 Julia Belechak Crowned 2012 Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA

Julia Belechak, daughter of Joe and Michelle Belechak, has been crowned 2012 Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA. Julia is a senior at Vincentian Academy in Pittsburgh, PA. She will go on to represent Pennsylvania at the prestigious 2012 Miss Teen USA Pageant on Saturday, April 14, 2012, in Dickson, TN.

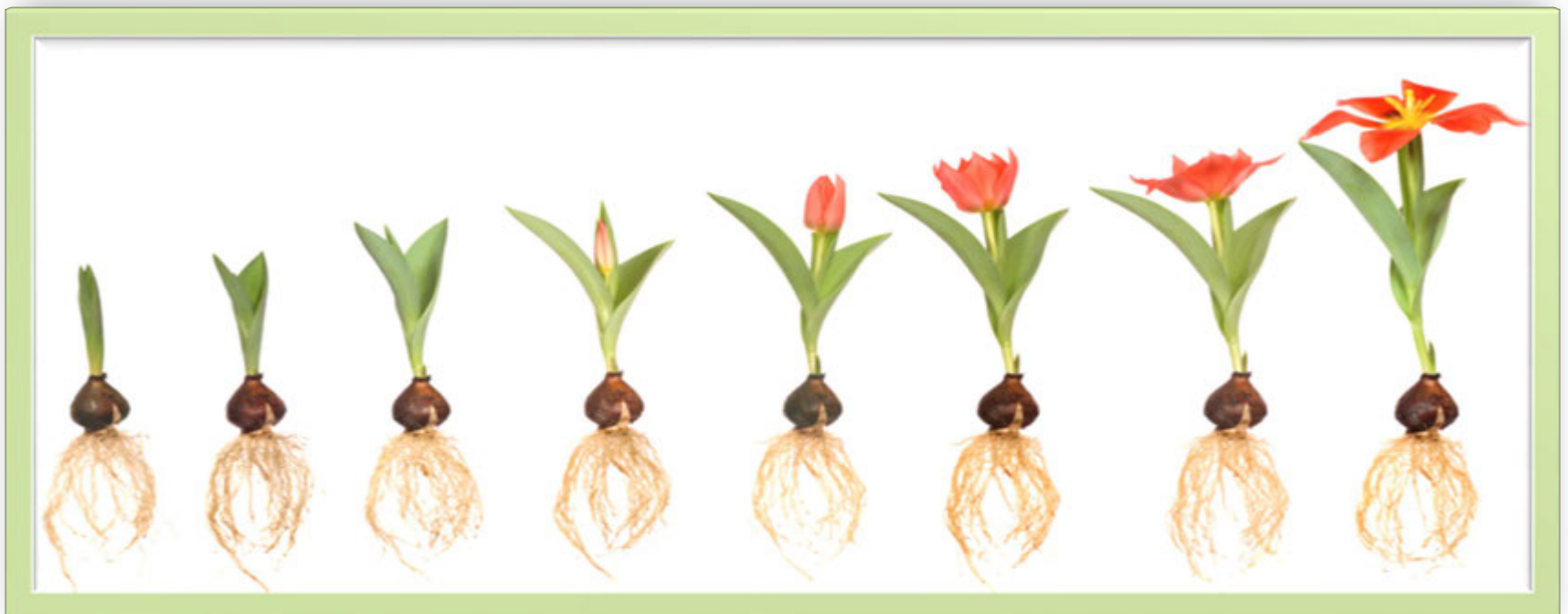
Julia is a member of St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, as are her grandparents, parents, brother, sister, and many other family members. A faith-filled young woman, she has been known to carry her Blessed Mother pin with her during pageant competitions.

Congratulations, Julia!

- Information submitted by proud
grandparents Joe and Mary Belechak,
Branch 213 Officers



FCSU LIFE & ANNUITIES, IRA'S, LIFE INSURANCE



FCSU LIFE & 6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD & SUITE 300 & INDEPENDENCE OHIO 44131

PHONE: 1-800-533-6682 & FAX: 1-216-642-4310 & E-MAIL: FCSU@AOL.COM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT FCSU.COM

Insights and Viewpoints

April

Steve R. Hreha

In *The Wasteland*, T. S. Eliot writes: "April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain". From poetry to music, April inspires similar sentiments. Stan Getz playing Tommy Woolf's tune *Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most* somehow reaches and swells the headwaters of feeling beyond the grasp of language or poetry.

April, a month with thirty days, a mere measure of time, really. A transitional month bridging winter and spring, yet, unlike other months, a month fraught with hope, nostalgia and regret. What is it about April and spring that inspires these sentiments?

The name "April", given by the Romans to the fourth month of the Julian calendar, is from the Latin *aperire*, "to open". It coincides with Spring and the budding of trees in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. Like the god Janus, April points to rebirth and death at the same time. The experiences we share during this month are thus local, not global. But they are real nonetheless.

The weight of life experience is sometimes too much to bear. Hope, and its promise of something better, is what we crave. "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here" was the inscription on the gates of hell in Dante's *Inferno*. Might he have been mistaken? Perhaps hell does not extinguish hope – perhaps it is the absence of hope that is hell. A life lived without hope, without the possibility of a different and better future must surely be hell. Without hope life ceases to be worth the struggle.

Spring has always been a time of rebirth and renewal, of fresh beginnings, renewed hope. In northern countries it is a time of melting snow and an emergence from metaphorical death. One's blood flows more fervidly in spring animating passions and inflaming imagination. For a moment dreams obstruct the sun. Troublesome questions are kept at bay: Will this April, we wonder, mark a new beginning? Will love blossom and bring light and color to the dark places in the heart? Or will this April, and the future it conjures, arouse memories of past futures and the hopes and disappointments already lived? The struggle unfolds wordlessly in each of us. With every passing year the future continues to beckon even as the burdens of past frustrations grow.

April showers us with hope. It is a time of budding optimism, freighted with possibility. Our plans outrun us as does our enthusiasm for them. Our culture provides us with powerful symbols of rebirth. Easter, celebrated in spring and marking the death and resurrection of Christ, is a powerful reminder of rebirth and redemption for faithful Christians around the world. For those following a more secular path, spring is a time of chocolate bunnies (rabbits, after all, are legendary for their fertility) and for hunting eggs, (symbols of life). And yet as quickly as it arrives April vanishes.

We live in a time of fragmented lives, of lives lived in pulsating nanoseconds in virtual space. We vary with our physical and social environment. The demands each of us face in a world dominated by technology and instant global communication has seeped into our private inner lives. The "world out there" is no longer just "out there", it is now "in here" as well. The benefits and improvements to our lives which this world brings to those who share its riches cannot be denied. The idea that at some time in the past we lived a simpler, more fulfilling life is a romantic illusion. But there



is a price to be paid for our bold advance into the unknown country. In our pursuit of the new, we frequently ignore the rhythm of the seasons and fail to marvel at the mystery of life surrounding us. We have, to a great extent, lost our sense of connectedness with others and with the natural world which sustains us. If we were less distracted (overwhelmed?) might we hear the primal music of our ancient ancestors?

On December 31 each year, millions of people gather to usher in the New Year. The countdown to midnight has become an almost surreal revel. In the dead of night, in the dead of winter a New Year begins – but is it the new beginning desired by so many? Perhaps resolutions should be made in April rather than on New Year's Eve. Experience, tempered with insight and hope are better guardians of the future than the bold ideas inspired by drink and fatigue. If we made our resolutions in April then perhaps the energy spring unleashes would animate our plans. Success would not be thus assured but it might be more likely.



Book Corner

Slovak Author & Artist Alvena Seckar Detailed Immigrant Life in America Donna Schmitz, Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation

Alvena Seckar, our Slovak painter, successful author, and well-known to the Slovak community, was born on March 1, 1916 to Slovak immigrants in McMechan, West Virginia. In 1924, her mother Susan decided to move away for business reasons and took her to Pennsylvania and settled in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Seckar opened a small restaurant and grocery store.

Alvena's artistic talent was recognized by one of her teachers in Allentown, who persuaded a wealthy patron to pay for art classes on Saturdays and in the summer at the Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Art. In 1935 Seckar won a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania. She transferred to New York University and received her B.A. in 1939 and her M.A. in 1949. She studied painting with Walter Emerson Baum, Sol Wilson, and Phil Reisman. In 1984, the Czechoslovak government arranged an exhibit of her work at the Bratislava City Museum. She has since been afflicted with multiple sclerosis and can paint only with her left hand. She has much to celebrate with her many accomplishments as a painter, writer, designer, and illustrator.

In the 1950's, she wrote a series of children's books about the life of Slovak immigrants in West Virginia. *Zuska of the Burning Hills* won a place on the New York Times list of the 100 best books published for children in 1952.

Fortunately, these stories were reissued in 1999 by Bolchazy-Carducci Publ., Inc., which is well known for promoting Slovak culture. Seckar is a prominent Slovak-American who has been consistently outspoken in showing the devastation of surface coal mining. These outstanding stories are filled with information culled from her background. Her father was a coal miner, and the family moved more than twenty times from one mining camp to another. There are many references to Slovak customs and the hardships and dangers under which the immigrants had to work. This trilogy is rich with relevance to children. Through her well-developed characters, children are not only entertained but learn tolerance and understanding.

"Alvena Seckar is the author of three outstanding stories for young readers exploring social injustice, promoting ethnic and racial tolerance, raising environmental consciousness, and celebrating cultural diversity. "Alvena Seckar is a master storyteller who brings compassion, historical accuracy, and genuine creativity to her memorable characters, entertaining stories, and presentations of working men and women, boys and girls, as people of dignity, with justifiable pride in their jobs, their families, and themselves."

— Children's Bookwatch

"When any book written for children entertains, it fulfills its purpose. When such a book not only entertains, but instructs and lifts off the veil of misunderstanding of people, places, and things, it returns many surprising dividends."

— S. Louis Belli

Trenton, NJ

Vice-President

United Cerebral Palsy Association of New Jersey

All three of these books may be ordered from the
Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation, Inc. (SAICF)
1572 Baskin Road
Mundelein, IL 60060

Contact Donna Schmitz at DSchmitz@slovakculture.org

Zuska of the Burning Hills ISBN: 978-0-86516-467-3 \$22--- sale \$17
Trapped in the Old Mine ISBN: 978-0-86516-466-6 \$21----sale \$16
Misko ISBN: 978-0-86516-465-9 \$23----sale \$17

Shipping in the United States is \$7 for the first book and \$1 per each additional book. Canadian shipping varies according to locality.

Branch 38 Genealogist & Author Lisa Alzo Leads WPSCA Slovak Roots Workshop in May

On Saturday, May 12, 2012, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA), in collaboration with The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, will host a seminar on Slovak genealogical research, focusing on local history, research tips, and finding ancestral villages, presented by noted Slovak genealogist and author, Lisa Alzo. This four-hour workshop will be held from 1-5PM in Room A of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library located at 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, PA, and will feature a roundtable session where people will be able to discuss their searches and possibly connect with others researching in the same area. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$5.00. Reservations are required, and can be made by call Pam at (412) 531-2990. Participants are encouraged to bring documents, photographs, and a laptop or tablet computer (not required) for the networking session. Attendance will be limited to 35.

Lisa A. Alzo is a freelance writer, lecturer, and instructor. She received a Master of Fine Arts degree in nonfiction writing from the University of Pittsburgh and is the author of nine books, including *Three Slovak Women* and *Slovak Pittsburgh*, as well as hundreds of magazine articles. Lisa has been researching Slovak roots for over 22 years, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. Visit her website at www.lisaalzo.com.

SPECIAL NOTE: the WPSCA also is seeking volunteers to act as facilitators for the roundtables, to keep the discussion on topic and to ask specific questions to guide the discussion and get people to interact. The WPSCA not seeking experts, only people interested in facilitating discussion. You would receive complete instructions plus a list of specific questions to keep the discussion properly focused. If you are interested in this opportunity, or have any questions, please call Pam at (412) 531-2990 or Albina Senko at (412) 343-5031.

Scenes from Branch 746's December Meeting & Christmas Celebration

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, held election of officers at its meeting on Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family

Church in Linden, NJ. Attendees enjoyed a wonderful Christmas celebration after the meeting.

- Submitted by Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary



Branch 746 officers for 2012 (L - R): Mary Karch, Treasurer; Joanne Polt, Vice President; Sabina Sabados, President; and Mary Kapitan, Secretary



Slovakia's First Declaration of Independence, Part I

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

Slovakia's first declaration of independence on March 14, 1939 occurred in a cloud of controversy. While many Slovaks, though not all, had aspired for autonomy, Slovak politicians had not pursued a policy of seeking independence. Adolf Hitler thrust the decision on Slovakia, and the choice amounted to a declaration of independence, or being swallowed up by its neighbors. Poland and Germany would annex areas near their borders, and a revanchist Hungarian state was bent on abrogating the Treaty of Trianon, which had officially disassembled the Kingdom of Hungary in 1920.

The gathering storm of World War II loomed on the horizon in early 1939 as Germany under Adolf Hitler had already determined to destroy Czecho-Slovakia and pursue an expansive policy which would crush anyone and any state in its way. For this reason, he encouraged Slovak separatism beyond what the Rev. Andrej Hlinka and his Slovak People's Party had struggled for after World War I – the fulfillment of the Pittsburgh Agreement's promise of autonomy for Slovakia.

In March 1939, Hitler used an internal struggle between the Czechs and Slovaks to force Tiso and the Slovak government to make a decision about Slovak independence. Tiso chose independence, with consent of the Slovak parliament, rather than seeing Slovakia disappear into a reconstituted Hungary.

In the following selections to be published in several installments, I will list some sections from the book by Milan S. Ďurica.

Background on Ďurica's book

Professor Milan S. Ďurica has documented the history of these events in his monumental chronological work on Slovak history – *Dejiny Slovenska a Slovákov v časovej následnosti faktov dvoch tisícročí, Štvrté vydanie*. (A History of Slovakia and the Slovaks: A Chronology of Two Millennia, Fourth edition). Bratislava: Lúč, 2007, 860pp.

Currently retired, Professor Ďurica formerly taught history at the University of Padua until 1997. In exile during the communist era, he worked for the Slovak Catholic Students (ÚSKŠ) and served as one of the founders of Secretary General of the Center of Slovak Catholic intellectuals (ÚSKI). He also served as President of the Slovak Institute in Rome and edited the scholarly journal *Slovak Studies*.

A recognized scholar who has worked laboriously in Italian and Vatican archives as well as the Slovak State Archives in Bratislava, Professor Ďurica has devoted his retirement years to explaining what he believes to be the true story of Slovak history, which the former communist regime had twisted for its own political purposes. The newly independent Slovak Republic supported using Ďurica's first edition of his book as a guidebook to assist teachers in Slovakia.

