



Jednota

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The FCSU Celebration Series

Editor's Note: the following piece by Slovak scholar and retired Jednota editor Anthony Sutherland kicks off a series of articles, the FCSU Celebration Series, that will be published in upcoming issues of the newspaper throughout 2015 in celebration of this year's FCSU many milestones as noted by Dr. Sutherland. As with all articles in the series, this one is accompanied by a Q and A with a member who reflects the topic at hand. In this case, as the topic is the history of our Society, Jednota interviews the FCSU's current National President, Andrew M. Rajec.

2015- A Year of Jubilees

Anthony Sutherland



A bust of our founder Father Stephen Furdek, refurbished by the FCSU, is in the Slovak Cultural Garden in Cleveland, OH.

The year 2015 holds special significance for our cherished organization the First Catholic Slovak Union and its members. During this year we will observe the 125th anniversary of the founding of the FCSU, the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Reverend Stephen Furdek, and the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. As with all historical milestones, these will be times to renew the spirit of our organization and plan for the future.

The 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union is certainly a milestone in the history of any organization. It speaks volumes for the leadership and wisdoms of its founders, though we are cautioned to recall the words of one FCSU chaplain many years ago who emphasized, "God runs Jednota." At one time, there were as many as 16 Slovak fraternal organizations in the United States, the Cleveland Slovak Union, the Passaic Slovak Union, Slovak Brotherhood, to mention a few. Many of these are mere footnotes to history, indeed, it would be difficult to find anything about them today. Yet the First Catholic Slovak Union survived and prospered despite many difficulties. The FCSU met the challenges of the times, the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic which threatened the very existence of the fraternal benefit system, the Great Depression during which the FCSU lost over 10,000 members, mostly in the youth division; the Americanization which began in the 1940s and accelerated in the later twentieth century; and the general decline in interest and membership in all fraternal organizations. The fact that the FCSU survived 125 years is a cause to celebrate.

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Deadline Approaches!

The deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2014 Scholarship Program is March 31.



See p 8 for details!

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An Interview with FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec



Andrew M. Rajec

JEDNOTA: TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROOTS.

AMR: My mother's parents were both born in Dubnica Nad Váhom, Slovakia.

My father's parents were born in Dubnica Nad Váhom and Horný Moštenec Slovakia.

So, basically, all my grandparents came from the north-west part of Slovakia. Both of my parents were born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

JEDNOTA: HOW DID YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FCSU?

AMR: My father was a member and I became a member when I was a youngster, incidentally about the same time I became a member of the FCSLA.

JEDNOTA: WHAT WERE YOUR EARLIEST MEMORIES OF BEING INVOLVED IN AN FCSU EVENT?

AMR: My first memory was of accompanying my grandfather to a branch meeting with everyone speaking Slovak and smoking cigars.

I always looked forward to going to the FCSLA's St. Ann Society with my grandmother for "bunco" parties at St. Stephen Slovak Church. For those who may not remember it, bunco is a group game with dice. It is still played today in some parts of the country.

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TAX DAY IS ALMOST HERE? HOW COULD I FORGET?

Watch your pot of gold grow with our annuity rates!

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6 Year Flexible Premium IRA **3.20%**

6 Year Fixed Rate IRA **3.10%**

Open or add to your IRA account by 4/15/2015

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Park 2 **2.15%**

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FCSU Financial—First Catholic Slovak Union

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6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131
800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Killian Loch, O.S.B., Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

March 8, 2015 – Third Sunday of Lent Gospel – John 2: 13 – 25

At first glance this Gospel could appear to be out of place for Lent. We began Lent with Jesus going out to the desert to pray and be tempted. Next was the beautiful account of the Transfiguration, next week we hear, “For God so loved the World...”, then the fifth Sunday, “unless the grain of wheat...”. This week we have the account



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

of Jesus cleansing the Temple of money changers and merchants. He does this rather aggressively with a whip made of cords which demonstrates the extent of his zeal. Throughout the Gospels Jesus is not shy about asserting himself to the scribes and Pharisees, the crowds and even the disciples and apostles. There is a tendency to picture Jesus as a kind and gentle man who says or does nothing that would upset people, somewhat like the politician who is always campaigning. Jesus' ministry was not one of working the campaign trail to get votes, his was of proclaiming the message that challenged the hearts and souls of those who listened.

Jesus confronts the people for using the temple not exclusively as the dwelling place of God, but also as a den of thieves. The people at the Temple questioned Jesus as to what authority he had to cleanse the temple of questionable commerce. Jesus responds by making the connection between the Temple of Jerusalem (the home of the Ark of the Covenant), and his body, (God incarnate.) “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” Is Jesus speaking of the temple that took over fifty years to construct, or the temple of the body and blood of Jesus? Following the Resurrection we are told that the disciples remembered what Jesus said and this helped them to understand the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The message of Jesus is about the new Kingdom that is being established here, the Kingdom of Heaven. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are invited to be Baptized and thus become citizens of this kingdom. Actually we become more than citizens, we become sons and daughters of God the Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus, and we ourselves become temples of the Holy Spirit.

