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NUMBER 5816



Dr. Kopanic returned to his paternal grandmother's village of Pavl'any, which lies in the Levoca Mountains north of Levoca, during Lent in March of 2003.

Lenten Traditions in Slovakia

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

In Christian faith, the holy season of Lent has always begun with Ash Wednesday, which is known as Popolcová streda in Slovak. The holy day marked the solemn beginning of an extended period of fasting, prayer, and abstinence. The lively celebrations of fašiangy (Slovak Mardi Gras) had ended on Fat Tuesday night (Tučný utorok). Ash Wednesday commenced with an extended period of spiritual reflection that remembers Christ's forty days of fasting in the desert.

Originally, ancient Slavic pagans celebrated their New Year around the time that Lent started. Some customs were merged when Slavic peoples adopted and integrated Christian customs with these former practices, which marked the beginning of a new life of faith, and a recognition that sin could be overcome with prayer and fasting.

Ash Wednesday, known in Latin as Dies Cinerum (Day of Ashes), became a regular custom in Christian Europe as early as the 8th century. Even though attendance at Holy Mass was not obligatory, it has become one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. After the Gospel readings and the sermon, the priest sprinkled the faithful with holy water and purified the congregations with incense. The receiving of ashes recognized that one is a sinner in dire need of Christ's redemptive powers. While the body turned to ashes, the soul lived on.

The faithful in Slovakia flocked in huge numbers to church to receive blessed ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday (Kvet-

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IRA REMINDER

APRIL 2010

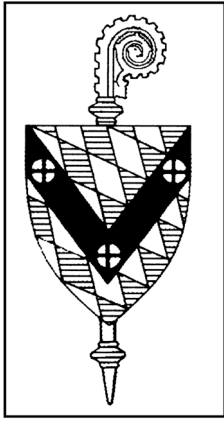
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Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 14, 2010

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Gospel Summary

When we read the parables of Jesus, we need to remind ourselves that they are not accounts of historical events. Rather, they are stories with a spiritual lesson for all times and places. In most cases, these stories are not new to the audience. They are really old, familiar stories, which are

much appreciated when they are told well. Jesus tells the stories very well indeed but he also adds a "twist" to the narrative. By telling the story so well he captivates his audience and then, once they are drawn into the story, he surprises them with a spiritual application.

The story in today's gospel about a father and his two sons is an old story, going back at least as far as Esau and Jacob. In this story, the elder son is very dutiful but also rather dull. The younger son, by contrast, is wild and unpredictable but also interesting and attractive. In the classic story, the younger son sows his wild oats but then repents and is welcomed home with joy. The older son resents his father's celebration of his brother's salvation and is rejected. The audience is convinced that justice has been done.

In Luke's parable, however, the focus of attention is on the father and especially on his reaction to the elder son's anger. The twist that Jesus adds to the story is the refusal of the father to reject his elder son who in fact is treated by his father with surprising gentleness. When the audience asked why the story had been changed, as we can assume they did, the reply would be that the father is in reality God, who loves his dull and dutiful children just as much as those who are wild and perhaps a bit more interesting.

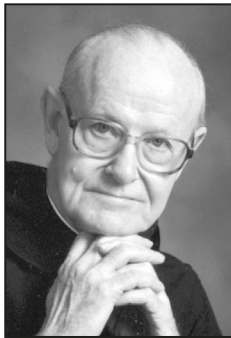
Life Implications

The wisdom expressed in this parable teaches us that human sin can take the form of wild and rebellious behavior or, perhaps more commonly, of sullen, angry and judgmental attitudes. The civil law is concerned almost exclusively with rebellious behavior but, in the parable, it is clear that the sinfulness of the elder son is much more dangerous.

Those of us who lead quiet and "responsible" lives may very well fall into the trap of sullen, resentful and angry attitudes toward others who seem to be "getting away with murder." What we need to ask ourselves is whether we have the kind of love that can understand why others, often less privileged than ourselves, may need both correction and forgiveness.

When the elder son in the parable says to his father, "your son," (and, by implication, no brother of mine) has done wrong and should be punished, the father gently corrects him with the words, "Your brother" (and not just my son) "was dead and has come to life again." This wayward son has indeed sinned but he has also repented and has paid a price for his sin. Now it is time to rejoice.

The clear point is that we dare not ever disown our brothers and sisters, who are all children of God. On the contrary, we must love them and rejoice to see them have a chance to repent and be brought back to life again. And this is true of all sorts of people, including both the village prankster and the person on death row. We may feel that some people do not deserve a second chance but the danger of such a judgment is underscored in the challenging words of Jesus that "the measure you give is the measure you will get" (Matt 7:2).



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

March 21, 2010

Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 8:1-11

Gospel Summary

This is the gospel about the woman who had been caught in adultery. Enemies of Jesus bring her to him at daybreak while he is teaching people in the temple area. They make her stand there humiliated in public. In an attempt to trap him into opposing either Mosaic Law or Roman Law, they ask Jesus whether he judges that she should be stoned. After Jesus exposes their malice, the woman's accusers are afraid to condemn her. Beginning with the elders, they all go away. Then Jesus says to the woman: "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

Life Implications

The story about Jesus and the woman caught in adultery happily became part of Holy Scripture, inserted as it was in the fourth gospel. Some early manuscripts have the story placed after Luke 21:38 where it says that people came at daybreak to listen to Jesus as he taught in the temple area. The story fits very well in the fourth gospel because it illustrates some of its most basic themes—truth, judgment, blindness, sight, darkness, light, death, life, sin, creation.

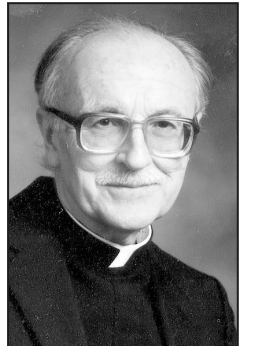
In Jesus' time it was important to determine the arrival of daybreak when the first offerings were to be made in the temple. A rabbi asked his students what criterion might be used to determine that the night had ended. One student said the night had ended when there was enough light to tell a goat from a sheep. Another said when you could distinguish an apple tree from a fig tree. The rabbi gave this answer: "A new day has arrived when you can look at a human face, and see a brother or a sister. If you are unable to see a brother or a sister in every human face, you are still in the darkness of night."

Though morning had come, for the woman's accusers it is still night. They cannot see that it is their brother and their sister who have committed the sin. They have humiliated the more vulnerable partner of the adultery by making her stand alone in the public temple area. This echoes the malice of the elders who ordered the veil to be removed from the woman Susanna after accusing her of adultery (Dan 13:32).

Moreover, in their darkness, the woman's accusers are unable to see that Jesus is also their brother, sent by God to bring them into the light. They have violated the God-given dignity of the woman by reducing her to the status of an object. They attempt to use her as a means to advance their own interests by laying a trap for Jesus in order to have a charge to bring against him. The malice of their action is compounded by the fact that they are seeking to destroy Jesus under the guise of honoring the divine law given to Moses. This surely is taking the name of God in vain (Ex 20:7).

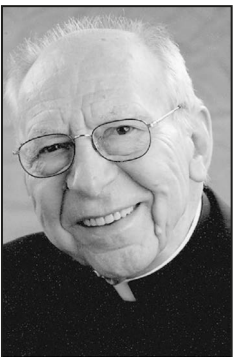
We can identify with any of the actors of the drama. Regrettably we can easily identify with the woman's accusers. We too take the name of God in vain when, under the guise of defending some orthodox doctrine or practice, we engage in destructive, personal attacks upon those who differ with us. The woman caught in adultery? We can all identify with her, in need of forgiveness—often fallen from the pure joy of living in harmony with God's truth and love. "What is our innocence, what is our guilt? All are naked, none is safe" (Marianne Moore).

Most important of all, because we share the gift of his Spirit, we can be like Jesus in his act of true judgment and creative love. Forgiveness is true judgment and creative love. We say, for example, that a friendship has ended because some infidelity has destroyed it. The friendship can come into being again through forgiveness, creative love given and received. Jesus re-creates the woman into her beauty as divine image through his forgiveness. He tells her the good news that she is free to walk away from the mess she is in and begin a new life: "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Lent and Reform

During Lent and this liturgical season, much will be written about the reform of our lives. Dissertations may very well be long and include the words of the Church Fathers of centuries past.

It need not be so. The longer the writings and homilies and sermons, the more difficulty the author is experiencing in making his point.

Scripture, in the process, is frequently minimized when its words are brief but telling.

Make these passages of Holy Writ the guides of your daily life.

"Treat others the way you would have them treat you; this sums up the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

"Love one another with the affection of brothers. Anticipate each other in showing respect." (Romans 12:10)

"Each should please his neighbor so as to do him good by building up his spirit." (Romans 15:2)

"Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

Think about these passages. Dwell upon them. Turn them over in your mind. Search out their real meaning.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT NAMING AND CHANGING THE BENEFICIARY: PART I

Perhaps the most important right the policy owner has in a life insurance policy is the right to designate the beneficiary. After all, the primary benefit of a life insurance policy is the death benefit which will be paid when the insured dies.

Both the policy owner and the insurance company have responsibilities with respect to making sure that the correct party receives this benefit.

An applicant for insurance can name as beneficiary one person, more than one person, an estate, a trustee, a corporation, a charitable organization, a fraternal society or any of the entity from which the company will be able to obtain a legal receipt for the proceeds.

The primary or first beneficiary is the party or parties who will receive the proceeds of the policy when the proceeds become payable. The policy owner may also designate a contingent beneficiary – another party or parties who will receive the proceeds if the primary beneficiary should pre-decease the person whose life is insured. The First Catholic Slovak Union prefers that the policy owner name at least a primary and a contingent beneficiary.

Making the beneficiary designation clear and distinct is of value to both the policy owner and the insurer. The policy owner wants to be sure that the proceeds are distributed in the desired manner. The goal of the life insurance company, is to pay the proceeds in a simple and timely manner without any legal problems.

It is important for a policy owner to update beneficiary designations when there are changes in family, marital, or financial situations. This step is necessary to be sure that the proceeds will be paid to the desired parties. In the United States and all of Canada, if the policy owner has retained the power to change the beneficiary, the procedure to make such a change is straight forward and relatively simple. Each life insurance policy specifies the change of beneficiary procedure required.

The most important procedural point in a change of beneficiary is the written notification to the insurer of the change. The First Catholic Slovak Union requires that the policy owner notify them in writing of the change in beneficiary in order for the change to be effective. This method of changing the beneficiary is called the recording method. We also require that a change in beneficiary request be notarized.

The purpose of requiring written notification is to protect both the policy owner and the insurance company.

In the next article, we will examine some of the pitfalls of naming a minor as a beneficiary and the difference between a revocable beneficiary and a irrevocable beneficiary.

While it is fresh in your mind, check the beneficiary designation on your policy today...if it needs to be changed, contact one of your branch officers and ask them for a "Member Service Request" form. You may also go to our website at www.fcsu.com to download a form or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682.

Until next time,
Good Luck and God Bless,
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.



National Vice President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Lenten Traditions in Slovakia

continued from page 1

ná Nedel'a). A priest would recite the well-known words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" ("Prach si a na prach sa obratiš").

The Lenten season ranked among the most sacred and holy times in Slovakia. In Slovak and Christian culture, Lent (pôst – pronounced "pwošt") represented a time which commemorated Christ's forty days of fasting and contemplation in the desert. In imitation of Christ's example, Slovaks denied themselves all animal products during Lent, including all meats and any dairy products such as milk, cheese, eggs, etc. Typically, they refrained as well from using any animal fats in cooking. Slovaks also abstained from eating any very large meals for the entire period of Lent. Parties, weddings, and loud music were forbidden. Any music played had to be sacred and somber, stressing one's sinfulness and repentance.

In previous centuries, after attending Holy Mass, the people of a village marched in a procession of penance. But that custom has since disappeared. Lent was a time of prayer and self-examination. Denying the body physical pleasures was supposed to liberate the flesh so that people could contemplate the real meaning of life and their relationship with God. Slovak devotions became far more zealous than that of most European peoples, and some historians cite the Counter-Reformation spirit of the 16th and 17th centuries as embedding this very intense religious temperament among the Slovaks.

The Slovak interpretation of Lent was most solemn and very somber. Until Easter arrived, a household remained in virtually a continual state of mourning for their own sins, and for the terrible price Jesus Christ had to pay for redeeming man's sins. As a sign of this grieving, all women dressed only in black for the entire Lenten season. Ash Wednesday marked a prolonged period of mourning for Christ.

Although some of these customs have been modified over the years, Lent remains an intensely spiritual time for practicing Catholics as well as Lutherans throughout Slovakia. When one visits, one has a sense of the sacredness that has diminished in many American parishes since Vatican II.

But there is one very real result of the intense Lenten period sacrifice – the joy of Easter is that much greater.

Blanche O. Tufnell, "Czecho-Slovak Folklore," Folklore, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Mar. 31, 1924), p. 34.

A version of this and other articles by Dr. Kopanic may be found at this website: http://www.suite101.com/writer_articles.cfm/mjkopani

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
24 PUBLIC SQUARE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113
SATURDAY, MARCH 20 & SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on *Saturday, March 20, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. & Sunday, March 21, 2010, 9:30 A.M. - till completed.*

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 10, 2010.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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Insights and Viewpoints

HUNGARIANS DECRY SLOVAK LANGUAGE LAW

By John Karch

These days, those of us interested in Central and East Europe (CEE) may be perplexed about the onslaught of the Hungarian community against Slovakia and its National Language Laws. Those whose heritage is of one of these nations would notice, from knowing the region's history of Hungarian domination of nationalities, that primarily Slovakia suffered oppression by the Hungarian government's policy of "Magyarization" (assimilation). The eastern counties of Slovakia, even today, are referred to by Hungarians as "Northern Hungary."

Self determination of the nationalities in CEE, under Hungarian control for centuries, was a priority realized with the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in World War I. The Trianon Treaty of 1920, at the Paris Peace Conference, provided for Czechs and Slovaks to become a new state of Czecho-Slovakia with a border that contained many Hungarians in Slovakia and numerous Slovaks in Hungary. Under the leadership of fascist Regent Miklos Horthy during the early part of World War II, Hungary succeeded in acquiring some territories from its neighbors, violating Trianon. However, with Hungary's defeat the previous borders were restored.

After World War II, Czecho-Slovakia was re-established, as was Hungary, only to fall under communist control along with other CEE countries. The post-war Vienna Awards provided for ethnic exchange, numbering tens of thousands of each, between Hungary and Slovakia. Under communist rule Hungary in 1956 staged a revolt against oppressive communism but, alone, it was crushed by Soviet armed forces. In 1968, in Czecho-Slovakia, Dubcek's "Socialism with a human face" was ended by Soviet-led Warsaw Pact armed forces, including those of Hungary.

In 1991 there were about 567,000 Hungarians in Slovakia and, shockingly, the European Commission estimated in 2006 that Slovaks in Hungary numbered between 17,693 (2001 census) and 10,008. Following the end of communism in 1989, the Vel-

vet Revolution led to the Velvet Divorce. On January 1, 1993, the peaceful separation of Czechs and Slovaks led to the creation of an independent Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.

The 1992 Slovak constitution gave ethnic minorities protection. The Hungarians in Slovakia, as all others, have the right to participate in politics, and so they do. In fact, they have other rights and privileges unavailable to Slovaks in Hungary. In the 2006 elections for the unicameral Slovak National Council (Parliament) their Hungarian Coalition Party (MKP) headed by Pal Csaky, won 15 of the 150 seats. During 1998-2006 MKP held positions in Mikulas Dzurinda's Government. In 1998, MKP voted for the Lisbon Treaty.

American Hungarians Attack

The American Hungarians have numerous organizations in the U.S., two of which are in Washington, D.C. These are the American Hungarian Federation (AHF), founded in 1906, and the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC), an umbrella of some 25 Hungarian organizations. The Hungarian Human Rights Foundation in New York reflects fully its interest in the minority issue, as does the National Committee of Hungarians from Slovakia. These and others can be found on the web.

On August 13, 2009 the HAC, headed by Maximilian Teleki, together with the National Committee of Hungarians from Slovakia and the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation issued a Statement which "Denounces Anti-Minority Language Law in Slovakia," citing it as "a devaluation and against Slovakia's minorities...in particular, the 526,000-strong historic Hungarian community." Earlier, on October 23, 2007, the members asked "concerned individuals and organizations worldwide to join the campaign protesting" the Slovak law by signing the Statement by the leaders of the three organizations.

Mr. Teleki accompanied former New York Governor George E. Pataki who, on October 12, 2009 gave a lecture at the Selye Janos University, a Hungarian-language institution in Komarno, Slovakia. He spoke on "The Democratic Constitutional State in the 21st Century." Some 380 students and faculty at-

tended. HAC Board member Zsol Szekeres and President Laszlo Hamos of the Hungarian Rights Foundation also accompanied Mr. Pataki. Mr. Pal Csaky, President of the Hungarian Coalition Party, met with the former Governor in Bratislava. According to Mr. Teleki, in the lecture the Governor said that the Slovak Language Law "violates a fundamental democratic principle -the protection of minority rights...." In answer to a question, Mr. Pataki said that the law "could be an effective tool for those who would want to oppress a minority."