However, Ďurica met opposition from some in the historical profession since the publication of his first edition of *A History of Slovakia and the Slovaks*. While historians at the Matica Slovenska endorsed Ďurica's work, Dušan Kováč and Ľubomír Lipták of the History Section of the Slovak Academy of Sciences strongly attacked the accuracy of Ďurica's publication and challenged the objectivity of his interpretations, calling them biased in favor of Catholics, the Slovak State in World War II, Anti-Semitic in tone, and giving scant attention to social and economic history. They also accused him of an uneven treatment of different historical eras, with an over-emphasis on the period of the Slovak state and the 20th century. The Historical Institute scholars cited many factual errors, some of which Ďurica later defended and clarified in later editions. However, I might add that Kováč and Lipták were hardly without blemish in their careers, for they both had to be loyal and conformist communist party members to achieve the positions they held at the Historical Institute before the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

One may judge for oneself, for here is a translated selection of information from Ďurica's book. The following is a chronology leading to Slovakia's independence in March 1939. This installment will take us through the early days of March, and continue in the future.

Events Leading to Slovakia's Independence in 1939

The setting is as follows. Slovakia had proclaimed autonomy on October 6, 1938, just a day after President Beneš had resigned as president of a weakened Czechoslovak government. Germany compelled the government to accept the Munich Pact, dictated in a deal made between Hitler and the Allies. The Agreement left Germany free to annex the ethnic German-populated Sudetenland and essentially ripped away any chance of defense of a German invasion.

Emil Hacha became president of the new Czecho-Slovak state. Hungary took advantage of the situation, and with Germany's backing, concluded the first Vienna Award on November 2,



Researching the History of New Jersey Slovaks

Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr. is starting work on an article about the history of Slovaks in New Jersey, and would like to invite any of our readers to share information or hints about sources on this topic. You may contact him at: mkopanic@faculty.umuc.edu or write him at: 20 Maplewood Ave. Cresson, PA 16630-1521.

1938. The Vienna Award compelled Czecho-Slovakia to cede the heavily Magyar-populated sections of southern Slovakia. It was Germany's way of assuring that Hungary would be its loyal ally. But Slovakia lost 10,390 square kilometers of territory, which included its second largest city, Košice, and 859,885 inhabitants, of whom 276,287 were Slovaks. The Vienna Award clearly showed that Slovakia's future fate lay at Germany's discretion, for Hungary wished to annex all of Slovakia and restore its pre-World War I borders.

In early March 1939, Germany took advantage of conflict between Prague and Slovakia's autonomous government to push Slovakia to declare independence. He aimed to split Czechs and Slovaks so he could annex Bohemia and Moravia. Germany helped incite unrest and used the unfolding events to argue that something had to be done to resolve the instability.

Here is the chronology of the first few days of March as presented in Ďurica's book concerning those fateful days of 1939.

March 1 – At the meeting of the Council of Ministers in Prague, the Czech Ministers read to the Slovaks the content of the government program of Dr. Joseph Tiso, whom they considered to be seditious. Premier Beran announced: "We must agree, or break up." Foreign Minister Dr. Chvalkovský demanded an official announcement of the Slovak government that it was for the Czecho-Slovak Republic. "If the Slovak government decides otherwise, we will dissolve... The Czech nation will not protect you if you announce an independent Slovakia. It is better if it does so voluntarily."

March 4 – The Vice-Premier of the Czecho-Slovak government and the Minister of State Karol Sidor, together with the Slovak Minister Teplanský, reported from Prague on the meeting of the Slovak autonomous government about the events which were escalating over the Slovak-Czech relationship. The meeting of Minister [of Industry] Pružinsky and Minister Ďurčanský ... were accepted as Hitler's appointees for a four year economic plan of [German] Minister Hermann Göring. They reported to the Slovak government that Göring assured them of the willingness of Germany to help Slovakia overcome its economic difficulties, but gave the impression, that Germany would only offer assistance to an independent Slovakia.

The Prime Minister of the autonomous Slovak government, Jozef Tiso, sent a telegram to Hitler's governor in Vienna, Dr. Arthur Seyss-Inquart, in which he demanded that he cease Slovak broadcast from Viennese Radio, because its content had the effect of disrupting the consolidation of relations in Slovakia.

Prime Minister Jozef Tiso decided to personally contact the Polish government, because he had sent Pavol Čarnogurský as his representative to Warsaw, in order to prepare for his visit with Polish government officials. He did this with the idea that solving Slovakia's economic problems required smoothing out a relationship with not only Germany, but also obtaining the assistance of one neighboring state to count on in this situation. Čarnogurský reached an agreement about Tiso's visit to Warsaw, but it never happened, because in the meantime, the Czech army began to occupy Slovakia and President Hacha deposed Tiso from his post.

March 6 – Prime Minister Dr. Tiso called for a personal meeting of members of the government, the presidency of the Slovak parliament and the top leaders of the Slovak People's Party. At the meeting, the Slovak political leaders decided that the Slovaks would not take any action, which would threaten the common state with the Czechs. But if this state had to fall due to the influence of external and internal events, they would strive to protect the Slovak nation and its state at any price (Emphasis by Ďurica).

The Prague government deposed the autonomous government of Sub-Carpathian Rus and authorized the Czech General Lev Prchal as administrator. (In effect, this amounted to a declaration of martial law there. - Kopanic)

The Czecho-Slovak Minister of Agriculture Feierabend announced at a meeting of cooperatives that the government estimated the value of Jewish property in the state at 16 billion crowns.

March 7 – Late at night, the Vice-premier of the Czecho-Slovak government and Minister in Prague, Karol Sidor, visited the German Empire's governor in Vienna, Dr. A. Seyss-Inquart, in his private apartment in Vienna. At his expressed wish, Sidor also invited Prime Minister Jozef Tiso. Seyss-Inquart was entrusted the task of finding out how the Slovaks would do in case of serious conflict between Berlin and Prague. Slovak politicians informed him of their political view in line with their decision at the previous day's meeting.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Chvalkovský informed the German diplomatic representative in Prague that his government would give the Slovaks a free choice, whether it wanted to remain in the Czecho-Slovak State, or whether it would proclaim an independent Slovakia (Emphasis by Ďurica).

To be continued.

"Historický ústav Slovenskej akadémie vied o príručke M. S. Ďuricu *Dejiny Slovenska a Slovákov*," *Sme*. June 12, 1997. Accessed March 19, 2012. <http://www.sme.sk/c/2077676/historicky-ustav-slovenskej-akademie-vied-o-prirucke-m-s-duricu-dejiny-slovenska-a-slovakov.html>. An English translation is found at: "THE RESPONSE OF SLOVAK HISTORIANS TO M. S. DURICA'S BOOK: A HISTORY OF SLOVAKIA AND THE SLOVAKS," *Angelfire*. Accessed March 19, 2012. <http://www.angelfire.com/hi/xcampaign/praca.html>.

Annual Meeting of Branch 40 in January

St. Clement Society, Branch 40, of the First Catholic Slovak Union held their annual meeting on January 29, 2012, in Streator, IL. On the agenda: election of officers and members voted to pledge \$1000 dollars a year for five years to support a local school, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Grade School.



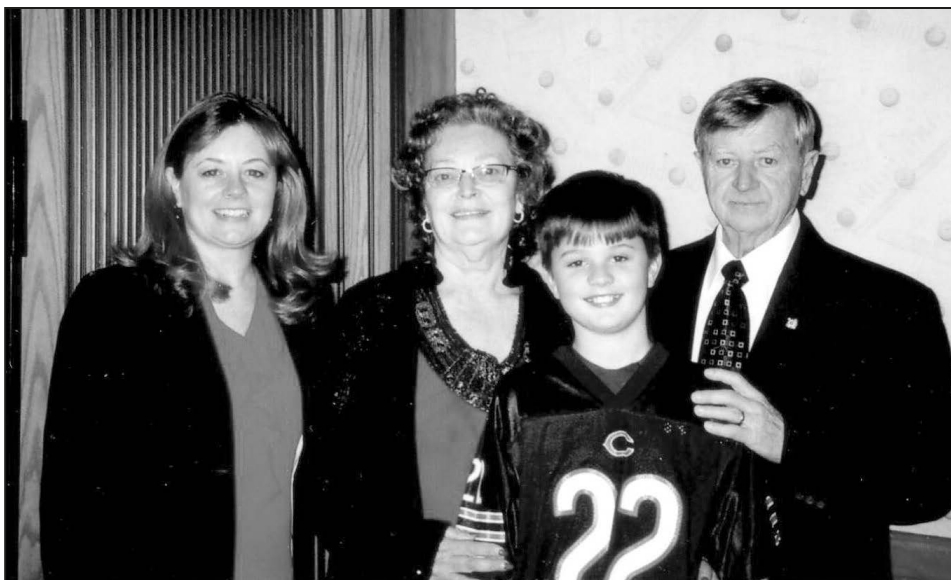
(L – R) Msgr Thomas Badovsky, Branch Chaplain, administers the oath office to: William Liptak, President; Mike Pavlick, Auditor; Richard Tutoky, Auditor; Margie Pavlick, Auditor; Tim Graves, Recording Secretary; Veronica Manzella, Vice President; Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer



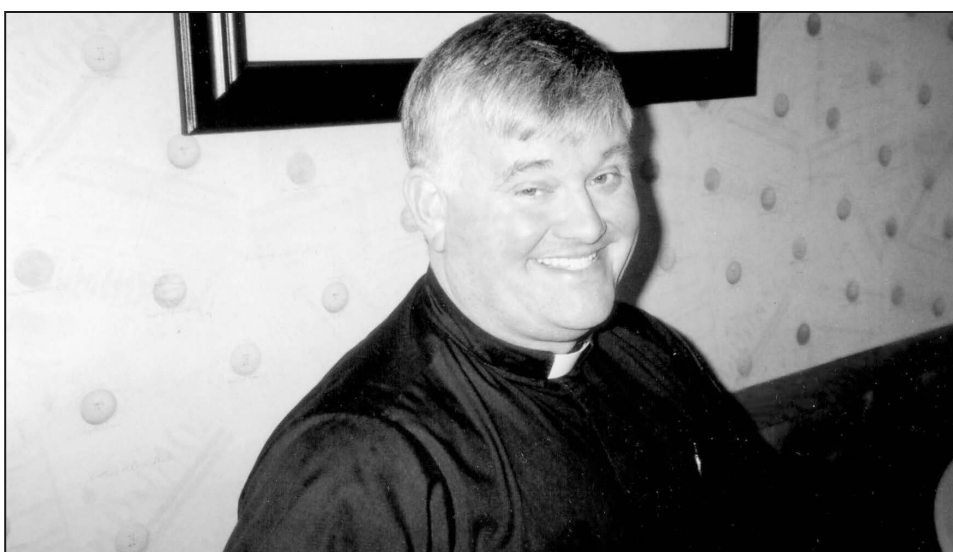
(L – R) Mrs. Ashley Davis, principal of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Grade School, is presented with the first year's donation by William Liptak, President, and Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, on behalf of Branch 40.



(L – R) Msgr. Thomas Badovsky, Branch 40 Chaplain, and Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director, FCSU



Annual Meeting of Branch 40 in January





Frank T. Holly District Elects New Officers

New officers for the Frank T. Holly Jr., District that were elected at the meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2012 held at Denny's Restaurant in Uniontown, PA. The officers were sworn in by past auditor, Audrey Balazik. (L - R) James Marmol, President; Dolores Marmol, Treasurer; Barbara Holly, Secretary Geraldine Buchheit, Vice President; Kathryn Baranek, Auditor; and Tom Kocis, Auditor.



Scenes from Branch 764's Sts. Cyril & Methodius Feast in February



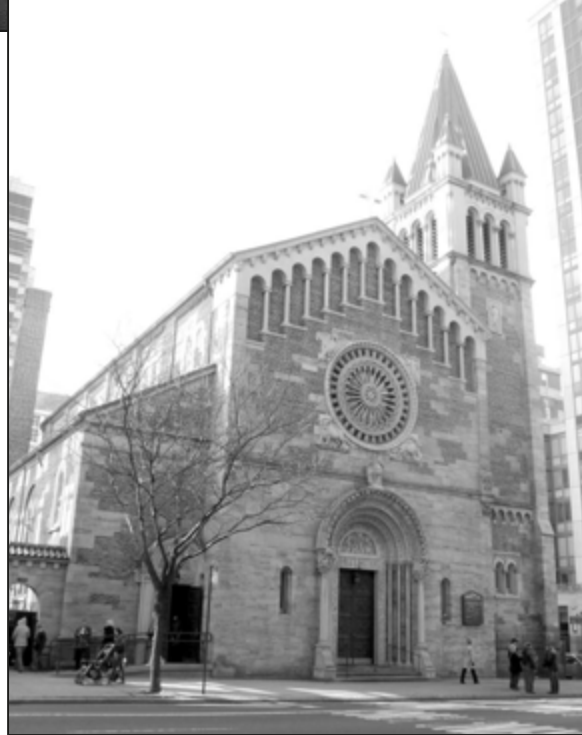
On February 12, Branch 764, Warren, OH, celebrated Sts Cyril & Methodius Feast Day with a full-course Slovak Dinner.

A capacity crowd of 130 enjoyed Slovak music throughout the dinner, courtesy of Branch 764 Vice President Fred Brunetti.



Beautiful gift baskets and prizes were awarded to many of the dinner guests.

FCSU Breakfast Fellowship in NYC



FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec and his family enjoyed a wonderful morning of breakfast and fellowship with members of Branch 45 and Branch 716 in the church hall after Sunday Mass at St. John Nepomucene in New York City on February 5, 2012.

Please take a few minutes to review The Investment Opportunities Available at F.C.S.U. Life

First Catholic Slovak Union has been providing safe and reliable life insurance coverage to families like yours for over 100 years. We also offer Annuities and IRA's in a variety of terms at very competitive rates.

Current Annuity and IRA interest rates as of March 1, 2012

Two Year Park Annuity 2.50%

Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA 3.25%

Six Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA 3.50%

Eight Year Flexible Premium Annuity or IRA 3.75%

It's time to plan for a secure future.



FCSU Life
6611 Rockside Road
Suite 300
Independence OH 44131

Phone: 1-800-533-6682
Fax: 1-216-642-4310
E-mail: FCSU@aol.com
Website: www.FCSU.com

Branch 746 Veronica (Vera) Kopas Celebrates 100 Years

Veronica (Vera) Kopas celebrated the joyous occasion of her 100th birthday on January 3, 2012 with family and friends.

