

Jednota

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

HOME OFFICE
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-4310

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 & SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

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 **Friday, March 13, 2009, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. & Saturday, March 14, 2009, 9:00 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 4, 2009.**

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 4, 2009

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9400 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



National Secretary Kenneth Arendt presented a trophy to National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. for being the Society's Number 2 Producer of Total Points.

More Memories of the 2008 Membership Meet

The First Catholic Slovak Union held its 2008 Membership Meet aboard the Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas." Eighty-four members and their guests enjoyed the four night Bahamas Cruise on November 17-21, 2008.

More photos on page 3

Slovak Catholic Federation National Convention Opens April 26 in Allentown

The 57th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF) will be held Sunday, April 26 through Tuesday, April 28, 2009 in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. SCF National Conventions are generally held every four years.



The convention will open with a Liturgy of Thanksgiving on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Slovak

continued on page 5

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch/District Announcements.....	7,9
Obituaries.....	8
Sports.....	14-15
Slovak.....	20-24

FCSU LIFE

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 2 or 3 YEAR PAYMENT PLAN ON A SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

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- Interest free loan
- Affordable way to get life insurance
- 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.



Contact your local branch officer or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details. Visit us on the web at www.fcsu.com or email us at fcsu@aol.com

Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 15, 2009

Third Sunday of Lent

John 2:13-25

Gospel Summary

Since the Passover was near, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival with his fellow Jews. When he arrives at the temple area, he drives out those who were selling animals for sacrifice as

well as the money changers, saying, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." When the temple authorities (the "Jews") demanded a sign from Jesus for what he had done, he said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." After Jesus was raised from the dead his disciples remembered what he had said. They realized he was speaking of the temple of his body, and came to believe the Scripture and what he had spoken. John adds that Jesus was able to recognize true belief in him because he could read the human heart.

Life Implications

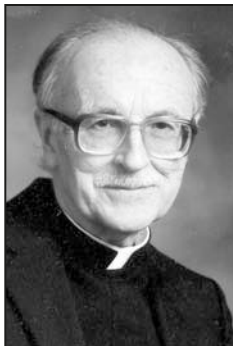
The idea of where one lives or dwells is perhaps the central theme of the fourth gospel. John begins his gospel by telling us that Jesus is the Word who became flesh and made his dwelling among us. "In the beginning" the Word was dwelling with God, and the Word was God. Immediately after his baptism in the Jordan, we hear the first words that Jesus speaks in the fourth gospel. He sees two disciples of John the Baptist following him and says to them, "What are you looking for?" They reply. "Rabbi, where do you dwell?" Jesus replies, "Come, and you will see."

We already are alerted to the fact that John's gospel is a gospel of incarnation. Its essence is sacramental or symbolic: the extraordinary is actualized in the ordinary. The eternal Word becomes present and is revealed by dwelling among us. Thus we realize that the disciples' question about where Jesus is dwelling is not merely about a street address somewhere in Galilee. When Jesus replies "Come, and you will see," we realize he also means seeing with the eyes of faith. When he speaks to his disciples, we realize he is also speaking to us.

The astonishing good news that Jesus reveals is that anyone who believes in him will dwell where he dwells, with the Father. John's gospel is the narrative of the signs that Jesus does so that those whom he encountered then, and those who hear the gospel now might believe and have life in him (20:30-31). John presents various types of people who refuse to see the "extraordinary" through the signs, and also the beloved disciples who do see and come to believe in Jesus.

Today's gospel is a prophetic warning so that we will not be like the temple authorities that do not see that Jesus is the one sent by God to dwell among us in new ways. Jesus' action in the temple is in the tradition of the prophets. They rebuked the people who thought they were safe by coming to the temple while committing all sorts of abominations (Jer 7). Jesus like the prophets before him loved the temple, but he is warning us that even the most holy created realities can become obstacles to believing in him and believing what he has spoken. The temple truly was the dwelling place of the divine presence: the holy place of prayer and communion with God. The temple authorities believed this, but they had narrowed their vision, and thus were unable to see that Jesus himself was the new temple. He himself is the indestructible dwelling place of the divine presence, of prayer and communion with God.

We can reduce the meaning of the Christian sacraments to suit our own purposes, and thus close our eyes to other signs of the divine presence to which the sacraments point.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

For Catholics the most holy sacrament of the Risen Lord's presence is the Bread of the Eucharist. It is possible to believe in this sacramental divine presence and at the same time to ignore what Jesus has spoken to us of his presence in the least of his brothers and sisters. It might give us pause to note that the criterion of final judgement that Jesus tells us about is not whether we recognize his presence in the Eucharist, but whether we respond with compassion to his presence in the least of his brothers and sisters (Mt 25:31-46).

March 22, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Lent

John 3:14-21

Gospel Summary

In today's gospel selection, Jesus continues his discussion with Nicodemus on the subject of baptism. It is important to note this because there is no explicit mention of baptism in this passage. This does not mean that the author has somehow lost his train of thought. What it does mean is that, though the water ritual of baptism is important, what really matters is the quality of faith on the part of the one who is being baptized.

Jesus gives us the wonderful good news that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." We are included in that world, and it should be most comforting to hear that we are loved by the One who is most capable of loving. But we must also notice that the liberating effect of that divine love will be available to us only to the degree that we believe. "Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned." It is of the greatest importance, therefore, that we understand what this believing means in our daily lives.

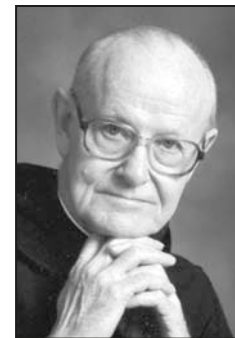
Life Implications

It is tempting to think that believing in Christ means simply that we affirm the creed, or that we agree that Jesus existed and worked miracles and died and rose from the dead. To accept these truths is important but this is not what is meant by "believing" in this passage. In fact, one can sincerely affirm all these facts theoretically and still live very selfishly. To believe in the One who was "lifted up" means nothing less than to make his self-offering part of our own lives through daily concern for others; it means to live unselfishly. This is the only kind of faith that will give us eternal life.

Most of us were baptized as infants with no conscious awareness of what was happening. Our sponsors promised, in our names, that we renounced Satan and affirmed Christ. It was hoped that our sponsors and others will explain all that to us when we became old enough to understand the very serious commitment made for us. Unfortunately, we usually expect our sponsors to do little more than to remember our birthdays...and often less than that.

The simple fact is that those baptized as infants must "claim" their own baptisms, as it were, as soon as they are old enough to do so, which usually means in early adulthood. The sacrament of baptism is not magic, and its graces become fully operative in our lives only to the extent that we accept and live the promises made years ago in our names.

When we promise to renounce Satan, we are declaring our firm resolution to eliminate from our lives the "big lie" of Satan, namely, that we can achieve happiness by thinking only of ourselves. And when we commit ourselves to Christ, we firmly resolve to follow his example of unselfish, thoughtful concern for others. When we are thus "lifted up" like Jesus on the cross of love, we can be sure that we will also be "raised up" with him in the victory of resurrection. Some may think that this takes all the fun out of life, but in reality the people who love in this way are the only truly happy people in the world. But we won't know that until we try it!



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians-1

Chapter 16 of the Acts of the Apostles tells us of the visit of Paul to Philippi, "a leading city in the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We spent some time in that city." (16:12)

Here in Acts, Luke tells of his presence with Paul. "It was while we were on our way out of the place that we met a slave girl who had a clairvoyant spirit." (vs.16) These verses are referred to as one of the "we-sections" in Acts where Luke writes as one of Paul's companions. The other sections are Acts 20:5-15, 21:1-18, and 27:1-29.

Acts 16 refers also to Lydia, "a dealer in purple goods," (vs. 14) and to her "house." (vs.40)

Paul's imprisonment, likewise, is recorded here. (vs. 19 and con-



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

tinuing)

continued on page 4

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ANTHONY X. SUTHERLAND, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com

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More Memories of the 2008 Membership Meet

continued from page 1



NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18	MONDAY, MARCH 9
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1	MONDAY, MARCH 23
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29	MONDAY, APRIL 20

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
 Anthony Sutherland, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com
 "JEDNOTA"
 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835
 FAX: (717) 944-3107



More photos page 19

Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

The citizens of Philippi enjoyed the right of Roman citizenship. The characteristic garment of a Roman citizen was the toga. There were five classes of this citizenship but Paul's was one of heredity. In Acts 22:28, Paul states, "...I am a citizen by birth," that is through his father. How his father became a citizen is a matter of speculation.

Philippians 1:13 reads, "My imprisonment in Christ's cause has become well known throughout the praetorium here, and to others as well..." A praetorium is the residence of the praetorium guard, an elite recruitment of Roman citizens. Originally, this guard was a private force of soldiers, apart from the army, which guarded the military generals and their tents. Praetorium referred to the tent of the commanding general or praetor of a Roman army in the field. In time, this guard became the protectors of the emperor and a part of palace life. Too, they were stationed throughout the empire to make sure there was no revolution against the emperor. Later, still, they could be bought to kill the emperor.

Paul got along well with the Philippians. "I give thanks to my God every time I think of you- which is constantly, in every prayer I utter- rejoicing, as I plead on your behalf at the way you have all continually helped promote the gospel from the very first day." (Philippians 1:3-5)

"God himself can testify how much I long for each of you with the affection of Christ Jesus!" (Philippians 1:8)

He goes on to describe other preachers of Jesus Christ.

"It is true, some preach Christ from motives of envy and rivalry, but others do so out of good will. Some act from unaffected love, aware that my circumstances provide an opportunity to defend the gospel's cause; others promote Christ, not from pure motives but as an intrigue against me, thinking that it will make my imprisonment even harsher." (Philippians 1:15-17)

He continues: "What of it? All that matters is that in any and every way, whether from specious motives or genuine ones, Christ is being proclaimed!" (Philippians 1:18)

Facing the possibility of a death sentence, he writes: "I have full confidence that now as always Christ will be exalted through me, whether I live or die. For, to me, 'life' means Christ; hence dying is so much gain. If, on the other hand, I am to go on living in the flesh, that means productive toil for me- and I do not know which to prefer. I am strongly attracted by both: I long to be freed from this life and to be with Christ, for that is the far better thing; yet it is more urgent that I remain alive for your sakes. This fills me with confidence that I will stay with you, and persevere with you all, for your joy and your progress in the faith." (Philippians 1:20-25) He is confident of his release from prison

"Do not be intimidated by your opponents in any situation. Their opposition foreshadows downfall for them, but salvation for you. All this is as God intends, for it is your special privilege to take Christ's part- not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him. Yours is the same struggle as mine, the one in which you formerly saw me engaged and now hear that I am caught up." (Philippians 1:28-30)

Paul was imprisoned more than once. (2 Corinthians 11:23- "with my many more labors and imprisonments.") From which imprisonment did he write this epistle to the Philippians? References to the "praetorium," (Philippians 1:13) and to "Caesar's service," (Philippians 4:22) suggest Rome. Other places of this imprisonment include Caesarea, Corinth and Ephesus, although there is no Pauline record of any Ephesian confinement. The fact remains that he wrote from prison to the Philippians.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009 THRU MARCH 31, 2009

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

The annual yield on new six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.50% (4.402% APR)

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.25% (4.162% APR)

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

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

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

please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

1-800-533-6682

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for March 2009

General Intention

Dignity of Women. That all nations of our world may grow in appreciation of the dignity and value of women and their roles in society. Pope Benedict XVI asks us to pray that the world may grow in its appreciation of the dignity of women. The Church has much to say on this topic- some question whether the Church has practiced what it has preached.

The Scriptures say: "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27). The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that men and women are equal in dignity, both expressing the goodness of God (369). Sadly, in this world both are often subjected to humiliation.

Women receive a disproportionate share of humiliation. If we ourselves haven't experienced it, we have all observed the humiliation of women in some form. Women are abused physically, economically, educationally, psychologically, and socially. Misogyny (disrespect for women) runs deep and long through many centuries all over the world, including our own. Just as the Church opposes racism, it opposes sexism. It wants us all to be aware of the prevailing disrespect for women and to pray, speak, and act to end it. Many criticize the Church for not going far enough, seeing, for example, its refusal to consider women's ordination as evidence of hypocrisy. Without time to review specific arguments, we need only to understand that "equal in dignity" does not mean men and women are the same. Each gender expresses the goodness of God in different ways, and each occupies different roles in society. Exactly what those roles are and can be we are still discovering. For indeed there was a time not long ago that well-meaning Christians believed that a lay woman's only role is that of homemaker. We are learning that women have gifts for many things.

But it's a mistake to think that women achieve equality when they do exactly what men do. Women and men complement each other in expressing different aspects of the image of God, equally valuable; so also men and women complement each other in their roles in society.

Pope Benedict and Pope John Paul II both spoke of the genius of women, recognizing in women, among other admirable traits, a tendency towards holiness, cultural sensitivity, and caring hearts and hands.

Reflectio. How may you show respect for a woman today?

Mission Intention

Church Unity in China. That all the bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity of the Catholic Church in China may strive to be instruments of unity, communion, and peace, as enjoined by the letter sent to them by Pope Benedict XVI.

Pope Benedict wrote a long letter to Chinese Catholics in the summer of 2007, and unity was its theme. He expressed happiness that the Church is emerging in China and, along with the nation itself, entering into a new relationship with the rest of the world.

The Pope asks us to pray for the unity of the Chinese Church because it is now divided. The official Church has its bishops appointed by the state. Meanwhile, an underground Church exists, with bishops appointed by the Vatican. The Pope understands that without unity between these two it will be difficult for the faith to grow in China.

Pope Benedict asked Chinese political leaders to recognize the "unrenounceable principles" of separation between Church and state, at the same time urging Chinese Church leaders to seek unity with the universal Church. Political and spiritual leaders both must act because the Chinese Church cannot achieve full unity with the Holy See as long as the state continues to appoint bishops. The Pope asked the Chinese political leaders to recognize that a Church anchored in Rome poses no threat to the state.

Although he addressed political problems, the Pope does not see the challenge of China so much as a political struggle as a spiritual duty. The Chinese Church must introduce people to Jesus Christ who died to take away the sins of the whole world and to restore all humanity to friendship with God. This relationship with God transcends politics and culture.

In his letter, our Holy Father expressed great respect and admiration for Chinese people, culture, and leaders. He said he hopes China will become a truly modern state, responsive to international agreements that ensure the rights of people and protect the environment.

We pray that the Chinese Church will unite with the whole Church to preach Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. He is with the Church always, already establishing the Kingdom of God among all peoples, making us one.

Reflectio. Why is unity so important for missionary work?



Artists Needed for Egg Eggstravaganza

Egg artists are needed for the 4th Egg Eggstravaganza which will take place on Sunday, March 29, 2009, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Social Hall, 201 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Activities include egg art demonstrations, displays, and sales of decorated eggs, a marketplace of egg decorating supplies, ethnic Easter basket items, children's activities, and a workshop on how to learn to decorate eggs. A Lenten lunch menu will be available including St. John's famous pirohy, various soups and more. For more information egg artists should call 724/438-6027 (Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) or 724/438-8412 (evenings).

MONEY MANAGEMENT

& TAX TIPS

By Joseph T. Senko

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



Be Financially Prepared for a Death in Family

What would happen to your family's finances if you or your spouse were to die unexpectedly? You would hope it would be easy for the surviving loved ones to get back on their feet financially. Here are some tips to ensure that your family is financially prepared to cope with a death in the family.

Write a will

Everyone should have a will that is kept in a secure location, such as your lawyer's office or a fire proof home safe. Wills are not just for the rich. They are important legal documents that ensure that your wishes are carried out and that your family can gain access to their inheritance without unnecessary delays.