The most aggressive of the organizations seems to be the AHF. Of course, Hungary, as other countries, has media reporters in Washington for easy liaison. The ultimate objective is the restructuring of Trianon. A June 11, 2009 AHF article by Frank Koszorus, Jr., Co-President and Chairman, International Relations Committee, gives us an insight. However, the current objective is to eliminate or minimize the Slovak Language Law ("Law"). The initial "State Language Law" was approved by Parliament in 1995. On July 10, 1999 the "Law on the Use of Languages of National Minorities" was adopted, safeguarding minority rights.

On July 22, 2009, the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) issued a 10-page "Opinion" on the Slovak Law, noting its difficulty of striking a balance of the laws as well as between compliance and commitment. On that date, the High Commissioner, Mr. Knut Vollebaek, met with Hungarian Foreign Ministry "experts" at The Hague. Both sides agreed that this meeting was the "first stage of a process...a tripartite consultation mechanism between the OSCE, Hungary and Slovakia." Indeed, time for negotiations was required and has been utilized as meetings have been held by Prime Ministers, by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, by the Visegrad 4, sessions with the High Commissioner in Budapest, Bratislava, and at The Hague, the European Union, leg-

islators internally, and by others.

This period of time has been used by Mr. Koszorus as well, but for his and AHF's radical agenda. He has appealed, in writing, to the following. On November 11, 2009 he appealed for AHF's "call for greater cooperation among Hungarian American organizations in raising the ill-advised and discriminatory Slovak language law...."

On November 20, 2009, we learned from his website that he wrote to newly-elected Vice-President, Joseph R. Biden, in which he said: "We appreciate that there are important bilateral issues relating to Afghanistan, NATO, and energy security that will be on the agenda during your meeting with Prime Minister Bajnai this week. Another issue we urge be placed on the agenda and addressed relates to Slovakia's ill-advised language law that criminalizes the use of Hungarian and other minority languages in the public sphere....We, therefore, respectfully suggest that the Slovak language law be discussed with PM Bajnai, with a resolution that Slovakia be urged to repeal this discriminatory law, as both the United States and Hungarian interests would be served by such an enlightened step."

In a January 28, 2010 letter, acquired from the Congressman's office, to Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, Ohio's Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich (D-10th) wrote the following: "The law codifies inequality between languages and undermines equality between the people of Slovakia that have long lived side by side. Recent news reports indicate increased tension between ethnic minorities and the rest of the Slovak population.... I hope that you, as Prime Minister, will do all that you can to ensure that all Slovaks have equal protection under the law, and that Slovakia complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union."

In a Press Release response, the Slovak Foreign Ministry said: "We welcome the at-

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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
WEDNESDAY, MAR 17
WEDNESDAY, MAR 31
WEDNESDAY, APR 28

Copy Date
MONDAY, MAR 8
MONDAY, MAR 22
MONDAY, APR 19

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:
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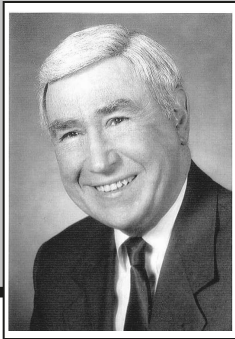
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MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

By Joseph T. Senko

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



Choosing an Eldercare Facility

According to US Census Bureau statistics, one in five Americans will be older than 65 by the year 2050. Many will choose to continue living on their own or may decide to move in with family. Some, however, will want to reside with people closer to their own age or will, by necessity, need to live in a facility that can cater to their changing medical needs. When choosing an eldercare facility for yourself or a loved one, you must keep several important factors in mind.

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

There are several types of facilities available. Independent living options are intended for healthy people who want to live among other seniors in a community designed for them. Assisted-living arrangements are for those who are relatively healthy but who may need help with meal preparation, personal care, or other needs. At the other end of the scale are nursing homes, which have 24-hour medical care available and are intended for those with more serious health problems requiring regular care and attention.

Your choice, of course, will depend on the state of your older relative's health and what change you might expect in the future. In other words, there's no need to pay more for a facility that offers round-the-clock nursing care if it's not necessary now, but it may be a worthwhile expense if the senior has health problems.

CHECK THE QUALITY

Many people find eldercare facilities based on the recommendation of others with family members in those facilities. While this is a great starting point, the only way to make a final decision is to visit the facility yourself and draw your own conclusions. On arrival, you immediately will be able to judge whether the buildings and grounds are tidy, well-maintained, and seem cheerful and inviting. Ask whether a registered dietician or nutritionist plans meals and tour the kitchen to see if it is clean and orderly. Spend time at the facility to see if the staff seems consistently friendly and caring to the residents.

CONSIDER LOCATION AND CHECK RESOURCES

Some seniors are reluctant to change residences, while others consider a move to be a welcome relief after years of maintaining a home. In either case, most seniors usually favor a facility that is close to their family and friends. To find a facility in your desired location, go to www.eldercare.gov.

More information on choosing an eldercare facility can be found on the website of the US Administration on Aging at www.aoa.gov and on Medicare's site at www.medicare.gov under "Compare Nursing Homes in Your Area." Medicare's "Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home" also contains useful advice on how to pay for one of these facilities.

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Keep in mind that moving into a facility may not be necessary. Many communities offer services for the elderly, such as home healthcare aides or adult daycare centers. A medical professional or a hospital social worker or discharge official can provide some advice on alternative choices.

IRS Circular Disclosure: In order to ensure compliance with IRS Circular 230, I must inform you that any U.S. tax advice contained in this transmission and attachments hereto is not intended or written to be used and may not be used by any person for the purpose of (1) avoiding any penalty that may be imposed by the Internal Revenue Code or (2) promoting, marketing, or recommending to any other party any tax-related matter(s) addressed herein.



SLOVAK EASTER CARDS

Jankola Library has Slovak Easter Cards available. The assorted religious cards are distributed eight to a packet for \$5.00. An additional minimum charge of \$3.00 covers postage and handling. These may be ordered by mail, phone, or e-mail.

For more information, please call: 570-275-5606 and speak with Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SSCM or Sister M. Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SSCM.

JANKOLA LIBRARY

Villa Sacred Heart
 Danville, PA 17821-1698
jankolalib@jlink.net

Publication Schedule for 2010

Issue Date	Deadline
January 6	December 28
January 20	January 11
February 3	January 25
February 17	February 8
March 3	February 22
March 17	March 8
March 31	March 22
April 28	April 19
May 12	May 3
May 26	May 17
June 9	May 28
July 7	June 28
August 4	July 26
September 1	August 23
September 15	September 3
September 29	September 20
October 13	October 4
October 27	October 18
November 10	November 1
November 24	November 15
December 8	November 29

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010 • HOME OFFICE

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Fr. Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer
 Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, by invitation of the President

The President recognized the passing away of Thomas M. Hricik, President Emeritus, and Fr. Nasta said a prayer.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the December 2009 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer submitted a written monthly report which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer answered all questions of the Committee. The President led a discussion regarding our current annuity rates and stated that a decision by the Executive Committee on new rates will be made as more information becomes available, but it is possible we will need to adjust the annuity rates.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CINCINNATI – VICTORY ASSET MANAGEMENT

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

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. He stated everything is in order and working well. We are currently reconciling our custodian's year-end report.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC. REPORT

Mr. Larry White from AQS Asset Management, LLC. joined the Executive Committee meeting via telephone and presented his report by Webex with the following agenda:

- Portfolio metrics and distribution
- Cash on hand and projections
- Market Data
 - Current Markets
 - Fed Fund Futures
 - FOMC Calendar
- Credit Actions
- Transactions
- CIT Exchange MV vs. Original Book
- Ford Positions
- Commentary

After his presentation Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING

Mr. David Habian of Habian Associates presented to the Executive Committee a dental plan which can possibly be offered to our Members. The Executive Committee will review the information and make a decision regarding this plan.

The Vice President led a discussion regarding our 8-year annuity product. The Executive Committee will decide what the first year bonus will be on deposits of \$10,000.00 and greater. Once the interest rates are established, we will start advertising the new annuity product.

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in different Regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents, noting that we are continuing to add agents, and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President urged the Regional Directors and District Presidents to contact him as soon as possible if they would like to have a sales seminar within their respective region or district.

BRANCH 831

The President updated the Executive Committee on the meeting of Branch 831 in Tarentum, PA regarding the Slovak Club. He stated that the Branch Members of Branch 831 held a meeting, with notice to Members, on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Slovak American Club in Tarentum, PA. The President and Gary Matta, General Counsel

along with George Matta attended the meeting.

2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary stated that the final count of delegates representing their Branch that may be sent to the 2010 Convention will be mailed out from the Home Office in mid-February and will be based on the final count of Members as of February 1, 2010. A notice for information was sent to all the Districts. The Executive Secretary will compile all the information and present it to the Executive Committee.

Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, stated that he is in contact with the local Bishop's office in regards of securing St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in downtown Cleveland for Mass at the 2010 Convention. He stated that he received a verbal approval to have our Convention Mass on Sunday, August 15, 2010 at 2:30 P.M.

The Board of Directors will attend Mass on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral. Fr. Nasta further stated that he is trying to find out if Bishop Lennon will be able to attend and celebrate the Convention Mass on Sunday, August 15, 2010. He later said that the bishop has another commitment that day and will be unable to attend.

The Executive Secretary stated the Home Office is in process of finalizing the events and entertainment for Convention 2010.

JEDNOTA ESTATES

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of the Leasing Agreement with ACS. He will update the Executive Committee when the new Leasing Agreement will be finalized.

The Executive Secretary stated that he received a dividend check of \$150,000.00 from Jednota, Inc., which was in turn received from the Jednota Properties, Inc.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Secretary stated the Home Office will continue to advertise our products through the monthly branch mailings and insert advertisements in the monthly billing as well as in the Jednota newspaper.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of December for the Committee's review and answered their questions. He informed the Executive Meeting of the IRA Annuity deposits and stated that we will start with advertisements on our website and in the Jednota newspaper.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of December 2009:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 310,615.55
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 42,336.66
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President stated that Mrs. Terri Ivanec started her position as the new Editor of the Jednota newspaper and will be working at the Home Office. The President stated that the new editor will send an introductory letter to Branch and District Officers encouraging them to send all English and Slovak articles to her at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. She is working very closely with our Slovak Editor, Anna Sutherland. Anybody who wishes to contact her may do so at:

Phone: 216-642-9406 or 1-800-533-6682; Fax: 216-642-4310 or
E-mail: fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

ADJOURN

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

Father Nasta closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

News From Slovakia

President Names New Ambassadors

Bratislava, February 10 (TASR) - Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic on Wednesday presented credentials to Ambassador Designate to China Frantisek Dlhopolcek and Ambassador Designate to Kuwait Ivan Lancaric at a ceremony that was also attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak.

Gasparovic noted that the diplomats will represent Slovakia in countries it has good relations with.

Turning to Dlhopolcek, he said: "Your role will be to ensure that our relations with China will continue to benefit both states." He further stated that the future ambassador to China will be active in that country at a time when Slovakia needs to see its marketplace and business co-operation with this global power evolve.

With respect to Lancaric, the head of state expressed his belief that the new ambassador to Kuwait will represent Slovakia as a democratic country keen on dealing with issues surrounding the greater Middle East and strengthening stability and peace in the world.

FinMin Improves Forecast of Slovak GDP Growth in 2010 to 2.8 percent

Bratislava, February 10 (TASR) - The Finance Ministry has revised its previous forecast for growth in the Slovak economy in 2010 to 2.8 percent, up from the 1.9 percent expected in the autumn of 2009, TASR learnt on Wednesday.

"The changes in the prognosis are mainly due to improvements in expectations concerning the external environment, improvements in indicators of economic sentiment and positive results for the third quarter (of 2009) in Slovakia and the eurozone as a whole," said the ministry's Financial Policy Institute (IFP).

The current prognosis embraces the influence of highway construction via public-private partnership (PPP) projects, which are expected to have a positive effect on GDP growth.

On the other hand, negative developments are expected on the household-demand front. "Negative risks stem primarily from developments on the domestic labour market, whereas risks are balanced in the external environment," said IFP.

Slovak IT Sector 34th Most Competitive in World

Bratislava, February 11 (TASR) - Slovakia has been ranked in 34th place on the 2009 chart in a study of IT sector competitiveness drawn up by Economist Intelligence Unit analysts, TASR learned from Slavka Sikurova of Business Software Alliance on Thursday.

In comparison with central and eastern European countries, competitiveness of Slovak IT market is average.

Slovakia has dropped two places on the chart year-on-year, outplaced by Latvia and Lithuania. Despite a positive development in Slovakia's business and legal environment, there's still a much room for improvement in science, research and IT infrastructure development, especially as these aspects prove to be the driving force behind prosperity and competitiveness, says the study.

U.S. IT sector enjoys the greatest level of competitiveness, followed in descending order by Finland, Sweden and Canada. The Czech Republic ranks best among IT sectors in the region.

Quick Estimate: Slovak Economy Contracted by 4.7 percent in 2009

Bratislava, February 12 (TASR) - According to a quick estimate published by the Slovak Statistic Office on Friday, the Slovak economy contracted by 4.7 percent in 2009.

In a y-o-y comparison, gross domestic product (GDP) in 2009 shrank by 2.7 percent in fixed prices and by 3 percent in current prices.

In 2008, the Slovak economy expanded by 6.2 percent, but under the influence of the global financial crisis it contracted by 5.7 percent in 1Q09, by 5.5 percent in 2Q09, and by 4.8 percent in 3Q09.

In 4Q09 it shrank by 2.7 percent, thereby confirming analysts' expectations. GDP reached €16.498 billion in 4Q09. Adjusted for inflation, it totalled €12.325 billion, which was 3.6 percent lower than in the same period of 2008.

Pociatek: 2009 Slump Better Than Projected

Bratislava, February (TASR) - Slovakia's economic slump of 4.7 percent in 2009 wasn't as bad as expected, Finance Minister Jan Pociatek said on Friday in response to the Statistics Office's flash estimate released on the same day.

The Finance Ministry had until recently forecast that the economy would shrink by close to

6 percent. Its updated prognosis published earlier this week projected 4.9 percent.

According to Pociatek, these developments are an answer to criticism that the Government's measures are ineffective and that the Cabinet has mismanaged the economic crisis. "On the contrary, this is clear evidence that Slovakia is getting out of the crisis," he said.

This year the ministry expects to see a pick-up in the Slovak economy, projecting it to grow by 2.8 percent year-on-year. Pociatek is confident that this prognosis is realistic. "I believe that the prognosis we published will be very close to reality. I even think that growth may be yet higher than we are projecting at the moment," he said, predicting that Slovakia will be among the countries with highest economic growth in the European Union.

Pociatek said that his ministry has a clear idea of how to meet consolidation goals in the area of public finances, and even conceded potential for a faster-than-planned reduction in the public-finance deficit. Last year the gap stood at 6.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), and it should fall to 5.5 percent this year, 4.2 percent next year and below the 3 percent ceiling set by European budgetary rules in 2012.

Analyst: No Steep Increase in Unemployment Expected this Year

Bratislava, February 15 (TASR) - This year Slovakia may not experience such a steep increase in unemployment as was the case following the outbreak of the economic crisis, even though the industrial sector, the draught horse of Slovakia's economy, may continue in slump, analysts told TASR on Monday.

"We expect that the development may take a curve similar to the letter 'W', and this mainly in industry after the world-wide (government) stimuli dissipate. The second slump, which will be more moderate, might not affect employment," said UniCredit Bank Slovakia analyst David Derenik. He explained that companies were more pessimistic during the first downturn and laid off more people. Therefore the firms are currently on bare bones regime when it comes to staffing, added Derenik.

Nonetheless, Slovakia still hasn't hit bottom in employment, "even though the expectations for a slight and gradual revival of economic growth this year have been based on more and more firm fundamentals," according to Volksbank analyst Vladimir Vano.

Slovenska Sporitelna Bank analyst Michal Musak foresees the unemployment rate peaking in the first quarter of 2010. "Economic revival and the start of seasonal works may contribute to a slow reduction in the unemployment rate, but I expect this reduction to be only moderate," said Musak.

At the same time, analysts caution that even though if Slovakia's most important export markets recover this year, it may not automatically increase the number of jobs in Slovakia.

"It can't be forgotten that the recovery will be slow and gradual ... and job markets react to an economic revival with a certain delay," noted Postova Banka analyst Jana Mrvova.

Documentary on Slovak-German Co-existence to Be Screened in Berlin

Berlin, February 16 (TASR) - Vladimir Stric's Slovak documentary Hostia-Hauerland, which focuses on 800 years of co-existence between Slovaks and Germans in an area of modern-day Slovakia, will be screened at the Slovak Institute in Berlin on Tuesday, the Foreign Affairs Ministry press department told TASR on the same day.

The screening will be held under the auspices of Slovak Deputy Premier for a Knowledge-based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities Dusan Caplovic and Carpathian-German Society chairman Walther Greschner.

The documentary covers 800 years of co-existence in what is known today as central Slovakia - the former Hauerland region, which was inhabited by a German minority and was one of three ethnic-German islands in Slovakia before WWII; the other two being in Pressburg (Bratislava) and Zips (the Spis area in eastern Slovakia).

Including comments made by representatives of three German generations and unique photographic and video archive material, Hostia-Hauerland showcases the less familiar and dramatic history of the Carpathian Germans.