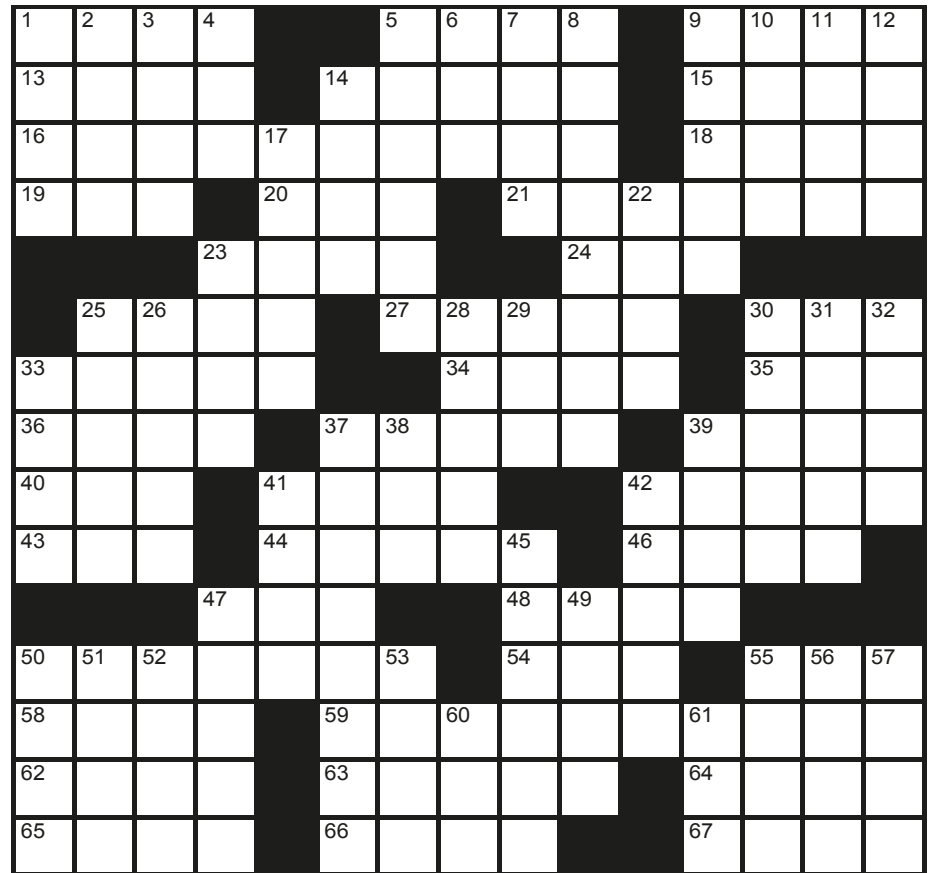
Vera was born in Pennsylvania to John and Anna (Rebick) Ferenchik, one of five sisters (Anna Matas, Mary Toth, Susan Thur, and Elizabeth Kopas) and one brother (John Ferenchik), all deceased. She traveled to Czechoslovakia with her family at a young age and returned to America at age 16 to seek work while staying with an uncle in Branchdale, PA. By age 18, she had relocated to Linden, NJ, where she worked as a seamstress and later at Volpti Manufacturing, where she painted cosmetic boxes. In 1932, Vera married John Kopas and had her only daughter, Anna (Zofchak). That same year, Vera traveled back to Slovakia with Anna to escape the hardships of the Great Depression. She lived in Velká Stretava with her mother-in-law, returning to Linden, NJ in 1937. She and John built their home on Washington Avenue in Linden, where she still lives today. She continued working for many years as a talented seamstress at Hiltons, Arthur Dress and Janet Lynn and, later in life, worked for Susan's Catering of Linden. She was an excellent cook and shared her love of cooking with her daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Through the years, she enjoyed working in her vegetable and flower gardens and generously gave of their bounty to family, friends and neighbors. Her rose garden continues to grace Washington Avenue with beautiful blooms throughout late spring and into the summer.

Vera is a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Linden, Jednota Branch 746, the Slovak Rosary Society, and the Linden Golden Age Club.

Vera has three grandchildren (Edward Zofchak of Hasbrock Heights, NJ; Susan Zofchak of Dallas, OR; and Diane Wurzburger of Cranford, NJ) and three great-grandchildren (Matthew Zofchak, Christian Wurzburger, and Jonathan Wurzburger).

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Branch 746 President

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2012 puzzlejunction.com

Across

- 1 Dice
- 5 Stylish and ritzy
- 9 Study all night
- 13 Monk parrot
- 14 Fry lightly
- 15 Road section
- 16 Related to
- 18 Overnight stops
- 19 Legume
- 20 Food grain
- 21 Simpletons, to sor
- 23 ___ meridiem
- 24 Game piece
- 25 Storage tower
- 27 Drug treatment, fc short
- 30 Cat hangout
- 33 Rose oil
- 34 Saucy
- 35 Prefix with sphere
- 36 Salty septet
- 37 Perch
- 39 Benefit
- 40 Buddy
- 41 Tear apart
- 42 Believe in
- 43 Cunning
- 44 Fencing swords
- 46 Omniscient
- 47 Scratch the surface
- 48 Mocked
- 50 Pertinent
- 54 Prohibit
- 55 Unwanted rodent
- 58 Flying jib, for one
- 59 Ambience
- 62 Lotion additive
- 63 Paint layers
- 64 Perimeter
- 65 Vets' concerns

- 66 Bonnets
- 67 Midday

Down

- 1 Ammo holder
- 2 Sharpen
- 3 Killer whale
- 4 Taro
- 5 Gaspd
- 6 Away
- 7 ___ & Ollie
- 8 Aerodrome
- 9 Adhere
- 10 Hindu princess
- 11 Boleyn or Bronte
- 12 Kettle of fish
- 14 Bench
- 17 Almsgiver
- 22 Succeeding
- 23 Regrettably
- 25 Burgle
- 26 Mount Vesuvius location
- 28 After song
- 29 Your (Fr.)
- 30 Hawaiian parties
- 31 Liquorice-flavored seeds
- 32 Quart part
- 33 Cobras
- 37 Blame
- 38 Unmatched
- 39 Power system
- 41 Harvest
- 42 Twit
- 45 Wooden shoes
- 47 Insectivores
- 49 Blow over
- 50 Hurry inits.
- 51 Pallid
- 52 Disorder
- 53 Gr. portico
- 55 Make over
- 56 Ship to Colchis
- 57 Youngster
- 60 Small rug
- 61 Chicken



Vera Kopas celebrates her 100th birthday with daughter, Anne (Kopas) Zofchak.



Vera Kopas (seated) with her great grandchildren – (L – R) Cristian Wurzburger, Matthew Zofchak, and Jonathan Wurzburger, as well as her daughter Anne (Kopas) Zofchak.



Vera Kopas celebrates her 100th birthday with close family and friends.

See Solution on Page 19

Focus on Heritage

Colorful Caps of Horehronie



Helene Cincebeaux

Charming embroidered caps looking all the world like perky Dutch bonnets were worn in villages in the beautiful Horehronie Valley in central Slovakia under Kráľova Hoľa (the King's Mountain). When I first went to Zavadka and Polomka, most of the older women were wearing them. The cap covered all their hair as hair was considered magic, it could entice someone. Once you were wed, your hair was hidden. The village women told me that girls embroidered twelve of these intricate treasures for their dowry - one for each day and some for unexpected company. Technically, they are masterpieces, combining linen and lace; amazing

embroidery motifs and labor intensive in the back with embroidery on the gathers - so technically difficult I don't know anyone doing this work today. Each cap was different; some sported initials on the front, others had motifs. It is said that the number of motifs indicated the number of children the wearer had; I don't know if that is true but it makes a good story. Even the colors used were distinctive. Caps from Zavadka village had a darker tone with purples, while Polomka's fell more on the pink and vivid side. Usually, a ribbon joined the two main embroidery panels but I was told that during war time, ribbon was unavailable so village women took on the arduous task of embroidering a strip of cloth to look like a heavily woven ribbon. Although the women's lives were filled with work, in the fields while also caring for their families, they still found time to create beauty which enhanced their clothing, homes and church. Most Slovak girls, at about age nine or ten, began embroidering at their mother's knee to fill their dowry chests. When their wedding day came, they were ready. A dowry chest might have sheets and covers for feather ticks, as well as clothing, ribbons and often a ritual cloth. The caps were a major part of a beloved Slovak wedding custom "čepčenie". At midnight the bridal wreath was removed as "Parta moja parta" or "Rejdova" was sung while a matron's cap was placed on the bride's head and worn for the rest of her life.

The motifs on these caps are charming with miniature goddesses and tulips marching around; while the backs are as colorful, thick and rich as oriental rugs, all advertising a woman's skill with her needle. Hearts were a favored motif. The caps in nearby Hel'pa were more like tapestries; and very distinctive with the red and hot pink color scheme. It is difficult for us to imagine living without a nearby super store open at all hours. But our ancestor's made the most of what they had and bartered for the rest of their needs, such as salt. Making textiles for clothing and for home use involved a considerable amount of labor just to plant, grow, and harvest the flax. Then followed the labor intensive work of isolating the fibers - rotting, retting and carding, then making the thread, spinning and weaving the textile; topped off with the rich embroidery. On long winter evenings village women gathered and spun and taught their daughters the age old techniques. Often the boys came to tease and sometimes the fiddler played and they danced, but all dancing ceased when Lent began. Your head-dress, your cap, was your crowning glory! It mattered. It's how you showed off your skill with a needle. A special frame was placed atop the head and the hair wound around it to create

the look that was in style. In some Slovak villages the women wore kerchiefs but in many they wore



Village woman demonstrating the age-old technique of making thread



Hel'pa women welcoming visitors

distinctive caps. It's so lovely when someone takes you in their log home and back into the pantry. Need to duck under the boots drying and the bacon curing and there it is - an old dowry chest opened to reveal treasures. Ribbons and embroideries are unearthed, lengths of homespun linen and maybe at the bottom weaving shuttles. Sometimes you find a plachta, the decorated christening cloth that often became a woman's shroud. Or an embellished cloth that hung from the beams segregating the mother and newborn from the family. Think of the millions of minutes and hundreds of hours that went into making these necessary items and infusing them with love. It all comes to life towards the end of June when a Folk Festival is held in nearby Hel'pa. So many of the villagers young and old, men and women wear their folk dress with pride. A large "remembrance room" is created and filled with folk dress, embroideries and village treasures. The village women are in their best regalia greeting everyone and demonstrating the art of spinning, weaving on ancient looms and embroidering. There is even a working loom and a baby hammock hanging from the beams. The world is beginning to value the work of village women; I have seen these richly embroidered caps sell for the equivalent of 200 dollars in nearby Banska Bystrica's shops. Wouldn't the villagers who created them be surprised!

About the author:

A member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Helene Baine Cincebeaux has traveled to thousands of village with her mother over the past 38 years, collecting traditions and folk dress. Through her many exhibitions, lectures and publications, she has helped preserve the craft and understanding of Slovak folk dress, and has helped reunite Americans with their long-lost families in Slovakia through an extensive genealogical database. For more information, please visit www.our-Slovakia.com or e-mail her at helenezx@aol.com.



Close of a cap from Zavadka showing the intricate work

Special, Limited-time Offer:

1st Year Premium Waived on Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)



Offered for a limited time from
March 1 – July 1, 2012.

All applications must be
received in the Home Office
**postmarked
before July 1, 2012.**

- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



FCSU LIFE
6611 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@aol.com
www.fcsu.com

**Higher amounts available - please contact
your Branch Officer or the Home Office*

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OH

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 1, 2012. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE.

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

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

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2012, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10 K. J., held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 4 at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River St., Olyphant, PA.

Officers for 2012 were elected as follows: President, Daniel Spegar; Vice-President, Gaza Mika; Secretary-Treasurer, William Spegar, Recording Secretary, William A. Nalevanko, and Auditors, Carol Spegar, Mary Ann Spegar and Florence M. Nalevanko.

Donations in the amount of \$6,500 were approved for distribution in 2012 to the following: La Salle Academy, Jessup, PA; Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, and the Mid Valley Senior Center, Olyphant, PA; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund, Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, PA; Valley Community Library, Peckville, PA; and, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, PA.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast, to follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, PA, on Sunday, June 24, 2012. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Fraternally,

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Society, will have a branch meeting on Sunday, May 27, 2012 following a Mass/Luncheon at St Andrew's Abbey in Cleveland, OH. Details will be forthcoming.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK CITY

St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2012, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

All meetings will be held the second Sunday of the month at 1:30PM on every second month throughout the year. Meetings are held at the home of President Susan Salko. Please phone

Susan at 973-906-1145 if you plan on attending.
Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

All Branch 153 members are invited to the May 20, 2012 district event - A brunch and performance of "Making God Laugh." This district event will be at The Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. The Brunch is at 12:45 p.m. and the show at 2:30 p.m. The cost for Branch 153 members who have attended previous shows will be \$19.50. For Branch 153 members attending for the first time the cost will be \$29.50. Guests who are not FCSU members the cost will be \$54.50. The cost is kept low to encourage fraternalism. The district is subsidizing this event along with Branch 153 subsidizing \$15.00 for its members. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763 0810 before April 6, 2012.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEK- SKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 15, 2012, 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 12, 2012, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday June 24, 2012, at noon, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be served, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, April 22, 2012, at King's Restaurant in Canonsburg, PA, at 2:00PM.

Fraternally,

Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 493 would like to congratulate six of its members who are receiving their 50 Year Jednota membership pins this year: Steve Batka, Linda Becker, James Hepner, Mark Hepner, Mark Povraznik, and John Stefanik. We are proud of you!

Valerie M. Vesely, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will have their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 1:00pm at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109.

We will discuss plans for our fundraisers for this year.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 580 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 6, 2012 after the 9:30

Mass in the Holy Trinity social hall. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Monthly meetings are held at Tatra Hall, Sixth Street and Sherman Blvd., on the third Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. (September through May).

As always, you can call 231 733 7525 for additional information of current events.

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633- FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its first meeting of 2012 at 1:00PM, Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the Empire Wok Restaurant, located at 4211 East Court Street in Burton, MI, across from Courtland Mall. 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 at 11:30AM on Sunday, April 29, 2012 on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On April 29, 2012, Saint Joseph branch 731 members will celebrate our Patron Saint Feast Day with Mass. The Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngtown, Ohio at 12 Noon. We invite all Saint Joseph Branch 731 members to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday 4/24/12 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post 6673, Whitaker Way, Munhall, PA. The meeting will discuss fraternal activities and ways to increase branch involvement and membership. All members are invited to attend.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary

BRANCH 764 WARREN, OHIO

On February 12, Branch 764 celebrated with a Sts. Cyril & Methodius Feast Day Slovak Dinner of stuffed cabbage with mashed potatoes, kielbasa and sauerkraut, potato pierogi, Slovak green beans, pickled beets, and kolachi (ed note – see pictures in this issue).

Slovak music was provided during dinner by our vice president, Fred Brunetti. Gift baskets and prizes were awarded to many of the guests. We had a capacity crowd of 130 attendees!!