Other Important Documents

Also, have other critical documents that are important for your family accessible in case of death or incapacitation. Review with a trusted advisor whether you should have a power of attorney, health care proxy, and living will, and review the status of life insurance policies to make sure the physical policy is accessible for your family upon your death and whether revisions are needed to the policies.

Keep Your Documents in Order

A surviving spouse must be able to write checks, apply for available insurance or pension benefits, and assess the family's overall financial situation. Therefore, make a habit of keeping your financial materials in order so family members can get their hands on the documents they need in an emergency. It's a good idea, for example, to keep a list of checking and savings account numbers, investment account information, life insurance policy details, and any other particulars that will clarify your financial situation.

Stay Informed

In many cases, the deceased spouse was in charge of the family finances and the surviving spouse has no idea where the family stands. In this situation, detailed instructions that provide information such as the contact person at each financial institution and any other valuable information about accounts is critical. Consider, too, listing all important assets- such as your home, savings and investment accounts- and regular liabilities- such as amount of the mortgage payment and other regular bills. This information will help the surviving spouse begin to actively manage the family finances.

Check Social Security Benefit

Family members may be eligible to receive Social Security survivor's benefits if you paid Social Security taxes and earned enough credits to qualify. The rules are complicated, but survivor's benefits generally can be paid to a spouse who is age 60 or older (or 50 or older if disabled) or to any spouse or ex-spouse who is caring for your child who is under 16 or disabled. Ex-spouses over 60 (or over 50 if disabled) are also eligible if the marriage lasted at least 10 years. Unmarried children under 18 (or under 19 if attending school full-time, up to grade 12) also qualify, as do dependent parents age 62 or older. You can learn more at the Social Security Administration Web site at www.ssa.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213. You should contact Social Security immediately after a spouse dies if you believe you qualify. Remember, a surviving spouse- or children if they are not married- may be eligible for a lump-sum benefit upon your death.



Youngstown Golf Leagues Call Organizational Meetings

The Thursday Jednota Golf League will hold an organizational meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Bedford Trails Golf Course. All members and new members are urged to attend. New golfers wishing to join the league may call Paul Ritz at 330/744-2377 or Gene Hvizdak at 330/755-0736.

The Friday Jednota Golf League will hold its organizational meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Knoll Run Golf Course. All members and new members are urged to attend. New golfers wishing to join the league may call Paul Ritz at 330/744-2377 or Bill Gurski at 330/788-1133.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Accent on Activities

2009 Jednota International Bowling Tournament April 24-26, 2009

Plans for the 55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's Jednota International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held the weekend of April 24-26, 2009, at the Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, will be the host. Registration forms can be found in this issue of the JEDNOTA paper.

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

New This Year

Bowlers who do not have a 2007-2008 sanctioned average, and who are bowling in a sanctioned league in 2008-2009, can receive a handicap provided that at least 21 games have been played in this season and a league year-to-date statistics sheet is provided to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. While the International Bowling Tournament is a USBC certified Tournament, you can still participate in the Tournament. To be eligible for USBC prizes, you can become a USBC member at the Tournament.

The Saturday night banquet will feature Karaoke and music for listening and dancing pleasure. Start practicing your favorite songs!

Even if your Branch, District, or Region does not send participants to the Tournament, you can still show your support of fraternal activities by placing an ad in the program book or by sponsoring a lane at the bowling alleys. (Information on sponsoring a lane can be found inside the JEDNOTA paper page 18.)

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2009 International Bowling Tournament in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Hope to see you there!

Susan Ondrejco
Director of Fraternal Activities



St. Thomas A' Becket Lenten Fish Fry

St. Thomas A' Becket Church will hold a Fish Fry every Friday during Lent at the school, 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania. The hours are from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. each Friday, including Good Friday.

The menu includes: fish dinners, baked fish dinners, shrimp dinners, fish sandwich, French fries, cole slaw, halusky, desserts, and a weekly "special" and more. Take out dinners are available. The telephone number is 412/655-9966.

The public is invited to St. Thomas A' Becket School located on 139 Gill Hall Road in Jefferson Hills.



Slovak Catholic Federation National Convention Opens April 26 in Allentown

continued from page 1

Catholic Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. The host pastor is Monsignor Robert F. Kozel. God willing, the celebrant and homilist of the Convention Liturgy will be His Eminence, Jozef Cardinal Tomko, Prefect Emeritus, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Following the liturgy, a banquet will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel and Conference Center (formerly the Holiday Inn) located at Routes 512 and 22, 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The cost of the banquet is \$35.00 per person.

The convention sessions will take place Monday and Tuesday, April 27 and 28. There is a convention registration fee of \$100.00 and this includes all meals except the banquet. This registration fee is necessary for both Lifetime and Individual members.

If you wish to attend the convention as a voting delegate you must have your membership verified by the National Secretary-Treasurer, before individuals can be approved to attend. Dues must also be current for 2009 in order to attend as a delegate. Lifetime members are automatically welcome to attend the Convention as a voting delegate. Please send your checks made payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation by March 26 to: Dolores M. Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer, Slovak Catholic Federation, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.

Registration forms are found on page 11

News From Slovakia

Government Approves Second Anti-Crisis Package

The Government recently approved a second package of measures intended to deal with the effects of the global financial and economic crisis.

The measures will now be passed to parliament for approval via a fast-track procedure.

According to the Finance and Economy Ministries, which submitted the proposals to the Government, the Slovak economy faces a rapid drop in growth due to external factors that will have a negative influence on employment and industrial performance.

"The submitted measures are primarily designed to support aggregate demand, and are supplemented by other measures aimed at improving the business environment. They are directed at creating a suitable environment for renewed dynamic growth in the Slovak economy when the global economy begins to revitalize," reads the document submitted by Finance Minister Jan Pociatek and Economic Minister Lubomir Jahnecek.

Among the measures approved are an increase in the tax-deductible minimum from the current level of 19.2 times the subsistence level to 22.5 times, raising it from €3,435 to €4,027 per year. This measure is expected to reduce the state budget revenues by almost €150 million.

At the same time, bonuses for people with incomes equal to or slightly above the minimum wage will be strengthened. The Government has also agreed to shorten the period for returning excessive VAT payments from 60 days to 30, to increase the assets of the Slovak Export-Import Bank (Eximbanka) and the Slovak Guarantee and Development Bank (SZRB), and to make various changes in accounting and tax policy that are supposed to simplify conditions for doing business.

Meanwhile, an amendment to the law on investment assistance prepared by the Economic Ministry will enable the Government to provide financial assistance to more entrepreneurs.

TASR

Statistics Office: Slovak Economy Growth Fell 2.7 Percent in 4th Quarter 2008

The Slovak economy grew by 2.7 percent in the last quarter of 2008 according to the preliminary estimate published by the Statistics Office.

The result confirmed analysts' expectations about a significant deceleration of economic growth under the influence of the global economic crisis. The dynamics of GDP growth was steadily dropping throughout 2008 from 9.3 percent in the first quarter to 7.9 percent in the second one and 7 percent in the third.

According to Stats Office analysts, the Slovak economy grew by 6.4 percent in total last year, which still represents a fall compared to the record figure from 2007 of 10.4 percent.

In the fourth quarter of 2008, Slovakia's GDP reached €17.35 billion, which means that it grew by 2.7 percent year-on-year in stable prices and by 4.8 percent in current prices.

Total employment in the given period rose by 2.2 percent. When taking the seasonal criterion into consideration, the report shows a 2.3 percent growth of employment.

TASR

Gasparovic: Global Economic Crisis is Test of EU's Solidarity

The current global financial crisis is a test of the cohesion and solidarity of the European Union (EU), as well as of the strength of the euro, said Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic in his Report on the State of the Republic in 2008, which he presented in Parliament recently.

"This and next year will show on which pillars we stand. They will show whether the EU will only continue as a political union, or it will retain its reputation as a stable economic space, where the interests of some people are not promoted at the expense of others," said Gasparovic, adding that Slovakia promotes the development of a politically and economically strong EU.

According to the president, Slovakia has the potential to have a successfully developing economy even during a crisis. "Even if our GDP growth were only as much as 2 percent in 2009, it would remain the highest in the EU based on OECD predictions. This, however, doesn't mean that we should stop acting with consideration or stop helping those who really need our help," he stressed.

The speech was listened to by approximately three-quarters of the country's MPs, including Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and several ministers. Governing-coalition LS-HZDS leader Vladimir Meciar, Slovak National Party (SNS) chairman Jan Slota and Opposition SDKU-DS party leader Mikulas Dzurinda were all absent, however.

TASR

Dzurinda: Government's Anti-Crisis measures are Insufficient

The Government's measures aimed at tackling the effects of the economic crisis are insufficient, head of the opposition SDKU-DS party Mikulas Dzurinda said at a press conference recently.

According to Dzurinda, Slovakia needs resolute measures such as a lowering of the flat tax from the current 19 percent to 16 percent, lower salary deductions, amendments to the Labor Code and an end to wastefulness in public finance spending. "Of course, these measures cost money, but we're also saying where to get this from," pointed out Dzurinda.

"Is it really necessary to buy sports cars? Can we afford such a luxury nowadays when we are excluding companies from tenders just because they are offering suspiciously low bids?," asked Dzurinda.

The SDKU chairman said that the main goals of his party are to maintain employment, protect jobs and stimulate the economy.

TASR

Smokers to be Divided Off by Wall in Cafes and Restaurants

An amendment to the Non-smokers Protection Act which orders facilities that prepare and serve food to build a solid wall dividing smokers from nonsmokers was approved by Parliament.

The owners of facilities that serve only drinks can choose whether to be smoking or non-smoking. Out of the 137 MPs present in the chamber, 111 voted for the bill.

The bill, which was drawn up by the Health Ministry, doesn't introduce a complete ban on smoking as proposed by SDKU-DS MP Tatiana Rosova. A proposal by Milan Urbani (LS-HZDS) to ban the sale of tobacco products was also unsuccessful.

Facilities preparing and serving food will have to provide nonsmoking sections as of September. These must be divided from the smoking section by a solid wall, take up at least half of the area of the establishment, and be located near the entrance. If the owners decide not to create such a section they will have to introduce a complete ban on smoking.

Facilities that fail to comply with the law could be fined up to €3,319 or even face closure. Cigarette vending machines will also be banned.

TASR

Education Minister wants to Assess Schools and Improve Quality

Education Minister Jan Mikolaj intends to measure the quality of education at primary and high schools in order to help parents choose the most appropriate school for their children.

"Unfortunately, we don't have a system in place to assess specific (primary and high) schools concerning their quality," Mikolaj said. His ministry has already started to assess universities, which are currently going through a comprehensive accreditation process.

"We definitely would like to introduce some criteria of assessing quality of education at primary and high schools," he claims, but there is no exact time frame for when schools can expect inspections to take place.

Mikolaj hopes that this process will create a "healthy discomfort and competitiveness" among schools. He stressed that it is necessary to make schools compete more intensively between one another and that this will lead to improved quality.

TASR

Coming Events

March 8

-The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Camberg's Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania.

March 29

-The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Semiannual Meeting at St. John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by dinner and the meeting.

April 19

-The George Onda District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Florian Parish School Hall, United, Pennsylvania.

June 7

-The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall, Yonkers, New York.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall, Yonkers, New York. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other business. We urge all District branches to send representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by host Branch 41, Yonkers, New York.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Saint Florian Parish School Hall, United, Pennsylvania. Representatives from each of our branches are expected to attend. Refreshments will be served. We are looking forward to a great turnout.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT-HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at Camberg's Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania. All branches are urged to attend.

Joseph A. Cervenak, President

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 1653 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. There will be a \$5.00 charge for those attending and members will be able to order off the menu. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the updating of accounts.

For more information call President James Marmol at 724/437-0892 or Secretary Barbara Holly at 724/438-0697.

Barbara Holly

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District would like to announce its plans for 2009.

The Semiannual Meeting will be held Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 276 will be the host. The meeting will conclude with a light luncheon and an Easter Egg Hunt. Watch for more details in our next announcement.

Donations for door prizes are encouraged.

Branch 60 will host the Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at St. Barnabas in Swissvale. Branch 2 will handle the ad booklet.

The Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday, November 29, 2009 at Holy Trinity in West Mifflin. Branch 628 will be the host

The officers of the Pittsburgh District would like to welcome Karianne Barnes as the new District vice president. We also wish all FCSU members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2009, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in Saint John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Donation for dinner is \$16.00. Please make checks payable to Branch 567. All checks and credentials must be returned by Friday, March 20, 2009. Please be prompt! For more information call Loretta Dashner at 610/432-8350. I am looking forward to seeing everyone as your new recording secretary. Best wishes to all!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary



9th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul, and his wife Albina, are planning their 9th Consular Tour to Slovakia including trips to Vienna and Prague. The 13-day trip will begin July 3 and end on July 15, 2009. It will include visits to Bratislava, the High Tatras, Levoca, Kosice, Banska Bystrica and Zvolen. Activities include wine tasting, rafting, the Detva Folk Festival, sightseeing of numerous churches, castles, palaces, museums, picnic, and live entertainment.

The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, admission fees, air-conditioned bus, and English speaking guide. It does not include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from New York (JFK Airport) is \$3,399.00. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 or tsenko@aol.com, or write to: Joseph Senko, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220.



SBC John S. Golias Memorial Tournament

In 1939, two Slovak brothers, Steve "Doc" Hletko and Peter Hletko, formed the Slovak Bowling Congress (SBC) and organized the first Slovak National Bowling Tournament in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two teams and ten bowlers took part in this first tournament

Since that time the tournament has grown to over 100 teams and more than 500 bowlers participating in tournaments still known as the Slovak Bowling Congress of American Slovak National Bowling Tournament.

The 2009 tournament will be held the weekends of April 18, April 26 and May 3 at the Crest Lanes in Warren, Ohio. Past tournaments were held in Milwaukee, Chicago, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lakewood, McKees Rocks, Cicero, Warren, Sharon, Hermitage, Struthers, Oak Forest, Natrona Heights, Farrell, Erie, and Akron. Past tournaments have enjoyed entries of 12, 834 teams, 31,382 doubles, 73,663 singles, and 50,434 all-events. Payouts have exceeded \$767,000.00.

My father, John S. Golias, became involved with the SBC in 1973. He bowled with the team "The Janosiks" at Twenty Lanes in Cleveland. At one time there were three "Janosik" teams participating in the tournament. He became a member of the National Tournament Committee of SBC helping to promote, organize and of course bowl in the tournaments. He served on the Executive Officer Board since 1996 as President of the Slovak Bowling Congress. He was active in the tournaments and with the SBC until 2008.

This year will be the first year he will miss a tournament since 1973. This year the tournament is being dedicated to his memory for all of his work, dedication, promotion, and bowling with the Slovak Bowling Congress. I have taken a board position on the National Tournament Committee for the SBC.

I would like to invite all bowlers to participate in this year's tournament at Crest Lanes. As a special incentive, the First Catholic Slovak Union, National Slovak Society, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the tournament.

For more information on the tournament or the SBC call John M. Golias at 440/526-3657, or 440/526-3445, or Joe Harkulich at 330/448-8630. Hoping to see all Slovak Bowlers at the Crest Lanes in Warren, Ohio.

John M. Golias



5.00%

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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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)

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Edita Lysy Branch 856 Washington, D.C.

Edita "Edith" Lysy, 89, of Delaplane, Virginia, and member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Front Royal, died February 11, 2009 at Heathcote Health Center, Haymarket.

Mrs. Lysy was a longtime homemaker in Herndon, Virginia before moving in 1998 to Delaplane in Prince William County. She was a former member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Herndon.

Edita Ondrejickova was born in Banovce nad Bebravou, Slovakia. She was a 1942 graduate of what is now Comenius University in Bratislava. She worked in the protocol unit of the Slovak and Czechoslovak ministries of foreign affairs during the 1940's. She settled in the Washington, D.C. area in the early 1950s.

Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Frank J. Lysy of Delaplane; four sons, Dusan G. Lysy of Rochester, New York, Frank J. Lysy Jr. of Washington, D.C., Daniel N. Lysy

of Midlothian, Virginia, and Peter J. Lysy of Buchanan, Michigan; nine grandchildren; and two sisters living in Slovakia.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at St. John the Baptist Church by Rev. Jerome W. Fasano.

Edith will be greatly missed by the Slovak community.

Katherine Nowatkoski

Anna Slamen Branch 856 Washington, D.C.

Anna Slamen of Silver Springs, Maryland, died Sunday, January 18, 2009. She was the wife of the late Jan Slamen.

She is survived by her children, Angela (Larry) Sanders and Agnes Slamen; grandchildren, Carmen Marie Sanders, Jan Matthew Sanders, Dennis Alexander Gwinn and Dominic Andrew Gwinn; and siblings, Gizelle Fabbuzzo and Nandor Mauer. She was predeceased by a daughter, Monika Ann Slamen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated

on Thursday, January 22, in St. Patrick's Church, Rockville, Maryland. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Katherine Nowatkoski

Sister M. Germaine Raskovsky, OSF

Sister M. Germaine (Mary Anita) Raskovsky, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis of the United States Province for 74 years, died February 10, 2009 at Mount Assisi Convent. She was 91.

Sister Germaine entered the community from Divine Redeemer Church in Ambridge, PA in 1931 and professed her first vows in 1934 at Mount Assisi Convent in Pittsburgh. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Villa Maria College in Erie, PA and a Master of Science Degree in Education and Administration from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. From 1952 to 1955, she taught in the congregation's mission school in Talca, Chile. Sister Germaine spent many years in the field of education in the Archdiocese of Newark and San Antonio and the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg,

Altoona-Johnstown and Erie. She had been the principal of several elementary schools including St. Joseph School in San Antonio, Texas. In 1993, she returned from San Antonio to Mount Assisi and became involved with senior citizens and other community services until 2003 when her health began to fail. During the last years of her life, she spent her time in the ministry of prayer.

Sister Germaine was the daughter of the late Michael Raskovsky and Mary Nemcik and was preceded in death by her step-brother Andrew, her brother Michael and her sister Ann Strella. She is survived by her religious community, her sister Mrs. Joseph (Helen) Fotta in Conway, Pennsylvania, her half-sister Suzanne Gulik of Canada, and her half-brother, George of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; and nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

A viewing was held in Mount Assisi Convent. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Queen of Angels Chapel, Mount Assisi Convent.

Six Church Groups Begin Appeal Process to Bishop

Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation has initiated the Council of Parishes of North-eastern Pennsylvania to help coordinate and support efforts of Christ's faithful to preserve existing, viable, sustainable parish communities that have been targeted for closure in the Diocese of Scranton.

Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation announces a group of parishioners from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA have submitted a formal Letter of Appeal to Bishop Joseph Martino of the Diocese of Scranton requesting that he review and reverse his recently announced decision to close the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Parishioner groups from Holy Child, Nanticoke, St. Francis, Miners Mills, St. Stanislaus, Nanticoke, St. Francis of Assisi, West Hazleton, and SS Peter and Paul, Avoca have joined this Council of Parishes and have also taken this first step of the appeal process.

The process of this appeal is based on provisions in Canon Law. Traditionally, once the appeal process is initiated, the parish remains open while the case is reviewed. In Boston, where nine parishes have appeals before the Apostolic Signatura in the Vatican, the Archdiocese has been ordered to safeguard the parish assets pending the decision of the cases. Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation will exhaust the appeals process to the highest level, as well as pursue other avenues of recourse.

These six parishes have serious concerns regarding the site selection for their cluster. These parish communities are being forced into inferior accommodations (i.e.: not large enough, lack of bathroom facilities, lack of kitchen facilities, inadequate parking, in need of roof replacement and other repairs, etc.). Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation encourages other parishes that are disappointed with the closing of their church to submit appeals to the Bishop. If your parish does not pursue a canon law appeal and/or lawsuit, you have conceded the diocese's right to ownership and control parish property.

For assistance from the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation and the Council of Parishes, please visit our website at SHWBFoundation.com, or e-mail us at: shwbfoundation@hotmail.com. Additional information is also available from FutureChurch (www.futurechurch.org, e-mail: info@futurechurch.org). A "Save Our Parish Community" packet is available for \$13.00, in addition to other brochures and organizing materials.

The Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation and the Council of Parishes does not take any position on any other church issues. Our sole mission is to preserve viable, sustainable parish communities.

Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

At the Post Office

How long will the Post Office be open? Dokedy bude pošta otvorená? (dokedy bude poshta otvorená)

Until six o'clock Do šiestej hodiny (do shYesteY hodYini)

The Post office opens at seven in the mornin Pošta sa otvára ráno o siedmej (poshta sa otvÁra rÁno osYedmeY)

Anything for Mr. N.? Niečo pre pána N.? (nYYecho pre pÁna N)

There is a package for him here Je tu pre neho balík (Ye tu pre nYeho baleek)

Yes, one letter Áno, jeden list (Áno, Yeden list)

Do you want some stamps? Chcete známky? (Xtset Ye znamkee)

What kind? Aké? (akÉ)

Two cent stamps? Dvojcetové známky? (dvoYtsentovÉ znamkee Ye)

How many? Koľko? (kolYko)

Do you want it registered? Chcete to mať registrované? (XtsetYe to mať registrované)

Do you want it sent by Parcel Post? Chcete to poslať balíkovou poštou?

(XtsetYe to poslatY baleekovou poshtou)

What is your name? Ako sa voláš? (Ako sa volash)

Write down your name here Tu sa podpíše (tu sa popeeshetYe)

Write it yourself Napište to sám (napeeshtYe to sÁm)

Here is a Money Order Tu mate "money order" (tu máAtYe "money order")

Fill it out yourself Vyplňte sám (viplnYtYe to sÁm)

Wait for your money Čakajte na svoje peniaze (chakaYtYe na svoYe penYYaze)

Speak slow and plain Hovorte pomaly a čisto (hovortYe pomali a chisto)

Have you a letter there? Máte tam list? (mÁtYe tam list)

Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.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: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. A full business meeting will be held and activities for 2009 will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

Mary Dubber, Secretary

BRANCH 3- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will have a Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, April 5, 2009, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 9:00 a.m. Mass will be for the living and deceased members. A breakfast with fellowship will take place in Father Dargay Hall after the liturgy.

Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman

BRANCH 19- BRIDGEPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will celebrate the feast day of its patron St. Joseph on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 78 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Mass will be offered for the living and deceased members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar, pastor. Following the liturgy, refreshments will be available in the Church Hall.

Members of Branch 19 who have reached their 16th birthday in 2008 and have either a Term Policy of \$5,000 minimum held at least four years or a Reserve Policy of \$1,000 minimum held at least four years will receive the annual Margaret Evancho Award of a \$50.00 Savings Bond. During the business meeting the following members will re-

ceive this award: Lauren Bruchansky, Nora Elnhaus, Daniel Kowalski, Nicholas Kuruc, Natalie Leska, Kelsey Linahan, Meredith Lorys, Jessica Paglia, Lisa Quagliaroli, Kaitlin Rotunda and Peter Solek. This award was established in 1986 in recognition of Margaret Evancho's 40 years of dedication and her concern for the junior members of Branch 19.

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2009.

We hope many members can attend the March 8 meeting.

Henry zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 89- MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Our Easter Duty Mass will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 9:00 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92nd Street, Milwaukee. Breakfast will be served immediately after the liturgy at 10:30 a.m. at The Grecian Inn. Breakfast is complimentary for members; guests will be charged \$12.00. Children under age 6 are free. Reservations must be made by March 22, 2009. Call Mike with the number attending at 414/445-5382, or send a check payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Br. 89 to Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 162- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed and a report will be presented on the March for Life in Washington, D.C. All members of Branch 162 are asked to update their addresses and phone numbers by calling the secretary, Do-

lores Marmol at 724/437-4983. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 181- UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, held a meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2009, immediately after the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the Formation Building at St. Florian Parish, United Pennsylvania.

Geraldine Kovacina

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall. Plans for the coming year will be discussed. Members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 276- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the school hall of St. Martin de Porres Church, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

The election of officers took place at the annual meeting. The following members were elected: Margaret Nasta, President; George Gerdich, Vice President; Joan Goodall, Treasurer; David Matta, Financial Secretary; Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary; and James Bertoty and Norene Morrissey, Auditors.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's, 105 W. Main Street, Uniontown. The agenda includes discussion of branch activities for 2009. All members are invited to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 456- HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the Lincoln Slovak Club, Fourth Street, Hawk Run, Pennsylvania.

Alice Pollock

BRANCH 567- ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. We urge all our members to attend the meetings and support the branch and its activities. We urge our members to try to get new members to purchase policies and annuities. At the meeting we will finalize our plans for the nut and poppy seed roll sale to be held on March 24 in the social hall.

We wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 716 -NEW YORK CITY

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on

Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate the feast day of its patron on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Lunch will be served at the Father Snock Center following the liturgy. Door prizes will be given to many lucky individuals. The lunch is complimentary for members. There is a nominal cost for guests who wish to attend. Make your reservations by March 18, 2009 by calling Millie Leskovyansky at 330/782-3219 or Theresa Smre cansky at 330/629-9178.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 22, 2009 with a Slovak Mass, for all living and deceased members, at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in room 118 at 1:00 p.m.

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 796- EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Egypt, Pennsylvania. All members are cordially invited to attend. On the agenda will be a discussion on how to obtain new members and the selection of delegates to attend the District meeting.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 844- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, April 5, 2009, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with an Easter egg hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

Following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review the officers reports and to discuss branch activities.

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

Milan Konkol, Secretary

Publication Schedule for 2009

Issue Date	Deadline
January 7	December 23,
January 21	January 12
February 4	January 26
February 18	February 9
March 4	February 23
March 18	March 9
April 1	March 23
April 29	April 20
May 13	May 4
May 27	May 18
June 10	June 1
July 8	June 29
August 5	July 27
September 2	August 24
September 16	September 7
September 30	September 21
October 14	October 5
October 28	October 19
November 11	November 2
November 25	November 16
December 9	November 30

There will be no issues on: April 15, June 24, July 22, August 19, and December 23

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., 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
 Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors, by invitation of the President
 George A. Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4, by invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

In the lieu of a written report, the Treasurer led a discussion reviewing the monthly report from our custodian, Merrill Lynch.

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding the transfer of our bond portfolio from Merrill Lynch to our new custodian, Key Bank. The Executive Secretary stated that the transition was in order and should be completed by the end of January. The Executive Secretary also asked our outside auditors from the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, to conduct a complete audit of this transfer.

The Executive Secretary made a report on annuity contributions and redemptions for the year 2008. A final report will be presented at the March 13 & 14, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting.

The President led a discussion regarding interviews that are taking place with four asset management companies. He stated that once the interviews are completed, a decision will be made as to which asset management company will be hired. A decision is expected within ten days.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

The President stated that Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, in which we are a stockholder, declared a dividend on November 20, 2008. The President also stated that our new custodian, Key Bank, will present a scenario as to how we may invest funds available thru Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our Sales Production Report in different Regions and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President also reviewed the Sales Production Report of our independent agents.

The Vice President stated that an in-house agent was hired. He further stated that the in-house agents main duties will be: to contact and work with independent agents, to update Branch officers with our new products, to send out questionnaires to the Branch officers asking them about help they need with their branches and how the Home Office can assist them with initiating sales, etc.

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee with the dates of the 2009 seminars. He stated that he is in process of contacting the Districts for potential District seminars.

The President stated that he will send a letter to District Presidents regarding a meeting he desires to have with them at the Home Office or another convenient site. The purpose of this meeting will be to update the District Presidents with our new products, sales and marketing techniques and also have a roundtable discussion with them to discuss their concerns and their ideas and suggestions to improve sales and the Society in general.

COMBINATION OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of the joint Golf Tournament with Slovak Catholic Sokol in 2009. As soon as the dates and sites are finalized a formal announcement will be made.

2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary stated that we are in progress of finalizing and planning site inspections for our 2010 Convention. Once the inspections are completed, the President will update the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of December 2008	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$190,541.57
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 48,703.42
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ - 0 -
Trust Fund	\$ - 0 -

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

MISCELLANEOUS

The Executive Secretary stated that he will send a letter to all our recommenders and Branch officers asking for their input (sites, dates) for the 2009 Membership meet.

Once the survey is completed, the Executive Secretary will make a complete report about suggested sites (Las Vegas, Nevada; Orlando, Florida; Cruise).

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to adjourn the meeting. The Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary



Members of the Stations of the Cross Planning Committee are L-R Jackson Hendershot, Bernadette Yench, Magdalen M. Benish, Anna Hudock, Elaine Palischak, and Joseph Kowatch.

Slovak Stations of the Cross

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will sponsor the traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross (Krizova Cesta) on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Slovak Catholic Church, 601 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Leading the Stations will be Rev. John Albosta, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Waymart. A Slovak Hymn Sing will precede the Stations and will include Slovak Lenten hymns sung by the congregation. Music sheets will be provided. The public is encouraged to attend.

**JANUARY 2009 TREASURER'S REPORT
PREPARED BY GEORGE F. MATTA
NATIONAL TREASURER**

There were very few purchases during the past three months primarily due to the volatility of the Bond Market and the distressed condition of the world economy. It was decided that we would be very selective on purchases until the new administration would begin.

In addition, the Executive Officers interviewed five or six money managers, in some cases more than once, to evaluate our portfolio to identify potential weaknesses.

Also our other concerns were the large amount of money that we generated during the last part of 2008 with our depository, along with the large amount of cash due to calls and maturities (see report below), we felt it prudent upon us to seek assistance in avoiding unforeseen pit falls. It is for that reason that the investment committee agreed to use the services of one of the four Asset Management Companies that was interviewed.