Caplovic: TV Broadcasts for Slovaks Abroad Should Begin in 2010

Bratislava, February 15 (TASR) - Deputy Prime Minister Dusan Caplovic expects that the launch of television broadcasts for Slovaks living abroad will take place this year, his spokesman Michal Kalinak told TASR on Monday.

Caplovic on Monday met director of the Slovaks Living Abroad Office Vilma Privarova to discuss television broadcasts for Slovaks abroad. The meeting resulted in the drafting of content guidelines, a programme structure and technical measures. According to Caplovic, the technical aspect of the broadcasts is a matter of comparing several alternatives. The Slovaks Living Abroad Office is looking into the options for satellite and internet broadcasts.

Caplovic stated that the final decision will be influenced by financial calculations.

The Bells of Sacred Heart/St. John's Church Ring Again

When the Bells of Sacred Heart/St. John's Church, North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, fell silent recently, a group of five parishioners decided to take action. After permission was given, John Dinis, Joseph Baloga, Damian Lendacky, and Joseph and Barbara Ceklosky provided the labor and all finances needed to restore the Bells of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church.

Unique Three-Bell System Installed in 1908

Three gigantic bells were installed in the huge bell tower of Sacred Heart Church shortly after it was built in 1908. Sacred Heart's three bells are unique in that most local churches only have one bell. The largest bell, at one ton, is named and engraved "Svaty Cyril, Svaty Metod," Patron Saints of Slovaks. The second bell, at ¾ ton, is engraved "Maria," Mother of God. The smallest bell, at ½ ton, was christened "Saint Joseph."

As the bells were rung in jubilation at the end of World War I on Armistice Day, November 11, 1919, the largest bell cracked. It was then necessary to remove the bell and send it back to the foundry where it was melted down and recast. In the early 1970s, the bells were reconditioned by a firm in Baltimore, Maryland, at the cost of \$3,400. Since that time, the Bell Committee has studied the workings of this automated bell system in order to become more knowledgeable about repairs.

Dedicated Volunteers Donate Labor, Parts, Financing

When the bells again began to fall silent in 2009, the five members of the "Bell Group," who are also members of the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation, decided to completely dismantle and restore the mechanism of the entire three-bell system in order to provide the most outstanding sound. One motor as well as several other mechanical items were completely replaced. Because of the complexity of the gear boxes, work by a skilled professional machinist was required.

The Bell Group contacted Jim Brazinski of JB Machine Shop, North Pennsylvania Avenue. In honor of his grandparents who were Sacred Heart parishioners, Mr. Brazinski restored all the boxes and donated all parts and labor in their name. Joseph Baloga – a member of the Bell Group and specialist in this work – reprogrammed the entire automation system. The tedious jobs of climbing the huge bell tower, working in a very confined area, and relocating parts, were performed by Joe Ceklosky and Damian Lendacky. Financing for the project was provided by John Dinis, and Joe and Barbara Ceklosky.



Damian Lendacky, one of the dedicated parishioners who worked to restore the outstanding sound of Sacred Heart's unique three-bell system.

Restored Bells Ring Out, All Saints Day 2009

The entire process required two months time and the restored bells were rung for the first time on All Saints Day, November 1, 2009. A Mass has been requested by the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation at Sacred Heart/Saint John's Parish in thanksgiving for all the work completed by the Bell Group.

Mary Jane Tarantino, Publicity



Slovakia defeats World Champions Russia

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

"Slovakia stunned Russia in their second match of the pool round at the Olympic ice hockey tournament in Vancouver." Slovakia surprised the odds makers with a 2-1 victory over the powerhouse Russian hockey team, which is currently the world champion.

The game turned into a shootout when Marian Hossa tied the score ten with ten minutes left in the third period. While both teams had chances to score, but goalies Jaroslav Halak and Ilya Brizgalov put up an awesome defense, and the score remained tied until the end of the regulation time.

Then in a shootout, Jozef Stumpel and Alexander Ovechkin both scored in the first series. Slovak goalie Halak blocked two more shots by Russian superstar Ovechkin that kept Slovakia in the game.

In the seventh round, Slovakia's veteran, Pavol Demitra, scored the deciding goal to give Team Slovakia a great victory over the highly touted Russians. The Russians bounced back from their loss to best the Czech Team, 4-2, on February 21.

This was one of Slovakia's biggest victories since winning the Ice Hockey World Championships in 2002.

On Saturday, February 20, Team Slovakia continued on its winning streak, shutting out Latvia, 6-0.

Although Team Slovakia has a relatively older set of stars, they have shown that their experience and spunk are enough to compete with the best.

Source: RSI news February 19, 2010

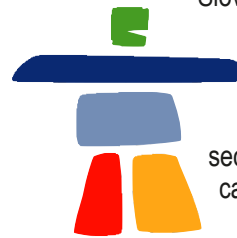


Pavol Hurajt Gains Bronze to Complete Medal Set for Slovak Biathlons

The Slovak biathlon has clinched another great success at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver thanks to Slovak athlete Pavol Hurajt winning a bronze medal in the men's biathlon mass start race on Sunday, February 21. Following the gold and the silver won by Anastasia Kuzmina, Hurajt has completed the set for Slovak biathlons. The Sunday race was won by Russian athlete Evgeny Ustyogov, while the silver medal went to Martin Fourcade from France. For winning the medal, Hurajt, who was 16.6 seconds down on the winner, will be rewarded with €25,000 from the Slovak Olympic Committee.

Compiled from Radio Slovakia International NEWS – 22.2.2010

First Gold for Slovakia in Winter Olympics Anastasia Kuzmina Wins Women's Biathlon 7.5 km Sprint



vancouver 2010



Slovak representative of Russian origin Anastasia Kuzmina won the gold medal in the women's biathlon 7.5-km sprint at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics on Saturday, February 13, 2010.

On the 7.5 kilometre-long trail in Whistler, Kuzmina beat German biathlete Magdalena Neuner, who crossed the finish line 1.5 seconds later than the 25-year-old Slovak. Marie Dorin from France came in third, 10.9 seconds later than Kuzmina.

The next day, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico sent a congratulatory letter to Kuzmina, congratulating her victory and stating that he highly regards her success. "I appreciate it even more that with this success you are proudly associating with your new homeland. I am very happy that Slovakia has become your new home, where you have not only found personal happiness and contentment, but also excellent conditions for your further athletic development. It is amazing with what ardor you are representing our country, how proudly you are associating with it, and how much you are giving back to it with your athletic performance."

Kuzmina's gold medal is the first won by Slovakia at the Winter Olympic since its independence (1993). Next to Kuzmina, figure skater Ondrej Nepela representing Czechoslovakia won a gold medal at the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo, Japan.

-Excerpted from TASR, 2/17/10

Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398, or email fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

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

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Scholarships Available For Study in Slovakia

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic has announced the 2010 Government Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program provides for University study in the Slovak Republic in the Slovak language (both graduate and undergraduate), including one year preparatory language training at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Government Scholarship Program is specifically intended to provide university education opportunities for Slovaks living abroad. As a result of that, Slovak organizations in the United States have a unique opportunity to influence candidate selection because the Ministry of Education requires any candidate to be endorsed by the local Slovak organization. Scholarships are available only to non-Slovak citizens under 26 years of age.

Candidates may select any study program of their interest at any accredited university in Slovakia; however, a list of preferred study programs has been compiled and is available by request. Please be advised that medical sciences, dentistry, and pharmacy are not recommended in 2010 by the Ministry of Education.

Candidates must submit their applications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic by May 30, 2010. Applications received after May 30, 2010 will not be accepted. Candidates may also apply individually and directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – OKUD, Hlboka, cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava.

The Slovak Embassy is willing to provide assistance in submitting applications; however, be advised that the deadline to submit applications at the Embassy is May 1, 2010. The Slovak Embassy is located at 3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

For more information, contact Ms. Terezia Sajgalikova, e-mail: terezia.sajgalikova@mzv.sk, tel. 202-237-1054 ext. 223 or visit the website of the Slovak Ministry of Education at www.minedu.sk.

Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport College 2010 Scholarship

The Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut is now accepting applications for its \$1,000.00 2010 Scholarship for students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of college or graduate school. Applications, procedures and guideline forms are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Chairperson Eileen S. Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, Connecticut 06614, by the deadline of May 11, 2010.

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



Saturday, May 1st, 2010

Seven Hills, City Hall
7325 Summitview Drive
Seven Hills, OH, 44131

- Single woman between the age of 16- 26 years old.
- Czech, Slovak, Moravian, Silesian, or Carpathio-Rusyn heritage
- American citizen

Entry Fee: \$25

4 Part Competition:

- Kroj Modeling
- Talent: 4 minutes limit
- Private Interview
- On stage Interview

Prizes:

The Queen will receive:

Bond, Crown, Sash, Flowers, Traveling donation to the Nation Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska [1st weekend of August 2010]

1st Runner Up will receive:

Crown, Flowers, and ½ free admission fee to the following year's pageant

2nd Runner Up will receive:

Crown, Flowers, ½ free of the admission fee for the following year's pageant

Make Friends from all over the USA!
Win great prizes!
Promote your Heritage!
Have Fun!

Deadline for entry: April 1st, 2010

Contact: Suzybures@sbcglobal.net (Pageant Director)
MissCzechSlovakOlivia@yahoo.com (Current Ohio Queen)

Suzanne Bures
Olivia Buydos

St. Clement's Society Branch 40 Scholarship for 2010

Attention all students: the St. Clement's Society Branch 40 is once again offering scholarships to its youth members. You may be eligible to win a one-time scholarship if:

- You are a member of the FCSU St. Clement's Society Branch 40
- You are in high school and have applied for a fall term at a qualifying institute, OR
- You are attending a private grade school.

The available scholarships – a one-time award of \$500 for college and a one-time award of \$250 for private grade school – are solely funded by your local lodge (Branch 40), and not by the FCSU National Office.

For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at (815) 672-6142, and leave a message. Or you can email her at ttegraves@mchsi.com to receive information electronically, including an application.

All applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2010.

Theresa Graves, Scholarship Committee

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2010

The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.40% (4.306% apr)

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.15% (4.066% apr)

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 3.75% (3.682% apr)

The first year annual yield on a new "Park Free Plus Annuity" is 3.50% (3.440% apr)

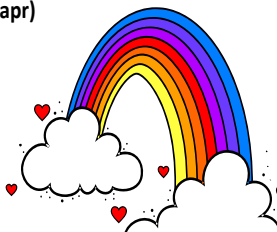
The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.00% (3.922% apr)

The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 3.90% (3.826% apr)

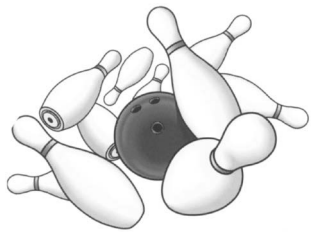
If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's,

please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

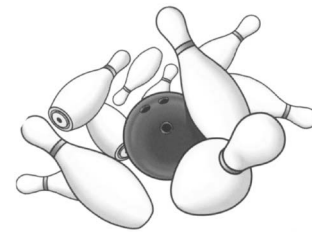


If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately
THINK ABOUT IT!



Slovak Bowling Congress Celebrates 68th Annual Tournament in April

America's Foremost Slovak Sporting Event At Freeway Lanes In Warren, Ohio



In 1939, two Slovak brothers – Steve “Doc” and Peter Hletko – formed the Slovak Bowling Congress (SBC). The first Slovak National Bowling Tournament was held that same year at St. Francis Recreation Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two teams and 10 bowlers participated in that first tournament organized by the Hletko brothers.

Today, known as The Slovak Bowling Congress of America/ Slovak National Bowling Tournament, the event has grown to include over 100 teams, and more than 500 bowlers. Past tournaments have been held in many areas, including: Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Chicago, Illinois; Youngstown, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Sharon, Pennsylvania; Erie, Pennsylvania; and Akron, Ohio. Over the years, the tournament has

enjoyed entries of 12,969 teams, 31,692 double teams, 74,283 singles, and 50,974 all-events bowlers. All time payouts total more than \$787,837!

2010 Tournament Starts April 10 in Warren, OH

Traditionally starting in April, the 2010 Slovak National Bowling Tournament runs the weekends in April, beginning April 10, 2010, through the weekend of May 2, 2010. It will be held at the Freeway Lanes, 2700 Parkman Rd NW, Warren, OH, 44485. More than 700 bowlers from some 160 cities throughout the United States and Canada are expected.

Entrants in this year's tournament are competing for a prize fund in excess of \$20,000. Plus, as a special incentive,

the following Slovak organizations are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the 2010 tournament: the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Zenska Jednota; the First Catholic Slovak Union, Jednota; the National Slovak Society, N.S.S.; and the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Any questions, or for more information on the tournament or the SBC, please contact: Mr. John M. Golias, 440-526-3657 or 440-526-3445; or Joe Harkulich, 330-448-8630. The Slovak National Tournament Committee is hoping to see all Slovak bowlers at the Freeway Lanes in Warren, Ohio.

John M. Golias, National Tournament Committee



Memorable Slovak Event Comes To a Close In Washington, DC

The Slovak Embassy Expresses Thanks, Reveals Plans for “Memories,” Part II

On January 31, 2010, the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington closed the doors behind one of the most memorable events in its recent history, the exhibition “Memories of Slovakia”. The display of unique selection of Slovak classic and modern art was opened on November 17, 2009 as a part of series to mark the 20th anniversary of the democratic change in former Czechoslovakia, which as well included unforgettable Gala dinner later on November 18th. Under the patronage and in presence of the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Miroslav Lajcak distinguished guests of the official opening enjoyed the presentation of over 30 paintings by renowned Slovak artists such as Jan Hala, Stefan Prukner, Fero Guldán, Miroslav Cipar, Ferdinand Hložník, Julius Jakoby, M. Bazovsky, Peter Michal Bohún and others, all of them from the private collections in the United States. During more than a two month of display the exhibition attracted interest of hundreds of guests, including the wives of Washington based Ambassadors that held one of their regular meetings in the Embassy's Gallery, diplomatic corps members, Washington art community, Slovak compatriots as well as general public from wider Washington area.

The idea to organize the event came to mind when my wife Nina and I chat with Slovaks and friends of Slovakia over how to help present and promote extraordinary values that were for years hidden behind the closed doors in the homes of Slovak American families. What we found out later was that their stories were as fascinating as the pictures themselves. People forced to leave their home country to live abroad, too often unable to maintain any contact with their relatives in former Czechoslovakia whatsoever. For them these paintings were more than just artwork of extraordinary value, they helped keep alive memories of the



home destined not to be seen again. Therefore we decided to address a group of compatriots and friends willing to exhibit their paintings and share with others their personal stories. Just to mention one for all: “Portrait of Anna Philadelphi”, the great grandmother of Juraj L. J. Slavik. Classical portrait by Peter Michal Bohun painted in 1860 found its way to the United States with the Slavik family in 1946, when the late Juraj M.D. Slavik served as the last Ambassador of free Czechoslovakia to Washington.

Here in these words, with kind help of Jednota, the Embassy would like to express its gratitude not only to Friends of Slovakia and extraordinary people who helped to organize the event such as artists Mrs. Klara Sever and Mrs. Nena Thayer, Amb. Theodore Russel, Mrs. Julie Slavik and many others, but especially to those who granted us with trust to keep their family treasures away from homes in order to take part in this unique and in every sense of the word great presentation of Slovak ability to create, protect, value and share its own contribution to the world of art. We were encouraged by success of the event that marked important milestone in the Slovak history as well as in the history of modern cooperation between Slovakia and its countrymen in the U.S. We would like to build up on these strong foundations and turn the outlying event into tradition. Idea of “Memories of Slovakia Part II” is already on the table. I want to use this opportunity to invite possible donors willing to participate in the second part of this successful event to contact the Slovak Embassy in Washington for further details.

Peter Burian, Ambassador



HUNGARIANS DECRY SLOVAK LANGUAGE LAW

continued from page 4

tention Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich pays to the issue of rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the partner countries of the U.S. However, we are surprised that the letter contains wrong, misleading or outdated facts, since all relevant information on the Slovak State Language Law has been made available to the Congressman. The amended Law respects rights of all citizens of the Slovak Republic. Letter and spirit of the law and the related principles have been approved by the relevant and generally recognized international organization for these issues—the OSCE Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.”

On February 2, 2009, from AHF's website, Mr. Koszorus wrote to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. The web's February 3 introduction to the letter, with her photo, said “Intolerance in Slovakia: The oppressive ‘Language Law.’” Its lead was “AHF

urges Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to publicly and unambiguously express [her] concern relative to the Slovak Language Law. By curtailing or eliminating the use of minority languages from the public sphere, that discriminatory law threatens the Hungarian minority's culture and infringes on fundamental freedoms.”

The following day, February 3, the Hungarian Press Service MTI, with a photo of the Secretary, circulated a story headed “Clinton urges action on the matter of the Slovak Language Law.”

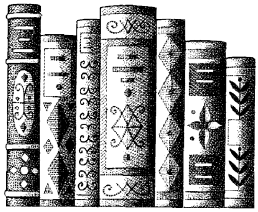
On February 15, 2009, from AHF's website, Mr. Koszorus wrote to High Commissioner Vollebaek in which he said “The language law is the latest manifestation of the Slovak government's intolerance toward its Hungarian minority....Not only has the law caused considerable internal unease in Slovakia, it threatens much needed unity within NATO by increasing tensions between Slovakia and Hungary—both NATO allies.”