Our next meeting will be held on April 18 at Bella Women's Center, 1192 North Road NE, Warren, OH followed by a tour of the facility.

Joy Brunetti, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, April 8, 2012, at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA, 90706. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00AM. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass, along with an Easter egg hunt conducted for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

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

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

Fraternally yours,

Milan Konkol, Secretary



Attention Branch 581 & Former Br. 762 Members: Special Fraternal Event In May



At our Nov. district meeting it was voted to offer interested members of Branch 581, Gary, IN, as well as former Branch 762 members, Whiting, IN, the opportunity to attend the Theatre at the Center's matinee performance of "Making God Laugh". In this new comedy, you can go home again, but are you sure it's a good idea? Empty nesters welcome home their children over family holidays spanning three decades. As the parents & grown children adapt to their new relationships, their dreams, unresolved issues, old family traditions & dubious recipes are trotted out on Thanksgiving, New Year's & Christmas holidays. You will find that home is not only where the heart is, but also where the laughs are.

It will be held at Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd, Munster, IN on Sunday, May 20, 12:45 pm Branch & 2:20 pm Show time. Cost is: 54.50 per ticket. FCSU members that attended any previous shows will receive a rebate of 20.00 making your cost 34.50 per ticket. New, first time FCSU members will receive a 10.00 rebate making your cost 44.50 per ticket.

Forty tickets have been reserved. Deadline is April 14, 2012. Make checks payable to Spitkovsky, Dist 2 & mail to George Kelchak, 953 Portage Ave, Porter, IN, 46304. For further info, call 219-926-2410. George Kelchak, Director of Fraternal Activities.

Ann Buczek, Branch President



Check out the redesigned
FCSU website @ www.fcsu.com.

Same great resource –
now with a great new look!

Let us know what you think.
We want to hear from you.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II Semi-Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, Illinois. We will enjoy a short period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments starting at 1:30 pm.

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

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

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 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 21, 2012 following the 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church in United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. National Vice President, Andrew Harcar, will be present to conduct a Sales Seminar and answer any questions you may have. We look forward to a great attendance. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the Tatra Hall in Muskegon Heights, MI. Our day will begin with dinner being served at 1:00PM, with the business meeting following. The Tatra Hall is located at 2526 6th Street and Sherman Blvd.

Branch 595 is hosting this meeting and Emmett Moore should be notified at (616) 901-1791 by April 25, 2012, of delegates attending from your branch.

Spring should be here by then so let's make it a good turn out!

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 15, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 276 will host. Please RSVP by April 1 by contacting Branch President Margaret Nasta. Please email manasta@verizon.net or leave a message at 412-672-0379.

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 2012. Please email the district secretary 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 17, at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 38 will host and Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. Mass begins at 9:30 with brunch to follow. Further details will be provided later.

The district is still collecting e-mail addresses from each branch in order to improve communications. If we don't already have your e-mail, please contact the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net. The Pittsburgh District thanks everyone who attended the meeting in December. We had the largest crowd in many years. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the April meeting. Watch for our district notices on-line and in the Jednota.

Fraternally

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

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

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012, in Saints Cyril and Methodius Church Hall in Windber, PA, beginning at 2:00PM. The host will be St. John the Baptist, Branch 292.

Member branches should have received their dues notices by now. These dues may be paid at the meeting. Spring will be here, and the weather is nicer; so let's show our fraternalism with a good turnout of delegates.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012. There will be a Mass at 11 AM at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church, 600 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. 17948. Afterward, the dinner will be at 12:30 PM at A & C Catering Hall, 505 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. The meeting will then take place at 1:30 PM in the hall.

Donation for the dinner is \$15.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 112. All checks and credentials must be returned by Saturday, April 21, 2012. PLEASE be prompt!!

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

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District will be on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA, at 2:00 PM.

Delegates from all branches should call okres secretary Grace Charney at (724) 763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

This notice is also a reminder to Branches that representation at District meetings and up-to-date payment of District dues are requirements for eligibility for your annual membership reimbursements from Headquarters.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andre Hlinka District will be held at King's Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 15 PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold a Meeting on Palm Sunday April 1, 2012. The celebration begins at 11:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706.

The Meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After the meeting will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a Slovak gourmet lunch, with dessert and other refreshments to be served. Children will enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt. All members are invited and all branches in our area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting.

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

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, President

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

SS. Cyril and Methodius District 17 of Broome County, New York, and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, Pennsylvania, will hold its annual spring meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2012. Branch delegates will meet at 1:30 P.M. in St. Ann's Basilica, St. Ann's Street, Scranton, PA. Parking is available in the lot to the left of the Church. Branches should note the time change made due to the scheduled Masses. On the agenda are reports from the officers and the Regional Director. Light refreshments will be served. It is important that you confirm your Branch's attendance by contacting District President Michael J. Slovenkai at 570.342.7562 no later than Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

Michael J. Slovenkai, President

John's Tours Sets 15-day Slovakia Tour for September 2012

This year, John's Tours offers a 15-day tour of Slovakia and the surrounding countries of Poland, (Vienna), Austria, and the Czech Republic.

The tour which departs on September 10, 2012 will include: visits to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Levoča, Špania Dolina, Prešov, Banská Štiavnica, Stará Ľubovňa, Poprad, Nitra, Košice, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, a "castle" which actually consists of three castles –upper, central, and middle. This tour also will include a raft ride – Rajecká Lesná – on the Dunajec River which runs between the Slovak and Polish border. The tour will feature two folklore programs with dinners.

We will see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz, as well as a visit to Schoenbrunn Place. In the Czech Republic, you can look forward to seeing Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, plus many other sights.

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

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

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

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

WPSCA Sets April Deadline for Scholarship to Study in Slovakia This Summer

For the seventh consecutive year, WPSCA is offering a scholarship to attend the 2012 Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. WPSCA will award \$3,000 to cover transportation, tuition, room and board to the successful candidate. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a fulltime student in the US,
- Must be of Slovak heritage,
- Must not have previously attended the program,
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance,
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program.



The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and extend their Slovak language competency as well as increasing their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture.

For more information, or for an application, contact WPSCA Executive Director and FCSU Member Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990. All complete applications must be received by WPSCA on or before April 15, 2012 at its office at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15220.

OBITUARIES

MR. JOHN J. MAYERNIK, JR., BRANCH 175 – READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. John J. Mayernik, Jr., 76, of Cumru Twp., died on Friday, January 27, 2012 at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center.

He was the husband of Leona P. (Kern) Mayernik.

Born in Reading, he was a son of the late John J., Sr. and Anna (Greytok) Mayernik. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the former Wagner Associates in Reading as a Mechanical Engineer. He was a lifetime member of the Liberty Fire Company in Reading, and a lifelong member of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Church in Reading. He was a longtime P.I.A.A. Football Official. He was a former Cumru Twp. Judge of Elections.

Surviving are: Son, Michael J., husband of Debbie Mayernik of Laureldale; Son, Robert J. Mayernik and Daughter, Liane E. Mayernik, both of Shillington. Also surviving are two Grandchildren, Amber L. and Ashley A. Keehn; Leonard Mayernik of Hyde Park; and Sister-in-Law, Kathy, widow of Thomas Mayernik of Sinking Spring.

Funeral Service and Interment were private.

GRACE M. (HORGAS) TARCZY BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

GRACE M. (HORGAS) TARCZY, 81, of West Mifflin, formerly of Duquesne, died Saturday, March 10, 2012 in UPMC Presbyterian. Born July 19, 1930 in Duquesne, daughter of the late Joseph G. and Mary (Vesonder) Horgas; beloved wife of the late George C. Tarczy; loving mother of Valerie (John) Belback of West Mifflin; beloved sister of Justine Kozak of Duquesne; loving grandma of Jeffrey Belback (Erin Wagley); also two nieces, Andrea Long and Donna Palesko; and a nephew, Barry Kozak. Friends were received 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. on Monday, March in the William S. Skovranko Memorial Home, Duquesne, PA. Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, March 13 at 10 a.m. in Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, West Mifflin, PA. Burial followed in Parish Cemetery.

Submitted by Virginia Jasek, Branch Secretary



Photos by Gina Peirce

Slovak Summer Institute To Be Held At University of Pittsburgh and Bratislava, Slovakia

The intensive Slovak Summer Institute will again be held at the University of Pittsburgh from June 4 through July 13, 2012. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Slovak will be offered. This course is open to students of any age, including juniors and seniors in high school, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to persons of any age not currently enrolled in a college or university. Partial and full scholarship aid is available. Apply by March 16, 2012 for scholarship consideration.

Attracting students from all over the U.S. and Canada, the Summer Language Institute consists of intensive instruction (five hours daily), allowing students to make the greatest possible progress in Slovak during the time available. Cultural and social activities, including lectures, discussion groups, and film showings are planned. Guest students may choose to stay in a dormitory or in a subletted apartment.

SLI's Intensive Slovak courses, which carry six college credits, represent a thorough introduction to the basic categories of Slovak pronunciation, grammar, and syntax. Emphasis is placed on communicative competence, the active use of new structures in dialogues, unstructured conversation, reading, and listening comprehension.

The instructors are chosen for their experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to language teaching, which ensures the high academic quality of Pitt's SLI program. Location at the University of Pittsburgh campus ensures access to the latest technology, combined with a sophisticated urban setting, with social and cultural amenities. The Slovak course is part of the University of Pittsburgh's East European Summer Language Institute.

A four-week intensive Slovak language program at the intermediate level, led by Dr. Vlasta Stofova, will be offered through SLI in 2012 in Bratislava, Slovakia following the six-week program in Pittsburgh. This course includes travel and cultural programming in Slovakia. Applicants with some prior knowledge of Slovak may also be considered for participation in this program.

For further information and applications for the 2012 Slovak Summer Institute, contact Christine Metil, Slavic Department Summer Programs, University of Pittsburgh, 1417 CL, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, call (412) 624-5906, or download an application at <http://sli.slavic.pitt.edu/>



(L - R): Art Fayta, Treasurer; Barbara Fayta, Vice-President; Shirley Uram, President; Ed Uram, Financial Secretary; Joe Bugel; Liz Bernath; and Region 7 Director Rudy Bernath

Branch 706 Holds Spring Meeting

The St. Anthony of Padua Branch 706 held its spring meeting at the home of Art and Barbara Fayta in Dyer, IN. on Friday, March 16, 2012. After the meeting, the members enjoyed a fraternal dinner at a nearby restaurant. The members then returned to the Fayta's residence for coffee and home made poppy seed and walnut cakes baked by Barbara Fayta.

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

8 YEAR
FLEXIBLE
PREMIUM
DEFERRED
ANNUITY OR
IRA

3.75%

Rate effective 3/1/2012



FCSU Annuity policy owners now have an additional opportunity to earn increased interest earnings.

This product is ideal for members planning long term investment of their annuity funds. The "8 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity" holders will receive .25% higher interest rate than that payable on the FCSU 6 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

The "8 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity" will offer the highest annuity interest rate paid by FCSU. To receive the benefit of this product, the annuitant agrees not to withdraw funds for an eight year period from the date of issue. If the funds are withdrawn within the first year, the surrender charge is 8% of the amount withdrawn. Thereafter, the withdrawal penalty decreases by 1% each year through the eighth year. After the eighth year there is no longer a surrender charge. (Withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a Federal Tax Penalty)

After the first year, emergency withdrawals are permitted from the "8 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity" for up to 10% annually without a FCSU surrender charge. (Withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a Federal Tax Penalty)

This is a **can't-be-beat** opportunity to earn extra interest on your long term annuity savings. Anyone who wants to take advantage of this opportunity to earn higher interest is eligible to participate.

Contact your local Branch Officer or the Home Office!

First Catholic Slovak Union ~ 6611 Rockside Road ~ Independence OH 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 fax 216-642-4310 Website www.FCSU.com



Hey Kids.....

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

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by **April 14, 2012**. You may make a copy to color, and you may make additional copies for any other children in the family who are entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



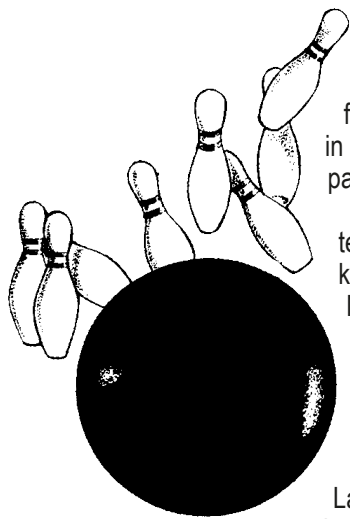
The Slovak Bowling Congress Proudly Presents 70th American Slovak National Bowling Tournament at

Midway Lanes in Akron, OH, April - May

M Golias: 440 526 3657, 440 526 3445, or Joe Harkulich: 330 448 8630. Hoping to see all Slovak Bowlers at Midway Lanes in Akron, OH.

Thank You,

John "Jack" M. Golias, President Slovak Bowling Congress of America



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

Since that time the tournament has grown to almost 200 teams, 815 bowlers participating in the tournament still known as the Slovak Bowling Congress of America Slovak National Bowling Tournament.

The tournament is held in the month of April. The 2012 tournament will cover the weekends of April 14th through the weekend of May 6th, in Akron OH, at Midway Lanes. Past Slovak National Tournaments have been held in Milwaukee, Chicago, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lakewood, McKee's Rocks, Warren, Cicero, Sharon, Hermitage, Struthers, Oak Forest, Natrona Heights, Farrel, Erie, Sandusky, Detroit, and this year back to Akron, OH. These

tournaments have enjoyed entry of 13,255 teams, 32,322 doubles teams, and 75,543 singles and 54,527 all-events bowlers. All time payouts total over \$830,970.01!

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

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

Any questions, or for more information on the tournament or the SBC please contact John



Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, CT, INC 2012 Scholarship



Application, Guidelines and Procedures Forms for this year's \$1,000 scholarship are available from the Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Scholarship Chairperson Eileen S. Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, CT 06614. Mail requests only, please.

Among the requirements: the applicant, parent(s), grandparent(s) must be a member of the Alliance for a minimum of three years and of Slovak descent. RSVP for returned

forms is May 11, 2012.

The Alliance is independent of any other Slovak Fraternal or Society.

- Eileen S. Wilson, Scholarship Chairperson and FCSU Branch 19 Member

News From Slovakia

Slovak National Museum Opens Special Account for Krasna Horka Castle

Bratislava, March 14 (TASR) - Culture Minister Daniel Krajcer (SaS) on Wednesday expressed his gratitude to all the people who have contributed to the fund-raising effort organized in order to renovate Krasna Horka Castle, which was seriously damaged by fire last week.

The public has shown great interest in helping to restore the castle, so the Slovak National Museum (SNM) has opened a special account for this purpose at the state treasury.