As we near the midway point of Lent we are reminded that through our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are citizens of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit. Lent is a time for us to reflect on how we are living our faith and to repent of our sins. One approach is to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of Heaven and a temple of the Holy Spirit. What are my responsibilities as a citizen? Am I a faithful citizen? Do I seek the Kingdom of Heaven first in my life? How aware am I that I am a temple of the Holy Spirit? Do I recognize God's presence within me? Do I recognize and respect God's presence in others?

The various penitential practices of Lent are meant to help us to reflect on this. Whatever we might be doing or giving up for Lent, be mindful of who we are in God's eyes and approach these practices as means of helping you become a better citizen of Heaven and a grander Temple of the Holy Spirit. This could mean facing the challenges that are part of the

Gospel, even those areas of our lives where Jesus might make a whip of cords to purify us. Accept this purification by the Lord as His desire for us to be worthy citizens and reverent places of his presence.

March 15th 2015 - Fourth Sunday of Lent Gospel – John 12: 20 – 33

Today's first reading is taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, a text which is not often read at Mass; in fact, a Catholic who attends Mass each Sunday will hear a selection from this book only once every three years. The two Books of Chronicles describe the history of Israel from the time of the first kings until the return from the Babylonian captivity, a period of nearly six centuries, and they offer a different interpretation of many persons and events than do the other historical books of the Bible.

The author of this inspired work, often called the Chronicler, was writing after the return of the Israelites from their exile in Babylon—specifically mentioned in today's passage—and had a broader view of religious life and practice, and the relationship of Israel with God, than did the authors of the Books of 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings. The Chronicler, for example, goes comparatively easy on Solomon and David in his assessment of their moral faults, and he recognizes that non-Israelites could be people of righteousness and justice. He in no way ignores the awful nature of sin and infidelity, but rather than focusing exclusively on these painful realities he looks forward to the possibility of a new beginning for Israel.

In this Sunday's reading the Chronicler notes that Cyrus, the king of Persia, was inspired by the Lord and protected the rights of the Israelites as they returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple—in other words, a pagan foreigner recognized that the Lord was truly God. The Chronicler continues in this passage to clearly recount the sins which led the Israelites into exile and to frankly remember their just punishment. But the Chronicler, true to his hopeful outlook, also sees the possibility of forgiveness and salvation. To be sure, he is not simply being true to his own views, but to the revelation of God who made himself known through the Chronicler's own inspired words and those of the entire Old Testament.

The same movement is seen in today's gospel reading, in which we hear the famous words “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16). We hear an honest acknowledgment of the need for God's gracious intervention and mercy on account of human sin, and we also hear a note of great hope that there is the real possibility of eternal life for all who believe in Christ.

In recording these words, John the Evangelist does not assume a naïve understanding of human nature, nor does he overlook the way in which sin corrupts us and our world; rather, he faces it squarely, noting throughout his Gospel how “the world” consistently opposes Jesus and his message, and how we all form part of that opposition until the moment of our authentic conversion.

If this process of conversion is legitimate it must continue throughout the course of our lives; the point to take from today's Gospel reading is that by believing in Jesus as the one who delivers us from sin and woundedness we have taken the first step toward such conversion. By remaining in his grace, and being conscious that all of God's children are called to this same faith, conversion, and salvation—a lesson we began to learn from the Chronicler—we humbly confirm what Paul says in the second reading, from the Letter to the Ephesians: “Even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved” (Eph 2:5).



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR 18	MONDAY, MAR 9
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22	MONDAY, APRIL 13
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6	MONDAY, APRIL 27

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An Interview with FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec

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JEDNOTA: WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB OUT OF COLLEGE?

AMR: My first job out of college was with Uncle Sam. I graduated with an accounting degree from Marquette University and spent the next two years on active duty in the army as an armor branch 2nd and 1st lieutenant.

My second job was with Price Waterhouse Inc., at one of the "Big 8" national accounting firms. With all the mergers and acquisitions that have taken place since then, it's now more like one of the "Big 4".

JEDNOTA: WHAT POSITIONS DID YOU HOLD IN THE FCSU PRIOR TO YOUR CURRENT POSITION AS PRESIDENT?

AMR: My dad was the treasurer for Branch 89 for about 25 years. When the Branch 89 president died at about age 70, I agreed to take the presidency because no one else wanted the job. I was Branch 89 President for about 20 years. I served as Regional Director for 4 years after Steve Yusko died. Then I was president of Jednota Properties, Inc. for 4 years, and leased out the final vacant space at Building Number II in Middletown, Pennsylvania. I was elected in 2003 as General Council and as National President in 2007.

JEDNOTA: WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT?

AMR: The Society had a financial turn-around in the mid 1990s. Past National President Hricik urged me to run because of my background in law, finance and insurance. I had retired, but had a lot of energy and I had a deep interest in the Society.

JEDNOTA: WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONNEL BACKGROUND AS PRESIDENT?

AMR: As a practicing attorney with an emphasis on insurance law as a senior vice president and treasurer with a billion dollar insurance company I knew how an insurance company ran and handled issues from sales and marketing through human resources, investments and compliance. I had seen it all. I also had worked at two national CPA firms. I had broad financial and insurance experience.