The purchases made in January and early February were through the efforts of this firm

During the month of December 2008, the following bonds have either redeemed or have been called:

Redeemed	HALLIBURTON	\$ 500,000.00
Redeemed	CAN FINANCIAL	\$1,000,000.00
Redeemed	FED HOME LOAN MTG	\$6,300,000.00

TOTAL REDEEMED DECEMBER 2008 \$7,800,000.00

During the month of January 2009, the following bonds have been called:

AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN BANK	5.55	07-30-18	\$ 500,000.00
AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN BANK	5.65	01-16-20	\$ 300,000.00
AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN BANK	5.60	07-14-20	\$3,000,000.00
AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN BANK	5.78	08-17-20	\$ 500,000.00
AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN BANK	5.80	08-18-20	\$ 500,000.00
AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN BANK	5.85	08-24-20	\$ 500,000.00

TOTAL CALLED TO DATE \$5,300,000.00

AAA/AAA	TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT	5.50	01-27-09	\$ 200,000.00
AA-/AA	WACHOVIA CORP	6.375	02-01-09	\$ 200,000.00

TOTAL MATURED TO DATE \$ 400,000.00

PURCHASES MADE DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2009

BBB+/BAA1	ALCOA INC.	7.375	08-01-10	98.750	8.28	500K
AGENCY	FNR 2005-47 VG	5.75	AVE LIFE	101.06	2.44	500K
AAA/AAA				0.48 YRS		
A/Aa2	BURLINGTON	7.908	01-15-20	108.82	6.99	500K
A+/Aa2	NAKILAT INC	6.067	12-31-33	71.00	9.37	500K
AGENCY	FNR 2007-77A	6.00	AVE LIFE	102.00	1.96	1,000K
AAA/AAA				0.86 YRS		
AGENCY	FNR 3200 CP	5.50	AVE LIFE	101.25	4.11	500K
AAA/AAA				0.98 YRS		
BBB/BAA2	KENNAMETAL	7.20	06-15-12	100.577	7.00	500K
A-/A3	TRANS-CANADA PIPELINES	7.125	01-15-19	106.39	6.25	500K
A+/A1	NATIONAL RURAL UTILITY	5.45	04-10-17	96.725	5.96	1,000K
AGENCY	FNR 2009-3 KC	5.00	AVE LIFE	101.37	3.26	500K
AAA/AAA				1.49 YRS		
A+/A1	WASHINGTON POST	7.25	02-01-19	103.64	6.74	500K
AGENCY	FHR 3200 CP	5.50	AVE LIFE	101.25	3.08	500K
AAA/AAA				0.98 YRS		
AGENCY	FHR 3458 CA	5.50	AVE LIFE	101.50	2.29	500K
AAA/AAA				0.73 YRS		
A/A2	CARGILL INC	5.52	01-22-13	7.55	5.90	1,000K
AGENCY	GNR 2009-8 YA	5.50	AVE LIFE	101.625		3.98
500K						
AAA/AAA				1.27 YRS		

**Slovak Catholic Federation
57th National Convention
Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail to:

Dolores M. Evanko
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201

by: Monday, March 26, 2009

Kindly **PRINT** all information

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ FAX NUMBER _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Kindly check the appropriate information

_____ I wish to attend the Banquet. I am enclosing a check, made out to: **Slovak Catholic Federation.**
(Cost per ticket: \$35.00)
_____ number of tickets requested _____ total payment included

_____ I wish to attend the 57th National Convention as a voting Delegate.
_____ I am a Lifetime member
_____ I am an Individual member (dues are paid year to year and must be current, for 2009)
_____ I have enclosed my Convention registration fee of **\$100.00.**
(Convention registration fee, which includes all meals – except the Banquet - is: \$100.00)
* The registration fee is necessary for both Lifetime and Individual members.
_____ I am enclosing a donation for the 2009 Saints Cyril and Methodius Annual Appeal.
* You may include **one check** to cover all the appropriate expenses.

*** Hotel reservations must be made on your own.**

Guest rooms for the Convention are reserved at the Best Western Lehigh Valley for Sunday, April 26, through Tuesday, April 28. Guest rooms for Saturday, April 25 are available, if necessary. The group room rate for this event is \$79.00 per room per night, plus tax. **Deadline for Room Reservations is: March 26, 2009** - one month before the Convention. To make reservations, call Best Western at 1-888-222-8512. Group name: Slovak Catholic Federation.

Slovak Catholic Federation

Membership Information

This application enables our Slovak Catholic people to join the Slovak Catholic Federation, an organization which seeks to gather people together to celebrate a common Catholic faith tradition and Slovak ethnic heritage.

Membership categories are as follows:

Individuals\$15.00 (per year)	Local SCF Chapters\$35.00 (per year)
Lifetime Memberships	Fraternal Districts \$35.00 (per year)
Age 60 and above..... \$100.00	Fraternal Branches \$35.00 (per year)
Age 59 and below..... \$150.00	
Family \$30.00 (per year)	Parishes..... \$50.00 (per year)
Religious Congregations \$35.00 (per year)	Parishes Organizations.....\$35.00 (per year)

Please fill out the required information and mail to:

Dolores M. Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer
Slovak Catholic Federation
173 Berner Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201

**Slovak Catholic Federation Membership Application
(Kindly PRINT all information)**

Name(s) _____ Date _____
Address _____ City _____
State (Province) _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____
Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____
Email Address _____ Birthdate _____

Check appropriate box(es).

_____ Individual _____ Lifetime Membership _____ Family
_____ Fraternal District _____ Fraternal Branch _____ Religious Congregation
_____ Local SCF Chapter _____ Parish _____ Parish Organization

_____ Do you wish to receive **The Good Shepherd** annual?
_____ Donation for **The Good Shepherd** Publication
_____ Donation to the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal

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- Enrollees become eligible to apply for the Societies fraternal benefits at no additional cost.
- Annual premiums are eligible for scholarships

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Yes. We want you to receive our free, no obligation information on JEP! Simply call us at 1-800-533-6682, and we'll send you information and applications for the program. We're confident after reviewing our literature that you'll find this one of the best values to help your children for years to come.



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CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER
OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-533-6682**

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
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6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131-2398





WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Manor Oak Two, Suite 500 + 1910 Cochran Road + Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 531-2990 or (888) SLOVAKS + Fax: (412) 531-4793

ENJOY A TOUCH OF SLOVAKIA

March 7 – Lenten Cooking Demonstration



WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
WHERE: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church
4027 Beechwood Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
PRICE: Free – Donations are appreciated

We have a cook from Slovakia who will demonstrate making bryndzove halusky. Recipes will be available. Afterward, all will enjoy homemade soup, halusky and dessert. Attendance is limited to 25. Call for reservations at (412) 531-2990.

February 24-April 14 – Slovak Language Lessons

WHEN: Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
PRICE: Free – Reservations needed, please call (412) 531-2990



The new format will feature vocabulary building and basic conversation by Bozena Hilko.

Sponsors:

First Catholic Slovak Union • First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association • Greek Catholic Union of the USA • Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union
National Slovak Society • Slovak Catholic Sokol • Slovak Savings Bank • Sokol USA • Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association

SPECIAL REMINDER

There has been a change in our address. The new address for sending all articles is Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. Please do not use the old 1011 Rosedale Avenue address. You may continue to send by fax at 717/944-3107 or by email at editorjednota@yahoo.com. Thank you.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that it can now accept credit cards for

Insurance premium payments.

*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

NEW FROM FCSU

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Please contact the home office at 1-800-533-6682 for further information or go to our website at www.fcsu.com to download a payment form.

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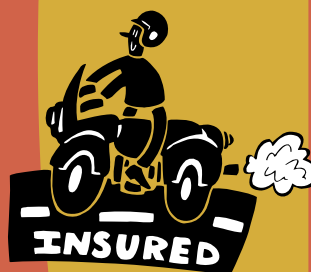
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- Home Invasion
- Evacuation & Repatriation
- Spouse or Domestic Partner Employment
- Training Expense
- Permanent Total Disability Benefit

Quarterly Premium Rates

Principal Sum	Single	Family
\$100,000	\$12	\$18
\$200,000	\$24	\$36
\$300,000	\$36	\$54
\$400,000	\$48	\$72
\$500,000	\$60	\$90

Premiums can be paid with Credit Cards, Debit Cards, or a Bank Account.

Special Fraternal Benefit

If a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a *Single Premium Policy, issued after August 1, 2008, FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 **AD&D Benefit at no additional charge for as long as a premium is being paid. Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.

*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years
**Insurance is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member insurer of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. Exclusions may apply. Insurance may not be available in all jurisdictions.

Requests (based on order received)				
Event	Date	Time	Date	Time
TEAM				
DOUBLES & SINGLES				

Please Read Carefully

ENTRY BLANK

55th Annual Men's and 46th Annual Women's International Jednota Handicap Tenpin BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union
Moral support certified by the United States Bowling Congress

Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes
State Rte. 51 Belle Vernon, PA

Entry Fees

Prize Fee	\$6.85
Bowling Fee (3games)	\$8.00
<u>Tournament Fee</u>	<u>\$4.15</u>
Total Each Event.....	\$19.00

Optional Events

All Events	\$2.00
Senior Singles Event (60+)	\$5.00

2009 April 24-25-26
Entries Close
March 6, 2009

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
FCSU Activities

Mail to: Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pgh. PA 15207

Team Name: _____	Captain Name: _____	City Assoc. USBC _____
League: _____	Address: _____	Secretary: _____
City: _____	Phone: _____	Address: _____

All Events (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. <i>MUST BE FILLED IN</i>	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					
Singles (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	<p align="center">- Schedule -</p> <p align="center">TEAM EVENT</p> <p>Friday, April 24.....6 PM & 9 PM</p> <p>Saturday, April 25.....9 AM (or as needed)</p> <p align="center">DOUBLES AND SINGLES</p> <p>Saturday and Sunday</p> <p>April 25 & 26.....9 AM & 1 PM</p> <p align="center"><i>PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES</i></p> <p align="right"><i>BOWLER CAN BOWL ONLY ONCE IN EACH EVENT</i></p> <p align="right"><i>BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK</i></p> <p align="right"><i>FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION</i></p> <p align="right"><i>INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED</i></p> <p align="right"><i>SEE RULES 8-10 ON BACK REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION</i></p> <p align="right"><i>SEE RULE 6 ON BACK REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP</i></p>			
	1.					
	2.					
	1.					
	2.					

Substitutes on two-man teams **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

BOWLING TOURNAMENT - PLEASE READ ALL RULES CAREFULLY

The Men's and Women's Annual International Jednota Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament is solely sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Jednota. The Supreme Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish to extend to all Jednota members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, in this rapidly growing tournament.

1. The 55th Annual Men's and the 46th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Brunswick Zone-Belle Vernon Lanes, 4742 State Rte. 51 S., Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 24, 25 and 26, 2009.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 6, 2009.
OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 24, AT 5:30 PM.
PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

2. This Tournament is open to all Jednota male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is AWARDED.

3. All matters pertaining to this Tournament must have the sanction of the Director of Fraternal Activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Tournament Officers will handle all matters pertaining to this Tournament.

4. U.S.B.C. Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

5. Only members with U.S.B.C. Membership Cards will be eligible for the U.S.B.C. special awards in this U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament. Bowlers without U.S.B.C. Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Secretary at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

5-A. CAPTAINS OF EACH TEAM ENTRY MUST ENTER HIS TEAMMATES' U.S.B.C. CERTIFICATION CARD NUMBERS AND VERIFY SAME AS LISTED IN PROPER AREA ON ENTRY FORM. MEN AND WOMEN

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2007-2008 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2007-2008 season and with at least 21 games in the 2008-2009 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HIS NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN- The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2007-2008 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2007-2008 season and with at least 21 games in the 2008-2009 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. will bowl 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2009, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the ENTRY FORM AT TIME OF ENTRY.

6-B. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

6-C. MEN AND WOMEN- Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Secretary at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. U.S.B.C. Rule NO. 13

7. In submitting this entry, THE CAPTAIN AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE TO FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO PRIZE MONEY AS WELL AS THE TOTAL ENTRY FEES IN THE EVENT THAT ANY INFORMATION LISTED HEREIN SHOULD BE FOUND TO BE FALSE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN AVER-

AGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

8. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES, AND ALL EVENTS.

9. MEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

10. WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and the prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

11. All prize winners will be checked with the Jednota Home Office for verification of membership in good standing.

12. All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Director of Fraternal Activities and the Tournament Committee.

13. The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Secretary.

14. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

15. All participants must report one half-hour before starting time and certification cards must be presented to the Tournament Secretary by same.

16. No bowler will be permitted to compete more than once in each event.

17. Prize fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry.

18. In the event that there should be a tie for first place, a Co-Champion will be declared and duplicate trophies will be awarded.

19. Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Secretary within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.

20. MEN - A Bowler whose high league average is under 190 shall submit himself for re-rating and shall be re-rated before entering a classified or handicap tournament if one of the following applies:

(a) When his accumulated average is not less than 21 tournament games during the immediate preceding 12 month period exceeds his high league average by 10 or more pins, or

(b) When he has exceeded his high league average by 15 or more pins in each of five tournaments, i.e., 45 pins in a three game series, 60 pins in a four game series, etc. - based only on his high series in each of the five tournaments - during the immediately preceding 12 month period.

21. YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED TWO (2) RE-RACKS PER GAME.

22. 319-a-3 It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others. Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average. In case of teams of two or more bowlers, the average shall be combined to determine whether the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total. Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

319-D - Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible re-rating.

22. Refer to U.S.B.C. Rule 322 - Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT OFFICERS
EX-OFFICIO TREASURER & FRATERNAL DIRECTOR SUSAN ONDREJCO
TOURNAMENT SECRETARY JOE BURKHART

YSC Represented at 740th Anniversary of Spišska Nova Ves

(When Youngstown Sister Cities [YSC] received an invitation to attend the 740th anniversary of the founding of its sister city, Spišska Nova Ves, I immediately suggested that our Board member, Brian Petruska, attend the event as our representative. Brian and his wife, Kara, are currently in Bratislava where he is on a one-year teaching assignment. They did represent YSC and wrote about the event.)

When I last wrote to the Jednota, I was a rather excited and eager American returning to his family's Slovak roots. I gained employment in Bratislava, Slovakia to teach Science and Math at QSI International School. Six months later, I now consider my wife and I to be well-versed world travelers who have had numerous opportunities to see Europe and its many cultures. In fact, I'm sure that I could fill a book with details of our travels to Krakow, Southern Spain, Vienna, Paris, London, Milan, Florence, and Venice. But as I reflect on everything we've seen, I continue to think about the experience we had and the people we met during an unexpected weekend in Spišská Nová Ves, Slovakia.

Early on in our adjustment period we received word that all of the Sister Cities of Spišská Nová Ves had been invited to the celebration of their 740th anniversary of the first written mention of their town. We graciously accepted on behalf of the Youngstown Sister Cities (YSC) of which I am on the board of directors. The event was to be held from October 2 – 5, which didn't give us much time to prepare. However, it didn't hurt that we were only 5 hours away by train. Slightly more convenient than flying out of Pittsburgh!

It was then made official, we would be making our way east. The most economical way to travel, and fastest, was by train. The only problem is that Slovakia is definitely in a transition period when it comes to the quality of its train travel. Most of the cars in the train are not numbered creating an initially stressful experience in finding seats. However, we did find ourselves seated with a pleasant group of people. Two of which were traveling east for a "ladies" weekend of hiking and enjoying the incredibly popular slivovica (plum brandy). Needless to say, they were quite gracious in their sharing of the incredibly potent drink! It sure was an unexpected start to our journey. We did find that we were very lucky in having seats at all, since there were many college-age students traveling home for the weekend who had to stand the entire trip.

We arrived late Thursday evening and immediately took a taxi to the Hotel Centrum. After a restful sleep we awoke, enjoyed the complimentary breakfast and called Mr. Adnan Akram, our interpreter for the weekend. It was rather funny meeting Addy (as he preferred to be called) for the first time. Kara and I were waiting in the lobby when we first saw him, however, he wasn't quite prepared for us. Addy was under the impression that we were going to be about 70 years old and that it might be a "slow" weekend for him. He was pleasantly surprised when we showed up being half that age. The weekend wouldn't have been half the success that it was if it weren't for Addy and his fantastic personality.

After introductions, Addy began our day with a walk to the three-naved Roman Catholic Gothic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and a guided tour of its tower (87 meters and the highest in Slovakia). Amazing views were had, and even more impressive was our survival... scaling the tower stairs and ladders seemed like something out of a movie. I must say that Kara impressed everyone with her ascent in 4" heels and a dress! We skipped the visit to the Spiš Museum (as I had visited previously in 2000) and Addy took us to a wonderful restaurant (Restaurant Venuša) for coffee and to chat. It was during this time that we got to learn about Addy. He is of Pakistani descent, born and raised in England, and moved to Slovakia 15 years ago to teach English (he now owns his own language school) after completing his law degree! And the most interesting part is that he is the first non-Slovak to win an election and hold public office in the country, let alone, Spišská Nová Ves.