View of U.S. CSCE

On December 15, 2009 the U.S. Congressional Chairman of the CSCE, Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, reported to the Senate on Slovakia and Hungary Relations. Among other remarks, he reported that “First an amendment to the Slovak language law which was adopted in June and will enter into force in January, has caused a great deal of concern that the use of the Hungarian language by the Hungarian minority in Slovakia will be unduly or unfairly restricted. Unfortunately, that anxiety has been whipped up, in part, by a number of inaccurate and exaggerated statements about the law....The CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities has been meeting with officials from both countries and summarized the Slovak law in his most recent report to the CSCE Permanent Council: ‘The adopted amendments to the State Language Law pursue a legitimate aim, namely, to strengthen the position of

the State language, and, overall, are in line with international standards. Some parts of the law, however, are ambiguous and maybe misinterpreted, leading to a negative impact on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.’ Since the law has not yet come into effect, there is particular concern that even if the law itself is consistent with international norm, the implementation of the law may not be....”

After commenting on Slovak and Hungarian internal problems, he concluded: “I have urged my colleagues to be particularly mindful of the need for restraint in this pre-election season, and I have welcomed the efforts of those individuals who have chosen thoughtful engagement over mindless provocation. I hope both countries will continue their engagement with the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, whom I believe can play a constructive role in addressing minority and other bilateral concerns.”



Book Corner

Slovak Medal of Honor Winner Featured in New Book about the First World War

THE LONG WAY HOME: AN AMERICAN JOURNEY FROM ELLIS ISLAND TO THE GREAT WAR by David Laskin, due out on March 16 from Harper, tells the true story of twelve immigrants who fought with U.S. forces in the Great War. Included here is the story of Slovak-American hero Matej Kocak, who won two Congressional Medals of Honor in the war. Born in Gbely in 1882, Kocak enlisted in the Marines after immigrating to the United States in 1907 and reenlisted twice more. Kocak shipped out to France in December 1917 and fought in every American engagement in the Great War, including Belleau Wood and the Aisne-Marne Offensive. He won the dual Medals of Honor after single-handedly taking out two German machine gun nests on July 18, 1918. Kocak was killed in action in the Battle of the Argonne, just weeks before the war ended.

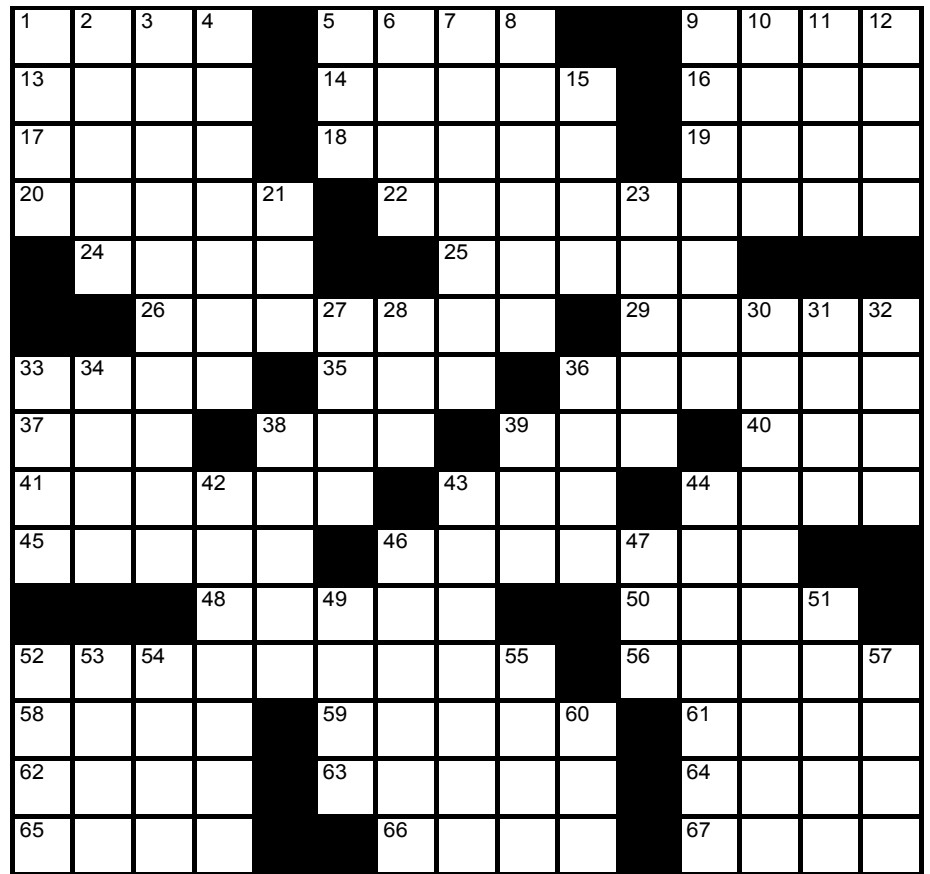
In the course of his research, Laskin traveled to France to see the spot where Sergeant Kocak fought and paid homage at his grave in the Meuse-Argonne Military Cemetery in France.

Praised as "a compelling and well-written account of 12 men who became American the hard way," THE LONG WAY HOME is a story of service and sacrifice on the part of hard-working immigrants. Some of them, like Matej Kocak, became heroes – but all of them were transformed by going to war for their adopted country. The book goes on sale on March 16.

For more information, go to www.thelongwayhomebook.com



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Gum
- 5 Cupid
- 9 Clothed
- 13 Existence
- 14 Grottos
- 16 Italian capital
- 17 Breakfasts
- 18 Dropsy
- 19 Summit
- 20 Foe
- 22 Washed-up lumt
- 24 Bonsai
- 25 Warhorse
- 26 Bothers
- 29 Separates
- 33 Norse deity
- 35 Pres. Lincoln
- 36 Stetson
- 37 Personal pronou
- 38 Service personn (Abbr.)
- 39 Before (Prefix)
- 40 Fall behind
- 41 Nitty-gritty
- 43 Likewise
- 44 ___ mater
- 45 Ger. city
- 46 Boils slowly
- 48 Break out
- 50 Turkish money
- 52 Large fragrant w or yellow flower
- 56 Worship
- 58 Egg-shaped
- 59 Common fractio
- 61 Looked
- 62 Vehicle
- 63 Medlies
- 64 Skim through
- 65 Roman date

Down

- 66 Jazz singing
- 67 Indian buzzard

Down

- 1 Downwind
- 2 Goliath
- 3 Social club type
- 4 Blot again
- 5 Hotshot
- 6 DUI org.
- 7 Supervise
- 8 pays
- 9 Shellfish
- 10 Balmy
- 11 Weaponry
- 12 Exploit
- 15 Dependable
- 21 Affirmative
- 23 Indian lodge
- 27 Cruise
- 28 Weight units (Abbr.)
- 30 Status symbol
- 31 Streetcar
- 32 Heroic tale
- 33 Shaver
- 34 Garden tools
- 36 Starting at
- 38 Expressive styl
- 39 Small dog, for short

- 42 Conifer droppings
- 43 Famous ship
- 44 Most desiccated
- 46 Patters
- 47 Highest note
- 49 Bib. word
- 51 Regions
- 52 Mongolian deser
- 53 Eager
- 54 Another 34 Down
- 55 Gr. portico
- 57 Ferber, for one
- 60 Presidential monogram

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Independence, OH 44131-8013
Call 1-800 Jednota or 1-216-642-9406

See Solution on Page 18

2009 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6



Lia Mercure
First Place
Seymour, CT



Juliette Nichols
Second Place
Woodbury, CT

..... Age Group 7-9



Faith Jurasinski
First Place
Seaville, NJ

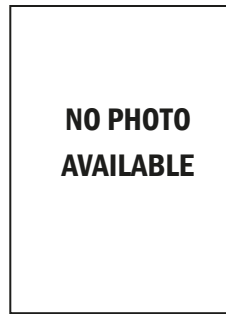


Christopher Figura
Second Place
Carmel, NY

..... Age Group 10-12



Sarah Garris
First Place
Matawan, NJ



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE
Michael Redlich
Second Place
Flemington, NJ

REGION 2

..... Age Group 4-6

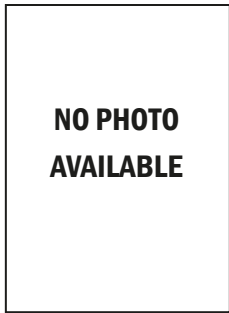


Julia Rudat
First Place
Moscow, PA

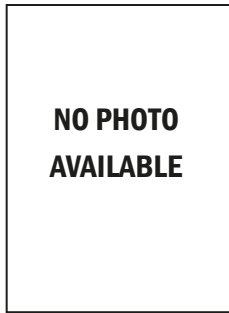


David Rudat
Second Place
Moscow, PA

..... Age Group 7-9



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE
Alison Nowatkoski
First Place
Cary, NC

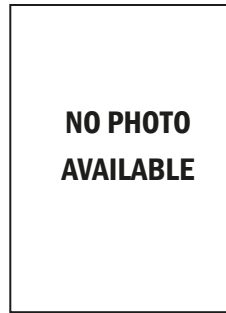


NO PHOTO AVAILABLE
Maria Monteleone
Second Place
Spring City, PA



Kaitlyn Estright
Third Place
Spring City, PA

..... Age Group 10-12



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE
Alexander Nowatkoski
First Place
Cary, NC



Joshua Ruszas
Second Place
Northampton, PA

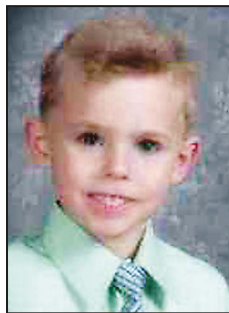
REGION 3

..... Age Group 10-12



Jennifer Estright
Third Place
Northampton, PA

..... Age Group 4-6



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

..... Age Group 7-9



Emily Davis
Second Place
Ramey, PA



Briana C. Slovenkai
Third Place
Scranton, PA

..... Age Group 4-6



Becky Pechmann
First Place
Cullowhee, NC

..... Age Group 7-9



Anna Grace Catherman
Second Place
Clearfield, PA



JJ Davis
Third Place
Ramey, PA

REGION 3

..... Age Group 10-12



Catherine Roe Baker
First Place
Danville, PA



Margaret Mary Baker
Second Place
Danville, PA



Aliah M. Rodriguez
Third Place
Scranton, PA

REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6



Daniel Dlugos
First Place
Greensburg, PA



Casey Elder
Second Place
Latrobe, PA

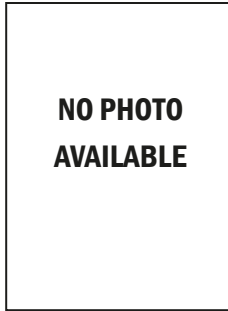


Katrina M. Mullen
Third Place
Springfield, VA

AS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 4

..... Age Group 7-9



Kristen Marmol
First Place
Uniontown, PA



Abbey Scekeres
Second Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



Callie A. McKendree
Third Place
Woodbridge, VA



Olivia Rose Stroble
First Place
Williamsport, PA



Holly Pravlik
Second Place
Norvelt, PA



Joel Scekeres
Third Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



Julia Windsheimer
First Place
Pittsburgh, PA

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 5

Age Group 4-6

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6



Rachel Marie Katekovich
Second Place
Aliquippa, PA



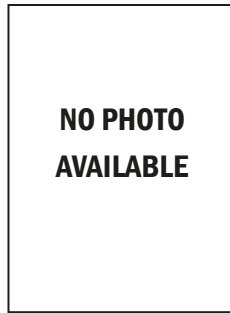
Jamie Meinert
Third Place
Buford, GA



Jenna Meinert
First Place
Buford, GA



Andrew R. Windsheimer
Second Place
Pittsburgh, PA



Jessica Palmer
Third Place
Beaumont, TX



Anny Adams
First Place
Stalhstown, PA



Daniel Shemon
Second Place
Imperial, PA

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 6

..... Age Group 4-6



Kaylin Tassinari
First Place
E. Stroudsburg, PA



Rylee Smith
Second Place
Vandalia, OH



Aaron Soltis
Third Place
Massillon, OH



Jason Yuknavich
First Place
Brecksville, OH



Jared Dubber
Second Place
Lakewood, OH



Lane Robinson
Third Place
Lowell, NC

REGION 6

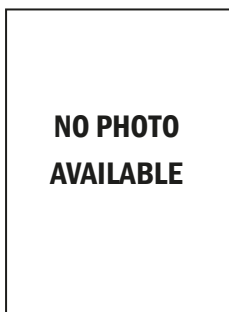
..... Age Group 10-12



Shelby Spencer
First Place
Brunswick, OH



Charlene Westfall
Second Place
Aurora, OH



Allyson Krupa
Third Place
New Wilmington, PA

REGION 7

..... Age Group 4-6



Logan Rimarcik
First Place
Linden, MI



Emma Jill Graves
Second Place
Streator, IL



Rachel Rossman
Third Place
Griffith, IN

Age Group 7-9



Britney Johnson
First Place
Tinley Park, IL

Obituaries

Msgr. Peter E. Bolerasky
Branch 40
Streator, Illinois

Msgr. Peter E. Bolerasky, 82, died on Friday, October 30, 2009, at Wheaton Franciscan All Saints Hospital in Racine, WI. Born October 26, 1927 to Peter and Jennie Beil Bolerasky, he moved with this family to Streator, IL and St. Stephen's Parish when he was 15. He studied for two years at Our Lady of the Ozarks College in Carthage, MO, and completed preparation for the priesthood at St. Meinrad Major Seminary in St. Meinrad, IN. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria on May 29, 1955, the son of Slovak immigrants returned two years later to assist his former pastor at St. Stephen's – the oldest Catholic parish in the United States organized by Slovaks. He would serve the parish for the next 45 years, during which time Msgr. Bolerasky was instrumental in acquiring property for expansion and directed the building of St. Stephen's Cemetery Chapel dedicated in 1984. He was Chaplain for Branch 40. Visitation was on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at St. Stephen's, with a funeral Mass celebrated the next morning by Father Jeffrey Small followed by burial in St. Stephen's Parish Cemetery.

Sister Mary Veronica Rastocan
Delhi Township, Ohio

Sister of Charity of Cincinnati Mary Veronica Rastocan, 92, died Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at Regina Health Center, Richfield, OH. She was born Agnes Mary Rastocan on December 26, 1917 in Brad-dock, PA, the daughter of George and Frances Rose (Tilka) Rastocan. A Sister of Charity for 75 years, S. Mary Veronica was a member of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Bedford, OH, from 1934 until 2004, when they merged with the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, OH. S. Mary Veronica served the dioceses of Cleveland and Youngstown, OH for more than seven decades as a cook and domestic for bishops, pastors, schools, an abbey and the staff of an entire seminary during her life as a Vincentian Sister. She is survived by her sisters Pauline Kaparic and Mary Machhavičius, as well as many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sister Margaret Rastocan and brothers John (Rusty), Albert, and Joseph Rastocan. Visitation for S. Mary Veronica was Saturday, January 23, at the Sisters of Charity Villa San Bernardo Chapel in Bedford, OH, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland OH.

Mary M. Yebernetsky
Branch 7
Philipsburg, Pennsylvania

Mary M. Yebernetsky, 88, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 4, 2010, at Windy Hill Village, a part of Presbyterian Senior Living Philipsburg, where she was a resident. Born March 24, 1921, in Philipsburg, she was the daughter of Anthony and Anna (Motkya) O'Rossey of Madera, PA. She was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church in Houtzdale, PA as well as the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the FCSU, Branch 7. She and husband George Yebernetsky Sr., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1990, prior to George's death in 1991. She is survived by her daughter Gloria "Jeanie" Truhan and her husband George, of Lewistown, PA, and her son George Yebernetsky Jr. and his wife Stella of Cheektowaga, NY, as well as four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a half-brother Albert. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a brother Martin O'Rossey and a half-brother Master Sgt. Alex Parsons. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, February 9, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Houtzdale, PA, with the Rev. Gregory A. Kirsch as celebrant. Interment followed at St. Agnes Cemetery in Morrisdale, PA.

Nicolas Petro
Branch 380
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

Nicolas Petro, 90, formerly of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, February 9, 2010, following a lengthy illness at Beaver Meadows Personal Care, Beaver, PA, where he had resided for two years. A son of the late Michael and Suzanna Petruschak Petro. He was an 80-year member of St. Michael Byzantine Church when the family moved to Canonsburg in 1927. He married Elizabeth Orlosky there on June 14, 1941. Surviving are three children: Father John G. Petro, rector of Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, PA; Frederick M. (Mary Ellen) Petro of Beaver, PA; and Barbara (John) Modzelewski of New York, NY; two grandchildren, a sister-in-law as well as nieces and nephews. Deceased, in addition to his parents, are his wife of 66 years, Betty Petro; two sisters, Mary Sperling and Susanna Gonglik; and three brothers, Joseph, Michael and George Petro. Friends were received at the Noll Funeral Home in Beaver on Sunday, February 14, where a Parastas service was celebrated. The Divine Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, February 15 at the St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Chapel in Beaver, followed by burial at Calvary Cemetery at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA.