JEDNOTA: WHAT WAS YOUR MAIN GOAL WHEN ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY IN 2006?

AMR: My main goal was to strengthen the Society and secure its financial health for the future. Additionally I wanted to make sure we were preserving the long cultural and historical Slovak history of the Society.

JEDNOTA: WHAT IS YOUR MAIN GOAL AS PRESIDENT TODAY? IF IT HAS CHANGED, WHY? WHAT INFLUENCED THE CHANGE?

AMR: We have had record growth in assets and surplus. I want to continue that trend, even in a challenging financial world. I hope we can urge other Slovak fraternalists to join us in a "marriage" to benefit us all. That particular goal of mine hasn't changed at all, just expanded.

2015- A Year of Jubilees

continued from page 1

The FCSU was never just an insurance society but much more. When one reads the history of the FCSU the one aspect that is most striking is the remarkable record of fraternalism. Since its first years, the FCSU has come to the aid of its members and countrymen both here in the United States and Europe. Much of this fraternalism took the form of collections whose progress was recorded in the society's newspaper JEDNOTA. Funds were solicited for victims of floods as in Pueblo, Colorado and Hurricane Agnes, after coal mine disasters, and national and cultural activities in Europe. Added to these were donations made by members to churches in their homeland villages in need of a new organ or bells.

This year of 2015 is the centennial of death of Father Furdek and the 160th year since his birth in 1855. Father Furdek was the spiritual and intellectual leader of the First Catholic Slovak Union whose guidance proved crucial for the success of the organization in its early years. The JEDNOTA newspaper, Jednota Home, Jednota Printery, Jednota Farm were all part of Furdek's dream of Slovak America. Father Furdek was also the manager of the JEDNOTA paper, an author of a science book and grade school Slovak language textbooks, and arbitrator in disputes among factions in the Slovak communities.

But in reality there were many founders of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Each community had its own founder or leader, some of whom attended the first convention in September 1890: Martin Slanina of Pittsburgh, George Gruss and A. Sotak of Cleveland, Jan Prokopovic of Olyphant, Pennsylvania, and Erwin Gelhoff of Streator, Illinois. The second convention in Pittsburgh eight months later brought leaders from other communities: Jozef Sos of Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, Martin Gmuca of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Jan Gazda of Carbon, Indiana.

The third jubilee to be observed in 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. It was among the most festive and one of the best attended celebrations in the history of the organization. The Catholic faith and loyalty to the Church were always a priority in the First Catholic Slovak Union and the funding of this chapel reflects this. The members and officers were always very proud of this accomplishment, and rightfully so.

These three jubilees make the year 2015 a cause to celebrate. In the coming months readers will certainly hear more about Father Furdek, our Lady of Sorrows Chapel and the history of the FCSU. For the younger members it will be an opportunity to learn more the society, for the older members a time to reminisce, and for all a perfect occasion to recommit themselves to the ideals of Father Furdek and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

JEDNOTA: CONSIDERING ALL THAT'S HAPPENED OVER YOUR TERMS AS PRESIDENT, WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE FCSU – NEAR AND LONG TERM?

AMR: Financial strength is more crucial than ever. Our members and future members have many choices when looking for places to save their money, buy insurance, or spend their free time. The Slovak cultural ties and loyalties that bound our grandparents have stretched and thinned with each generation. We have to manage and take into accounts the effects of North America's "great melting pot." We have to find innovative ways to reach younger members. It's not your grandfather's Jednota anymore. We need a new generation of leadership throughout the Society, beginning at the branch level. We need to connect to the recent Slovak immigrants that are in their 30s and younger, if we want to preserve our Slovak identity going forward.

JEDNOTA: WHO INSPIRES YOU? WHY?

AMR: All my grandparents who came from Slovakia with nothing, and my parents who immersed me in the culture. Our past National officers who built the Society over the past 125 years and many of our members who continue to work and promote the Society with little or no compensation.

JEDNOTA: WHAT MOTIVATES YOU? WHY?

AMR: My sense of duty and responsibility. I don't want to disappoint people who are depending on me. I want the Jednota to live on, in good health, for generations to come.

From the Office of the National Vice President Naming and Changing the Beneficiary, Part I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Until next time,

Good Luck and God Bless!



Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWL



United Slovak Fraternal
4th Annual
Bowling Tournament
May 1-3, 2015

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 5:45 pm with team events starting at 6:00 pm and 8:30 PM at Eastway Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 6:00 PM at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – Hilton Garden Inn and Courtyard by Marriott of Erie, PA will be housing our guests for the weekend. The phone numbers to the hotel are provided below. The hotels are connected by a convention center. You must identify yourself as a member of United Slovak Fraternal to receive the group rate: \$119 / night (plus tax)

Deadline for hotel reservations is April 1.

Hilton Garden Inn (50 rooms)
2225 Downs Dr.
Erie, PA 16509
814-866-1390

Courtyard by Marriott (25 rooms)
7792 Peach St.
Erie, PA 16509
814-860-8300

Saturday:

Doubles/Singles Event - To begin at 8:30 and 12:30 pm

Mass - will be held at 5:00 pm at the hotel.