Krasna Horka Castle, which plays host to a popular museum near Rožnava (Kosice region) and dates back to the 14th century, lost its roof in a fire that broke out on Saturday (March 10) when two local boys tried to lit a cigarette on the castle hill.

According to Krajcer, this outstanding cultural monument should be at least partially restored within the next few months. First of all, the castle needs a temporary roof that will protect the interior of the building. [This will have to be replaced by a proper roof before next winter, so that snow doesn't cause further damage. - ed. note]

Part of the financial means for the reconstruction work should be covered by insurance. It is now the turn of the insurance companies to comment.

President Gasparovic Commissions Fico with Forming Government

Bratislava, March 15 (TASR) - President Ivan Gasparovic on Thursday commissioned Smer-SD chairman Robert Fico with forming a new government.

Fico's party won the early election on Saturday (March 10) with 44.41 percent of the vote. It will enjoy a majority in the House after securing 83 seats out of 150.

The new Cabinet will be formed by one party only as the leaders of centre-right parties have refused to take part.

"I'm convinced that the results of the general election provide the perfect conditions for me to meet this commission," said future premier Fico, adding that he'll submit the names of his ministers to Gasparovic by April 4, when the constituent parliamentary session is scheduled to take place.

FinMin: Economic Growth to Reach 2.3% This Year, Deficit to Drop to 4.4%

Bratislava, March 15 (TASR) - Slovakia's economy should grow by 2.3 percent this year, according to a prognosis published by the Finance Ministry's Financial Policy Institute (IFP) on Thursday.

This is a significantly higher figure than the previous estimate, which stood at 1.1 percent.

According to the current prognosis, the public finance deficit should equal 4.4 percent of GDP in 2012 instead of the originally expected 4.6 percent.

This higher level of growth should bring an extra €54 million into the state budget.

Apart from higher economic growth, public finances will also be positively influenced by lower EU budget levies for Slovakia, higher incomes from dividends, an expected improvement in the financial management of local authorities and savings linked to the halting of privatization processes.

According to preliminary figures, the public finance deficit in 2011 reached 5 percent of GDP. Around 0.9 percent (€663 million) was represented by originally unrecorded debts of hospitals and rail companies in 2008-10. Eurostat ruled that these debts had to be included in the 2011 deficit.

If the future government wants to meet its aim of cutting the deficit to 2.9 percent of GDP in 2013, it will have to save €1.165 billion.

Japan's Embassy Thanks Slovaks for Sympathy to Victims of Quake

Bratislava, March 16 (TASR) - Japan's Embassy in Slovakia on Wednesday, March 15, thanked all Slovaks who expressed sympathy to the people affected by the recent earthquake and the following tsunami in Japan.

In the statement provided to TASR, the embassy also expressed its gratitude to the Slovak Government for the offer of help, and asked for assistance within the coordinated aid about to be provided by the EU.

The embassy reminded that the Japanese government on Tuesday, March 14, requested the EU for help in the shape of humanitarian material reserves. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso announced that the EU has accepted Japan's request.

Matej: Honeywell Investment to Give Presov and Region Major Boost

Presov, March 18 (TASR) - The plan of US-based Honeywell International Inc. to place a €38.31-million investment into building a factory at the Zaborske pri Presove (Presov region) industrial park will provide a significant shot in the arm for Presov and the surrounding area, co-governing SDKU-DS MP Ondrej Matej said in Presov on Friday.

However, some major steps need to be taken before the project gets off the ground, with the local Council's approval of the sale of the land in the park topping the list of concerns.

Matej said that the approval is expected to constitute an historic moment, as it will be supported by all 31 aldermen. The vote is due on March 30.

Next on the agenda, the Government will discuss the Economy Ministry's proposal to provide assis-

tance to Honeywell Turbo, the company's Slovak subsidiary, he said.

Amidst its aims to produce turbochargers designed for engines of passenger cars and trucks, the company is set to create at least 446 jobs in one of Slovakia's worst-off regions in terms of unemployment.

Miklos: Slovakia Has Negotiated Compromise for ESM Commitments

Brussels, March 22 (TASR-CORRESPONDENT) - Slovakia has managed to negotiate a change in key conditions for contributions to the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), said Slovak Finance Minister Ivan Miklos after an extraordinary session of eurozone finance ministers held in Brussels earlier in the week.

Thanks to a change in the rules that are currently being applied in the case of the European Financial Stabilization Facility (EFSF), Slovakia should save €1.17 billion. The EFSF key for contributions is based equally on the number of inhabitants of a country and its share of total eurozone GDP.

Small countries such as Slovakia, Slovenia and Estonia complained about the calculation method, however, requiring that the population factor should be excluded. The 17 eurozone members eventually agreed on a compromise solution proposed by Estonia - with 75 percent of the key to be calculated from a country's contribution to overall eurozone General National Income (GNI) and 25 percent according to the share of capital in the European Central Bank (ECB). This latter factor is divided equally between population figures and contributions to total eurozone GDP.

"We have a definite agreement on the compromise proposal on a change in the [contribution] key. Our arguments had weight. We raised this issue a month ago, and we emphasized that this is a principal matter for us ... Slovakia's participation will be 17 percent lower than in the case of the EFSF," said Miklos, adding that he isn't 100-percent satisfied with this solution either, however. "Population numbers shouldn't be included in the distribution key at all, so a certain amount of illogic remains. We respect the fact that we can't achieve everything. The most important thing is to come to an agreement, which is why we were forthcoming and made partial concessions," he claimed.

According to the new calculation method, Slovakia will contribute €5.83 billion to the ESM, while it would have paid €7 billion in line with current rules.

The ESM should begin operating as of July 2013 as a financial institution replacing the temporary EFSF. As was the case for the EFSF, the ESM should serve as the last resort for states that are in serious financial trouble. The overall credit capacity of the ESM will be €500 billion, but it will be necessary to accumulate a total of €700 million for rating reasons. As much as €80 billion will be represented by cash provided directly by member states, while the ESM management will be able to demand the remaining €620 billion if it is really necessary to lend the money to a member state. The €80 billion should be collected within three years, with €40 billion available from the very beginning and the rest garnered by 2016.

New Rector of Comenius University Micieta Intends to Fight Mediocrity

Bratislava, March 17 (TASR) - The new rector of the oldest university in Slovakia, Comenius University in Bratislava, Karol Micieta, was ceremonially inaugurated on Thursday.

Micieta, who was appointed by President Ivan Gasparovic in January, pledged on Thursday that he will manage the university responsibly.

"I want to be a rector for everybody. I want to fight mediocrity," said Professor Micieta, who has been active at the university for 40 years.

In his speech Micieta also pointed to the need for stronger support for universities from the state administration. According to him, investments in science and education have been sub-standard for a long time.

Prime Minister Iveta Radicova also took part in the inauguration. She stressed that the most successful graduates of Comenius University are now her employees.

Education Minister Eugen Jurzyca confirmed that the university is the dominant player on the university market in Slovakia. "I believe that this will continue in the future as well," he said.

Micieta will serve as Comenius University rector for four years. He replaced Frantisek Gaher, who served two terms of office.

New deans of the university's schools were inaugurated at the ceremony as well.

Roster for Warm-up Games Ahead of Ice-hockey Champs Released

Bratislava, March 22 (TASR) - Slovakia's squad for the warm-up games ahead of the 2011 Ice-hockey World Championships on home ground was made public by head coach Glen Hanlon on Tuesday, albeit shy of goalies for now, TASR learnt on the same day.

Speaking at a press conference held in the newly opened Slovak Hockey Hall of Fame in Bratislava, Hanlon presented a list of nine forwards and six defenders, who will later be complemented by several players from Slovakia's ice-hockey league teams that are currently in the semi-finals but will fail to make it through to the finals.

Hanlon noted that the choice wasn't easy, but one good thing was that there were plenty of players to choose from. A considerable percentage of them will also be shortlisted for the World Championships, at which Slovak fans largely believe that the team can nab a medal.

Slovakia's two goalies playing in the NHL - Jaroslav Halak and Peter Budaj - are largely expected to secure the no. 1 and 2 goalie positions at the tournament itself. The coach said that he'll field some of the country's up-and-coming goalies in the prep matches, with one of them eventually taking the no. 3 spot behind Halak and Budaj.

The Slovaks, who will now have to gel as a team, will begin a string of pre-Championship games in Finland on April 1.

“Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style”

* Customs * Traditions * Recipes * Folklore * Crafts

In this delightful ethnic book, “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style”, Lawrence G. Kozlowski has gathered together a wealth of treasured Slovak Eastertide practices, rituals, foods, crafts (including egg decorating and palm weaving) and traditions whose usage goes back to antiquity.

With early Slavonic origins as a backdrop, “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” takes the reader on a remarkably realistic six week journey throughout a poignant Slovak Lenten Season, culminating in a majestic Easter Sunday filled with grandeur, glory, radiance and splendor un equated at any time or any place in history.

For those familiar with Slovak Lenten and Easter customs and still observing them, “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” sets out each custom and each ritual like taking favorite pieces of well-loved jewelry from a jewelry box and looking at them as though seeing each piece in all of its beauty for the first time.

For the reader familiar with Slovak Lenten/Easter customs but for one reason or another longer observing them, “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” awakens memories of a time when their observance filled the heart with indescribable piety, childlike awe and joy.

For the reader who would like to add another dimension to the celebration and meaning of the Lenten Season and Easter without having to wade through page after page of boring facts and figures, “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” offers fascinating, easy reading and also a section dedicated to one’s own family tree, treasured family traditions and family recipes to personalize the book for future generations.

For everyone “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” provides a wealth of charming illustrations, easy to follow folk craft instructions and some of the most delicious recipes to celebrate the best holiday ever!

The “Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” sells for \$13.75 each. Quantity orders are available at a discount for churches, clubs, gift shops and organizational fund raising. Please make check payable to: L.G. Kozlowski. Do not send cash. Individual books will be shipped first class mail for faster delivery.

“Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style” Order Form

QUANTITY TOTAL

Please send _____ Slovak Easter Books-----@ \$13.75 Each \$ _____

(Contact Us For Price Quotes For Quantity Orders Of 10, 20, 30, Or More Books.
Email Address: lgk505@aol.com)

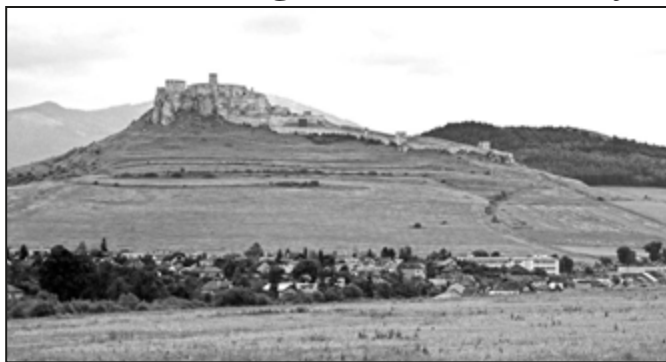
Mail To:
Name: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Enclose Check Or Money Order And This Form To:
L.G. Kozlowski
808 Phineas Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/ Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities

15th Heritage Tour Set For July 10 - 24, 2012



Spiš Castle is one of the many cities featured on the 15th Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Sites Heritage Tour

Join us as we host the 15th Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia July 10 - 24, 2012, visiting such cities as Bratislava, Piešťany, Trnava, Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Nitra, Sliac, Spišska Nová Ves and more. Spend time in the Tatra's, raft ride on the Dunajec River, visit historical sites, see many beautiful churches and castles while enjoying cultural performances. Discover your roots—side trips to ancestral villages available with advance notice.

Special Leap Year Discount: The price from Pittsburgh, PA, is \$3699.00 ---from Washington D.C. is \$3649.00

For more information contact:

Jim and Kay Bench
428 West 4th Ave.
Derry, Pa. 15627
Phone 724-694-5101---cell phone 724-858-5843
e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com
or
Adventure International Travel
PO Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Phone 216-228-7171 (Toll free 800-542-2487)
e-mail paul@aits.webmail.com

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

C	H	O	P			P	O	S	H		C	R	A	M				
L	O	R	O			S	A	U	T	E		L	A	N	E			
I	N	C	I	D	E	N	T	A	L			I	N	N	S			
P	E	A				O	A	T			N	I	N	N	I	E	S	
				A	N	T	E				P	E	G					
		S	I	L	O				D	E	T	O	X		L	A	P	
A	T	T	A	R					P	E	R	T			U	N	I	
S	E	A	S				R	O	O	S	T			G	A	I	N	
P	A	L				R	E	N	D					T	R	U	S	T
S	L	Y				E	P	E	E	S				W	I	S	E	
				M	A	R					A	P	E	D				
A	P	R	O	P	O	S					B	A	R			R	A	T
S	A	I	L				A	T	M	O	S	P	H	E	R	E		
A	L	O	E				C	O	A	T	S			E	D	G	E	
P	E	T	S				H	A	T	S				N	O	O	N	

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION



FCSU LIFE!

Start with a little or a lot...we'll make it grow!

Flexible and Fixed Rate Annuities and IRA's
Take advantage of **great rates** with a variety of terms.

- **Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA** – Six Year and Eight Year Terms available. Open an account with as little as \$500.00. Make deposits by mail at your convenience or regularly with an automatic transfer from your checking or savings account.
- **Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA** – Make a Single Deposit and earn interest at a *fixed rate for six years*. Minimum Deposit \$5,000.00.
- **Park 2 Annuity** – Make a Single Deposit and earn interest at a *fixed rate for two years*. Minimum Deposit \$1,000.00.

Visit our web site at www.fcsu.com

First Catholic Slovak Union
FCSU Corporate Center
6611 Rockside Rd – Suite 300
Independence OH 44131



Phone: 1- 800-533-6682
Fax: 1- 216-642-4310
Email: fcsu@aol.com

**Kent Dudince Sister City Association
Tenth Annual Anniversary Banquet**

Sunday, May 20, 2012

**Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane – State Route 59
(behind Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59)**

1:00 PM – Social Hour 2:00 PM – Dinner 3:00 PM – Program

**Music by Johnny Pastirik Band during Social Hour and Dinner
Orchestra members: Johnny Pastirik, Len Jacko, and Ken Javor**

Dancing following the program

**Šarišan of Greater Detroit, Michigan
Milan Straka, Founder & Director**

**Slovenske Mamičky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble
Members: Milka Anderko, Maria Cvicela, Monica Smid**

Lučinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland

Nadia Oros, Choreographer

Michele Mager, Director

Tom Ivanec, Honorary Director

**Tickets - \$20.00 per person – Catered by Tom's Country Place
Donation of Baked Goods would be appreciated**

**Advance Ticket Sales Only Deadline for purchase: May 15, 2012
Tickets with directions will be mailed. Please include all guest names.**

**Make checks payable to:
Kent-Dudince Sister City Association
1544 Vine Street
Kent, OH 44240**

(Or for more information, call Rudy Bachna – 330-673-3255)

FCSU LIFE

**Single Premium
Insurance Spring Special!**

Newborn Male
\$5000 for \$290
\$10000 for \$580

Newborn Female
\$5000 for \$250
\$10000 for \$500

Male - age 5
\$5000 for \$340
\$10000 for \$680

Female - age 5
\$5000 for \$290
\$10000 for \$580

Male - age 10
\$5000 for \$400
\$10000 for \$800

Female - age 10
\$5000 for \$340
\$10000 for \$680

Male - age 15
\$5000 for \$480
\$10000 for \$960

Female - age 15
\$5000 for \$405
\$10000 for \$810

Male - age 20
\$5000 for \$545.00
\$10000 for \$1090.00

Female - age 20
\$5000 for \$470.00
\$10000 for \$940.00

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a **FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD** to present with the certificate!