2009 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 7

••••• Age Group 7-9 •••••



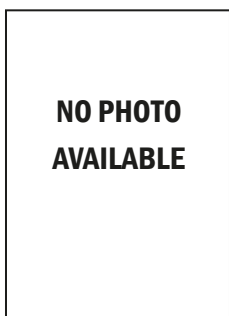
Matthew Manzella
Second Place
 Normal, IL



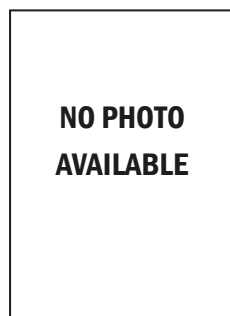
Mary Fayta
Third Place
 Shorewood, IL



Daniel Remenar
First Place
 Bannister, MI



Kayla Wilhelm
Second Place
 Amarillo, TX



Annemarie Yurik
Third Place
 Glenview, IL

•••••••••• Age Group 10-12 ••••••••••

REGION 8/9

•••••••••• Age Group 7-9 ••••••••••



Mayva Hergel
First Place
 Toronto ON



Jason Chadwick
Second Place
 Mississauga, ON



Ethan Joiner
Third Place
 Aurora, ON



Rachel Chadwick
First Place
 Mississauga, ON



Victoria Hankewicz
Second Place
 Les Cedres, QC



Liam Joiner
Third Place
 Aurora, ON

•••••••••• Age Group 10-12 ••••••~•••••

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood OH. If you have any questions, please call 216.228.8179. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold its annual breakfast on Sunday, March 28, 2010. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at the Church of SS. Cyril & Methodius, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE. After Mass, we will have a full breakfast at 10:30AM. All members of Branch 3 and the former St. Joseph Branch 226 are invited.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will hold a semi-annual meeting on April 11, 2010. This meeting, at Our Son's Restaurant on Broad Street, Johnstown, will begin at 2:00PM. Among the items on the agenda will be an election of delegates to the convention that will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, Aug 14 – 18, 2010. All branch members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Elaine Capretti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 12:30PM, after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street at First Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed, officers' reports will be given, and plans for the National Convention in Cleveland, OH, will be covered. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend. For directions or inquiries, please contact Dolores Marmol at (724) 437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph The Guardian Society, Branch 166K, will hold its semi-annual meeting and dinner on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at 1:15PM at the Country Buffet, Town Square Mall, Vestal Parkway, Vestal, NY. The agenda will consist of branch business and the selection of delegates to the National Convention, Saturday, August 14, 2010 – Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, OH. We hope to see all members at the meeting. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607-729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 14, 2010.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181– UNITED, PA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181 will meet on March 20, 2010, immediately fol-

lowing the 5PM. Mass at St. Florian Church. We will meet in the Formation Building on the church grounds; all members are urged to attend. Anyone wishing to join the Jednota is also invited. For more information about the Jednota contact Clarence Pfeifer at 724-423-2983.

Gerry Kovacina, secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Branch 260, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 1:30PM at Msgr. Adamko Hall, St. Elizabeth Church, Campbell, Ohio. On the agenda will be discussions of the FCSU National Convention. All elected delegates and members are urged to attend.

Chafes M. Terek, President

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 1:00PM in the school hall of St. Martin de Porres Church on Seventh Street in McKeesport, PA. All members are urged to attend.

Election of officers and delegates for the convention took place at the November meeting.

Nancy Gerdich

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold a special meeting on Monday, April 5, 2010, for the purpose of electing delegates to the National Convention. The meeting will be held at 7PM at St. Katharine Drexel Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbott, Lansford, PA 18232. Anyone needing more insurance or information should contact the financial secretary at 1-570-645-4872.

**Robert Lakata,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will hold a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, March 7, 2010, at 12:00 noon at Holy Family Church Hall, Scranton, Pennsylvania. The election of delegates to the 2010 Convention will be held. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of future activities and the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office. The auditing of the books will also take place. Light refreshments will be served. All members are urged to attend.

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 456 – HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 456 will be held on March 21, 2010 at 12:00PM at the Lincoln Slovak Club on Fourth Street in Hawk Run, PA.

Alice Pollock

BRANCH 510 – KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

St. Anthony's Society, Branch 510K, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 5:30PM at Casa Capri, in Kenosha. On the agenda will be the officers' reports, a discussion of future events, and updates on insurance and annuity products. After the business is taken, we will hold the election of officers, followed by the election of delegates to the convention. Also under discussion will be the need for a change in bylaws to protect the branches in order that their say and even attendance at the convention is not

limited as well as how to increase involvement in branch activities such as fundraising as the membership ages and younger members relocate for jobs and schooling. After the meeting, there will be a light dinner for all attendees. For reservations, call Joseph Scuglik at (262) 654-7364.

Joseph Scuglik, President

BRANCH 565 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 565K Donora, PA and Branch 670K Donora, PA. All members of Branch 565K will now hold membership in Branch 670K. This merger has taken place as of January 21, 2010.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Dorothy J. Petrus, 545 Castner Ave, Donora, PA 15033-1814, (724) 379-5881

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 567KJ will have a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 1:00PM in the church social hall, 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA. Plans for the bake sale of nut and poppyseed rolls on March 22, 2010 will be finalized. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Branch 567 wishes all a Happy Easter.

Rosalie Favere, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 571– PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA

St Mary's Society, Branch 571 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 1PM at St. Michael Catholic Church Hall, 751 Locust Street, St. Michael, Pennsylvania. We will hold an election of officers. Other branch issues will also be discussed. Light refreshments will be served. Please call 814-269-4972, if you need additional information or have questions.

Theresa Arena, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The election of officers was held on December 20, 2009, for Branch 595, Muskegon Heights, MI, and was officiated by Pat Kelley. The 2010 officers are:

President: Frank McCarthy

Vice President: Rose Paparrarella

Recording Secretary: Donna Stone

Financial Secretary: Louis Kollar

Hall Manager: Sandy McCarthy

Sick Committee: Joyce Kelley

Trustees: Dave Cooper, George Korr, Fran Kolenic

Branch 595 will continue to have a monthly breakfast on the fourth Sunday of every month through May. Breakfast features 11 hot items, coffee, milk, juices and a sweets table to top off the meal. The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 for children, and is offered from 8:30 a.m. until noon. It is "all you can eat," and the best breakfast in town!

The polka parties are held the first Sunday of each month (except Easter) through May. There is a free will offering at the door and food and beverages for purchase. Please join us for these events! We are located at the corner of Sixth St. and Sherman Blvd., in Muskegon Hts. For more information call: 231-733-7525.

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On March 21, 2010, Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate its Patron Saint Feast Day with Mass and a luncheon to follow. The Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH at 11:30 AM. The luncheon will be at the Father Snock Center. Branch 731 Branch member Judge Diane Vettori will be our guest speaker. In addition, we will have numerous door prizes. All Saint Joseph Branch 731 members are invited to attend.

Please call either Irene Makovec at (330) 755-3607 or Millie Leskovyansky at (330)782-3219 for a reservation.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743– STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 14, 2010, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of Branch 743. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in The Slovak Heritage Room. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586/254-0225.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,
President/Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NJ

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include final election of Delegates to the August Convention. Okres meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, March 28, 2010 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 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 officers' reports and discuss branch activities.

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

Milan Konkol, Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 17, 2010 following the 5 PM Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, 4261 Route 981, P.O. Box 187, United, PA 15689. We will meet in the Formation Room. We ask for your attendance as we will be discussing the upcoming convention, district business and updates on the branches. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

District 5, The Michigan District, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 25, 2010. The place of the meeting will be at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Our day will begin with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 AM, followed by refreshments served in the Fr. Mikus Hall. Our meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. In the Heritage Room, a luncheon will be served after the meeting. Branch 743 will host this meeting. Please call Joseph Rimarcik at (586) 254-0225 by April 21, 2010 with the number of delegates attending from your branch.

On the agenda: important information about the convention (delegates should attend), and also district business. We hope many of you will join us for the day.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT II – ILLINOIS, INDIANA, AND WISCONSIN

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, Illinois. A period of refreshments and fraternal fellowship will begin at 1:30 p.m., with the

meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches are requested to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to learn more about becoming active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. If you plan to attend, please call District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810 to let her know, so adequate food and beverages will be available.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District II Recording Secretary

THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND, AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2010 (Please note DATE change). Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 AM in St. John the Baptist Church, 924 N. Front Street, Allentown, PA 18102. Dinner will be served at 12:30 PM in the Social Hall, and the meeting will start at 1:30 PM. Donation for the dinner is \$17.00. Please make checks payable to Branch 567. All checks and credentials must be returned by Friday, February 26, 2010. PLEASE be prompt!

We will be electing our District Delegate for the FCSU Convention which will be held in August, 2010, at this meeting. Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at (610) 432-8350. Thank you!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT – NEW JERSEY

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. Convention Delegate will be elected at this meeting.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 1:00 P.M. in the meeting room of Denny's Restaurant at 653 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2010 and a discussion of the upcoming convention and district business. All convention delegates are requested to attend this meeting. Reservations are to be made by contacting President Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724-438-0697 by Thursday March 11, 2010. Everyone is asked to contribute five dollars to the district to help cover the cost of the meal.

Barbara Ann Holly, Secretary



Features:

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

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Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren.

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

To learn more contact your local branch officer or call the FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682.

Visit our website at www.fcsu.com to use our quote system for additional amounts of insurance.



Branch 45 Spring Dance Party in NYC

St. Matthew's Evangelist Society, Branch 45, kindly extends an invitation to its Spring Dance Party on Sunday, April 25, 2010. The dance will be held after the Slovak Mass at 12:30PM in the church hall of St. John Nepomucene on East 66th Street, New York City. Admission is \$25.00 and includes: lunch, coffee, and Slovak-style homemade cookies. During the dance party, a raffle will be drawn and children from the Slovak school will have a special performance. Music will be provided by the well-known Slovak band Kontakty, under the leadership of Joseph Jurasi. We are looking forward to your attendance.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary



Slovak Flag Raising In Carteret, New Jersey

The Slovak Community of Carteret, New Jersey will celebrate the Slovak Flag Raising Ceremony on Friday, March 12, 2010 at 1100 a.m. in front of the Carteret Memorial Municipal Building Plaza.

The invocation will be offered by Reverend John Zec and Reverend Ed Shallow, pastor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church.

The event is chaired by Diane Gruskowski and coordinated by Mary Rindosh with Ida Poll and Pauline Novakowski assisting with the preparations for the ceremony.

The Slovak Flag Raising event is sponsored by the Ladies Slovak Citizens Club and the General Stefanik Ladies Auxiliary.

Light refreshments will be served.

Scenes From Spitkovsky District Annual Meeting in Illinois



Financial Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Fayta reports on the District's Easter Coloring Contest.

The Rev. John J. Spitovsky District for Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin held its Annual meeting, Election of Officers, and Election of Convention Delegates on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory in Oak Forest, IL, a suburb of Chicago.

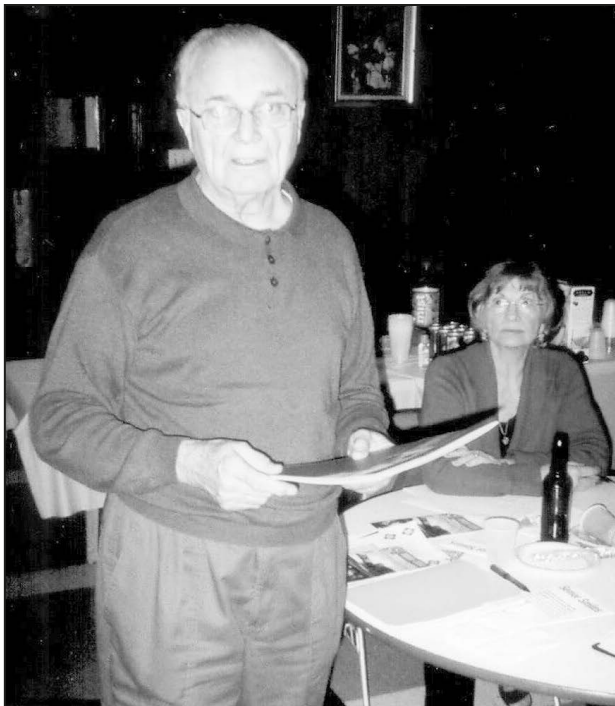
A financial report and auditor's report, along with a report by Region VII Director Rudolph Glogovsky were read. National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar gave a 30 minute sales and marketing presentation on insurance and annuity sales, geared toward increasing membership in the Society. He also chaired the election of officers for 2010 and administered the other of office for: Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurcenko, President John Jurcenko, Vice President Rudy Bernath, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Fayta, Recording Secretary Ropert Tapak Magruder, Chairman of Auditors Joe Bugel, Auditor Bob Elias, Auditor Shirely Uram, Sgt. At Arms Pete Turner, and Director of Fraternal Activities George Kelchak.

Among other meeting highlights: the Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Committee presented a \$100 college grant to FCSU Scholarship winner Kathleen Sullivan of Branch 313, which was accepted in her absence by her brother and parents.

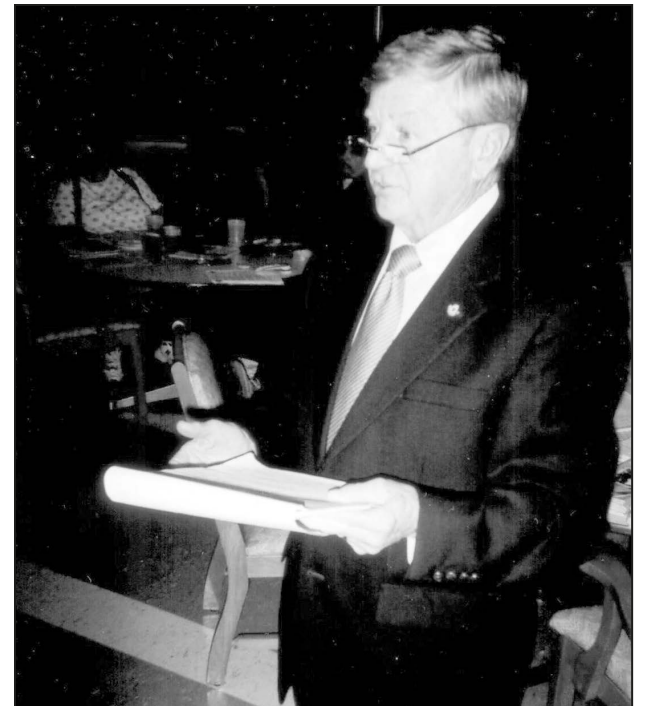
**Robert Tapak Magruder,
District II Recording Secretary**



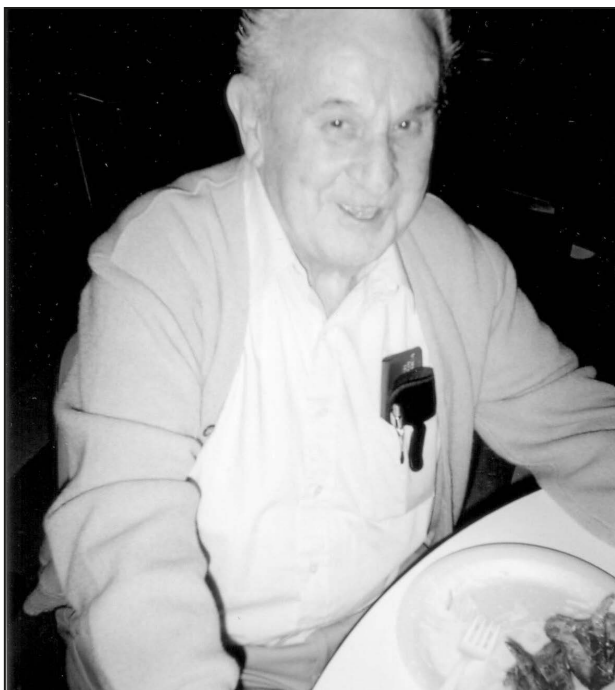
District II Officers elected for 2010.



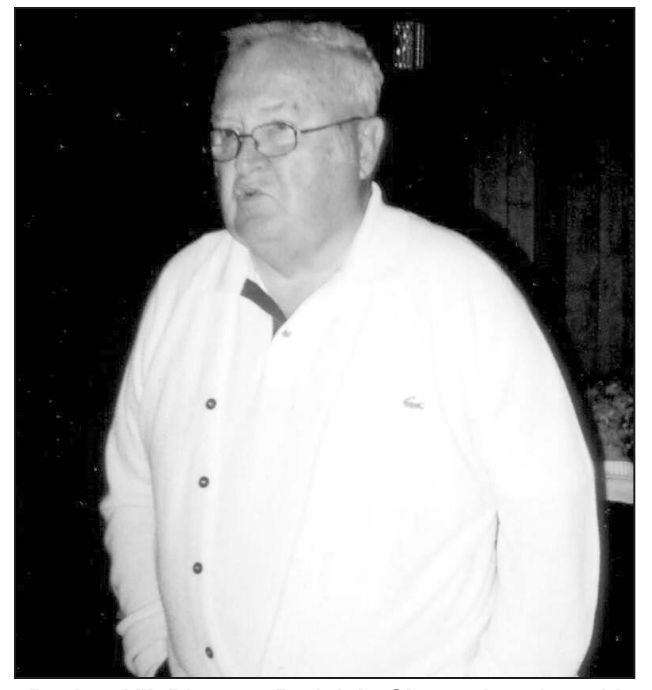
George Kelchak discusses possible fraternal activities for 2010.



National Vice President Andrew Harcar discusses the sales and marketing of FCSU fraternal life products.