Banquet - will be held in the Garden Atrium. Cocktails at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM.

Eastway Lanes: 4110 Buffalo Rd., Erie, PA – (814) 899-9855

If you require additional information, please contact Rudy Ondrejco at your convenience at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternal
Bowling Tournament
May 1-3, 2015
Erie, PA



Would you like to sponsor a lane?

It is only \$50.00 to have a sign placed on a lane and your generosity will go far in making this event an enjoyable weekend for all!

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please mail this form in with the wording for your sign printed below and check payable to "FCSU Activities".

Please feel free to contact Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director with any questions at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is March 6, 2015.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____

Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Yes!! We would like to sponsor a lane. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Wording for Sign: _____

Mail to: FCSU Activities 234 Ilion St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Thank you in advance for your participation in this fraternal event.

Branch 153's Aiden Michael Jurcenko Wins First Place in Illinois Future City Competition



St. Paul of the Cross School's Future City Team won 1st Place at the Illinois Region's Future City Competition. It was held at the University of Illinois Chicago on January 24, 2015. The 10 member team made up of 7th and 8th Graders included Aiden Michael Jurcenko, Branch 153, Chicago, IL. Thirty four teams competed. The theme was Feeding Future Cities - designing a city with the ability to produce its own food sources. A futuristic urban farm environment, which could grow enough of one vegetable crop and one protein crop to feed the citizens. Living quarters, power sources, water supply and recreation were also included. The team will compete at the national competition in Washington D.C.

- Submitted by Dorothy Jurcenko, Branch 153 Financial Secretary/Treasurer



Pictured (L to R) John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Proud Father; Mr. John Marichak, Acting Superintendent of the Scranton School District; John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Award Recipient; and Ms. Megan Duffy, Principal of Frances Willard Elementary School.

Branch 382's John J. Slovenkai, Jr.

Recognized by Scranton Area Council PTA

John J. Slovenkai, Jr. was one of seventy-four students from the Scranton School District honored by the Scranton Area Council PTA at the Annual Founder's Day Dinner and Reflections Awards Program on Sunday, February 8, 2015.

John received 5th award for his essay based on the National PTA 2014-2015 Reflections Theme: "The world would be a better place if" Encouraged by his teacher Mrs. Jill Natale, John did his writing in school.

John already has two awards from the Scranton Area Council PTA. He was recognized for visual arts in 2012 and 2014.

John is the son of John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary of Branch 382K in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Keep up the good work, John!

- Submitted by John J. Slovenkai, Sr. Branch 382 Financial Secretary

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

BOWLERS: SAVE THE DATE IN MAY



Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM			
DOUBLES & SINGLES			

2015 May 1 - 3, 2015
 Entries Close
 March 6, 2015

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternalists Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union,
 National Slovak Society and First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
 A/k/a the United Slovak Fraternalists

Eastway Lanes
 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA

Entry Fees
 Prize Fee\$7.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$8.00
 Tournament Fee.....\$3.00
Total Each Event.....\$18.00

Optional Events
 All Events\$3.00
 Senior Singles Event (60+).....\$5.00

Banquet Fees
 Member \$25.00
 Total Included\$_____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Team Name: _____ Captain Name: _____
 League: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ Phone: _____

All Events (X)	Attend Banq (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT./POLICY NO. MUST BE FILLED IN	BRANCH/ ASSM NO.
		1.					
		2.					
		3.					
		4.					
Singles (X)	Attend Banq (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)			
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Friday, May 1
 Registration 5:00 PM
 Bowlers: 6:00 PM
 8:30 PM

Saturday, May 2
 Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM

Sunday, May 3
 Events 10:00 AM

1st Team Events
 2nd Team Events

1st Doubles/Singles
 2nd Doubles/Singles

Doubles/Singles
 (if needed)

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
 COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE
 RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND
 MUST BE RESUBMITTED

Substitutes **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

The Men's and Women's 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternalists Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the First Catholic Slovak Union, and the National Slovak Society, wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Erie, PA, in this rapidly growing tournament.

The 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternalists Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Eastway Lanes, 4110 Buffalo Rd., Erie, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held the weekend of May 1-3, 2015. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 1, at 5:45 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 6, 2015. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ENTRY FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

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 averages made in filling out this entry form. No refunds of tournament entry fee.

USBC Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

Only members with USBC Membership Cards will be eligible for the USBC special awards in this USBC Certified Tournament. Bowlers without USBC Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Committee at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school stu-

dent who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC 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 Committee 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. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2013-2014 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2013-2014 season and with at least 21 games in the 2014-2015 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

Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU, NSS, or FCSLA tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2015, 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.

AVERAGE CHANGES: 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 Committee.

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.

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.

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprising of 2 men and 2 women are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

DOUBLES: Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

HANDICAPS: The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 65 pins. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - 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.

All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee.

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 rerating.

LINE-UP CHANGES: All participants must bowl according to where they are listed on the submitted entry form. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

ABSENTEES: To alleviate absentee problems, the Tournament Committee will provide a replacement bowler when notified of the absentee.

TARDY BOWLERS: Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed. USBC Rule 322

SCORING: Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Committee 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.