Features:

- Pay one premium and have fully paid-up Insurance
- Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more) subject to current FCSU LIFE non-medical limits
- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren



**Publication Schedule
for 2012**

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
April 25	April 16
May 9	April 30
May 23	May 14
June 6	May 28
July 11	July 2
August 8	July 30
August 22	August 13
September 5	August 27
September 26	September 17
October 10	October 1
October 24	October 15
November 7	October 29
November 21	November 12
December 5	November 26

Známí a neznámí Slováci

Neobyčajný človek žijúci medzi nami



Juraj Pavlišin

K popredným osobnostiam kultúrneho, spoločenského ale aj náboženského života u nás na Slovensku nesporne patrí hudobný textár, skladateľ, pedagóg, dramaturg a režisér v jednej osobe Pán Alojz Čobej, ktorý sa nedávno dožil svojich 76 rokov. Rodák z východoslovenského Stropkova, ktorý sa už od svojho raného detstva venoval hre na akordeóne, klavíri a dychových nástrojoch, založil v roku 1955 prvú študentskú kapelu, ktorá vyhrávala na všetkých stropkovských zábavách a plesoch.

Po ukončení vysokoškolského štúdia na Filologickej fakulte v Prešove v študijnom odbore slovenský jazyk – latinčina, pôsobil od roku 1958 ako stredoškolský profesor na Gymnáziu v Banskej Bystrici a od roku 1972 začal pracovať v banskobystrickom štúdiu Slovenského rozhlasu. Ako vedúci literárny redaktor vytvoril nespočetné množstvo literárnych programov avšak najobľúbenejšími boli jeho rozhlasové hry pre mládež, ktoré sa v tej dobe pravidelne vysielali na vlnách Slovenského rozhlasu. Ako hudobný skladateľ a textár je autorom viacerých veľmi populárnych slovenských piesní, z ktorých najväčší poslucháčsky ohlas mali jeho piesne Júlia, si čarovná, Tri krát hádaj, Dávno tak dávno, Zdravý buď otec náš a celý rad ďalších.

Po roku 1990 pôsobil ako odborný lektor latinského jazyka na Univerzite Mateja Bela v Banskej Bystrici. V akademickom meste Banská Bystrica je Alojz Čobej známy hlavne ako autor slovenského a latinského textu hymny Univerzity Mateja Bela, ktorá sa tak stala jedinou univerzitou na Slovensku so svojou vlastnou hymnou.

Slovenský text univerzitnej hymny

Ó ty matka naša,
zasej svoju múdrosť do mladých duší,
do srdca i do čiel a veď ich cestou k poznaniu a pravde,
po ktorej kráča slávny Matej Bel.
Stále nech ti znejú vrúcne slová chvály za to,
že mladost' k poznaniu chceš viesť.
Nech celý národ s láskou ti vzdáva
chválu, slávu, úctu a česť!

Latinský text univerzitnej hymny

Clara alma mater,
tua est laus nostra,
Matthiae Belii Universitas
Tuum est semper nostrum gaudeamus,
gratia nostra heri, hodie, cras.
Vivat profesoress, vivat alma mater,
quae lucem vitae iuventuti dat.
Gloria tua per multos annos vivat,
crescat et floreat!

Ako hlboko veriaci kresťan prichádza Pán Alojz Čobej v roku 2000 pracovať ako dramaturg a režisér do Katolíckeho Rádia Lumen a do povedomia katolíckych veriacich na Slovensku sa dostáva ako autor rozhlasových hier o sv. Františkovi Xaverskom (Fakľa vo vetre), o sv. Dominikovi (Do posledného dychu), o sv. Gorazdovi (Gorazd), o sv. Jánovi z Boha (Apoštol milosrdenstva), o sv. Dorote (Kvet z nebeskej záhrady) a o Žofii Bošniakovej (Cnostná Žofia).

Napriek svojmu vysokému veku je ešte stále aktívnym hudobným skladateľom o čom svedčia jeho skladby sakrálneho charakteru, ktoré komponuje pre ženský spevácky zbor Michael vo farnosti Michala Archanjela v Banskej Bystrici na sídlisku Fončorda.

Juraj Pavlišin, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia



Alojz Čobej

V rodisku biskupa Baláža chcú otvoriť pamätnú izbu



Biskup Rudolf Baláž

V rodisku nedávno zosnulého banskobystrického biskupa Rudolfa Baláža, v obci Nevoľné (okres Žiar nad Hronom), chcú na jeho počesť otvoriť pamätnú izbu. Podľa starostu Štefana Henžela, ktorý jej vznik iniciuje, to má byť vyjadrenie vďaky za to, čo pre obec biskup spravil.

“My sme plánovali zriadiť obecné múzeum v objekte, ktorý nie je dlhodobo využívaný už dávnejšie,” podotkol s tým, že ide o starú požiarňu zbrojnicu. Po smrti biskupa sa rozhodli, že jedna časť bude vyčlenená práve jeho osobe. “Prebehli už aj rokovania s biskupským úradom, kde sme sa dohodli na určitých veciach, ktoré nám zo svojho depozitu vydajú do našej pamätnej izby,” podotkol Henžel. Miesto by tu mali nájsť osobné veci, ktoré Baláž počas svojho života používal.

Obci sa na tento zámer podarilo získať 10,000 eur z Úradu vlády SR, určité finančné prostriedky získala aj od Banskobystrického samosprávneho kraja. Ďalšie prostriedky však ešte podľa Henžela stále zháňajú. Ak všetko pôjde bez problémov, starosta predpokladá, že múzeum by mohli otvoriť ešte tento rok.

Baláž sa narodil ako najmladší zo šiestich detí 20. novembra 1940 v Nevoľnom. Biskupskú vysviacku prijal 19. marca 1990 v Banskej Bystrici z rúk Jozefa kardinála Tomku. Ako motto pre svoju apoštolskú službu si vybral evanjeliovú výzvu Pravda vás vyslobodí – Veritas liberabit vos. Počas svojho pôsobenia vkladáním rúk udelil kňazskú vysviacku viac ako 200 kňazom. Zomrel 27. júla 2011 v Banskej Bystrici. Pochovaný je vo svojej rodnej obci Nevoľné.

TASR

V roku 1452 posvätili Dóm sv. Martina

Katolícki veriaci si 11. marca 2012, tretiu pôstnu nedeľu pripomenuli v Katedrále sv. Martina v Bratislave 560. výročie posviacky tohto chrámu. Svätú omšu pri tejto príležitosti slávil bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský.

Bratislavský Dóm sv. Martina sa v roku 1995 stal Konkatedrálou Bratislavsko-trnavskej arcidiecézy a od 14. februára 2008 je katedrálom chrámom Bratislavskej metropolitnej arcidiecézy. Patrí k najvýznamnejším kultúrnym pamiatkam nielen na Slovensku, ale i v strednej Európe. Jeho patrónom je kňaz a biskup sv. Martin z Tours, známy svojou dobročinnosťou.

Terajšiu katedrálu začali stavať začiatkom 14. storočia, odvtedy prešla mnohými zmenami. Zachovali sa v nej vzácne pamiatky. Okrem gotickej architektúry chrámu je pozoruhodná aj gotická bronzová kazateľnica z roku 1403 a monštrancia z roku 1517. Zachovali sa tiež vzácne tabuľové obrazy zo 16. storočia a iné cenné pamiatky. Známa je plastika zobrazujúca sv. Martina na koni, ako daroval časť svojho plášťa chudobnému, od majstra sochárskeho umenia Georga Raffaella Donnera v pravej časti Katedrály.

Majster Donner vyzdobil aj samostatnú Kaplnku sv. Jána Almužníka v ľavej časti chrámu, v ktorej sú uložené telesné pozostatky tohto alexandrijského patriarchu. Narodil sa okolo roku 552 na Cypre, kde zomrel pravdepodobne v roku 620. Veľkú časť svojho života venoval dobročinnosti, podobne ako sv. Martin z Tours.

Pozlátený vrchol veže Katedrály sv. Martina vo výške 85 metrov zdobí zväčšená kópia kráľovskej koruny, ktorá pripomína, že v rokoch 1563-1830 bola katedrála aj korunovačným chrámom. Korunovali tu 11 panovníkov a osem kráľovských manželiek.

TASR



Koruna sv. Martina

Počet rozvedených na Slovensku stúpa

Počet rozvedených ľudí na Slovensku rastie, ukázali výsledky vlnajšieho sčítavania obyvateľov, domov a bytov. Podľa generálnej riaditeľky sekcie sociálnych štatistík a demografie Štatistického úradu (ŠÚ) SR Ludmily Ivančíkovej sa podiel rozvedených zvýšil zo 4.3 percenta (233,552 ľudí) v roku 2001 na vlnajších 7.6 percenta (412,745 ľudí). Pred 20 rokmi predstavoval podiel 2.8 percenta populácie (147,523).

“Pokiaľ ide o fenomén rozvodovosti, tak Slovensko rozhodne nepatrí ku krajinám, kde by bola rozvodovosť veľmi vysoká,” skonštatovala pre TASR Magdaléna Piscová zo Sociologického ústavu SAV s tým, že stále patríme ku krajinám, v ktorých sa miera rozvodovosti pohybuje na nižších respektíve stredných hodnotách v rámci EU. Nárast v podiele rozvedených v populácii, ktorý ukázalo sčítanie, sa podľa jej slov dal očakávať a ďalší, i keď mierny nárast predpokladá aj do budúcnosti.

Druhou stranou tohto procesu je mierny pokles podielu ľudí žijúcich v manželstve. Za zaujímavú skutočnosť považuje to, že tak, ako narastá vek snúbencov, narastá aj vek rozvádajúcich sa, čo môže naznačovať, že ako sobáš tak i rozvody sa konajú uvážlivejšie. Zdôraznila, že i napriek výsledkom sčítania nemožno na Slovensku hovoriť o kríze manželstva, ktorá sa veľmi často spomína. “Manželstvo ostáva stále vysokou hodnotou pre prevažujúcu časť našej populácie,” uzavrela Piscová.

Ako ukázalo sčítanie, podiel slobodných sa za 20 rokov nezmenil. Pri sčítaní v rokoch 1991, 2001 i 2011 predstavoval 42.3 percenta. Ivančíková priblížila, že, naopak, došlo k poklesu podielu vydatých a ženatých obyvateľov zo 44.9 percenta v roku 2001 na 41 percenta v roku 2011. Podiel ovdovených obyvateľov bol v roku 2011 v porovnaní s rokom 2001 nezmenený (7.2 percenta).

Najviac slobodných obyvateľov žije v Prešovskom kraji (44.9 percenta), najviac ženatých a vydatých žije v Bratislavskom a Trenčianskom kraji (42.6 percenta). Najviac rozvedených obyvateľov je v Banskobystrickom kraji (9.9 percenta) a najviac ovdovených obyvateľov má Nitriansky kraj (8.2 percenta).

TASR

55. kongres Slovenskej ligy bude 8. a 9. júna v Bridgeporte, CT

Na základe rozhodnutia Výkonného výboru Slovenskej ligy oznamujeme, že 55. kongres Slovenskej ligy sa bude konať v piatok a sobotu 8. a 9. júna 2012 v hoteli Bridgeport Holiday Inn v Bridgeport, Connecticut. Adresa hotela je: Bridgeport Holiday Inn, 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport CT 06640. Telefónne číslo na rezervácie je 1-888-465-4329.

Prvé zasadanie kongresu bude v piatok 8. júna o 1:30 hodine popoludní a ďalšie zasadanie bude v sobotu o 9. hodine a bude pokračovať popoludní. Banket bude v sobotu 9. júna. Recepčia začne o 6:30 večer a banket bude o 7:30 hodine.

Slovenská liga pozýva na 55. kongres členské organizácie, spolky, zbory Slovenskej ligy a doživotných členov, ako aj slovenskú verejnosť. Blížšie informácie a inštrukcie budú poskytnuté v písomných komunikáciách v ďalších tlačových správach Slovenskej ligy.

Daniel F. Tanzone, predseda
W. Nina Holy, tajomníčka

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu pripravuje schôdzu, ktorá sa bude konať na Kvetnú nedeľu, 1. apríla 2012. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine ráno v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706.

Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný slovenský obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa budú zabávať tradičným hľadáním veľkonočných vajčiek. Po obede bude schôdza pokračovať v jedálni.

Na programe je príprava plánu aktivít na ďalšie obdobie a informácie o poisťovacom programe Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie pozývame všetkých našich členov ako aj delegátov jednotlivých spolkov nášho Okresu Princa Pribinu.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

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

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu 15. apríla o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza vo Veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street v New York City. Schôdza sa bude zaoberať finančnou správou a diskusiou o návrhoch na ďalšie obdobie činnosti. Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom Spolku sv. Matúša, č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku, že sa uskutoční členská schôdza v nedeľu 22. apríla 2012 o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66. ulici. Láskaivo žiadame všetkých našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Predstavili knihu o náboženskom živote Slovákov v Kanade

„Náboženský život Slovákov v Kanade“ je názov knihy, ktorú predstavili v stredu 14. marca v Bratislave. Slovenskú prezentáciu uviedol riaditeľ Kanadského Slovenského Inštitútu Ondrej Mihaľ, ktorý je zároveň jeho riaditeľom a autorom tejto knihy. Po úvodných slovách košických pomocného biskupa Mons. Stanislava Stolárika, generálneho biskupa Evanjelickej cirkvi a v. Miloša Klátika a úvodnom slove autora opisuje kniha krátku históriu týkajúcu sa príchodu Slovákov do Kanady.