Time started to get away from us and we had to rush off down the picturesque sidewalks of the lens-shaped square for a ceremonial unveiling of a memorial plaque dedicated to Professor Kolo-man Lehotský. He was a former professor of forestry and dean at the University of Clemson. The



Kara and Brian in front of the YSC color of arms



Brian giving his talk YSC projects in Spišska Nova Ves

plaque was placed on the building of the Slovak Paradise National Park Administration, Štefánikovo námestie. Our presence was particularly important for the city, since Prof. Lehotský immigrated to the United States and we were the American delegation. This led to my impromptu interview with the local news. The main question was if an interest in one's Slovak heritage was something that I believed in. This was an easy question for me to answer, with an emphatic and obvious yes! Of course there was some elaborating, however I'm sure that my enthusiasm was quite evident.

We then made our way to the Town Hall to attend the official reception by the mayor, Mr. Ján Volný. The ceremony was really quite beautiful, including opera singers and a pianist. It was during this time that the mayor thanked all of the sister city delegates for their attendance, which was followed by our individually being called up to sign the town registry, shake hands with the Mayor and receive a wonderful gift bag. This was our first opportunity to see all of the other delegates attending the festivities. These included groups from Nitra (Slovakia), Havlíčkův Brod (Czech Republic), Preveza (Greece), L'Aigle (France), Grójec (Poland), Kisújszállás (Hungary), and Alsfeld Clausthal-Zellerfeld (Germany). There is also a Brazilian sister city (Joinville), however they were unable to attend due to ongoing elections. The US presidential election was a very common topic that many of the delegates were very eager to discuss, all of which were eager for Barack Obama's success. This leads me to another interesting point... we were the only delegation made up of non-politicians. Mayors and town council members from their respective cities headed all of the groups, which was a bit overwhelming at first, but really proved to be a non-issue as everyone was extremely polite.

After the official reception, all attended lunch together before the Gala evening in the Spiš Theatre. This was a remarkable night, including many different performers such as opera and a really interesting a cappella group. The only problem with all the different acts was that it gave me a lot of time to get nervous before my speech. All of the sister city delegates were given roughly six minutes (including time for translation) for introductions and to discuss their partnership with Spišská Nová Ves. Needless to say, a six-minute speech could barely scratch the surface of the contributions that the Youngstown Sister Cities has made to Slovakia, including upwards of \$15 million in medical equipment and supplies. It was after the performances and speeches that we began to make our way to dinner, but not before another surprise interview with another television channel. The evening ended with dinner at the Restaurant Sonáta, attached to the Theatre. Throughout the meal of classic Slovak dishes and mingling, all enjoyed many different alcohols from all over Europe, including Greek ouzo (anise-flavored spirit), French calvados (apple brandy), and Slovak hruškovica (pear brandy). It was also during this time that we all had the opportunity to learn from Spiros Fokas (the representative from Greece) how to say "cheers" in Greek. Therefore, yamas was the resounding word of the evening.

Our second day in Spišská unfortunately did not go as planned. Many outdoor activities were scheduled to occur, however the torrential rains put a damper on the festivities. It did however, allow for a wonderful visit with family in Jamnik, a neighboring village. It had been eight years since I was last fortunate enough to be able to see my family, and their welcome was as warm as ever! After an incredibly short four hours visiting and catching up we had to return to prepare for the Concert of the Slovak Philharmonic and Assembly. A performance of Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem was held at the incredibly beautiful Evangelical Church in the center of the town square. It was here that Ivan Gašparovič made his first appearance, entering the church with all standing to pay respect to the Slovak President. After the beautiful performance everyone moved on to the Concert Hall of the Reduta for the official reception, also attended by the President. An absolute feast was set out before us, including tables of cold appetizers and hot main courses. Of course, there was champagne, wine and more hruškovica. It was during this time that we were able to meet many of the politically affiliated men of Spišská Nová Ves. Our most remarkable introductions were those with Mayor Jan Volný and President Ivan Gašparovič. Naturally, we took full advantage of the many photo opportunities.

It was official, our amazing weekend had come to an end. The next day, Sunday, Addy accompanied us to the train station and got us situated with reserved seat tickets as to avoid the initial problems we had on our arrival trip. The weekend almost seemed to be a blur. So many new people and experiences, it was reason enough that a journal should be a requirement for all travels throughout Europe. Our unexpected weekend in Spišská Nová Ves was filled with many stories that we will share for years to come.

John's Tour of Slovakia Set for September 7-23, 2009

John Mago will lead a tour of Slovakia and the cities of Vienna, Budapest, Krakow and Prague September 7-23, 2009. The tour will include visits to Bratislava, Kosice, Modra, Pezinok, Nitra, Levoca, Banska Bystrica, Stary Smokovec, Martin, Cicmany, and Presov. Participants will experience a raft ride down the Dunajec River and watch a cultural performance in Tichy Potok. They will visit the spa city of Piestany, see castles, churches and cathedrals, including St. Stephen's in Vienna, St. Martin in Bratislava and St. James in Levoca. Also on the itinerary, is a visit to the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, the Wieliczka salt mines, and Auschwitz. On the tour there will be a stop at the Shrine of Divine Mercy and St. Elizabeth Cathedral in Kosice. In addition, on the tour there will be visits to Zdiar, Trnava, and famous Prague sites of St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge, Old Town Square and Vladislav Hall.

There will be cultural performances as well. Tour participants will have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to these cultural performances at their expense.

The tour includes 15 nights lodging in first class hotels, two meals a day, an air-conditioned bus, an English speaking guide, and air fare departing from Washington, D.C.

John Mago along with the Slovak guide will make arrangements including transportation and a translator to anyone wishing to contact relatives.

For a brochure and further information contact John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690, Phone: 1-800-260-8687 or 724-567-7341.

District II Easter Coloring Contest



HEY KIDS....

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

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch number and include a picture of yourself, and return by April 10, 2009. Pictures of the winners will be printed in the JEDNOTA newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II meeting on May 3, 2009.

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

Good luck to all!

**Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest**

Igor Grossmann- A Unique Slovak



Igor Grossmann is an important Slovak who, through his artistry with a camera, has preserved our Slovak history. The photographs of Igor Grossmann transport the viewer back into a time where life was simpler for Slovaks. The pictures are full of joy, passion, and wistfulness. Celebrations, work, weddings, funerals all tell a tale of a way of life that is now lost. Dr. Grossmann has captured this time for us to savor. The images of a beautiful Slovak mountain village and its people are forever held in time. The traditional ways of farming, buildings blended into scenery, ordinary family, and festive times are beautifully presented for our enjoyment.

Originally from Zilina in northwestern Slovakia, Igor Grossmann worked as a pharmacist in the mountain villages and was able to indulge

his inclination to view the world through a camera lens. In 1966, he quit his work as a pharmacist, put his passion for photography first and began his quest to document a cultural identity.

Igor Grossmann's starkly beautiful black-and-white photographs capture the essence of Slovak village life in a mountainous region of Central Europe at the moment of encounter between the old ways and the new day of European development, when centuries of tradition were about to give way to the modern age. This is a striking survey, a powerful visual tool documenting what was about to be altered forever by the technologies of the second half of the twentieth century...a yesteryear culture that will never come again.

**-Midwest Book Review
May 2000**

"Images Gone with Time is a photographic record about the struggle of a people for their daily bread, about love and joy in a culture redeemed with difficult, paid for with great effort— where the sense of obligation and duty was the primary virtue — and also about the tasteful, artistic imagination of the farming society, which spins beauty from wood, colors, cloth, and reverie. But at the same time it is also a Grossmann event— a happening of extraordinary empathy, respect and affection toward something as 'simple as home,' with a fidelity to memories as an irreplaceable part of our identity. The carefree and foolish carnival joy of Shrovetide springs forth from the photography found on the front dust jacket. Exuberant riotousness, unbridled play. But, for this book the bewitched physician took out from his box of photographs also scenes of the most sorrowful moments of this closed-up community. The harmony between the documentary and the artistic is as characteristic for Grossmann's photography as for this Images Gone with Time. It is actually a photographic 'carved Bethlehem-crèche' of the Slovak world, which is physically no more. Its status as a legacy is indeed very special.

This black and white photography book represents stunningly beautiful embroidery of images and ideas about Slovakia since before the mid-twentieth century. It also consists of the skillful verbal-

iconic articulation of the meaning and beauty and dignity— indeed even the noblesse — of everyday life and destiny of a modest people. The ambition of those who participated was to examine — with affection — and to recall the times when plowing was truly difficult work and working hard was still a socially revered virtue."

**— Dr. Emma Nezinska
(Translated from the Slovak by Gerald Sabo, SJ)**

Slovo, Bratislava
March 29/April 4, 2000

152 pp, 125 art photographs, Hardbound, ISBN 978-0-8651-436-9 \$45.00/ Feb. 2009 only \$15

\$7 shipping and handling for first book, \$1 for each additional book
SAICF 1572 Baskin Rd., Mundelein, IL 60060

You are invited to view Dr. Grossmann's photographs in a slide show at <http://www.slovak.org/gallery/grossmann>

Original remaining photos, one-of-a kind or limited edition, are available as gifts to donors who make a tax-deductible donation to SAICF: \$200 - unsigned \$300 - signed

Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.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: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Alexander John O'Neill of Wilmington, Delaware, received the rank of Eagle Scout in 2008. On September 29, 2008, he was presented with the Eagle badge at a Court of Honor.

Alex is a member of Troop 33, Freedom Trail, Del-Mar-Va District. He is the son of Patrick and Jeanne O'Neill of Wilmington.

Alex's project helped the United Cerebral Palsy Camp Manito. It consisted of reconstructing and improving a drainage ditch near the pump room of the UCP swimming pool. This project eliminated a flooding problem that the agency was not able to solve. Heavy rain storms caused flooding stopping access to the pool's machinery. To accomplish this, Alex recruited volunteers to help him dig a deeper, wider, and longer properly sloped swale. Landscape fabric was wrapped around a perforated pipe to prevent silt from clogging the system. The ditch was then filled with gravel. This procedure moved water away from the pump room and kept the area free from standing water.

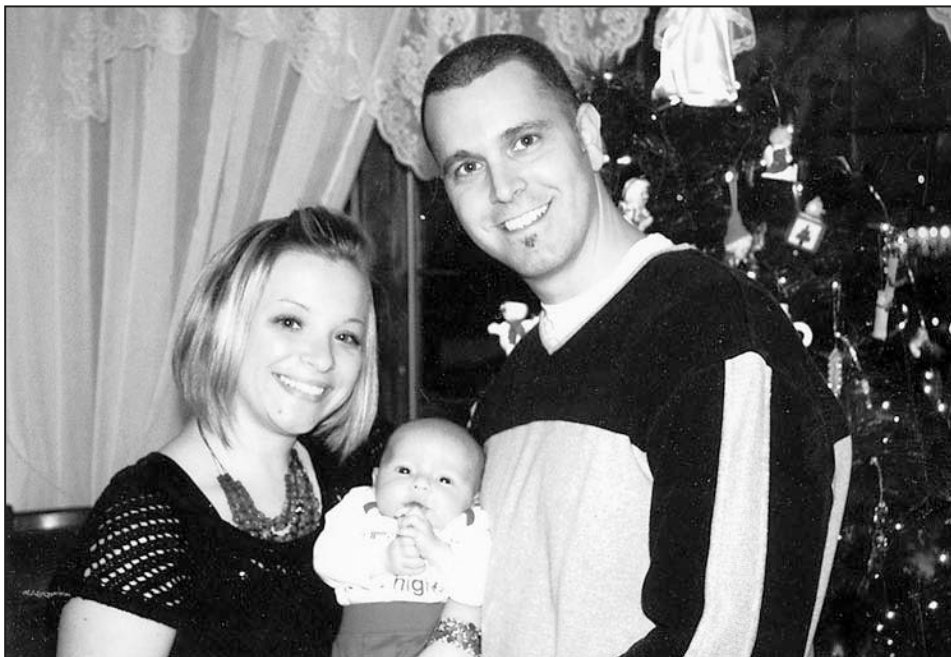
In the course of his scouting experience Alex earned 21 merit badges, and is the recipient of the "Hometown Hero Award" for service to the community and the first ever "Live the Village Merit Award" in recognition to his commitment on behalf of homeless children in Cub Scouts. He received the "Youth Can Make a Difference Award" and was nominated for the national leadership conference and Jefferson service awards. He received the Outstanding Volunteer Service award presented by the ministry of car-



Alexander O'Neill

ing or mentoring Cub Pack 506 for homeless boys.

Alex graduated from Salesianum High School in Wilmington and is now a freshman at the University of Delaware. He is a member of Jednota Branch 173 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. His uncle, Carl Ungvasky is Regional Director of Region 3.



Logan Mario Lazzara with his parents Rick and Jacki Lazzara.

Logan Mario Lazzara is the newest member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago. Logan was born to Rick and Jacki Lazzara on November 16, 2008. His weight was 7 lbs 8oz and his height was 20 inches. He resides in Tinley Park, Illinois with his parents. Logan's great-grandfather Emil Rusinak serves as the vice president of Branch 493.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

New York Branch 45 Holds Annual Meeting

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. On the agenda were officers reports, a financial report, and update on activities during the past year, and a discussion of future activities. The election of officers also took place. All the members enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship.

Maria Jurasi



Members of the St. Matthew Society congratulate and extend best wishes to our newlyweds Tonko and zelka Kucharovic. L-R are Maria zakovic, Anton Kucharovic, Michael zakutny, zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Joseph Jurasi and Helen zakutny.



Sitting L-R are Helen zakutny, Michael zakutny, Emil Pavelek, Antonia Krajkovic, Helen Brchnel, Rev. Stefan Chanas, Maria Jurasi, and Miroslav Seczko.



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More Memories of the 2008 Membership Meet

continued from page 3



Turistika a zavedenie eura na Slovensku

Bratislava (TASR) - V rámci tohtoročnej prijazdovej turistiky zavedenie eura na Slovensku vnímajú pozitívne iba turisti z eurozóny, najmä Nemci, Holanďania a Rakúšania. Vyplýva to z prieskumu zahraničných zástupcov Slovenskej agentúry pre cestovný ruch (SACR). Naopak, podľa prieskumu lyžiarske strediská v SR hlásia zníženie návštevnosti Poliakov, Čechov a Maďarov. Spôsobil to najmä pokles poľského zlotého, českej koruny a maďarského forintu oproti euru, čím sa dovolenka na Slovensku pre našich tradičných hostí z V4 predražuje.

Ruská klientela vyjadrovala nádej, že vzhľadom na relatívne silnú menu - euro bude teraz turisticky trh v SR stabilnejší, to znamená, že sa nebudú často a neopodstatnene meniť ceny služieb. "V ruských médiách, ani v osobných rozhovoroch so zástupcami cestovíek a touroperátorov nezazneli obavy zo zdražovania na Slovensku," potvrdila zahraničná zástupkyňa SACR v Rusku Ľubica Alušicová.

Kancelária SACR v Nemecku podľa prieskumu informuje, že vstupom SR do eurozóny sa zlepšil imidž Slovenska v Nemecku a vzrástla u Nemcov aj dôvera voči SR ako členovi eurozóny. Podobná situácia je aj u občanov Rakúska, ktorí sa vplyvom zavedenia eura v SR cítia na Slovensku ako doma a pominula ich obava, že ich niekto pri prepočítavaní kurzu mien ukráti. Slovensko je pre rakúskych turistov aj v čase krízy pre dovolenku relatívne lacná krajina.

Prieskum ukázal, že Holanďania kladne prijali euro v SR a napriek kríze sa nevzdajú zahraničnej dovolenky, pričom exotickú radi zamenia za lacnejšiu napr. na Slovensku. "Záujem o Slovensko môže však u Čechov pretrvať v súvislosti s tým, že sa chcú v období hospodárskej krízy a tým krátenia rozpočtu na dovolenku zamerať na domáci cestovný ruch, do ktorého zahŕňajú aj návštevu Slovenska," zistila kancelária SACR v Prahe. Pokles návštevnosti u Poliakov zavinieli napr. aj medializované informácie, ktoré vyjadrovali obavy, že po zavedení eura na Slovensku stúpnu ceny. V prípade menšieho záujmu Maďarov o Slovensko sa podpísala aj skutočnosť, že ich prudko zasiahla hospodárska kríza. Obmedzujú tak výjazdové pobyty v prospech domácej dovolenky, ktorú v Maďarsku podporuje aj systém rekreačných šekov.