Scenes from Sts. Cyril & Meth

On January 24, 2015 Sts Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario, held their Annual Sing-a-Long evening. Father Jozef Vano opened the evening with a prayer and blessing of the food that was prepared by our own Jana Catering with parish members as volunteers. After the dinner everyone enjoyed singing 'old' and some 'new' Slovak folk songs. Entertainment and music was provided by Miro Letko and his group. Everyone had great time as you can see from pictures.

- Submitted by Helenvon Friedl,
Branch 785



odius Sing-A-Long in Ontario



Successful First-ever Slovak Heritage Day in Slovak, Arkansas

Beth Hooks Lewis, Branch 404

Named by early colonists in 1894, Slovak, AR, has the distinction of being the only town in America named after the eastern European country of Slovakia. Nearly 121 years since first established, the community is very much alive and well.

On January 25, 2015, the first ever Slovak Heritage Day was held at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius parish hall in Slovak, AR. American and Slovakian flags hung over tables filled with memorabilia that included needlework, folk dress, pottery, photo albums, cookbooks, maps, woodcarvings, folk art, antiques and more.

Over 150 parishioners and visitors browsed items, old and new, displayed as they swapped memories and family connections. Al Bednar and Charly Crittenden with the Arkansas Accordion Association played lively music in the background throughout the event which included a potluck of authentic Slovak cuisine. Residents, visitors and former classmates from the yellow brick school house reconnected and swapped stories as they fondly remembered Slovak past and present. Family ties and connections were shared and explored.

True to tradition, the Slovak dishes were made from scratch and many were from heirloom recipes. Holubky (stuffed cabbage), bobalky, goulash, kielbasa, halushki (cabbage and noodles), potato-filled pirohy, kolachy, Easter cheese, Christmas bread, pagac and more filled several tables topped by colorful runners and glass lamps. A "Beranek" cake shaped like a lamb offered a nostalgic centerpiece surrounded by apricot, nut, poppy seed and prune-filled kolachies baked by The Slovak Bakers, a parish group of both men and women who come together to make the traditional pastries. The group bakes twice a year: in July for the annual parish fish fry and in Oct./Nov. for holiday fundraisers.

A slide presentation by Dan Hooks featured a 2014 Treasures of Slovakia tour taken by Hooks, his wife Paula and sibling Beth Hooks Lewis. As part of the tour, the three visited the ancestral village of their great, great grandfather, Jozef Huk whose son Jan Huk (John Hook, Sr.) migrated to America in 1882 from Oreske, Zemplin, a town in eastern Slovakia first documented in 1358. Pictures of Slovakia from east to west included castles, markets, craft/folk festivals, mock folk weddings, wooden churches, musical events, museums and fields of sunflowers and wheat that looked much like those on the Grand Prairie in Arkansas.

Hooks noted, "It was plain to see that farming in Slovakia had been a tradition for generations. Seeing the similarities to Arkansas was pretty impressive, even down to hunting and shooting for a hobby. We were overwhelmed by the hospitality of our village family. They enjoyed us and we enjoyed them – we hated to leave. During the trip, we also came across names common to Slovak, like Hiryak, Bednar, Lorinc and Kocourek."

"This Slovak Heritage Day is a nice culmination to our journey," said Beth Lewis. "Before our trip, I kept bumping into the history of Slovak as I worked on a family tree. And Father George Franko out

of Youngstown, OH, shed a lot of light on our heritage both here and in Slovakia. Plus, he speaks the language and translated what we found when we got home."

One of their biggest discovery by way of their tour genealogist was their great, great grandfather Jozef Huk, Lewis noted that he was Greek Catholic, a farmer and a widower who remarried. From 1875-1878, Huk was an authorized elector of representatives to the Hungarian parliament. His oldest daughter Maria Hukova was big sister to Jan Huk and it was her line that they found in Oreske.

The Hooks and Lewis, visited the Greek Catholic Church (now Russian Orthodox) that their great grandfather attended in Oreske. Because of extreme persecution, over 90 percent of the Greek Catholic population in Slovakia relocated to other countries. "Seeing similarities and finding family bonds was like finding hidden treasure. We're still searching," Lewis said.

"The turnout for the Slovak Heritage Day was much more than we expected," said Paula Hooks. "It was evident on so many faces how emotional it was to see pictures of their ancestors' homeland." Some of her trip souvenirs on display included a hand-crafted, embroidered marriage cap, an embroidered apron and a wedding shawl.

"It was wonderful seeing everyone -- especially the old school house gang," noted Janet Duch Smith, a former Slovak resident and parishioner. "Slovak Heritage Day will be an event I will look forward to attending, again and again."

Authentic Slovak dishes by parishioners included holubky (stuffed cabbage), bobalky, halushki (cabbage and noodles), potato-filled pirohy and kolachy.



Time for dessert! After three baking sessions, the Slovak Bakers offered apricot, nut, poppy seed and prune-filled kolachies made from scratch

Al Bednar and Charly Crittenden (not pictured) with the Arkansas



Dan Hooks offered a slide presentation after a Treasures of Slovakia tour with his wife Paula Hooks and sister Beth Hooks Lewis.



THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
IS NOW ACCEPTING 2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of **\$1000.00**.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of **\$1,250.00** each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of **\$1000.00** each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a **paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.**

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/scholarships

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

Applications must be postmarked by midnight,

March 31, 2015

Hey Kids.....

Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II
For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin

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

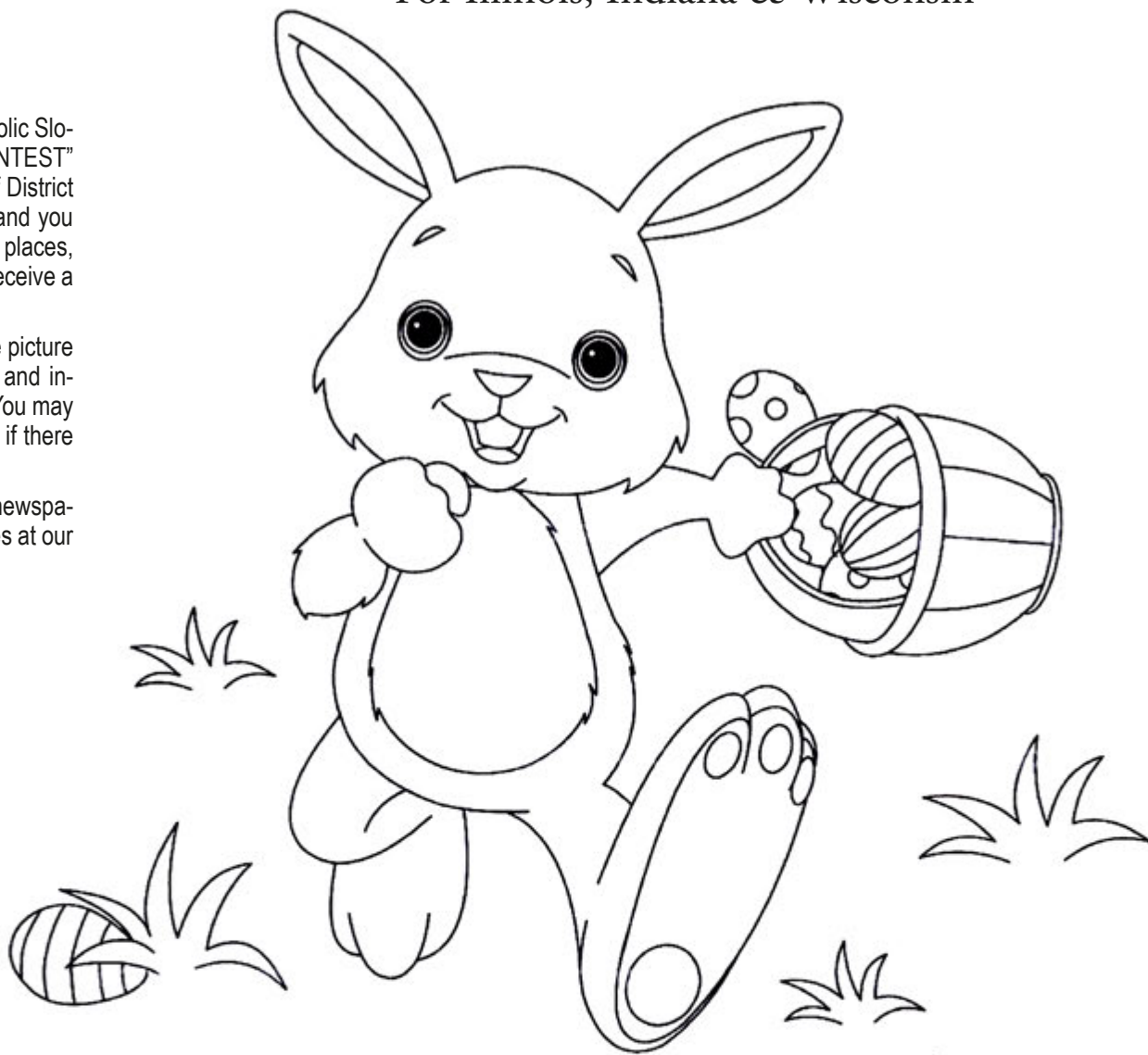
Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 14, 2015. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, if there are other children in family entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



ATTENTION POLKA LOVERS!

You are invited to a our 2nd Annual

POLKA BRUNCH

Cost: Only \$18.00 per person

Sunday, April 19, 2015, 10a.m. to 3p.m.

American Slovak Club

2915 Broadway, Lorain, Ohio



10:00 a.m. = Live Remote Broadcast of WDLW's Polka Express Show featuring Tom Borowicz .

12:00 noon = Live Polka Concert by Jimmy K Polkas

Proceeds from this FUN-RAISING event will go to Family & Community Services for the benefit of female American Veterans and the American Slovak Society.

The Polka Brunch is presented by the American Slovak Club and WDLW's "Polka Express" Radio Show.