Prírodnou súčasťou krajského života Slovákov v Kanade sa stal okrem spolkového života i náboženský život. Prvé informácie ňom boli autorovi knihy prezentované už roku 2002 na výstave Slováci v Kanade svojimi očami a následne v roku 2003 v rovnomennej publikácii. Kniha Náboženský život Slovákov v Kanade je pokračovaním podstatne rozšíreného a doplneného jeho pôvodného projektu. Uvedená kniha v anglicko-slovenskej mutácii a s veľkým počtom obrazových ilustrácií podáva obraz o počiatkoch a práci troch najväčších kresťanských cirkvách – rímsko-katolíckej, gréckokatolíckej a evanjelickej cirkvi a. v., ktoré pôsobili a pôsobia v prostredí kanadských Slovákov. V knihe sú prezentované i náboženské spoločnosti Baptistov, Nazarénov a Cirkve Ducha Svätého.

Autor v jednotlivých kapitolách opisuje zakladanie farností a cirkevných zborov, stavby slovenských kostolov, spomína najstaršie farnosti a kostoly ako je rímsko-katolícky kostol sv. Petra v Thunder Bay v Ontariu, postavený v roku 1908. Z grécko-katolíckych farností najstaršou je farnosť v Lethbridge, v provincii Alberta, ktorá vznikla v roku 1921. Prvé evanjelické cirkevné zbory a. v. v Kanade vznikli v druhej polovici 20. rokov 20. storočia v Toronte, Windsore, Montreali a Thunder Bay. Boli i také čo vznikli po druhej svetovej vojne. Najmladším evanjelickým cirkevným zborom je zbor v Kitcheneri, ktorý vznikol až roku 1997 a jeho členmi sú Slováci zo Srbska.

V závere knihy autor hodnotí 125 rokov náboženského života Slovákov v Kanade, ktorý prešiel zložitou a v mnohých prípadoch nie ľahkou cestou. Začiatkom 20. storočia museli slovenskí prisťahovalci, ak chceli počuť slovo Božie, navštevovať cudzie kostoly a počúvať kázne v cudzích jazykoch. Postupne však si postavili vlastné kostoly a začali pozývať slovenských kňazov. Zlatý vek náboženského života Slovákov v Kanade bol od konca 50. rokov až do polovice 70. rokov 20. storočia. Po tomto období, aj napriek určitým prisťahovaleckým vlnám, sa zo slovenských kostolov začína akosi vytrácať slovenský jazyk. Slovenské farnosti i cirkevné zbory postupne prešli na angličtinu. V mnohých prípadoch i zanikli. Kniha pripomína históriu slovenského náboženského života Slovákov v Kanade, aby ju uchovala pre ďalšie generácie Slovákov a ich potomkov.

Na podujatí sa zúčastnil aj charge d'affaires Kanadskej ambasády na Slovensku Kathy Burka. Krátku recenziu nového diela, ako aj jej autora, predstavil Mojmir Benza. Následne ju predstavil jej samotný autor Ondrej Mihaľ. Okrem tejto knihy predstavili aj ďalšie publikácie – Slovenský folklór v Kanade, Vojvodinskí Slováci v Kanade, Spod závejov amerických). Ďalšia prezentácia sa uskutočnila 23. marca v Košiciach (Komenského ul. 14, Dom Božského Srdca).

TK KBS

Zo spomienok starého pioniera

Sporadické vystahovalectvo Slovákov do Kanady spadá do roku 1923 a hromadné od 1925. Medzi prvými, vystahovalcami do Kanady za mäksou skyvou chleba bol i Štefan Marejka, Turzovčan, povolaním krajčír. Svoj odchod a svoje začiatky v Kanade čiastočne sprítomnil v svojich spomienkach nasledovne:

V roku 1923 československá vláda uvoľnila vystahovalectvo. V tom čase už som bol dva roky doma z ruského zajatia. Vykonával som si Živnostenský list a začal krajčírstvo sám pre seba. Zanedlho som sa oženil. Svadbu sme mali skromnú. Málo ľudí. Nebolo dosť peňazí na chlieb tobôž na pijatiku. Po svadbe vo vrecku mi ostalo 5 korún. S tým sme začali gazdovať s mojou polovičkou.



„Extra gang“ Turzovčanov na práci v pralese (1923).

Do roka sa nám narodilo dieťa a o dva druhé. Keď už sme boli štyria, začal som vážne rozmýšľať ako ďalej? V Turzovke v tom čase ľudia si nedávali robiť šaty na mieru u krajčira. Materiálu nebolo. Ten, čo bol k dostaniu bol podradnej kvality, ako papier.

Jeden večer, akoby ho bol poslal sám Pán Boh, prišiel ku mne náš neďaleký sused, Štefan Rudinský, bývalý čslov. legionár, zamestnaný na obecnej úrade a sa ma opýtal, či by som chcel odísť do Kanady. U nás vtedy o Kanade nikto nepočul, ani to kde je? Po dlhom uvažovaní som sa rozhodol, čo sa tu budem trápiť a mordovať, posmelujúc sám seba myšlienkou, veď aj tam žijú ľudia. Čoskoro sa prihlásilo deväť chlapov, ktorí prejavili záujem emigrovať. Po zadovážení cestovných pasov a potrebných dokumentov, odišli sme do Kanady. Doma som nechal mladú ženu, dve deti a kopy dlžby.

Po dlhej plavbe konečne sme pristáli v Quebecu, kde už na nás čakali agenti a lesníci. Všetkých nás dopravili do usadlosti nazvanej Roueo a odtiaľ na prácu v pralese. Bola tuhá zima a hodne snehu. Keď sme dorazili k veľkému zamrznutému jazeru, sprievodca nám rozkázal vyrábať dlhé palice a po jednom držať ich na obidvoch koncoch. Zabezpečenie ak by niektorý chlap spadol do jazera, mohli ho z neho vytiahnuť. V tých časoch v pralese cesta nebola. Konečne po dlhom a únavnom chode prišli sme k barákom, v ktorých nás ubytovali. Bolo v nich príjemne teplo. Postele jedna navrch druhej a hodne jedenia. Za plnými stolami cítili sme sa ako doma na predvojnovnej svadbe.

Na druhý deň vedúci nás zadelil do práce „podľa oka“. Mne dal pílu akú som v živote nevidel. Rezala piliny ako rezanky, macaroni po anglicky. Poučil nás ako treba rezať stromy meter hrubé. Ráno položil som pílu na plece nevedome obrátenú zubami ku krku. Hneď ma upozornili pílu obrátiť, aby som si nepodrezal krk, keď by som náhodou spadol.

Neskoršie, s iným chlapom, dali ma k zvalenému stromu, prerezať ho a odstrániť. Ležal v ceste na skladbu brvám do štósu. Keď sme zarezali do tromu dosť hlboko, pílu ďalej ani hnúť. Po dlhom špekulovaní nebolo iného východiska ako privolať na pomoc odborníka, ktorý vedel pílu narábať ako ja ihlou. Mne sa potom dostala ľahšia robota. Zbierať menšie konáre. Ukladať ich vedľa seba polievať vodou pokiaľ nezmrzla, aby koňom bolo ľahšie ťahať naložené sane.

Po šesť mesiacoch práce v pralese, jeden po druhom sme sa roztrhali po veľkej Kanade. Každý pošiel svojou stranou. Ja s jedným Rusom sme odišli do Montrealu. Pomohol mi nájsť robotu. V tom čase, ako „greenhorn“ nevedel som rozdiel medzi anglickou a francúzskou rečou. Mojmim šťastím bolo, že som vedel rusky a nemecky. Vtedy ani so sviečkou nemohol si nájsť Slováka v Montreale. Avšak už tu bolo veľa Ukrajincov a Židov. Po trvalom udomácnení stiahol som tu svoju rodinu. Keď som sa priučil novému jazyku a novým pomerom, založil som svoj vlastný krajčírsky podnik a čistiareň odevu. Celý môj život prežil som v Montreale.

Štefan Marejka (7. 8. 1891 – 6. 9. 1976) radí sa medzi prominentných dejateľov slovensko-národného, spoločenského, fraternalistického a cirkevného diania slovenskej komunity v Montreale. Bol spoluzakladateľom katolíckej osady sv. Cyrila a Metoda, aktívnym spolkárom, členom Slovenskej školskej rady, horlivým podporovateľom slovenských podujatí, povzbudzujúcim rečníkom a členom Tlačového výboru Kanadského Slováka. Spolu s manželkou Veronikou rod. Grušpíerová (13. 11. 1899 – 19. 11. 1968) vychovali osem detí, šesť dievčat a dvoch chlapcov v prísnej kresťanskej náuke a slovenskom povedomí – doma slovensky, na ulici anglicky a v škole francúzsky.

Štefan Hreha

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Celosvetová** kríza v hutníckom priemysle si vyžiadala svoje prvé tohtoročné obeť aj v Košiciach. Stopercentná dcérska spoločnosť U.S. Steelu – Refrako s.r.o. – už ohlásila na košickom úrade práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny hromadné prepúšťanie. V oznámení ako hlavný dôvod uvádza dlhodobú klesajúcu úroveň vyťažiteľnosti technických zariadení na výrobu pálených stavív v Šamotárni a odstavenie tunelovej pece č. 1. Keďže ide o viac ako 10 percent zamestnancov, pôjde o hromadné prepúšťanie.

• **Historická** sála a nová výstavná sieň v podzemí má byť výsledkom rekonštrukcie Východoslovenskej galérie (VSG) v Košiciach, ktorá má odštartovať ešte v polovici tohto roka. Vyčlenených je na to spolu vyše 3 miliónov eur. Budovu Východoslovenskej galérie na Hlavnej ulici podľa nej pravdepodobne uzavrujú a činnosť dočasne presunú na Alžbetinu 22. Výstavbou novej výstavnej siene v podzemí vznikne podľa riaditeľky VSG L. Leškovej zaujímavá plocha. „Získame priestor s takmer 1000 metrov štvorcových a to bude priestor pre vystavovanie a predstavovanie súčasného umenia,“ vysvetlila riaditeľka. Galéria podľa nej zároveň takto získa priestor na poschodí, ktorý by už využívali len na prezentáciu vlastných zbierok. Financie na zmeny bude mať VSG z projektu Košice - Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013.

• **Ceny** nehnuteľností za uplynulé roky medziročne klesajú. Táto skutočnosť v kombinácii s nízkymi úrokovými sadzbami hypoték znamená, že ľudia si oproti roku 2008 môžu dovoliť až o polovicu väčší byt. Ponukové ceny nehnuteľností v roku 2011 klesli v priemere o 2,7 % oproti roku 2010 a stále hľadali svoje dno. Podmienky sa pritom zlepšili v každom regióne Slovenska. Najviac z toho môžu ťažiť ľudia v Prešovskom kraji, ktorí si môžu dovoliť až o dve tretiny väčší byt ako pred tromi rokmi. Najmenší nárast dostupnosti bývania bol v Banskobystrickom kraji, no aj tam predstavovalo zlepšenie oproti roku 2008 až 44 %.

• **Slovenská** lyžiarka Petra Vlhová získala bronzovú medailu v slalome na juniorských MS v talianskom Roccarase. Hneď po skončení súťaže informoval o tom sekretariát Slovenskej lyžiarskej asociácie (SLA). Dievčenský slalom bol prvou súťažnou disciplínou MSJ. Iba 16-ročná Slovenka v ňom konkurovala súperkam s vekom do 19 rokov, z ktorých niektoré pravidelne štartujú v pretekoch Svetového pohára. Vlhová je po Veronike Zuzulovej iba druhou slovenskou zjazdárkou, ktorá v samostatnej ére demonštruje výrazný talent s potenciálom špičkovej pretekárky. Ešte pred dovŕšením 16 rokov triumfovala vlni na MSJ v obrovskom slalome vo svojej kategórii mladších junioriek, v slalome skončila štvrtá. V januári na premiérových ZOH mládeže v Innsbrucku najprv dvakrát neúspešne siahala na medailu, v obrovskom slalome jej unikla o 6 stotiniek a v superkombinácii o jedinú. Na záver však vydolovala zlato v slalome ako jediný cenný kov celej slovenskej výpravy.

• **Prezident** Kanadsko-Slovenskej obchodnej komory (KSOK) v Bratislave Joseph M. Burza chce rokovať s novinárom Tomom Nicholsonom o vydaní knihy Gorila. Burza má vydavateľstvo, ktoré vydáva reprezentačné knihy o Kanade, ale aj časopis. Informoval o tom marketingový riaditeľ KSOK Peter Green. Kniha Gorila by po dohode s Nicholsonom mohla byť podľa neho vydaná na Slovensku alebo v Kanade. Prezident KSOK Burza podľa Greena chce, aby zistenia tajnej služby na Slovensku neslúžili len na politické vydieranie jednotlivých politikov a politických strán, ale aby z nich boli vyvodené aj trestnoprávne dôsledky. Predbežné opatrenie, ktoré zakazuje vydanie knihy o údajnom spise tajnej služby Gorila, vydal začiatkom februára sudca Okresného súdu Bratislava I. Záujem vydať Nicholsonovu knihu prejavil aj bývalý český vicepremiér Jiří Čunek, ak by na ňu získal autorské práva.

• **Projekt** Za mostom je spoločnou iniciatívou Bratislavského samosprávneho kraja a spolkovéj krajiny Dolné Rakúsko. Je spolufinancovaný z prostriedkov Programu cezhraničnej spolupráce medzi Slovenskom a Rakúskom. Ide o revitalizáciu pohraničných bunkrov pozdĺž rieky Morava za 475,000 eur, ktoré z 95 percent poskytnú Európsky fond regionálneho rozvoja. Revitalizácia bunkrov nadväzuje na dobudovanie základnej turisticko- infraštruktúry pre kvalitný rozvoj cykloturizmu a turizmu v regiónoch susediacich s cyklomostom, ktorý sa stavia medzi Devínskou Novou Vsou a rakúskou obcou Schlosshof. Renovované bunkre majú zatriťvniť cyklotrasy v danom území a prispieť tak k rozvoju cezhraničného turistického ruchu.

• **Každý** tretí Slováčok bez práce si ju nevie opätovne nájsť dlhšie ako dva roky. Ako vyplýva z novembrových údajov Ústredia práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (ÚPSVaR) SR, ide presne o skupinu 124,085 nezamestnaných. Najviac, 30,386 takýchto ľudí je v Prešovskom kraji. Vysoké čísla vykazujú aj Košický a Banskobystrický kraj. V každom je viac ako 28,000 ľudí bez práce dlhšie ako 24 mesiacov. Naopak, najmenej ich je podľa októbrových údajov ústredia tradične v Bratislavskom kraji, a to 2032. Podľa štatistik bolo v uplynulom mesiaci na úradoch práce evidovaných 408,874 uchádzačov o zamestnanie. Z nich mohlo okamžite do práce nastúpiť 369,948, čo za január znamená 13,69-% mieru evidovanej nezamestnanosti.