Pred desiatimi rokmi sa dostal do kozmu prvý Slovák

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

doplnil palubný inžinier Jean-Pierre Haigneré z Francúzska. Štart 52 metrov vysokej rakety sledovala z čestnej tribúny slovenská vládna delegácia na čele s ministrom obrany Pavlom Kanisom. Po necelých dvoch minútach a odpojení prvého stupňa nosnej rakety sa kozmická loď stratila z dohľadu desiatkam novinárov zo Slovenska, Ruska aj Francúzska v jasnej modrej oblohe nad kazašskou stepou.

Podplukovník Ivan Bella, príslušník 33. leteckej základne v Malackách, strávil v kozme osem dní. Druhý deň po štarte slovenský kozmonaut po prvý raz telefonoval so svojou manželkou Juditou. Spojenie dopravnej lode s orbitálnym komplexom Mir sa uskutočnilo 22. februára 1999. Bella na ruskej stanici Mir plnil národný vedecký program pod názvom Štefánik, ktorý pozostával zo šiestich experimentov medicínskeho, biologického a fyzikálneho zamerania. Z výšky 350 kilometrov nad Zemou zaslal 25. februára 1999 srdečné pozdravy všetkým svojim krajanom doma aj v zahraničí vďaka telemostu medzi orbitálnou stanicou Mir a pozemným riadiacim centrom v podmoskovskom Koroľove.

Na Zem sa Bella vrátil 28. februára 1999. Úspešne pristáli v zasneženej kazašskej stepi približne 300 kilometrov juhozápadne od hlavného mesta Astany. Pristávací modul v tvare kupoly s výškou 2,5 metra a priemerom dva metre pristál v presne určenej oblasti neďaleko nevelkého kazašského mesta Arkalyk. Vo výške 11 kilometrov sa na aparáte otvoril obrovský padák s plochou 1000 metrov štvorcových, vďaka ktorému sa čiastočne utlmil dopad kozmonautov na Zem. Celú operáciu zabezpečovalo priamo na mieste pristátia vyše 120 ľudí z federálnej letecko-kozmickej záchranej služby ruského ministerstva obrany, ktorí mali k dispozícii 14 vrtuľníkov a lietadiel. Akciu viedol jej hlavný veliteľ, generálmajor Alexander Puzanov. Spúšťací aparát sa dotkol Zeme o 03.15 h SEČ. V mieste pristátia bolo o päť hodín viac. Okamžite po pristátí sa kozmonauti dostali do opatery lekárov a vo vyhriatom vojenskom stane sa podrobili prvej zdravotnej prehliadke. Spolu s Ivanom Bellom sa z orbitálnej stanice Mir vrátil aj ruský kozmonaut Gennadij Padalka, ktorý bol na orbite od augusta 2007. Na orbitálnej stanici Mir zostala trojčlenná rusko-francúzska posádka v zložení Viktor Afanasiev, Sergej Avdejev a Jean-Pierre Haigneré.

Let prvého slovenského kozmonauta sa uskutočnil na základe slovensko-ruskej medzivládnej dohody a v rámci deblokácie ruského dlhu.



Euroregión Tatry plánuje cyklotrasu okolo slovenských veľhôr

Bratislava (TASR) – Ojedinelý projekt pre turistický ruch pripravuje slovensko-poľský Euroregión Tatry v podobe cyklotrasy Cesta okolo Tatier. Na výstave Euroregióny Slovenska na Západnej terase Bratislavského hradu ju 16. februára predstavil riaditeľ kancelárie združenia Región Tatry Milan Nevlažla z Kežmarku.

Špeciálna vyše 300-kilometrová obojsmerná-dvojpruhová magistrála len pre cyklistov je plánovaný projekt na 12 až 15 rokov. Vedie cez regióny Spiš, Liptov, Orava a Podhalie. Niektoré úseky sa využijú úpravou existujúcich cestných komunikácií s nižšou dopravnou frekvenciou, ďalšie si žiadajú úplne nové vybudovanie. V niektorých lokalitách existuje viacero návrhov trasovania. Napríklad cez hrebeň Spišskej Magury sa zvažujú tri varianty a najvyššie Sedlo pod Príslopom severozápadne od Ždiaru je v nadmorskej výške 1130 metrov.

Zbierka na pomoc Detskému domovu v Bratislave- Petržalka

Sihote, sihote, zelené sihote, komu je horšie, ako mne sirote?

Nemám otca, mamky, žiadneho priateľa, nemám

ku komu ísť, keď príde nedela ...

Ako každoročne pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, tak aj toho roku už po deviatykrát organizujeme zbierku pre pomoc Detským domovom na Slovensku. Je to výzva ku všetkým tým, ktorým nie je ľahostajný osud sirôt. Peňažnú zbierku organizujeme na pomoc deťom umiestneným na Slovensku v Detskom domove na Rentgenovej ulici č. 16 Bratislava – Petržalka. Žije tam 92 detí počnúc kojencami až do 18-ročných sirôt. Tento detský domov sa toho roku chystáme navštíviť v máji, preto prosíme dobrodincov, aby podporili deti, ktoré sú odkázané na cudziu pomoc. Tak ako v minulosti príspevky môžete poukázať na Slovenský kostol sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10021 pod heslom „Detské domovy na Slovensku“. Po skončení akcie vyúčtovanie bude uverejnené.

Táto humánna akcia začala v roku 1995 v Detskom domove Štós na Východnom Slovensku a tak pokračovala Detským domovom na Železnej studničke v Bratislave, domovom pre postihnuté deti v Oščadnici, okr. Čadca, domovom Hviezdička v Železnej Breznici, okr. Zvolen, domovom Nádej Bernolákovo okr. Senec, domovom v Hriňovej okr. Zvolen. Detský domov pre postihnuté deti v Oščadnici okrese Čadca sme navštívili dvakrát a naposledy to bol domov Ratolesť Trnie v okrese Zvolen.

Je to výzva pre všetkých tých, ktorí majú srdce a pevnú vieru. Veríme, že aj toho roku sa nájdu dobrodinci, ktorí podporia tento šlachetný úmysel. Bližšie informácie vám podajú Milan a Henrieta Daitoví na tel. č.: (201) 641-8922.

Bratislavský kraj je medzi 41 najbohatšími regiónmi EÚ

Bratislava (TASR) - Región Bratislavský kraj patrí medzi 41 regiónov Európskej únie, ktorých hrubý domáci produkt (HDP) na obyvateľa vyjadrený v parite kúpnej sily (PPS) preyšuje 125 percent celoeurópskeho priemeru. Vyplýva to zo štatistiky, vypracovanej na základe údajov z roku 2006, ktorú nedávno zverejnil Európsky štatistický úrad Eurostat. Najvyšší HDP na obyvateľa vyjadrený v PPS mali vnútorný Londýn (336 %), Luxembursko ako celok (267 %), Brusel hl. mesto (233 %) a Hamburg (200 %). Na 12. mieste je so 162 % Praha, Bratislavský kraj dosahuje 148.7 %, čo znamená 19. miesto.

V predchádzajúcej štatistike na základe údajov z roku 2005 bol tento región na rovnakom mieste so 147.9 %. Medzi 41 najbohatšími regiónmi EÚ je 8 nemeckých, 6 britských, 5 holandských, 4 rakúske, 3 talianske, 3 španielske, 2 belgické, 2 fínske a po jednom regióne majú zastúpenie ČR, Dánsko, Írsko, Grécko, Francúzsko, Slovensko, Švédsko a Luxembursko. Posledných 20 miest rebríčka obsadili rumunské, bulharské, maďarské a poľské regióny, pričom najchudobnejší je rumunský región Severovýchod a bulharský región Severozápad (obidva po 25 %).

Medzi 68 regiónmi, ktorých HDP na obyvateľa vyjadrený v PPS nedosahuje 75 % priemeru únie, je 15 poľských regiónov, 7 rumunských, 7 českých, 6 bulharských, 6 gréckych, 6 maďarských, 5 talianskych, 4 portugalské, 4 francúzske (všetko námorské departementy), okrem Bratislavského kraja ostatné 3 slovenské regióny a po jednom má zastúpenie Španielsko, Slovinsko, Estónsko, Lotyšsko a Litva.



Minister Lajčák prijal amerického diplomata Eddinsa

Bratislava (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák prijal 11. februára na nástupnej návšteve chargé d'affaires a. i. veľvyslanectva USA v SR Keitha Eddinsa. Minister ho informoval o záujme Slovenska posilniť dvojstranné vzťahy a nadviazať čo najskôr pracovné kontakty s novou administratívou USA na všetkých úrovniach. Lajčák potvrdil kontinuitu zahraničnej politiky Slovenska a oboznámil diplomata s novou hierarchiou strategických priorít rezortu v súvislosti s úsilím vlády o elimináciu dôsledkov ekonomickej krízy. Vymenili si tiež názory na aktuálne otázky medzinárodných vzťahov.

TASR informoval hovorca Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR Ján Škoda. Chargé d'affaires ad interim je podľa internetovej stránky MZV SR diplomatický pracovník poverený dočasným vedením zastupiteľského úradu po dobu neprítomnosti mimoriadneho a splnomocneného veľvyslanca.

Hymna "Hej, Slováci" Jej pôvodca, vznik a osudy

K 100. výročiu z poverenia Literárneho odboru

Slovenskej ligy napísala Elena Brestenská-Gessayová

Samuel Tomášik, tvorca hymny „Hej Slováci“, narodil sa v Jelšavskej Teplici v Gemeri 8. februára 1813 ako mladší syn zo štyroch detí Pavla Tomášika, ev. farára, a Kristíny rod. Glosovej. O jeho detstve sa vie, že už v r. 1820 často chodieval so svojím o 11 rokov starším bratom Pavlom a otcokom k zručaninám muránskeho zámku. Bol to zámok ešte z 13. storočia, opradený rôznymi pútavými povestami, ktoré našim návštevníkom zakaždým rozprával starý hájnik, bydliači na zámku. Malý Samko s veľkým záujmom počúval starcove reči a dychtivo obzeral si podivné, starobylé veže, rozváľané bašty, hradby, múry. No, v útlej svojej duši sotva tušil, že už zobúdzá sa v ňom budúci kronikár Muráňa!

Do elementárnej školy najprv chodil Tomášik v Jelšavskej Teplici; skončil ju však v Chyžnom, kde sa jeho otec stal farárom. Na gymnáziu v Rožňave jeho spolužiakmi boli Michal Hodža, Samo Chalupka a Jonáš Záborský. Evanjelické lýceum navštevoval v Kežmarku, kde najmä profesor Ján Blahoslav Benediktí, druh Šafárikov, znamenitý slovenský buditeľ, vstúpil mu do srdca lásku k národu. A vzorom národovca bol mu



Samuel Tomášik

aj mladý kandidát Kuzmány. S ním zúčastňoval sa zasadnutí „Učenej spoločnosti slovenskej“, založenej pričinením horespomenutého Benediktího, kde čítali, recitovali básne, cvičili sa v písomníctve a národne sa obodovali. Nie div, že Tomášik, vyvíňujúci sa v takomto prostredí, nadchol sa národným povedomím a že v tom Kežmarku, kde dnes sa tak bezočivo nemčí a kde Slovenská liga naráža vo svojej práci na toľké prekážky a ťažkosti, s veľkou radosťou odbavoval v lycejnej budove slovenské bohoslužby.

Roku 1831 podrobil Tomášika kandidátskej skúške potisský biskup dr. Pavel Jozeffy. Po skúške stal sa mladý bohoslovec vychovávateľom v dome šľachtica Jozefa Szentmiklóssyho. Ale aj tu vo voľných chvíľach usilovne študoval, pripravujúc sa na úlohu, ktorú národ a život od neho očakával.

Len dva roky zastával Tomášik vychovávateľskú stanicu, lebo r. 1833 povoláný bol domov do Chyžného, kde jeho starý, chorľavý otec už nevládal vykonávať všetky povinnosti, s úradom farára spojené. Preto mladý Tomášik musel mu pomáhať, za neho kázať, pohreby a modlitby odbavovať. Ale toho istého roku dňa 29. apríla Tomášikov otec náhle zomrel a obec, ktorá si bola mladého bohoslovca obľúbila, zvolila ho na otcovo miesto. Biskup Jozeffy súhlasil, aby Tomášik bol dňa 22. mája vysvätený a aby úrad chyžnianskeho farára prijal, ale len pod tou podmienkou, že doplní svoje vzdelanie na niektorej bohosloveckej fakulte v Nemecku.

Tomášik poslušne rozkaz svojho predstaveného a hneď po svojom uvedení v úrad dal sa do príprav na cestu. Na fare usporiadal niektoré veci, a keď jeho bývalý spolužiak Samo Chalupka prisľúbil za jeho neprítomnosti faru administrovať, v auguste r. 1834 vybral sa so svojím priateľom Karolom Bradovkom, kameňanským farárom, do Viedne po pas do Nemecka. Po dlhom šesťtýždňovom čakaní a prosení boli im cestovné listiny, ako aj povolenie k zápisu na berlínsku univerzitu vydané. Tomášik pokračoval vo svojej ceste a 2. novembra bol už v Prahe, kde potom za tak prazvláštnych a zaujímavých okolností napísal hymnu „Hej, Slováci“.

V Prahe zdržal sa Tomášik vyše týždňa. Dňa 11. novembra vidíme ho už v Berlíne. Tu zapísal sa na univerzitu, pilne navštevoval prednášky, ale verný svojmu slovenskému a slovanskému cíteniu, s neobyčajnou láskou študoval v tamjšej kráľovskej knižnici staré kroniky Slovanov. To ho pobádalo k tomu, aby v marci r. 1835, hneď ako sa skončil zimný semester prednášok, navštívil polabské a pobaltické kraje. Ale smutne zaplakal, keď zistil, že tu v zemiach, kedysi jeho bratmi obývaných, ostali po Slovanoch už len mená riek, miest, dedín, postava a kraj ľudu. Reč v tom valiacom sa, ničivom mori nemectva vyhyhula. Dlhو chodil Tomášik po stopách Slovanov, tešiac sa každému najmenšiemu objavu. No, povinnosť ho volala a preto o nejaký čas vrátil sa do Berlína, kde pokračoval vo svojich štúdiách na univerzite. V auguste už na spiatocnej ceste domov zasa zavítal do Prahy. Tu znovu pozdravil svojich známych a potom ponáhlal sa na Slovensko. Na zastávkach v Bratislave, vtedajšom Prešporku, v Modre, Trnave, Nitre, Trenčíne, v Turci, Liptove a Spiši bedlivo študoval svoj ľud, ktorý teraz po tak bôľných skúsenostiach s jeho nepriateľom v cudzine stal sa mu ešte dražším. Tým skončil svoju prípravu na dráhu životnú a v jeseni r. 1835 vrátil sa na chyžniansku faru, kde ostal až do svojej smrti.