Auditor Joe Bugel of Branch 313.



Region VII Director Rudolph Glogovsky gives his report.

IRA Deposit Deadline

April 15, 2010



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Richard B Bayus	038K	Joseph Memzcik	121K	Anthony M Chubrick	543K	John M Kmet
001K	Alma Pipoly	038K	Martha Murajda	166K	John J Hornick	553K	Andrew M Pachipka
001K	John S Sterba	038K	Anna Vesonder	166K	Rose Palkovic	553K	Mary Simkanin
002K	Stephen F Kralosky	045K	George E Papcun	169P	Stephen B Hudak Jr	567K	Helen T Borillo
002K	Veronica Valerie Mahich	055K	Edward J Hudak	173K	Thelma A Arnold	567K	Joseph Krawczyk
002K	Helen L Shamick	055K	Mary E Matonak	173K	Mary Mcfarland	567K	Leonard Pavlacka
002K	John M Swiatek	086K	Rose Pikovsky	175K	George J Kostival	591K	William F Gavenda Sr
005P	Bertha M Milkanin	089K	Mary Hrbacek	175K	Frank W Soltis	591K	Alice C Lucafo
006K	Phillip J "carl Varadin	089K	Robert Ernst Lancin	175K	Joseph A Thomas	595K	Stephen Kratozil
016P	Andrew Evanoski	090K	Ann Liparulo	181K	Samuel J Buscaglio Sr	615K	Ronald A Cyll Sr
023K	Mildred P Blue	098K	Thomas W Smith	181K	Thomas M Hricik	618K	Johanna J Vargo
024K	Evelyn C Buynak	102K	Mary K Petrilla	181K	Rose Marie Kowalczyk	628K	Thomas Pepke
024K	Louise Koval	108K	Eugene C Spegar	181K	John Yasher	35K	Clement C Vrana
024K	Joan Weber	114K	Gloria Jean Shenk	189K	Helen Lenz	652K	Wilma Mary Wardell



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.

4.40%

(4.306% apr)

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Rate Effective March 1, 2010 ~ 4.40% (4.306% APR)

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

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

199K	Anthony Matuszky	661K	Catherine Orlosky
200K	Helen Klukan	670K	Anthony S Kerkan
200K	Gloria J Wain	706K	Agnes Furmanek
240K	Margaret M Saggio	706K	Alice M Hojnacki
240P	Ann Fogmeg Knorr	731K	Frank S Balas
254K	Velma Battista	731K	Frances M Horvat
260K	John R Naypaver	731K	Albert E Swansiger Sr
263K	Paul Lach (locke)	731K	Jane Tatarka
266K	George R Sweet	732K	George W Ferko
278K	Joseph J Barboriak	732K	Thomas M Galish
278K	Theresa F Hadzick	738K	Albert J Hovanec
292K	Helen E Baranik	738K	John Ondo
292K	Michael Richard Polash	743K	Diana Jozwiak
299K	Geraldine A Kooney	746K	Karolina Leso
308K	Michael J Blosak	746K	Anthony Susko
308K	Mary L Kolesar	764K	Charles M Trunick
312K	Sally A Lengel	779K	Bernadine Adams
321K	Mary T Musa	780K	Marjorie Moncman
324K	Debra Lachendro	780K	Paul Moncman
324K	Joseph J Poll	823K	Mary L Countryman
372K	Thomas Jereb	831K	Edward F Emrisek
381K	Joseph R Pisarcik	831K	Anna T Olean
382K	Elizabeth Moeller	831K	Valentine G Sedlak
403K	George R Bartko Sr	831K	Andrew Susa
414K	Joseph Kuharik	855K	Kathryn Chunta
484K	Sharon A Shemo	855K	Philip P Panik
484K	Edward J Vresilovic	855K	James Zavesky
497K	Barbara Evancho	857K	John F May
512K	Theresa Jogun Bevan	888K	John C Dobish
517K	John Hodos	888K	Mary J Zilka

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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St. Clement Society Branch 40's Annual 2010 Meeting

Branch Increases By 22 New Members, Awards Scholarships

On January 10, 2010, St. Clement Society Branch 40 held its annual meeting at Chippers Grill in Streator, Illinois.

Scholarship Committee Member Theresa Graves reported on scholarship recipients, who were awarded checks at the semi-annual meeting: Meghan Hatzler won the \$500 college scholarship and Alex Redd won the \$250 elementary scholarship. The deadline for new applications is April 15, 2010.

National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. noted that the branch brought in 22 new members and life insurance with a face value of \$505,000 by offering a free first-year premium on a \$10,000 JEP policy as a fraternal benefit, with no recommender named.

The Vice President commended Branch 40 officers for their efforts in building up the

membership, and stated if all branches modeled the St. Clement membership drive, it would significantly increase membership throughout the Society. He also said he would be happy to provide any branch with a copy of the Branch 40 mailing; just give him a call at (815) 672-6682.

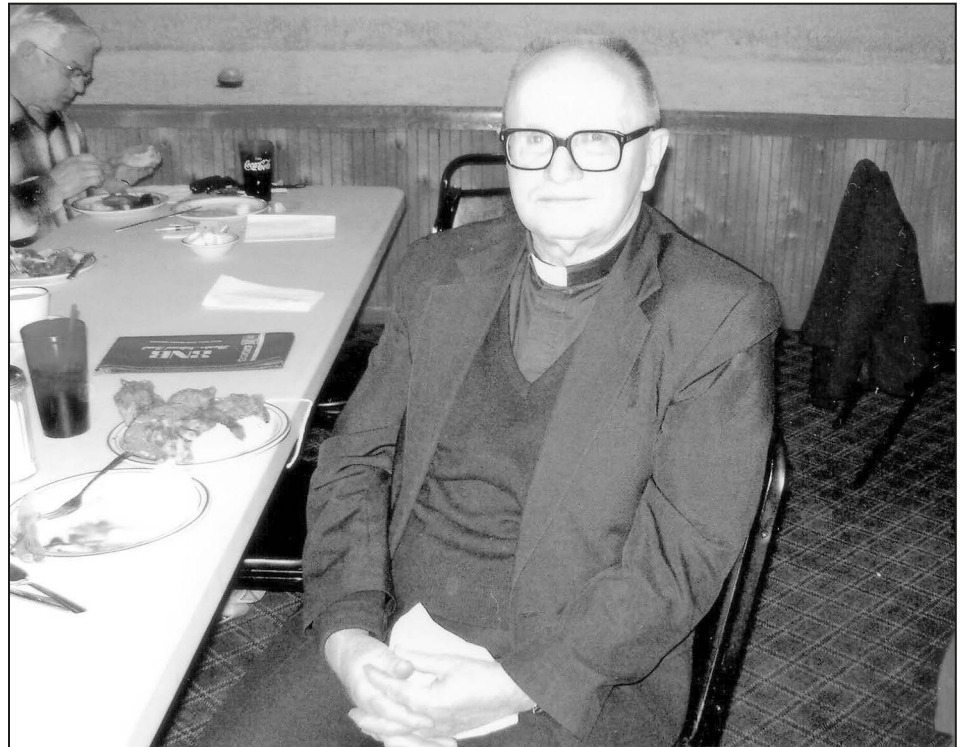
Other items of discussion at the annual meeting: Financial reports were given for 2009; convention items, including election of delegates and alternates; election of branch officers, with a swearing in by National Vice President Harcar.

After the meeting, the members enjoyed a luncheon.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary



L to R, Branch 40 Officers: National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr; Recording Secretary Tim Graves; Financial Secretary/Treasurer Maria Harcar; Auditor Margie Pavlick; Auditor Mike Pavlick; Vice President Veronica Manzella; and Chaplain Msgr. Thomas Badovksy. Not pictured: President William Liptak and Auditor Richard Tutoky



St. Clement Society Branch 40 Chaplain Msgr. Thomas Badovksy



continued on page 20

National Czech & Slovak Library Launches "Personal Stories" Project

Hundreds of thousands of Czechs and Slovaks fled their homeland during the communist era, many risking their lives in the process. Their stories about how and why they emigrated are sometimes dramatic, sometimes tragic, and essential to our understanding of the events that shaped the 20th Century.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is launching a project, "Recording Voices and Documenting Memories of Czech and Slovak Americans." Believed to be the first of its kind, this undertaking will serve as an oral history of the personal stories, family sagas, and community histories of émigrés from Czechoslovakia who settled in Chicago, Illinois, Cleveland, Ohio, or Washington DC.

Personal Stories Solicited

With the understanding that the success of the project depends on strong participation, The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library would like to hear from any of our Jednota readers who:

- Are Slovak émigrés living in Chicago, Cleveland, or Washington;
- Know of someone who is a Czech or Slovak émigré living in Chicago, Cleveland, or Washington with a story to tell; or
- Have resources that might be of value to the project.

Personal accounts of Czech and Slovak Americans are being gathered over the next two years. If you have information that fits any of the above criteria, please contact either:

Rosie Johnston – Project Coordinator, 319-447-5537, rjohnston@ncsml.org

Dave Muhlena – Project Director, 319-362-8500, dmuhlena@ncsml.org

They welcome hearing from you as they plan on conducting approximately 150 interviews with Czechs and Slovaks in Chicago and Cleveland who fled their homeland during the communist era. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library feels that is these personal stories that will help explain monumental political and cultural shifts that occurred during the 20th Century.

"Recording Voices and Documenting Memories of Czech and Slovak Americans" project has been made possible thanks to a grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library also gratefully acknowledges the following entities for their cooperation: the Office of Slovaks Living Abroad, the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, the Czech Consulate in Chicago, and the Chicago chapter of the SVU.

St. Clement Society Branch 40's Annual 2010 Meeting

continued from page 19



5th EGG EggSTRAVAGANZA and EASTER CRAFT/BAKE SALE



SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010
12:00 NOON – 5:00pm



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

"Experience the traditions"



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



Co-sponsored by GCU Lodge # 81, Egg Artists, and St. John's Ethnic Craft Club
For More Information Contact: Bonnie Balas (724)438-8412



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Enjoy all the advantages and convenience of Single Payment Life Insurance except the payments are made in installments. This enables you to purchase the larger face amount that you need and want, but avoids the necessity of paying the entire premium in one payment. The balance due premium will be a loan against the policy cash value.

- Interest free loan
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- Minimum face amount **\$10,000**
male age 50;
female age 55;
thereafter \$5000

Plan I - 2 payments, the initial premium is 60% of the single premium. *The balance must be repaid within one year from the issue date to avoid interest expense on the loan.* The balance of the premium can be paid in twelve equal monthly installments, or in one sum at the end of one year.

Plan II - 3 payments, the initial premium is 40% of the single premium. *The balance must be repaid within two years from the issue date to avoid interest expense on the loan.* The balance of the premium can be paid in twenty-four equal monthly installments; or in two additional payments, 30% at the end of one year and 30% at the end of two years from the issue date.



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KRÁTKY ŽIVOT SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY V ROKOCH 1939 - 1945

Úvodné slovo

Hans Keller

V roku 2009 pripadlo sedemdesiate výročie historickej udalosti v dejinách slovenského národa, ktorej význam a najmä hodnotenie ešte stále rozdeľujú rozličné názory nielen širokého publika, ale aj autorov historických diel. Ide o slávnostný akt Snemu Slovenskej krajiny zo 14. marca 1939, ktorým jeho všetci prítomní demokraticky zvolení poslanci na návrh svojho predsedu Dr. Martina Sokola jednohlasne schválili „Zákon o samostatnom Slovenskom štáte“. Sám Snem Slovenskej krajiny sa pretvoril na zákonodarný orgán Slovenského štátu. Po náležitej príprave Slovenský snem dňa 21. júla 1939 schválil Ústavný zákon o Ústave Slovenskej republiky, ktorým dal novej štátnosti právny podklad základného zákona. Na tomto základe sa rozvíjala nová slovenská štátnosť vo všetkých sektoroch verejného života i medzinárodných vzťahov až do roku 1945, keď ju výsledok druhej svetovej vojny premocou víťazných armád odstránil a nahradil obnovenou česko-slovenskou štátnosťou.

Pre zástancov práva Slovákov na svoj vlastný štát ako na dovriešenie prirodzených práv každého národa na samostatné riadenie svojich osudov bolo to vyvrcholením stáročného vývoja novodobého národa. Videli v tom aj obnovenie dávnej stredovekej štátnosti starých Slovákov (Slovenov) z 9. storočia, ktorou sa naši vzdialení predkovia zapojili do vtedajších európskych mocenských a kultúrnych zoskupení národov a štátov nášho životného priestoru.

Pre nostalgikov uhorskej, ale najmä česko-slovenskej štátnosti, ktorých podriadenou zložkou v prvom prípade cez mnoho storočí, v druhom prípade cez dve krátke desaťročia, bolo integrálnou časťou aj Slovensko, išlo 14. marca 1939 iba o Nemeckou ríšou nanútený čin vtedajších slovenských „separatistov“, ktorých potom ako vlastizradcov českí politici a ich slovenskí prisluhovači podrobili „súdnym procesom“ svojich retribučných orgánov politickej pomsty, ktoré sériovo vynášali rozsudky smrti, doživotných či dlhoročných žalárov a pozbavovania politických, neraz aj základných ľudských práv.

Tieto dva rozličné a nezmieriteľné uhly pohľadu doposiaľ zapričínajú diametrálne rozličné posudzovanie tak jednotlivých faktov, ako aj globálneho hodnotenia vzniku a celého jestvovania prvej Slovenskej republiky. To sa čiastočne odráža aj v zahraničnej historiografii, ktorej autori sú vo veľkej väčšine podmienení existujúcou literatúrou v odborných knižniciach ich domovských štátov. Mnohé významné knižnice Európy aj zámoria totiž boli všetkými česko-slovenskými vládami od roku 1920 až do najnovších čias bohato zásobované ich propagačnou zdanlivo vedeckou literatúrou čechoslovakistického zamerania v cudzích jazykoch, po ktorej podnes sťahujú tí, čo potrebujú získať dajaké poznatky o našich dejinách. V týchto posledných desaťročiach však ani jedna z vlád Slovenskej republiky nepokračovala v podobnej, najmä pre mladý štát životne dôležitej kultúrnej propagačnej činnosti.

O objektívny obraz prvej Slovenskej republiky sa v zahraničí doposiaľ pokúšali iba niekoľkí neslovenskí autori, ktorých diela však nikto nespriístupnil Slovákom v ich rodnom jazyku. Jedným z najdôveryhodnejších takýchto autorov bol bezpochyby švajčiarsky diplomat

Dr. rer. pol. Hans Keller. Bol to ekonomický expert švajčiarskej vlády, ktorý asi ako jediný cudzinec práve zo svojich profesionálnych funkcií mohol a musel osobne sledovať politické udalosti na Slovensku od samého rozpadu Česko-Slovenska a vzniku prvej Slovenskej republiky až do 8. apríla 1945, keď ho v Bratislave „ruský kapitán od polície v zelenej čiapke“ pod hrozbou zastrelenia na mieste v budove švajčiarskeho konzulátu dal s inými diplomatmi vyviezť na otvorenom nákladnom aute cez Maďarsko, Rumunsko a Bulharsko až na hranice Turecka. O okolnostiach tejto sedem týždňovej deportácie ešte ani v roku 1980 sa necítil písomne vyjadrovať. Po dobrodružnom návrate do svojej vlasti švajčiarska vláda ho definitívne zaradila do svojich diplomatických služieb, v ktorých dosiahol najvyšší stupeň veľvyslanca, najprv v Pekingu (1962 – 1966) a potom v Belehrade (1967 – 1974). Dr. Keller už ako dôchodca rád prednášal a písal o svojich bohatých a v mnohom ohľade jedinečných skúsenostiach na Slovensku, kde pôsobil po celý čas trvania Slovenskej republiky.

Jeho texty, v slovenských prekladoch, predstavujú fundované svedectvo zahraničného diplomata na základe jeho vlastných osobných pozorovaní a zážitkov. Práve pre tento svoj jedinečný charakter toto svedectvo môže prispieť na vytvorenie oveľa objektívnejšieho obrazu prvej Slovenskej republiky, než ako ju predstavuje značná časť bežnej slovenskej aj zahraničnej historiografie, a tým nám pomôcť priblížiť sa k pravde.

Milan S. Ďurica

Vyhlásenie nezávislosti 14. marca 1939

Tiso medzitým pochopil, že nebezpečenstvá v slovenskom priestore hrozivo narástli. Povesti o rozdelení Slovenska medzi susedné štáty, alebo ešte horšie o zriadenie ďalšieho nemeckého protektorátu, a to na Slovensku, vyžadovali rýchle konanie. Ako najmenej zlé sa zdalo byť, vo vtedajších okolnostiach, oddelenie sa od Protektorátu Česko a Morava a teda vytvorenie samostatného a nezávislého Slovenského štátu. Toto riešenie Slovenský snem jednohlasne odsúhlasil v historickej chvíli 14. marca 1939.