• **Až** tri životy vyhasli 3. marca v Nízkych Tatrách, v oblasti Chopku a Ďumbiera. Pri páde z vleku po zrážke s lyžiarom zahynula 26-ročná Češka, po páde v oblasti Krupového sedla prišiel o život asi 50-ročný slovenský skialpinista a v oblasti nad Halašovou jamou našiel turista 43-ročného Slováka, ktorý nejavil známky života. O prípadoch informovala stránka Horskej záchranej služby.

• **O** Ivetu Radičovú, bývalú premiérku SR je záujem. Vyzerá to tak podľa ponúk, ktoré má. Podľa neoficiálnych správ, sa o nej uvažuje ako o veľvyslankyni v Londýne. Ide vraj o džentlmenskú ponuku novej Ficovej vlády. Isté je, že od januára sa chystá učiť na univerzite v Oxoforde. Jej meno sa navyše spomína aj v súvislosti so Stálou misiou pri OSN v New Yorku.

• **V** pondelok 5. marca o 23.56 hod došlo na území západného Slovenska, približne päť kilometrov severovýchodne od obce Studienka na Záhorí, k slabému zemetraseniu. Zaznamenali ho seizmické stanice Národnej siete seizmických staníc. Podľa predbežných údajov lokálne magnitúdo zemetrasenia bolo 2.9. Zemetrasenie mohli pocítiť obyvatelia okolitých obcí. Seizmológovia analyzujú záznamy seizmických staníc. Informácie poskytol Andrej Cipciar z Oddelenia seizmológie Geofyzikálneho ústavu SAV.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Jaro ...

Jaro ... konečne k nám zavítalo, to očakávané jaro, vôňa zeme, snežienky, fialky, agáty, akoby Božie čaro. Tie krásne, letné noci, príjemný, teplý vánok, večerný zvon, uspávanka a sladký, detský spánok...

Gazdina oveľa skoršie ráno vstáva, raňajky, vodu, chlieb gazdovi prichystáva. Gazdina vraj, malé, úzke políčko poorať musí. Jaro je tu ... práce až veľa ... Čo všetko on skúsi!

Obed, Ti na pole donesiem, za nim volá ... Veď, každá dobrá gazdiná, tak robí, z lásky koná. Poľným, kľukovatým chodníčkom, si kráti cestu, nezabudne na Otče náš, kým príde k pracovnému miestu.

Na minútu – dve, zastaví sa, pri soche Panny Márie ... vytrhne burinu, upraví chodníček, poleje krásne ľalije. Aj, akýsi malý, poplašný vtáčik si prisadne ku nej, čosi zašvitorí, akoby ju chcel pozdraviť a uletí ďalej.

Príjemná vôňa sena a d'atelinky, vo vzduchu pláva, už som tu, pod' jest' starký, chutné jedlo mu podáva ... Hneď, len čo vypriahnem volky, nech na tráve sa pasú, v prírode je tak veľmi pekne a ticho, až na cvrčkov hlasu. K ním pripojila sa malá žabka, tam kdesi pri potoku. Aj gazdiná si poťažkáva, že ju čosi bolí, pichá v boku.

Ach, tá naša malá dedina, má tá len svoje pekné krásy ... z kostola, na večer, počuť akési, zachripané hlasy. Aj oni, kedysi boli zdraví, veselí, svieži a mladí, ale dnes, život sa zmenil, ich žitie, staroba hladí.

Ale, raz to krásne „Večné jaro, príde“ a nikdy – nikdy viac, ich neobíde!

Jozef Smák

ÚSZZ spustil nový internetový portál Slovákov vo svete

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) spustil 8. marca 2012 nový internetový portál Slovákov vo svete. Nadväzuje ním na rovnomený časopis, ktorý v roku 1996 začal vydávať Dom zahraničných Slovákov ako mesačník.

Ide o databázový kultúrny celospoločenský portál pre krajanov pod názvom Slovenské zahraničie. „Je to centrálna informačná online platforma o živote a histórii Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorá má zlepšiť informovanosť verejnosti o ich živote a prepojiť jednotlivé krajanové stránky po celom svete, čím sa prehĺbi vzájomná spolupráca medzi krajanmi,“ priblížil na tlačovej konferencii šéfredaktor portálu Dušan Mikolaj. Zatiaľ je iba v slovenčine. Do angličtiny je už preložených niekoľko základných textov, ale tie ešte nie sú oficiálne na tejto stránke k dispozícii.

Významným partnerom portálu je aj Slovenská národná knižnica (SNK) v Martine. Riaditeľ sekcie Pamätníka slovenskej literatúry a umenia SNK Peter Cabaďaj informoval, že inštitúciou sa v rámci Operačného programu informatizácia spoločnosti Prioritná os II, čo je rozvoj pamäťových a fondových inštitúcií a obnova ich národnej infraštruktúry, podarilo získať na projekt Slovenská digitálna knižnica - digitálny archív 49,6 milióna eur. Tie SNK použije na digitalizovanie celej svojej produkcie vrátane produkcie Slovenského národného archívu. „Je celkom logické, že po tomto kroku bude nasledovať mohutná ofenzíva v zmysle našich snažení pomôcť portálu slovenske zahraničie a ÚSZZ,“ deklaroval Cabaďaj. ÚSZZ opätovne odmietol kritiku, ktorá sa objavila v niektorých médiách, že ide o predražený portál. Podľa jeho predstaviteľov je cena v porovnaní s inými štátnymi portálmi porovnateľná, dokonca veľmi nízka. Úrad vyšiel na 24,000 eur.

Podľa ministerstva spravodlivosti nie je možné náklady na novú webstránku presne vyčíslit', keďže v zmysle zmluvy z roku 2008 išlo o úpravu a správu celého portálu. Vzhľadom na jednotlivé úkony by pri redizajne a úprave funkcií webovej stránky išlo zhruba o 17,000 eur. Za vypracovanie novej internetovej stránky zaplatilo ministerstvo obrany 4,000 eur. Polovica z tejto sumy išla na redizajn webu a zvyšok stál jej upgrade.

TASR

Národná kultúrna pamiatka hrad Krásna Hôrka v plameňoch

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

du a nedopustili výrub krovín. Taktiež ostro bola kritizovaná skutočnosť, že požiar pravdepodobne spôsobili neprispôsobiví občania, ktorí žijú neďaleko hradu.

Na obnovu hradu krásna Hôrka by sa mohli čerpať prostriedky z poisťovnej zmluvy, ktorú má ministerstvo kultúry uzavretú s konzorciom poisťovní na ochranu národných kultúrnych pamiatok. Regionálna samospráva pomôže pri záchrane a ochrane exponátov z vyhoreného hradu Krásna Hôrka. Predseda Košického samosprávneho kraja Zdenko Trebuľa o tom hovoril priamo na hrade s Evou Lazárovou, riaditeľkou múzea Betliar, pod ktoré patrí aj hrad Krásna Hôrka. „Sme pripravení uvoľniť účelové prostriedky aj z grantovej schémy programu Terra Incognita – Krajina nespoznaná. Tento program je našim príspevkom k projektu Košice - Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013 a jeho zámerom je predstaviť návštevníkom celý región prostredníctvom tematických ciest. Krásna Hôrka je dôležitým bodom na Gotickej ceste. Je to skvost, za ktorým prichádzajú návštevníci z celého sveta. Prispieť k rýchlej obnove hradu je našim veľkým záujmom a k spolupráci určite vyzveme aj našich partnerov z rôznych oblastí,“ povedal Trebuľa. V súvislosti s tragickým požiarom hradu Krásna Hôrka zriadilo Združenie miest a obcí Horného Gemera (ZMOHG) fond na obnovu tejto národnej kultúrnej pamiatky. Rada ZMOHG vyzvala mestá a obce, aby sa tiež pripojili k tejto iniciatíve.

TASR



Zľava: Člen výboru združenia Friends of Slovakia vo Washingtone, Kenneth J. Bombara; slovenský honorárny konzul v Pensylvánii, predseda združenia Friends of Slovakia a člen Spolku č. 254 IKSJ, Jozef T. Senko; členka Spolku č. 89 IKSJ a manželka predsedu IKSJ Ida Rajec; členka Spolku č. 89 IKSJ Idka Rajec; veľvyslanec SR v USA Peter Burian s manželkou Ninou; hlavný predseda IKSJ Andrej M. Rajec; predsedníčka Spolku č. 746 IKSJ, tajomníčka SAKS-u a spolumoderátorka Plesu Sabína Sabadoš; člen Spolku č. 89 IKSJ Andrej P. Rajec.

20. Slovenský ples v New Yorku

20. Slovenský ples Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska (SAKS-u) sa konal 4. februára 2012 v miestnostiach New York Athletic Club, New York City. Na tejto významnej spoločenskej udalosti sa zišli Slováci z blízkeho okolia ako aj zo susedných štátov. Medzi hosťami plesu boli aj veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone, Peter Burian s manželkou, floridský kongresman John Mica s manželkou, podpredsedníčka Slovenskej ligy pre západné štáty Mimi Danihel z Kalifornie, predseda IKSJ Andrej M. Rajec s manželkou, dcérou a synom z Clevelandu, Ohio, Jozef Senko z Pittsburghu a ďalší.

Na plesu bol Štefánikovou cenou poctený Dr. Zoltán Meško z Washingtonu, D.C. Pred viac ako 15 rokmi Dr. Meško organizoval spolu so SAKS-om akciu Srdec k Srdcu, ktorá viedla k založeniu a financovaniu Detského kardiocentra v Bratislave. V rámci tejto akcie viacerí slovenskí lekári mali umožnené získať odborné doškolenie v Londýne a v Bostone.

Celý program moderovali podpredseda Matúš Čulen a tajomníčka Sabína Sabadoš. Štefánikovu cenu odovzdali Dr. Meškovi predsedníčka SAKS-u Rosemary Golia a podpredseda Matúš Čulen. Dr. Meško v krátkom príhovore ocenil činnosť SAKS-u a vyslovil poďakovanie Mimi Danihel, ktorá Detské kardiocentrum v Bratislave podporila štedrým finančným darom. Na Plesu zabávala prítomných hudobná skupina Expres. Krátkym príhovorom za usporiadanie každoročných reprezentačných plesov v New York City sa poďakoval aj veľvyslanec SR Peter Burian. Za vydarené spoločenské podujatie si na záver SAKS zaslúži uznanie ako aj vďaka slovenskej verejnosti a všetkých zúčastnených.

SvA



Koncert Bratislavského konzervatória vo Washingtone

Na slovenskom veľvyslanectve vo Washingtone, DC vystúpila 7. marca skupina učiteľov a študentov Konzervatória v Bratislave s koncertom vybraných skladieb európskej klasickej a slovenskej folklórnej hudby. Koncert sa uskutočnil v rámci série podujatí k 20. výročiu vzniku nezávislej Slovenskej republiky. Vystúpenie, ktoré sa stretlo s veľkým záujmom a veľmi pozitívnym ohlasom publika, sa konalo v rámci marcového amerického turné skupiny, ktoré zorganizovala organizácia World Artists Experiences (www.world-artists.org). Ďalšie vystúpenia sa konali v štátoch Maryland a Pensylvánia.

Veľvyslanectvo SR vo Washingtone

Smer-SD je oficiálnym víťazom volieb na Slovensku

Ústredná volebná komisia potvrdila výsledky predčasných parlamentných volieb, ktoré sa konali v sobotu 10. marca 2012 na Slovensku. Víťazom volieb sa tak oficiálne stal Smer-SD so ziskom 44,41 percenta hlasov, čo mu prinieslo 83 poslaneckých mandátov. Prezident Ivan Gašparovič už avizoval, že Smer poverí zostavením novej vlády. Na parlamentnú väčšinu je potrebných 76 zo 150 kresiel.

Aj podľa oficiálnych výsledkov sa do Národnej rady SR dostane šesť politických strán. Na druhom mieste vo voľbách skončilo KDH so ziskom 8,82 percenta hlasov, nasledujú OBYČAJNÍ ĽUDIA a nezávislé osobnosti s 8,55 percenta, majú rovnako po 16 poslaneckých mandátov. Do parlamentných lavíc zasadnú aj poslanci Mosta-Híd (6,89 percenta - 13 kresiel), SDKÚ-DS (6,09 percenta - 11 kresiel) a SaS (5,88 percenta - 11 kresiel). Do parlamentu sa neprebojovala SNS (4,55 percenta), ani SMK (4,28 percenta).

Volebná účasť dosiahla 59,11 percenta. Bola tak vyššia ako pri posledných parlamentných voľbách v roku 2010, keď sa vyšplhala na 58,83 percenta. Do volebných zoznamov kompetentní zapísali 4,392,451 voličov, k urnám pristúpilo 2,596,443 z nich. Do volieb sa mohli ľudia zapojiť aj zo zahraničia, odkiaľ prišlo 7,051 hlasov. Počet celkových platných hlasov vo voľbách dosiahol 2,553,726, teda 98,43 percenta z celkového počtu odovzdaných hlasov.

Najvyššia účasť v predčasných parlamentných voľbách bola v Žilinskom kraji (63,75 percenta), najnižšiu zaznamenali štatistickí v Košickom kraji (53,78 percenta). V Trenčianskom kraji sa na voľbách zúčastnilo 62,35 percenta voličov, nasleduje Bratislavský kraj so 62,06-percentnou účasťou. V Trnavskom kraji k volebným urnám pristúpilo 59,4 percenta občanov. Volebná účasť v Nitrianskom kraji dosiahla 58,4 percenta, v Banskobystrickom kraji 57,28 percenta. V Prešovskom kraji volilo 57,01 percenta občanov. Najviac ľudí pristúpilo k urnám vo volebnom obvode Žilina, a to 66,57 percenta voličov. Naopak, najmenej ľudí o hlasovanie prejavilo záujem v obvode Trebišov (50,24 percenta.)

TASR



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Robert Fico počas stretnutia s prezidentom SR, Ivanom Gašparovičom.

Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic formally asked Smer Party leader Robert Fico to form a new government. The Smer Party received the highest percent of votes in the parliamentary election held on March 10, 2012.



Požiar hradu Krásna Hôrka 10. marca 2012. The Krasna Horka castle was damaged by a fire on March 10. Fortunately, most of the damaged was confined to the roof sparing most of the interior artifacts.

FOTO TASR - František Iván

Národná kultúrna pamiatka hrad Krásna Hôrka v plameňoch

Zhorela celá strecha hradu, ktorá bola z dreveného šindľa a aj krov, ale okrem jedného priestoru, takzvanej novej galérie, nedošlo k prevaleniu stropu a exponáty v hrade teda boli poškodené v minimálnej miere. Veľkou mierou na požiari podpísali aj nezmyselné požiadavky ochráncov, ktorí nesúhlasili s vytvorením bezpečnostného pásma v okolí hra-

Pokračovanie na str. 23