V Chyžnom pustil sa Tomášik hneď do práce. Zápisky z ciest prepísal v Cestopis a jednu jeho stať poslal do Kuzmányho „Hronky“. Potom horlivo oddal sa poézii. Jeho piesne a básne zjavovali sa vo „Vlastenských Kalendároch“ a „Pozorníkoch“ Fejérpatakyho, v „Slovenských Novinách“, v Dobšinského, Paulínyho a Kalinčákovom „Sokole“, „Černokňažníku“ a Orle“ a v matičnom kalendári. Piesne boli veselé, spoločenské. Mnohé z nich, ako „Hej, pod Muráňom, to je krásny svet“, „Nič sa nestarajme, chlapi od Šajavy“ atď., čochvíľa znárodneli a ešte aj dnes ozývajú sa medzi slovenským ľudom. Jeho národné básne - a takých bolo najviac - dýchali rýdzo slovenským duchom, prejavovým v hymne „Hej Slováci“. Slovensko mu bolo večné a nezmorné, lebo zem a Slovák je jedno - treba by bolo zem pohltiť, aby bolo možno Slováka odstrániť. Hlásal: „Pokým Váh svoje vlny nosí do Dunaja - ani čert nehne Slováka z jeho kraja; skôr Dunaj do mora svojho tiecť prestane, ako Slovák národu neverným sa stane; vyvrátiš prv Tatry, zastavíš Dunaja, než sa odriekne Slovák svojho kraja.“ Toto presvedčenie tým výraznejšie ozývalo sa v jeho básňach za búrlivých rokov slovenského povstania. V memorandovej dobe zasa tešil sa Tomášik, že „Slovenské Okolie“ oživa, že ním Slováci nadobúdajú čestné miesto na svetovom dejisku. Slovom, nebolo pohybu v národe, ktorý by nebol Tomášik zvečnil básňou.

(Pokračovanie)



FOTO TASR - Tomáš Halász

Minister kultúry SR Marek Maďarič slávnostne odovzdal 24. februára 2009 v Bratislave certifikát o zápise Drevených kostolov v slovenskej časti Karpatskej horskej oblasti do Zoznamu svetového kultúrneho a prírodného dedičstva UNESCO zástupcom obcí a cirkví (na snímke) z obcí Hervartov, Tvrdošín, Kežmarok, Leštiny, Hronsek, Bodružal, Ladomírová a Ruská Bystrá.

Drevené kostoly sú slovenským aj svetovým pokladom

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovenské drevené kostoly sú oficiálne od minulého roku nielen slovenským, ale aj svetovým pokladom. Zároveň sú dôkazom súčasnej slovenskej kultúrnosti, vyhlásil 24. februára minister kultúry Marek Maďarič počas slávnostného odovzdávania certifikátov o zápise Drevených kostolov v slovenskej časti Karpatskej horskej oblasti do Zoznamu svetového kultúrneho a prírodného dedičstva UNESCO v Bratislave.

Súbor ôsmich slovenských drevených kostolov bol už 7. júla 2008 v kanadskom Quebecu zaradený do Zoznamu svetového kultúrneho a prírodného dedičstva UNESCO. Túto výsadu získali Rímskokatolícky kostol sv. Františka z Assisi v Hervartove, Rímskokatolícky kostol Všetkých svätých v Tvrdošine, Artikulárny evanjelický kostol v Kežmarku, Artikulárny evanjelický kostol v Leštínach, Artikulárny evanjelický kostol v Hronseku, Gréckokatolícky kostol sv. Mikuláša v Bodružali, Gréckokatolícky kostol sv. Michala Archanjela v Ladomírovej a Gréckokatolícky kostol sv. Mikuláša Biskupa v Ruskej Bystrej. Certifikáty z rúk ministra prebrali zástupcovia miest a obcí a predstavitelia cirkví.

Súbor kostolov sa stal v poradí siedmou slovenskou pamiatkou zapísanou na Zozname svetového dedičstva UNESCO. Originálna drevená architektúra v Karpatskom oblúku predstavuje syntézu východnej a západnej kultúry a symbiózu ľudového a profesionálneho staviteľstva v období 15. až 18. storočia. V zozname je už zapísaná Banská Štiavnica s technickými pamiatkami okolia, Spišský hrad s okolitými pamiatkami, Pamiatková rezervácia ľudovej architektúry Vlkolínec, Historické jadro mesta Bardejov, ako aj Jaskyne Slovenského krasu a Karpatské bukové pralesy.

Do Zoznamu svetového dedičstva UNESCO môže byť zapísané pôvodné výnimočné dielo univerzálnej hodnoty jedinečné svojou architektúrou, stavebnou technológiou, mestského alebo krajinného charakteru, ktoré reprezentuje vieru, kultúrnu tradíciu či spolupôsobenie človeka a prírody. Objekty navrhnuté na zápis posudzujú odborníci (ICOMOS), ktorí návrh porovnávajú s objektmi zapísanými, navrhnutými alebo nenavrhnutými objektmi podobného charakteru a pri výbere zohľadňujú aj možné ohrozenie a schopnosť ochrániť objekt v budúcnosti.



Dni Európy v Košiciach

Košice (TASR) - Organizátori Dní Európy v Košiciach sa potešili tomu, že záštitu nad podujatím prevzali ministri zahraničných vecí SR a ČR Miroslav Lajčák a Karel Schwarzenberg.

“Chceme Košiciam ponúknuť európsku špičku v oblasti diplomacie, ekonomiky, kultúry a cestovného ruchu a tou nepochybne obidvaja páni sú. Tešíme sa, že zoberali záštitu nad naším podujatím. To jasne hovorí o tom, že Košice majú na to, aby zorganizovali veľké podujatie na najvyššej možnej úrovni,” povedal Eduard Buraš zo spoločnosti FEMAN, jedného z organizátorov akcie. Zároveň vyjadril presvedčenie, že do metropoly východného Slovenska prijímú pozvanie ďalšie zaujímavé osobnosti z celej Európy. “Pripravujeme diplomatické a ekonomické fórum v spolupráci s Ministerstvom zahraničných vecí SR a bude to akési voľné pokračovanie májového summitu EÚ, ktorý sa uskutoční v Prahe,” vysvetlil.

Dni Európy v Košiciach, na ktoré prídu hostia z európskej dvadsaťsedmičky reprezentovať svoje krajiny v oblasti kultúry, diplomacie, ekonomiky, umenia, filmu a cestovného ruchu, sa uskutočnia 4. až 7. júna. Česká republika na podujatí symbolicky odovzdá Švédsku predsedníctvo EÚ.

Amerika prekoná terajšiu krízu

„Prišiel čas nechať detskú nezrovnalosť a nezhody stranou“, povedal 44. prezident Spojených štátov Barack Obama v inauguračnej reči. Vyčerpávajúca volebná kampaň je za nami. Teraz je potrebné, aby sa Amerika pustila do naliehavej práce a ukázala svoju veľkosť.

Ďalšia jeho reč bola priamo zameraná na mnohé problémy, ktoré čakajú na urýchlené riešenie. Bolo v nej dosť skrytých a pochybných príznakov do budúcnosti – ekonomika, strata pracovných možností, zatváranie obchodov, úpadok v školstve, nákladné zdravotné poistenie, strata rezidenčných domov, boj proti teroru a nesprávne používanie energie. A čo je najhoršie, strata národnej sebadôvery.

Prezident nás upozornil, že cesta naspäť ku národnej veľkosti Ameriky nie je „pre slabých, ľahostajných a bojzlivých. Stáť stranou, alebo ťapkať si po pleci, že všetko je v poriadku, chrániť úzke záujmy a riešiť vážne záležitosti krajiny neskoršie, tento spôsob i čas sa už dávno pominuli“.

„Naše poplátané dedičstvo je silou, nie slabosťou.“ V akomkoľvek zápase alebo spore sa Amerika v minulosti nachádzala, vždy našla rovnováhu napriek svojej etnickej a rasovej rozdielnosti. Prezident vyjadril silnú vieru keď povedal, že Spojené štáty sú schopné prejsť cez prekážky a akékoľvek skúšky. „Nech deti našich dietok vedia, keď sme boli skúšaní, nebáli sme sa. Išli sme cestou skúšky až do konca, neobrátili sme chrbát a nezakolísali sme.“

Toto nie je len zmena, čo videl muž ktorý sa ujal vedenia najsilnejšej krajiny na svete. Toto je generačný znak ako sprievodca vážnych rozhodnutí. Podobá sa to slovám ktoré povedal prezident Kennedy v inauguračnej reči: „Nepýtajte sa, čo urobí pre vás Amerika, ale pýtajte sa čo vy urobíte pre Ameriku. Prezident kládol dôraz na jednotu, na tradičné občianske služby a obeť.“

Tie státisíce ľudí (okolo dvoch miliónov) ktorí prišli do Washingtonu, to neboli tvrdí straníci, ale hrdí Američania zvyknutí na hladký prechod moci „pretože zostali verní ideálom predchodcov a zakladajúcim dokumentom“.

Voľba nového prezidenta bola balzomom pre mnohých v Amerike a našla priaznivú ozvenu aj v mnohých krajinách na svete. Ako keby nastal odmäk – uvoľnenie, na ktoré svet čakal.

Treba povedať, že Amerika musela čakať skoro 3 mesiace od inaugurácie, kým sa prezident ujal svojho úradu. To sa zdá príliš dlhý čas, zvlášť keď treba riešiť kritickú situáciu krajiny. A nepamätám, že by predchádzajúci prezidenti Spojených štátov boli tak vyšetrení a ich minulosť tak dôkladne preskúmaná ako v prípade prezidenta Barack Obama.

Želali by sme si, aby nový prezident vypočul znalcov – odborníkov vo všetkých záležitostiach z oboch politických strán a aby si vypočul aj tých, ktorí s ním nesúhlasia. Barack Obama môže uchrániť Ameriku, ak ju oslobodí od lobbystov, bankárov a finančných špekulantov. Môže priviesť Ameriku do modernej doby priemyselných štátov, ak zavedie jednotné zdravotné poistenie. A ak by sa mu podarilo dosiahnuť pokoj medzi Izraelom a Palestínčanmi, to by bol veľký úspech jeho politiky. Vieme, že toto je len časť problémov, ktoré Barack Obama bude riešiť.

Myslím, že Amerika si zvolila dobrého prezidenta, zvlášť na terajší čas. Je to mladý muž plný energie, potenciálu a vízie pre ľudstvo. Je skvelým rečníkom, ktorý inšpiroval milióny ľudí, hlavne mládež. Je to muž veľkého talentu, ktorý priniesol mnoho radosti a nádeje ako žiadny prezident Ameriky predtým. Takýto talent sa zjavuje na svetovej scéne možno raz za sto rokov. Je to vodca vynikajúcej kvality. To prvýkrát v histórii Ameriky mládež porozumela, že budúcnosť a bezprostredná prítomnosť sú v jej rukách.

Rudo L. Greguš



Oslava slovenskej štátnosti

V nedeľu 15. marca o 1:00 hodine popoludní sa v spoločenskej hale Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na rohu 66th Street a First Avenue v New Yorku bude konať oslava slovenskej štátnosti. Bude spojená so spomienkou na básnika Andreja Žarnova pri príležitosti 95. výročia jeho narodenia. Andrej Šubík Žarnov patrí medzi najvýznamnejších slovenských básnikov a bol významným bojovníkom za slovenskú štátnosť.

Výbor oslavy pripravil zaujímavý kultúrny program. Po oslave bude na predaj občerstvenie a bude otvorený bar. Usporiadatelia pozývajú slovenskú verejnosť z New Yorku a okolia, aby sa na oslave zúčastnili. Bližšie informácie: Milan Dait, tel.č. (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik, tel. č. (718) 463- 2084.

Snežienky

*Ešte tenký plášť snehu, pokrýval časť polnej cesty,
keď snežienky, akosi bojzливо, začali zo zemi vykúkať,
krehké, bielučké, jak pred svadbou, nevesty,
sklonené hlávky, akoby vzdávali vďaka Bohu,
že doprial im, pozdraviť nás v tomto novom roku.*

*A čo, si medzi sebou šušajú? Snád, tie ženské klebietky?
Veď sme ich s radosťou vítali. Sú to naše prvé, jarné kvietky.
Nuž, vitajte tu medzi nami, ste prvé kvietky, tejto jari,
nech sa vám tu, na tomto svete, vždy dobre darí.*

*Nech, teplé slnečné líce, pohladia vaše biele hlavičky
a spevavý vtáčik, zo svojho žánru, zanôti jeho pesničky.
V noci, nech svietia vám, jasné, blyskavé hviezdičky
a verne stráži vás, náš „Strýko“, trblietajúci, biely mesiacik.
K pozdravu, nech pridá sa, za dedinou, žblnkotajúci potôčik.*

*Nikto sa nepýta, prečo nevyrastli niekde inde ...
Slovenská zem im je dobrá, sladká, jej dušu, modlitba hladká.*

*Ďakujeme Ti pane Bože, za tak krásny – jari dar;
biele snežienky, sú Tvoje, my ich len, položíme na oltár.*

Jozef Smák

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

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

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu 29. marca 2009 o 1:00 odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a diskusia o návrhoch činnosti na budúce obdobie. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili. Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 7. júna 2009 o 1:00 odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojici v Yonkers, N.Y.

Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby láskavo poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní.

Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie a taktiež finančná správa. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku č. 41 v Yonkers, N.Y.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Členská schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať svoju členskú schôdzu na Kvetnú nedeľu 5. apríla 2009. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine doobeda v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa už tradične budú zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Členská schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni. Na programe je plán činnosti a informácie o poistení cestou Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie srdečne pozývame všetky spolky v okolí.

Paul Skuben, predseda

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Hodnota vzájomného obchodu Slovenska s Kórejskou republikou predstavovala vlni 3.5 miliardy USD (2.74 miliardy eur), čo znamená, že sú 8. najväčším obchodným partnerom Slovenska. Uviedol to veľvyslanec Kórejskej republiky na Slovensku Yong Kyu Park pri podpise zmluvy vo februári medzi SR a Kórejskou republikou o sociálnom zabezpečení. Na Slovensku v súčasnosti pôsobí viac ako 60 kórejských firiem, ktoré zamestnávajú asi 20,000 Slovákov. Okrem veľkých ako Samsung a Kia aj veľa malých a stredných podnikov, ktoré fungujú ako ich dodávatelia. Spoločnosti z Kórejskej republiky investovali v SR 2 miliardy USD.

Slovensko a Poľsko podpísali v pondelok 9. februára vo Varšave memorandum o výstavbe medzinárodnej cesty Via Carpatia, ktorá spojí Baltské a Čierne more. Diaľnica by sa mala začínať na severe pri Baltskom mori a prechádzať cez Litvu, Poľsko, Slovensko, Maďarsko, Rumunsko a Bulharsko k Čiernemu moru, no nevylučuje sa ani spojenie s Gréckom. Poľská časť medzinárodnej diaľnice by mala dosahovať okolo 620 kilometrov a prechádzať pozdĺž východnej hranice krajiny. Náklady len na túto časť sa odhadujú na približne 21 miliárd zlotých (4,68 miliardy eur), stavebné práce však budú financované nielen z poľského rozpočtu a Národného diaľničného fondu Poľska, ale aj z programu EÚ na podporu infraštruktúry a životného prostredia.

Bývalý minister zahraničných vecí Slovenskej republiky Ján Kubiš zložil 10. februára do rúk generálneho tajomníka OSN Pan Ki-muna sľub ako nový výkonný tajomník Európskej hospodárskej komisie OSN (UNECE). Kubiš nahradil vo vedení UNECE Mareka Belku z Poľska. Na slávnostnom ceremoniáli v newyorskom sídle svetovej organizácie sa zúčastnili predstavitelia všetkých piatich regionálnych hospodárskych komisií a vedenie OSN. Vysokopostavení medzinárodní funkcionári OSN skladajú sľub na Chartu OSN. Túto tradíciu založil iba nedávno generálny tajomník Pan Ki-mun.