Ako málo bolo aj bezprostredné Hitlerovo okolie pripravené na dianie na Slovensku vyplýva aj z neistoty štátov spriaznených s Treťou ríšou - Talianskom a Japonskom. Samotný Hitler, hoci bol Rakúšanom a teda musel mať aké-také informácie o Slovensku, mal až do polovice marca iba hmlisté predstavy o tamojších pomeroch a ich význame pre Strednú Európu. O to väčšie muselo byť v Berlíne rozčarovanie z toho, že Tiso sa zdráhal pristúpiť na ich prehnane požiadavky. Bratislavský snem sa síce masívnemu Hitlerovmu tlaku musel podvoliť, ale proklamovanú nezávislosť vzal tak vážne, že z toho často vznikali dokonca aj pre Treťiu ríšu neočakávané problémy. Tiso a Ďurčanský veľmi šikovne využili želané predstavy Berlína o slovenskom „modelovom štáte“ v takej miere, ktorú môže posúdiť iba ten, kto mohol z bezprostrednej blízkosti - teda priamo zo Slovenska, sledovať predvojnové dianie.

Ochranná zmluva s Hitlerom

Ešte v ten istý deň, keď Slovenský snem vyhlásil nezávislosť, odmietla Bratislava vojenskú pomoc Berlína, ktorú jej doručil zvláštny posol Keppler. Odôvodnené to bolo tým, že na Slovensku vládne úplný pokoj a úrady sú v stave zaručiť bezpečnosť štátu a jeho hraníc. Slovenské sebavedomie značne posilnil aj fakt, že Maďarsko a Poľsko prekvapujúco rýchlo - už 15. marca, diplomaticky uznali Slovensko. Toto mohlo prispieť k záveru, že Hitler by mohol Tisu predsa len prinútiť požiadať o pomoc, ktorú doteraz odmietal. V sprievode Ribbentropa a generála Keitela vydal sa Führer do Viedne, kde najskôr Tiso a Ďurčanský s Ribbentropom a Keitelom odváňe obhajovali slovenskú suverenitu proti možným nemeck-

ým nárokom. Aj potom, keď vstúpil Hitler a Keitel znovu predniesol vojenské požiadavky na Slovensko, zostal Tiso neoblomný, zdvihol sa a pohol na odchod. Až teraz konečne našiel Hitler správne slová, ktoré Tisu pohli k tomu aby vyslovil zásadný súhlas s ochrannou zmlouvou s Treťou ríšou. Tiso ju podpísal v Bratislave 18. marca, ale až potom, čo snem bol uzrozmnený s garantami danými Hitlerom (garantované hranice, úplná národná, kultúrna a hospodárska samostatnosť a samostatný slovenský život). Hitlerovi sa však podarilo v jednom tajnom dodatku k protokolu presadiť prednostné právo pre nemecké sily. Tým sa značne oslabila slovenská suverenita a časom sa tak umožnili aj početné prechmaty oficiálnych, ale aj iných orgánov, najmä etnických Nemcov.

Tiso a jeho okolie si boli dobre vedomí týchto rizík, ale videli situáciu v daných okolnostiach tak, že bolo nutné akceptovať určité ústupky, aby sa zabránilo najhoršiemu. Bratislava sa s ťažkými časmi výborne popasovala a intenzívne sa snažila ochrániť najdôležitejšie hospodárske, kultúrne a sociálne záujmy novej republiky.

Akou problematickou bola Hitlerova ochrana sa ukázalo už 23. marca, keď maďarské vojská prenikli na východné Slovensko. Ale už nasledujúci deň boli Slovámi zastavené a Tiso mohol vyhlásiť, že jeho krajina nemusela požiadať Nemecko o pomoc, pretože Slovensko si samo dokázalo ubrániť svoje hranice.

Vzápätí Berlín prinútil Bratislavu a Budapešť k rokovaniu a napriek údajnej spoľahlivosti nemeckej ochrany Slovensko utrpelo ďalšie straty na svojom území i obyvateľstve. Táto nešťastná epizóda mala však aj svoju dobrú stránku: Slováci sa poučili, ako málo sa dá spoľahnúť na Nemeckú ochranu. Táto skúsenosť bola dôvodom a vysvetlením toho, ako tvrdošijne Bratislava pri neskorších rokovaniach trvala na svojich požiadavkách. Týkalo sa to aj malých zón na slovenských západných hraniciach, kde sa nemecké jednotky snažili natrvalo uchýtiť. Tým sa ukázala aj sila slovenského vojska. V týchto bodoch boli slovenskí vyjednávači verní prikázaným inštrukciám a napriek nemeckým radám „byť rozumnými“ neochvejne sa pridŕžovali svojich pozícií, čím nepochybne preukázali svojej vlasti neoceniteľné služby, i keď to Bratislava z pochopiteľných dôvodov nemohla „roztrúbiť do sveta“.

Štát s kresťanskými zásadami

V auguste 1939 Slovensko bolo už podľa medzinárodného práva uznané 19 štátmi. Viaceré menovali do Bratislavy svojich diplomatických alebo konzulárnych zástupcov, medzi prvými aj Svätá Stolica. Ochrannou zmlouvou obmedzená suverenita nebola vnútropoliticky vôbec citelná a nezabránila novej republike razantne budovať svoje štátne inštitúcie. K tomu patrili armáda, polícia, colná správa, národné symboly a zástava, mena, poštové služby so svojimi prekrásnymi slovenskými známkami, atď.

Keď Berlín vyzval Slovensko, aby sa zúčastnilo na ťažení proti Poľsku a tak si vydobylo naspäť slovenské regióny, ktoré mu ono v novembri 1938 zabralo, musela vláda v Bratislave partnerovi ochrannej zmluvy vyhovieť. Tiso si však okamžite vyžiadala principiálny prísľub reciprocity. V tomto bode obratom obdržal satisfakciu z Berlína, ktorý bol s týmto slovenským postojom veľmi spokojný. Keď však Hitler chcel Slovákom darovať dodatočný územný podiel na tejto poľskej koristi, Tiso to rázne odmietol. Vzhľadom na kresťanské princípy, ktoré si katolícki i evanjelickí teológovia veľmi cenili, Tiso sa jednoznačne zriekol anektovať etnicky neslovenské územia.

Takéto manifestácie kresťanskej etiky samozrejme nepasovali do vtedajšieho berlínskeho konceptu, ale hodili sa na to, aby formulovali výhrady proti Tisovi a jeho spolupracovníkom. Najdôležitejšími cieľmi nemeckej kritiky boli okrem samotného Tisu aj Ďurčanský - minister zahraničných vecí a vnútra a J. M. Kirschbaum - generálny tajomník Hlinkovej strany.

Text vyšiel pôvodne v časopise *Geschichte historisches Magazin Nr. 69, März-April 1985, s. 14 - 23* pod titulom „Die kurzen Jahre der Slowakischen Republik“.

Z nemčiny preložil Jozef Rác. (Dr. rer. pol. Hans Keller po svojich štúdiách vstúpil do diplomatických služieb Švajčiarskej konfederácie. Najskôr pôsobil ako obchodný delegát vo Viedni, neskôr v Bratislave (1939 - 1945). Svoju kariéru ukončil ako veľvyslanec v Pekingu (1962 - 1966) a v Belehrade (1967 - 1974).

(Text skrátený – Redakcia Jednoty)

14. MAREC

Milé sestry, milí bratia,
od detí do starca,
dobrý Slováč oslavuje
štrnásteho marca.

Kto by nám chcel tento sviatok
dnes vytrhať z duší,
ten pomáha nepriateľom,
vlastný národ hluší.

Komu by bol tento sviatok
nemilý a kyslý,
taký je nie dobrý Slováč,
ten na zradu myslí.

Kto si Slováč, buď na stráži,
pravdu musí brániť
a štrnásty marec nikdy
nedovoľuj haniť.
Pripravte sa všetci na boj
i na ťažké skúšky –
dar slobody nepadne nám
ako zrelé hrušky.

A kto by dnes tento sviatok
zatajiť nám radil,
prašivá je z neho ovca,
bo svoj národ zradil.

Nepriateľov mnoho máme,
ale v svornom šiku
my si zasa dobyjeme
našu Republiku.

Lebo kto sa štrnásteho
marca ľahko zriekol,
ten nedrží so Slováčmi,
ten s Benešom piekol.

Ten je vstave národ predať
za žraniva misu,
aj keby mal plné ústa
prezidenta Tisu.

A keď príde deň víťazstva
po skončenom boji,
veniec slávy bude patriť
vojakovi v zbroji.

Za štrnásty marec Tiso
viedol národ v boji,
preto dneska oslavuje,
ten kto s Tisom stojí.

Zástava nám zas zaveje
ponad rodné mestá
a pod krokom nášho vojska
zvonit' bude cesta.

Za štrnásty marec Tiso
vlastný život zložil,
aby národ znova povstal,
aby znova ožil.

Ale národ opovrhne
od mladých po starca,
toho, čo sa dneska zrieka
štrnásteho marca.

Ján Okál'
Veľký kalendár kocúra

Púť zalúbených v Šaštíne



Foto: TK KBS/ Miroslav Lisinovič

Púť zalúbených v Šaštíne sa uskutočnila tretí raz 13. 02. 2010, tohtoročné stretnutie nieslo motto: Malé veci s veľkou láskou!

Mladí sa rozhodli na Valentína žiť čisto do svadby

Sto päťdesiat párov si počas sobotnej svätej omše (13. 2. 2010) v národnej Bazilike Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne predsavzalo žiť čisto až do svadby. V predsavzatí zneli slová o tom, že chlapec chce mať v úcte telo dievčaťa, vidieť v nej mamu ich budúcich detí a chrániť jej nehu a krehkosť. Dievča zasa vyjadrilo predsavzatie, že chce chrániť priateľove silné túžby, dodávať mu silu a stáť za ním.

Program začal už v piatok večer a pripravené boli prednášky, koncerty, diskusie, zaujímaví hostia. „To všetko bolo však až na pozadí, keďže ide o púť, mladí prišli na pútnické miesto najmä ďakovať a prosiť za svoj vzťah, načerpať sily do ďalších mesiacov. Celý program im v tom mal pomôcť,“ zdôraznila Mariana Šarpatakyová, členka organizačného tímu.

Púť zalúbených sa uskutočnila tretí raz, tohtoročné stretnutie nieslo motto: Malé veci s veľkou láskou!

TK KBS



Spomienková oslava Slovenskej štátnosti v N.Y.C

Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana a Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu Slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 14. marca 2010 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East, 66th Street, v New York City.

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

Program Osláv slovenskej štátnosti:

Modlitba: Rev Martin Svitan, farár Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, NYC.

Americká a Slovenská štátna hymna

Báseň: Henrieta H. Daitová

Otvorenie a predstavenie hostí: Milan R. Dait, predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Slávnostný rečník

Hudobná vložka: Rado Lesay

Pozdravy oficiálnych hostí

Báseň: Henrieta H. Daitová

Hudobná vložka: Rado Lesay

Záver: Nina Holá, tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Na koniec programu : God Bless America a Hej Slováci

Presný program bude pripravený pre všetkých účastníkov osláv.

Po programe bude možnosť zakúpenia slovenského jedla a občerstvenia v otvorenom bare.

Blížšie informácie: Milan Dait (201) 641- 8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 463 – 2084. Vstup bude voľný.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku, že členská schôdza sa uskutoční v nedeľu 11. apríla 2010 o 12:30 hodine po slovenskej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Žiadame láskavo všetkých našich členov o hojnú účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Zomrela Jozefína Surová 1912 - 2010

V kanadskom Montreale po dlhej a trápnej nemoci v domove paliatívnej opatery, 26. januára 2010, umrela Jozefína (Jožka) Surová rod. Fodorová v úctyhodnom veku 98 rokov.

Jozefína, či Jožka, ako ju volali jej známi, pochádza zo stredného Slovenska z obce Valaska pri Brezne nad Hronom, kde sa narodila 23. júna 1912. V roku 1929, 17-ročná, odišla do Kanady k príbuzným v Montreale, kde prežila celý svoj život. Štyri roky po príchode do Kanady vydala sa za Štefana Suru, prominentného staviteľa luxusných domov, komerčných a industriálnych budov s prírmením „Sura build“, hlavného účastníka a spolustaviteľa impozantného Slovenského Domu v Montreale na rohu ulíc Jen Talon a Hutchison. Postupom rokov Slovenský Dom dostal sa do zdanlivo nevyriešiteľnej finančnej krízy, následkom čoho po 30-ročnej slovenskej existencii prešiel do neslovenského vlastníctva. Spolu prežili vyše 50 rokov v manželstve. Poznajúc moju vlasteneckú, novinársku a spolkársku činnosť v kanadsko-slovenskom spoločenstve, zavďačila sa mi básnickou epopejou Andreja Sládkoviča – Marína.

Za starostlivou matkou a starou matkou smútia synovia Steve a John, dcéra Lilian (Wilsonová), početne rozvetvená rodina i našinci staršej emigrácie a mladej generácie, slovenského etnika v Montreale. Pohreb mala 2. februára 2010 v kostole Saint Edmund v Beaconsfield, Que. Pochovaná bola na cintoríne Notre Dame de Neige v Montreale, vedľa svojho manžela, ktorý ju predišiel do večnosti 15. decembra 1983.

Nech odpočíva v pokoji v svojej adoptovanej domovine!

Štefan Hreha
Montréal, QC.



Jarná tanečná zábava v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Vás pozýva na Jarnú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu dňa 25. apríla 2010 po svätej omši o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$ 25.00. V cene vstupenky je započítané hlavné jedlo, káva a koláč. V priebehu zábavy bude losovaná tombola a predstavia sa aj deti zo slovenskej školy. Zabávať Vás bude hudobná skupina Jozefa Jurášiho – Kontakty. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke medailoví slovenskí olympijskí biatlonisti vľavo zlatá a strieborná Anastasia Kuzminová, vpravo bronzový Pavol Hurajt na XXI. zimnej olympiáde Vancouver 2010 22. februára 2010 vo Vancouveri.

Anastasia Kuzminova and Pavol Hurajt proudly display their Olympic medals in front of the Slovak Representative House in Vancouver. Anastasia Kuzminova received the Gold and Silver Medal in the Biathlon and Pavol Hurajt the Bronze Medal in the Biathlon.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič** 10. februára v Prezidentskom paláci poveril Františka Dlhopolčeka a Ivana Lančariča vedením diplomatických misií Slovenskej republiky. František Dlhopolček povedie diplomatickú misiu SR v Čínskej ľudovej republike a Ivan Lančarič v Kuvajtskom štáte. Na slávnostnom akte odovzdávania poverovacích listín sa zúčastnil aj minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák. Prezident vyzdvihol, že diplomati budú Slovensko zastupovať v krajinách, s ktorými má dobré vzťahy. Zároveň dezinovanému veľvyslancovi zdôraznil, že bude v tejto krajine pôsobiť v čase, keď Slovensko potrebuje rozvíjať svoj trh a obchodnú spoluprácu s touto svetovou veľmocou.

• **Slovensko** bude po prvý raz v histórii hostiť golfový turnaj The Ladies European Tour (LET). Ministerstvo školstva preto predložilo do pripomienkového konania návrh na podporenie podujatia v hodnote 580,000 eur. Inauguračný turnaj Ladies Slovak Open sa uskutoční 27. až 30. mája na golfovom ihrisku Gray Bear, ktoré prevádzkuje akciová spoločnosť Tále. Ministerstvo školstva turnaj ako taký podporuje, pretože golf bude v roku 2016 jednou z olympijských disciplín. Rezort v rámci svojej športovej politiky podporuje všetky olympijské športy. Ladies Slovak Open, ktorý sa s celkovou dotáciou 350,000 eur radí medzi najlepšie dotované v seriáli LET, privíta 126 hráčok. Víťazka si odnesie sumu 52,500 eur.

• **Tri štátne železničné spoločnosti** by sa mali v roku 2012 spojiť do jednej firmy - Slovenské železnice, a. s. Ide o Železnice Slovenskej republiky (ŽSR), Železničnú spoločnosť Slovensko, a. s. (ZSSK) a Železničnú spoločnosť Cargo Slovakia, a. s. (ZSSK Cargo). Vyplýva to legislatívneho zámeru usporiadania týchto spoločností, ktorý vypracoval rezort dopravy. Už v priebehu tohto roka sa osobitným zákonom založí holdingová spoločnosť Slovenské železnice. Zároveň sa práve ZSSK a ZSSK Cargo majetkovo aj personálne prepoja s touto firmou. ŽSR sa prepoja zatiaľ iba personálne. Následne sa v priebehu roka 2011 vytvorí dcérske firmy ZSSK a ZSSK Cargo. Na tie budú prevedené nepotrebné aktíva a výkon tých úloh, ktoré nepredstavujú činnosti v rámci hlavného predmetu ich podnikania (core business). Momentálne je ZSSK železničnou spoločnosťou pôsobiace v osobnej doprave. ZSSK Cargo sa zameriava na nákladnú dopravu. ŽSR je správcou železničnej infraštruktúry.

• **Manželka** prezidenta SR Silvia Gašparovičová sa 10. februára stala novou čestnou prezidentkou Slovenského Červeného kríža (SČK). Prvá dáma poďakovala za túto príležitosť a vyjadrila ochotu pomáhať Slovenskému Červenému krížu. Silvia Gašparovičová v ten istý deň prijala v Prezidentskom paláci najvyšších predstaviteľov Slovenského Červeného kríža, ktorí ju informovali o aktivitách organizácie, problémoch a cieľoch v najbližšom období.