For more information, call Len Zilko at 440-988-3236 or e-mail him at: nlen1@aol.com

25TH ANNUAL

SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST



Saturday, March 21, 2015

St. Adalbert Church So.15th Street, South Side

9:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Holy Rosary (in Slovak)

10:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side

11:00 a.m. -- **SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS**

sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)
kolbasy (sausage) paska (sweet bread) kolace (baked goods)



- * Homemade Baked Goods for Sale
- * Cultural Displays
- * Imported Slovak gifts for sale
- * Slovak "Auction" / Raffles
- * Craft Demonstrations:
Decorating Easter Eggs, Braiding Palms, Stuffing Kolbasy, & MORE!

Donations Gratefully Accepted

For more information call (412) 481-8380

Traditions of Lent in Slovakia

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

For Christians in Slovakia, the holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, known as Popolcová streda in Slovak. It was also known as Škaredá streda, or Ugly Wednesday. The holy day marked the solemn beginning of an extended period of fasting, prayer, and abstinence. The lively celebrations of fašiangy (Carnival - Slovak Mardi Gras) had ended on Fat Tuesday night (Tučný utorok). Ash Wednesday commenced with an extended period of spiritual reflection that remembers Christ's forty days of fasting in the desert.



Ash Wednesday in Slovakia, Popolcová streda.

Originally, ancient Slavic pagans celebrated their New Year around the time that Lent would start. The early Slavic peoples adopted and integrated Christian customs with these former practices, as the acceptance of Christ as their Savior the beginning of a new life of faith. Practicing the faith in Lent meant following the example of Christ to enable them with His assistance to overcome sin through their own daily sacrifices during the holy season.

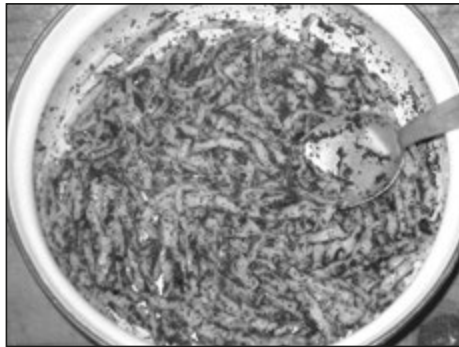
The Triumph of Life over Death

In keeping with the previous theme of death in a previous article, Ash Wednesday reminded the faithful of their own mortality. Christ's death and triumphant resurrection at the end of Lent would offer the grace for every Christian to attain eternal salvation.

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

The faithful in Slovakia flocked in huge numbers to church to receive blessed ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday (Kvetná Nedel'a). As the priest made the sign of the cross on the forehead of the penitent at Mass, he would recite the well-known words, "Remember man, that you are dust, and unto dust you will return" ("Pamätaj človeče, že prach si a na prach sa obrátiš").

The Lenten season ranked among the most sacred and holy times in Slovakia. In Slovak and Christian culture, Lent (pôst – pronounced "pwost") represented a time which commemorated Christ's forty days of fasting and contemplation in the desert.



Slovak pasta for Ash Wednesday.

In imitation of Christ's example, Slovaks denied themselves all sweets and animal products during Lent. This included full abstention from all meats and any dairy products such as milk, cheese, eggs, etc. Typically, they refrained as well from using any animal fats in cooking. A customary Slovak meal on Ash Wednesday consisted of some type of Lenten soup and some pasta mixed with poppy seeds, known as válčky or šúlance, dough formed into truncated cone roll. On Sundays in Lent, Slovaks typically ate a dish made with cestoviny (noodles). Other common foods during Pôst included potatoes, cabbage, beets, barley groats, various ground meals from grains, and sometimes rice when we get to it. For break-



Slovak lenten pasta for soup.

fast, a cornmeal mush (kukuríčniú kašu or kukurydzanku) was common in some villages.

Slovaks also abstained from eating any very large meals for the entire period of Lent. Parties, weddings, loud music, and any forms of merriment were forbidden. Any music played had to be sacred and somber, stressing one's sinfulness and repentance.

In previous centuries, after attending Holy Mass, the people of a village marched in a procession of penance. But that custom has since disappeared in most places. Lent was a time of prayer, repentance (pokánie), and self-examination. This meant that going to Confession to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation was an obligation.

Denying the body physical pleasures was supposed to liberate the flesh so that people could contemplate the real meaning of life and their relationship with God. Slovak devotions became far more zealous than that of most European peoples, and some historians cite the Counter-Reformation spirit of the 16th and 17th centuries as embedding this very intense religious temperament among Slovaks.

The Slovak interpretation of Lent became most solemn and very somber. Until Easter arrived, a household remained in a virtual state of continual mourning for their own sins, and for the terrible price Jesus Christ had to pay for redeeming man's sins. As a sign of this grieving, all women dressed only in black for the entire Lenten season. People generally wore darker colors such as black and purple, with very little decoration or adornment. Ash Wednesday marked a prolonged period of mourning for Christ.

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

But there is one very real result of the intense Lenten period sacrifice – the joy of Easter is that much greater. For the faithful, Christ's Resurrection represented and still today, signifies the triumph of good over evil, and the promise of eternal life in heavenly paradise.