V európskej online súťaži plagátov Eurocompetition zvíťazila spomedzi 1800 európskych školákov Slovenka Viktória Ševcová zo Súkromnej základnej umeleckej školy v Ružomberku. Na plagáte Moderné Euro zobrazila mladú ženu odtú do šiat z euromincí a eurobankoviek. Porota označila jej dielo za "svieže, mladé a originálne". Viktória vyhrala digitálny fotoaparát za národné víťazstvo a čaká ju pozvánka do Bruselu. Jej plagát vystavia za prítomnosti Joaquína Almunia, európskeho komisára pre hospodárske a menové záležitosti. Mladí umelci mali v súťaži Eurocompetition využiť svoju kreativitu a invenciu a navrhnuť plagát vyjadrujúci ich názor a úvahy na tému „10 rokov eura“, výhody a budúcnosť spoločnej meny. Slovensko, ktoré prijalo novú menu len od 1. januára tohto roku, sa s 266 plagátmi stalo jednou z najaktívnejšie zapojených krajín.

Novelu vysokoškolského zákona, ktorá umožní verejným vysokým školám (VŠ) vstupovať do obchodných spoločností so svojím majetkom, odobrili ministri školstva Jánovi Míkolajovi aj rektori. Zároveň ubezpečil, že školy o svoje majetky neprídu. Verejné VŠ sa podľa neho musia rozhodnúť, či ponúknu svoje finančné prostriedky alebo laboratória do domácich alebo zahraničných vedecko-výskumných projektov. Novela z dielne ministra školstva zároveň otvorí zahraničným VŠ slovenský vysokoškolský trh. Tie by mali mať nárok na štátnu dotáciu na takej úrovni ako majú slovenské. Stane sa tak až po riadnom schválení ich študijných programov, na ktoré dohliadne Akreditačná komisia. Ministerstvo si od tejto zmeny sľubuje najmä zvýšenie konkurencie. Nová legislatívna úprava má tiež zvýšiť mobilitu vysokoškolákov, a to tak, že im uzná časť štúdia na inej univerzite či fakulte, vrátane zahraničných škôl.

Vláda SR uvoľní na projekt širokorozchodnej trate 1.49 milióna eur (45 miliónov Sk). Ide o vklad do základného imania spoločnej slovensko-rusko-ukrajinsko-rakúskej spoločnosti, ktorá bude zameraná na prípravu a realizáciu celého projektu. Informoval o tom 18. februára na tlačovej konferencii po rokovaní vládneho kabinetu minister dopravy Lubomír Vážny, ktorý avizoval, že v súčasnosti v čase globálnej hospodárskej krízy je o veľké investičné projekty záujem. Investície do výstavby širokorozchodnej trate na území SR by mali predstavovať 4 miliardy eur (120.5 miliardy Sk). S výstavbou sa plánuje začať v roku 2011, dokončená by mala byť o šesť rokov neskôr. O projekte rokovali 12. februára premiér SR Robert Fico a minister dopravy s prezidentom Ruských železníc Vladimirom Ivanovičom Jakuninom. Predseda vlády SR vtedy avizoval vznik slovensko-rusko-ukrajinsko-rakúskej spoločnosti a tiež menovanie splnomocnenca slovenskej vlády pre túto oblasť.

Zamestnanci spoločnosti Delphi Slovakia v Senici musia dokázať, že sú lepší ako robotníci v Českej republike (ČR) a Poľsku. Inak prídu o prácu. Americká materská firma zvažuje, že zatvorí v strednej Európe polovicu svojich výrobných závodov. Popri senickej továrni má prevádzky aj v ČR, Poľsku a Rumunsku. Najlacnejšia pracovná sila je v Rumunsku, takže o druhej prevádzke, v ktorej sa zachová výroba, sa rozhodne medzi slovenskou, českou a poľskou fabrikou. Senickí pracovníci sú ochotní pristúpiť na zmrazenie platu či na kratší pracovný čas, čo znamená aj zníženie mzdy. Spoločnosť v Senici vyrába káblové zväzky pre automobilový priemysel, najmä pre luxusné modely áut, ktoré sa montujú v bratislavskom Volkswagene. Ten obmedzuje výrobu. Slovenskému výrobcovi priráža aj to, čo sa inak pokladá za úspech krajiny - euro. Česká koruna a poľský zlotý oproti euru výrazne oslabujú, čím sa znižujú výrobné náklady.

Dňa 17. februára sa mali poslanci rozhodnúť, či sa na Slovensku zakáže fajčenie

v podnikoch. Na programe je totiž toľko diskutovaný zákon o ochrane nefajčiarov, ktorý by mal začať platiť od 1. apríla 2009. Samotný návrh zakázať fajčenie v kaviarňach, tak ako je to v Taliansku, vyvolal búrlivú diskusiu. Vláda napokon pripravila kompromisný návrh. Fajčenie v zariadeniach, kde podávajú jedlo, bude síce zakázané, ale majiteľ reštaurácie môže v zariadení vytvoriť miestnosť pre fajčiarov. Bude však musieť byť stavebne oddelená. Skúsenosti zo zahraničia však svedčia o tom, že by sa Slováci nemuseli báť ani úplného zákazu fajčenia bez výnimiek.

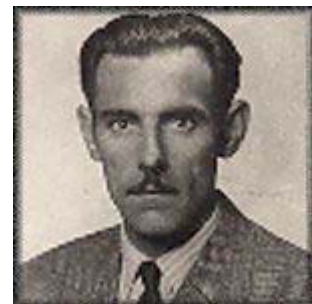
Bezvízový styk s Amerikou majú Slováci už tri mesiace. I keď elektronický formulár ESTA výlet povolí, návštevník nemá vyhrané. Stále ho čaká imigračný úradník, ktorý ho môže vrátiť do vlasti. "Niektorým Slovákom vstup na územie USA odopreli, hoci mali povolenie z ESTA," potvrdil slovenský veľvyslanec v USA Peter Burian. "Informovali nás o 15 prípadoch. O niektorých sa nemusíme dozvedieť, keď nás občan nekontaktuje," povedal Burian. Elektronický formulár ESTA sa dá vyplňať už aj v slovenčine. Systém sa záujemcu o cestu do USA pýta na kriminálne aktivity, ako aj na to, či mu niekedy odmietli vydať víza do Ameriky. Nie je však v ňom otázka, či človek niekedy v minulosti prekročil dĺžku povoleného pobytu v USA. Podľa zistení PRAVDY práve toto je jeden z dôvodov, keď sa imigrační úradníci rozhodnú návštevníka do krajiny nepustiť. "Ľuďom, ktorí mali v minulosti nejaké problémy pri vstupe do USA, sme odporučili, aby požiadali o víza na americkej ambasáde," hovorí Burian.

Hotel Double Tree by Hilton otvorili vo štvrtok 19. februára v Košiciach. Je to prvý hotel tejto medzinárodnej siete na Slovensku. Rekonštrukciu bývalého hotela Slovan, ktorá sa začala v júli 2007, financoval Interhouse Košice a J&T Real Estate. Vyžiadala si 40 miliónov eur (1.2 miliardy korún). Hotel má 13 poschodí a je v ňom 170 luxusných izieb. Má desať apartmánov a dva apartmány pre telesne postihnutých.

(TASR a slovenské časopisy)

Odišiel rodolub, nekompromisný obhajca Slovákov a Slovenska vo svete, Tomáš J. Veteška

Smutná správa sa rozletela po celom svete Slovákov, že 2. februára 2009 Tomáš J. Veteška skončil svoju životnú púť. Za prítomnosti svojej manželky Agnesy, rod. Gromovej a všetkých piatich detí (Bernadeta, Marián, Matúš, Eva a Peter – vo vekovom poradí), zaopatrený poslednými sviatosťami, opustil tento svet. Skonal svoju púť života, odišiel neúnavný bojovník, obranca práv a pravdivej histórie Slovákov vo svetovej tlači.



Tomáš J. Veteška

Tomáš J. Veteška sa narodil 7. marca 1921 v Šahoch nad Ipľom. Tomáš pochádzal z pätnásť-detnej rodiny a tak existenčné nedostatky v rodine mu rýchlo budovali pohotovosť pre zápasy nielen v rodine ale aj zápasy za národ, ako aj zárodoky tvrdých obetí, s tým spojených. Prenasledovania na školách, boli iba začiatky tvrdého života, ktorý na Tomáša čakal a ktorý ho mnohými skúškami zocoľoval. Ako 18-ročný slovenský patriot bol prvým, ktorý vo svojej obci, Lúky pod Makytou, 14. marca 1939 vyvesil slovenskú zástavu ako privítanie zrodzenia sa samostatnej Slovenskej republiky.

Ako mladý ľudácky bojovník nemohol nič iné čakať len prenasledovanie za riskantné podzemné akcie proti okupantom. Keď vyše šesť ročné putovanie po západnej Európe sa stalo neznesiteľným, rozhodol sa odísť do exilu do slobodnej Ameriky.

My ani nevieme, ktoré akcie alebo ktoré obete boli vo Veteškovom živote ťažšie. Nevieime či to boli prechody cez kordóny policajtov, či udavačstvo ľudí, o ktorých si myslel že sú jeho priatelia, alebo nemilosrdné zápasy v slovenských spolkoch a novinách, alebo vyvracania pravdy na stránkach americkej tlače a encyklopédií.

Tomáš Veteška napísal vyše 3 tisíc listov, protestov a dokumentácií a uverejnil vyše 400 apológií na obranu Slovenska a Slovákov v americkej tlači, v almanachoch a encyklopédiách. Tu si iste viacerí položia otázku, kde bral Tomáš silu a čas, ako aj finančné prostriedky na tieto akcie a bohatý prameň zdrojov pre jeho obetavý boj za slovenskú samostatnosť?

Tomáš bol aktívnym členom mnohých slovenských spolkov a dopisovateľom do novín Jednota, Slovákov v Amerike, Kanadský Slovákov a ďalších. Tomáš sa tiež pričínil o založenie Svetového kongresu zahraničných Slovákov a z jeho iniciatívy bola založená inštitúcia Free Slovakia (Slobodné Slovensko).

Za Tomášom Veteškom smúti jeho manželka Agnes, deti Bernadeta, Marián, Matúš, Eva a Peter s rodinami, rodina zo Slovenska, brat Janko a tri sestry, všetci žijúci v Košiciach.

Spopolnené pozostatky Tomáša Vetešku budú odnesené na Slovensko, ktoré budú uložené vedľa hrobu jeho brata na cintoríne v obci Lúky pod Makytou.

Kto ste ho poznali, venujte mu tichú pamiatku.

Nech mu Všemohúci dá sladký odpočinok vo svojej vlasti a nech mu pomáha Sedembolestná Panna Mária, patrónka Slovenska.

(Materiál poskytol John J. Vacval)



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 118

STREDA, 4. MARCHA, 2009

Číslo 5795

Podujatia Slovákov k výročiu úmrtia svätého Cyrila v Taliansku

Bratislava (TASR) - Pri príležitosti 1140. výročia úmrtia sv. Cyrila sa od 13. do 15. februára uskutočnili v talianskych mestách Bologna a Ravenna podujatia. Organizovala ich Matica slovenská, Ministerstvo kultúry SR, Trnavský samosprávny kraj, Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a občianske združenie Allegra.

Šlo tam špeciálne lietadlo s asi 70 ľuďmi, uviedol hovorca MS Stanislav Bajaník. Okrem ekumenickej bohoslužby, slávnostnej akadémie, prezentácie slovenských regiónov, reprezentačného plesu Slovákov v zahraničí a iných aktivít odhalili na ravennskej katedrále pamätnú tabuľu sv. Cyrilovi so slovensko-talianskym textom. Vyhotoval ju sochár Marián Polonský. Na podujatiach sa zúčastnili aj zástupcovia Národnej rady SR, vysokí predstavitelia cirkví, podnikatelia a umelci. "Naším zámerom je spájať podnikateľskú a duchovnú slovensko-taliansku sféru i Slovákov žijúcich vo svete," zdôvodnil hovorca MS Stanislav Bajaník. Podľa neho sa tam malo stretnúť asi 250 Slovákov z Rakúska, Nemecka, Švédska, Nórska a iných krajín i svetadielov.

Súčasťou podujatia boli ocenenie významných Slovákov pôsobiacich v Taliansku. Cenu združenia Allegra dostali herečka Barbara Bobulová a futbalista Marek Hamšík. Podľa Bajaníka obaja veľmi úspešne reprezentovali Slovákov v tejto krajine. Ocenenie sa uskutočnilo druhýkrát a je to aj z dôvodu, aby sa do talianskej verejnosti dostalo čo najviac informácií o Slovákoch.



Novozvolení úradníci Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ na obdobie roku 2009. Sediaci zľava: Anna Korčáková, Helena Zákutná, Jozef Juráši a Michael Zákutný. Stojaci zľava: Jozef Korčák, Želmíra Becková-Kucharovič, Anton Kucharovič, Mária Zakovič, otec Štefan Chanas, Mária Jurášiová, otec Martin Svitaň, Helena Brchnelová, Antonia Krajčovičová a Emil Pavelek.

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ usporiadal výročnú členskú schôdzu

Spolok sv. Matúša, číslo 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, usporiadal výročnú členskú schôdzu v nedeľu dňa 7. decembra 2009 o 12:30 hodine popoludní po slovenskej svätej omši v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Na programe boli správy úradníkov, finančná správa, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulý rok ako aj diskusia o návrhoch činnosti a voľba úradníkov na budúce obdobie. Za tým nasledovalo chutné pohostenie v príjemnej atmosfére vzájomného priateľstva členov.



Delegácia Helsinskej komisie Kongresu USA na návšteve Slovenska

Minister zahraničných vecí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák prijal nedávno delegáciu Helsinskej komisie Kongresu USA vedenú jej predsedom senátorom Kongresu USA Benjaminom Louisom Cardinom, demokratom za štát Maryland. Senátora počas krátkej návštevy Slovenska sprevádzala manželka a vedúci úradu Helsinskej komisie Fred Turner. Predstavitelia Helsinskej komisie sa zúčastili na rokovaní Parlamentného zhromaždenia Organizácie pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe (OBSE) vo Viedni. Na stretnutí sa zúčastnil aj čestný predseda Ústredného zväzu židovských náboženských obcí v SR Pavel Traubner a generálny riaditeľ Sekcie ľudských práv a menšín Úradu vlády SR Marek Lisánsky.

Minister M. Lajčák oboznámil senátora B. L. Cardina s hlavnými prioritami zahraničnej politiky vlády SR. Ďalšou témou rozhovorov bolo postavenie menšín na Slovensku a boj proti antisemitizmu, extrémizmu a korupcii. Minister M. Lajčák oboznámil partnerov s konkrétnymi krokmi vlády SR na zlepšenie postavenia menšín a proti extrémizmu, antisemitizmu a korupcii v krajine.

Hovorca Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR

Na pôde
Ministerstva obrany
SR v piatok 20.
februára 2009 v
Bratislave náčelník
Generálneho štábu
Ozbrojených síl
Slovenskej republiky
generál Ľubomír
Bulík odovzdal
plukovníkovi Ivanovi
Bellovi (na snímke)
medailu náčelníka
Generálneho štábu
Ozbrojených síl
SR III. stupňa pri
príležitosti 10.
výročia jeho letu do
vesmíru.



FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškáš

Pred desiatimi rokmi sa dostal do kozmu prvý Slovák

Bratislava (TASR) - Pred desiatimi rokmi sa dostal do kozmu prvý Slovák. Presne 20. februára 1999 o 5. hodine 17. minúte odštartovala z kozmodrómu Bajkonur v Kazachstane raketa s kozmickou loďou Sojuz TM-29. Na jej palube letel po prvý raz v histórii aj slovenský občan, vtedy 34-ročný kozmonaut-výskumník a rodák z Brezna, Ivan Bella. Veliteľom posádky bol Viktor Afanasiev z Ruska a trojicu

Pokračovanie na str. 20