• **Šesť** stoviek fašiangových masiek z Rajeckej doliny, okolia Považskej Bystrice, Oravy, Kysúc či českej Plzne 12. februára obdivovali Žilinčania počas sprievodu centrom mesta, ktorý bol súčasťou programu 6. ročníka medzinárodného festivalu fašiangových masiek Carneval Slovakia Žilina. Spoluorganizátor festivalu a fotograf Ivan Köhler v maske samozvaného prezidenta karnevalu pripomenul, že symbolom fašiangov na Slovensku je turoň. Podľa primátora Žiliny Ivana Harmana sú fašiangy dňami oddychu, zábavy, veselosti. „Žilina a okolie je veľmi bohaté na fašiangové a ľudové tradície. Súčasťou karnevalu sú aj pre fašiangy typické výrobky, či už mäsové alebo ľudovo umelecké. Celý program významne prekračuje hranice regiónu a jeho súčasťou je aj cezhraničná spolupráca s poľskými a českými partnermi.“

• **Kontrakt** na dodávku technologických zariadení v objeme takmer 2 milióny eur nedávno podpísala trenčianska spoločnosť Konštrukta - Industry, a. s., s indickým výrobcom pneumatík JK Tyre & Industrie. Ako informovala PR manažérka spoločnosti Zlata Plšková, kontrakt s indickým výrobcom osobných a nákladných oceľových pneumatík zahŕňa dodávku strihacej linky oceľokordov pre nárazník a strihaciu linku oceľokordov pre kostru, ktoré budú umiestnené v novovybudovanom závode v Chennai. Pre druhý závod v Mysore rozšíri strihaciu linku oceľokordu dodanú Konštrukťou v roku 2008, čím sa zvýši jej kapacita o asi 60 %.

• **Nový Volkswagen Touareg**, ktorého krivky odhalil nemecký koncert v stredu 11. februára v Mníchove, sa do predaja dostane najskôr v apríli. Už teraz sa rozbieha jeho montáž v bratislavskom závode a Slovensko bude jedinou krajinou, kde sa bude táto všestranná novinka skladať. Vďaka novému Volkswagenu Touareg sa bratislavský závod stane prvým na Slovensku, kde sa budú vyrábať hybridné autá poháňané elektromotorom. Počet zamestnancov sa nezmení. Z dôvodu montáže nového auta však museli prejsť technologickou úpravou karosáreň, lakovňa i linka. Pri výrobe sa budú viac využívať stroje.

• **Zbierka** pre zemetrasením postihnuté Haiti sa stala najväčšou slovenskou zbierkou pre zahraničie. Mimovládka a cirkvi vyzbierali podľa už približne 1.76 milióna eur (53 miliónov korún). Prekonala sa tak aj finančná pomoc po cunami v Ázii z konca roku 2004. Najviac peňazí na Haiti pôjde z kostolov. Do zvončekov vyzbierala cirkev na omšiach za dva týždne už vyše jedného milióna eur. Biskupi venovali Haiti nedeľu 24. januára v kostoloch po celom Slovensku. Vyzbierané peniaze majú ísť na siroty, pre zdravotníkov, ale aj na projekty obnovy krajiny.

• **Americký reťazec** s rýchlym občerstvením Burger King príde na Slovensko. Prvá pobočka by mal otvoriť už o niekoľko týždňov. Premiérovým miestom reťazca by mal byť bratislavský spoločensko-obchodný bulvár Eurovea. Ten začne fungovať koncom marca a s ním by prevádzku rýchleho občerstvenia na Slovensku mal spustiť aj Burger King. Konkurenciou pre McDonald's by mala byť aj česká spoločnosť Paneria, ktorá nedávno takisto ohlásila príchod na Slovensko. V jej ponuke sú napríklad klasické bagety, talianske ciabatty či francúzske croissanty. Na zápas s novou konkurenciou sa pripravuje aj McDonald's, ktorý plánuje tento rok na Slovensku otvoriť ďalších päť "fast-food" pobočiek.

• **Podpredseda** vlády SR pre vedomostnú spoločnosť, európske záležitosti, ľudské práva a menšiny Dušan Čaplovič očakáva, že spustenie televízneho vysielania pre zahraničných Slovákov sa podarí v tomto kalendárnom roku. Čaplovič na tému slovenského televízneho vysielania v zahraničí rokovo nedávno s predsedníčkou Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilmou Privarovou. Výsledkom ich diskusie bol náčrt obsahového zamerania, programovej štruktúry a technických riešení. Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí sa zaoberá možnosťou satelitného aj internetového vysielania. Televízne vysielanie pre zahraničných Slovákov preto považuje aj za otázku efektívnych technických riešení.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Zomrel rímskokatolícky kňaz a básnik Svetoslav Veigl

Bratislava (TASR) - Vo veku 94 rokov zomrel 17. februára rímskokatolícky kňaz, básnik, príslušník katolíckej moderny a člen Spolku slovenských spisovateľov Svetoslav Veigl. Pohrebné obrady vykonal bratislavský arcibiskup, metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský v sobotu 20. februára v Kráľovej pri Senci.

Pôvodným menom Ferdinand Veigl sa narodil 24. decembra 1915 v Horňanoch, gymnáziá navštevoval v Ružomberku, Levoči a v Malackách, kde zmaturoval. Ako sedemnásťročný vstúpil v Trnave do rehole Sv. Františka Assiského, kde prijal meno Clárus, ktoré používal v poslovenčenej forme Svetoslav. Bohosloveckú fakultu študoval v Salzburgu v rokoch 1936-1937 a v Bratislave v rokoch 1937-1940, slovenčinu a filozofiu na Filozofickej fakulte Slovenskej univerzity, kde získal doktorát z filozofie. Za kňaza bol vysvätený 16. júna 1940. Po ukončení štúdií vyučoval na gymnáziu v Malackách (1944-1946) a v Bardejove (1947-1949). Po nastúpení totalitného režimu musel zanechať vyučovanie a prišiel do františkánskeho kláštora v Trnave. Keď v roku 1950 po barsbarskej noci zrušili kláštory a rehoľníkov internovali, stal sa správcom fary v Trnave na Tulipáne, kde pôsobil do roku 1959, následne bol až do roku 1977 kňazom v Abraháme. Od roku 1978 až do svojej smrti pôsobil na rímskokatolíckej fari v Kráľovej pri Senci.

Ako básnik katolíckej moderny získal Svetoslav Veigl za svoju tvorbu niekoľko ocenení: v roku 2002 Cenu J. C. Hronského za celoživotné básnické dielo v rámci katolíckej moderny (udelená Nadáciou Matice Slovenskej) a rovnako aj Cenu Spolku slovenských spisovateľov za zbierku Nebo na zemi.

Prvá básnická zbierka Cestami vetrov mu vyšla v roku 1938, medzi poslednými to bola v roku 1997 zbierka Doma pod oknami, v roku 2000 Plnosť času. V tom istom roku mu vyšiel aj výber z celoživotného básnického diela Nerušte túto ružu. Svojimi básňami rovnako prispieval do rôznych časopisov a novín (Slovenské pohľady, Elán, Kultúra, Pero, Verbum a iné).



Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič na návrh vlády SR udelil 1. januára 2006 Svetoslavovi Veiglovi Pribinov kríž I. triedy za významné zásluhy o kultúrny rozvoj Slovenskej republiky v oblasti literatúry.

On January 1, 2006 Svetoslav Veigl was awarded the Pribina Cross by President Ivan Gasparovic.

Svetoslav VEIGL (24.12. 1915 - 17.02. 2010)

Básnická zbierka : KLOPEM A VOLÁM (1996)

UŽ SKORO SKONČÍM

Už skoro skončím
výlet na tejto Zemi
z náhorných končín
vypadnem nemý

dám vale svetu
ni slzy bôle hnev
s vami sa lúčim
viac nemajú tam miesta
už requiem znie tu
posledných lúčín

čo kvitli na úbočí
a spievali jak žlna
keď k svojim vkročí
a donesie im zrna

Po mne aj vy sa dáte
na cestu za mnou skoro
v úpornom chvate
za osirelou horou

NETREBA ČÍSLO RODNÉ

Netreba číslo rodné
v nebi sú všetci svätí
i všetky cesty schodné
len láska im tam svieti

ni slzy bôle hnev
viac nemajú tam miesta
Od Adama a Evy
tá istá beží cesta

Pred večným Božím okom
sa všetky časy zmenia
v objatí čistých tokov
pominú utrpenia

skončíme v láske Božej
spadne zo srdca kameň
Buď chvála Tebe Bože
na veky vekov Amen

Stále viac Slovákov poberá dávku v hmotnej núdzi

Bratislava (TASR) - Stále viac Slovákov je odkázaných na dávku v hmotnej núdzi a príspevky k nej. V januári ich bolo 181,990, čo štát stálo takmer 22.44 milióna eur. Informovalo o tom 18. januára Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (ÚPSVaR) SR. Medziročne sa počet poberateľov dávky zvýšil o 13.6 %, konkrétne o 24,744. Najviac je ich v okresoch s najvyššou mierou nezamestnanosti, teda Revúca, Rimavská Sobota a Rožňava. Najhoršie čísla dosiahla v januári Rimavská Sobota, 33.58 % ľudí bez práce, pričom slovenský priemer je 12.89 %.

Zo všetkých, ktorí dostávajú dávku v hmotnej núdzi, je v evidencii uchádzačov o zamestnanie 64.07 %. Ich počet sa medziročne zvýšil o 30.23 %.

Celkovo sa na sociálnych dávkach a príspevkoch vyplatilo v prvom mesiaci tohto roka 92.19 milióna eur. Najviac išlo na podporu rodiny, konkrétne takmer 52.21 miliónov eur. Ide o prídavky na deti, rodičovský príspevok či odmenu pre pestúna.

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Kardinál Tomko slovenským pútnikom:

„Zákon nesmie ísť proti svedomiu“

Taliansko/Slovensko (RV) – Dňa 16. februára, predpoludním v Bazilike Santa Maria Maggiore celeburoval kardinál Jozef Tomko pre pútnikov zo Slovenska, zastupujúcich kresťanské laické inštitúcie, svätú omšu ku cti sv. Cyrila a Metoda.

V úvode homílie v kontexte púte ku hrobu sv. Cyrila spomenul základné historické skutočnosti na objasnenie toho, čo znamená dedičstvo otcov, čo znamená putovať po stopách apoštolov. Zdôraznil, že sv. Cyril a Metod nie sú mytologické postavy, ale živé osoby, ktoré nám čosi priniesli, a to v takej nádhernej forme. Evanjelium, to sú hodnoty kresťanské a zároveň ľudské, čosi, čo zišlo do spoločnosti, či kultúrnej, či politickej... Na adresu kresťanských laických združení a hnutí povedal: „To je to dôležité, aby vaše hnutia vedeli premeniť túto silu, osvojiť si tieto hodnoty a priniesť do každodenného života, tam kde žijete. Vy ste v rodinách, vychovávate deti, vy ovplyvňujete prácu na pracovisku, učíte po školách, volíte si reprezentantov, ktorí tvoria zákony.“ Kardinál Tomko spomenul nebezpečenstvo, na ktoré upozornil nedávno Svätý Otec, že štát si stále viac nárokuje dávať normy základným otázkam smrti a života: „Štát zo seba robí etickú, mravnú autoritu, určuje čo je dobro, čo zlo?“ A pokračoval: „Zákon nesmie ísť proti prirodzenému zákonu, svedomiu. Toto nie je pokračovanie v evanjelizačnom úsilí sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Aj štát musí rešpektovať prirodzené právo, Božie právo, potrebuje sa oprieť o etiku, inak bude ničiť spoločnosť, človeka. Človek bez Boha stratí kompas. To je vaše poslanie – o týchto hodnotách - podstatných, veď ide o život a smrť – svedčiť. Dvadsať rokov slobody prešlo. Čo sa za tých 20 rokov vykonalo, je veľa krásneho, aj vďaka vašim spoločenstvám, ale veľa treba ešte urobiť, aby to dedičstvo otcov žilo. O čo ide? Ide o kresťanstvo, ktoré sa žije, žije všade, žije v spoločnosti, v kultúre, politike, v parlamente. To je hlavné kritérium, podľa ktorého si musíte vyberať ľudí vy, voliči. Odnesme si presvedčenie, že aj viera sa musí pestovať, prehľbovať. Náboženstvo nie je privátna záležitosť, musí ovplyvňovať verejnosť. Na to ste vy, toto je úloha katolíckych hnutí.“

V závere príhovoru otec kardinál upozornil na jeden z alarmujúcich faktov situácie v našej krajine:

„Trebá si uvedomiť: 43 % manželstiev sa rozvádza na Slovensku. Čo chceme robiť, čo budeme robiť, s akým duchom, s akou odvahou? S odvahou prinášajte pre to aj obeť, to je dôležité. Tak nech nám Pán Boh pomáha.“

Volím zo zahraničia – Partnerský program

Vážený občania Slovenskej republiky!

Vážený krajan v zahraničí!

Vážený priateľ!

V prílohe si Vám dovoľujeme zaslať kompletný postup, aj so žiadosťou, AKO VOLÍŤ ZO ZAHRANIČIA pre občanov Slovenskej republiky, ktorí MAJÚ trvalý pobyt na území Slovenskej republiky a v čase volieb sa zdržiavajú dlhodobo mimo jej územia.

Všetky potrebné informácie ako voliť zo zahraničia nájdete na stiahnutie aj na našej stránke

<http://slovenskamigracia.sk/sk/6/dokumenty-a-materialy>

Pre všetkých, ktorí by sa radi pridali do nášho spoločného partnerského programu VOLÍM ZO ZAHRANIČIA, tu si môžete pozrieť všetky spolky, skupiny ľudí, ktorí sa už do programu zapojili

<http://slovenskamigracia.sk/sk/3/partnersky-program>

Ak by ste sa chceli pridať, pošlite nám vaše logo a linku na vašu stránku. Vieme vám poskytnúť banery VOLÍM ZO ZAHRANIČIA, podľa vašich kritérií, ale budeme radi aj keď len vyvesíte informácie o voľbe poštou na svojej stránke.

V roku 2006 odvolilo zo zahraničia len 3,417 občanov Slovenskej republiky. Odhadovaný počet Slovákov v zahraničí s volebným právom je 300 – 400 tisíc.

Veľmi by nás potešilo, keby sme spoločne dokázali, že slovenské zahraničie žije, je aktívne a má záujem o dianie vo svojej vlasti, na našom krásnom Slovensku.

S úctou a vďakou vašej pomoci

Ing. Ján Bilik, predseda Migrácie Sk

Slovenská biatlonistka Kuzminová sa stala olympijskou víťazkou

Whistler (TASR) - Slovenská biatlonistka Anastasia Kuzminová sa stala olympijskou víťazkou. V šprinte na 7.5 km finišovala vo Whistleri úžasným spôsobom, od druhej Nemky Magdaleny Neunerovej ju delilo 1.5 sekundy a od bronzovej Francúzky Marie Dorinovej 10.9 sekundy.)

V olympijskom parku vo Whistleri 25-ročná rodáčka z ruského Ťumenu šokovala biatlonovú verejnosť. Aj keď sa jej dosť verilo, po operácii dvoch zlomených zápästných kostičiek presne na Nový rok predsa len veľa času neuplynulo, aby všetkých okolo seba stopercentne presvedčila. Napriek krátkosti času na doladenie formy a úplnú rekonvalescenciu sa však obdivuhodne pripravila na deň D, ktorý priniesol slovenskému športu absolútnu zlatú radosť.

Anastasia Kuzminová v histórii olympijského šprintu sa stala šiestou šampiónkou v poradí, na každých ZOH figurovalo na výslni v tejto disciplíne iné meno. Po finiši v cieľi sa doširoka usmievala, nevediac ešte, či jej čas vystačí ani nie na zlato, ako na medailu. „Som strašne rada, že sa mi podarilo splniť takýto krásny cieľ, ktorému som v kútiku duše verila, no nahlas príliš nevyslovovala. Po prvom výstrele, ktorý som trochu strhla dole, som sa nevyplašila, ostatné rany som v pohode zvládla. Bežalo sa mi výborne, lyže som mala perfektne pripravené. Ani nervozitu som necítila, úplne zo mňa spadla asi polhodinu pred štartom.“

Ako sa odvíjal zlatý šprint u Anastasii Kuzminovej, vie najlepšie jej osobný tréner a prezident zväzu Juraj Sanitra. Podľa neho to bol fantastický výkon. „Úžasne sa koncentrovala. Dosť sme váhali, či ju máme nasadiť do prvej, alebo druhej skupiny na štarte. Podaril sa nám taktický variant, počas pretekov začalo pršať, sneh sa spomalil a znevýhodnil štartujúce s vysokými číslami. Bola to fantázia, Nasťa na strelnici zastrieľala úžasne, napriek tej jednej prvej tesnej rane. V našom žargóne ju dala podľa hodinového ciferníka dole na šiestku, ďalšie rany však zvládla obdivuhodne, tie stojkové dokonale rovno do stredu.“



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke zľava (manžel a tréner) Daniel Kuzmin, Slovenka Anastasia Kuzminová (získala striebornú medailu v biatlone žien na 10km) a šeftréner biatlonu Juraj Sanitra, 16. februára 2010 vo Whistleri.

Anastasia Kuzminova of Slovakia, captured the Silver Medal in the Biathlon at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Sharing the excitement are Daniel Kuzmin, her husband and trainer (left) and Juraj Sanitra, chief trainer. Anastasia Kuzminova also captured the Gold Medal in the Women's 7.5 Kilometer Sprint Biathlon.