Sources

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Mission at Nuremberg

If there are a group of people in modern history who are thought of as irredeemable, it's the Nazis. Truth be told, the orchestrators of the genocide of the Jewish people and the murders of millions of others certainly didn't "deserve" any kind of mercy. Yet at the end of World War II, two American Army chaplains—Rev. Henry Gerecke, a Lutheran minister, and Father Sixtus O'Connor, a Catholic priest—made an unprecedented attempt to save the souls of the Nazi leaders held at Nuremberg prison. Their little-known story has now been documented by award-winning journalist Tim Townsend in the book "Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis."

During an interview on "Christopher Closeup," Townsend admitted that prior to writing this book, he simply knew the "Hollywood" version of the trials and thought of the Nazis as a "stereotype of evil." And while there were those like Ernst Kaltenbrunner, who seemed to revel in cruelty as he oversaw the extermination of the Jews, there were others, like Wilhelm Keitel, who didn't fit so neatly into a preconceived box.

As a young man, Keitel lived an average, innocuous, non-threatening life. He wanted to become a farmer until his father "pushed him into the army." Eventually, he became Hitler's general field marshal, whom Townsend describes as "the Fuhrer's closest military adviser and most dependable sycophant—an obsequious figure, the archetypal Nazi bootlicker."

As I was reading "Mission at Nuremberg," I couldn't help but feel that during the war, Keitel forgot who he really was—that he suppressed the goodness within him because he fell in love with adulation and power. But a sliver of his humanity still remained when he met Pastor Gerecke with whom he developed a bond.

Pastor Gerecke's inherent Christian conviction and humble charisma allowed him to make inroads in some of the Nazis' consciences—though none of them took full public responsibility for their sins. Perhaps moving them toward any sort of penitence at all in a short period of time was a miracle in itself. How was Pastor Gerecke able to accomplish even that much? Almost 50 years old at the time, he was formed by his experiences during the Great Depression. Though stationed at a comfortable Lutheran church in St. Louis with his wife and kids, he left that job and moved his family into a tiny apartment in order to minister to the homeless, as well as prisoners in local jails.

In addition, he practiced interfaith cooperation long before it became popular. Townsend said, "[The Gereckes] lived in the middle of a Catholic parish, and Lutheranism was the number two denomination [in St. Louis]. Pastor Gerecke worked very closely with the Catholic priest of that parish. Interfaith partnership in that neighborhood very much helped him later because chaplains in the Army are chaplains to all, not just for the men and women in their particular denomination... That was important to him in an informative way when he began counseling and pastoring to Nazis in the wake of the Holocaust."

Pastor Gerecke further developed his human touch while serving as chaplain at a MASH-like unit in England. Wounded soldiers arrived from the front lines only to be patched up enough to send to "proper hospitals." Not only did Pastor Gerecke counsel the wounded there, he also helped the doctors, nurses, and staff who needed spiritual sustenance of their own.

Working alongside Pastor Gerecke was Father Sixtus O'Connor.

Father O'Connor—of whom very little is known—saw the horrors of World War II first hand. Townsend said, "He was a younger guy [who] was part of a fighting unit that marched all the way through Europe. He got a Silver Star for bravery for counseling men on the battlefield for what was then called battle fatigue but what we would now call post-traumatic stress disorder. At the end of the war, his unit helped liberate Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria, so he buried thousands and thousands of dead and dying concentration camp victims. Two months later in Nuremberg, he was counseling and pastoring Ernst Kaltenbrunner, who was in charge of the entire concentration camp system. So Father O'Connor went from seeing the raw aftermath of the Holocaust [to] ministering to the man who had been responsible for that."

So why were Christian ministers even sent to Nuremberg? Townsend explained that the Allies weren't just following the Geneva Conventions; they were trying to act more civilized than their enemies: "The Nuremberg trials themselves were a total experiment. Nobody had ever done anything like this before, where the victors decided that rather than to point blank shoot enemies that they caught, they would try to give them a fair trial and hearing. That was in and of itself controversial... [but] then, to offer these people spiritual comfort as they were on trial for the murder of millions of people... When people did find out about it, it caused a lot of consternation."

It required an enormous amount of compassion and mercy for Pastor Gerecke and Father O'Connor to see the Nazis as human beings instead of monsters. Townsend believes it was their deep Christian faith that allowed them to do so: "I could not have even walked into one of those cells. They not only walked in, but knelt on the concrete floor next to these men, prayed with them, and tried to bring them back to some sort of belief in the church and in Jesus. That's an amazing thing to contemplate and it is a testament to their faith as Christians, but also to their abilities as pastors. They knew they had a particular responsibility and a calling that they took very seriously, and this was an extraordinary moment in history."

"Mission at Nuremberg" grapples with big questions that force us to ponder whether we actually believe every human being is capable of redemption. It also presents us with men of conscience and character whose names may have been lost without Townsend's research. The author's hard work paid off, giving readers a memorable piece of history that is morally challenging yet hopeful.

Townsend concludes, "My real hope is that people read the book and recognize that these two men did this extraordinary thing in the name of both democracy and what the Allies and America fought for—but also for their faith and how remarkable their faith is, that they were willing to share it with the worst people on earth."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, *BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL*, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

QUARTERLY 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 20 - SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015

The Quarterly 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 20, 2015, AND SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 (after the Board Meeting).

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.

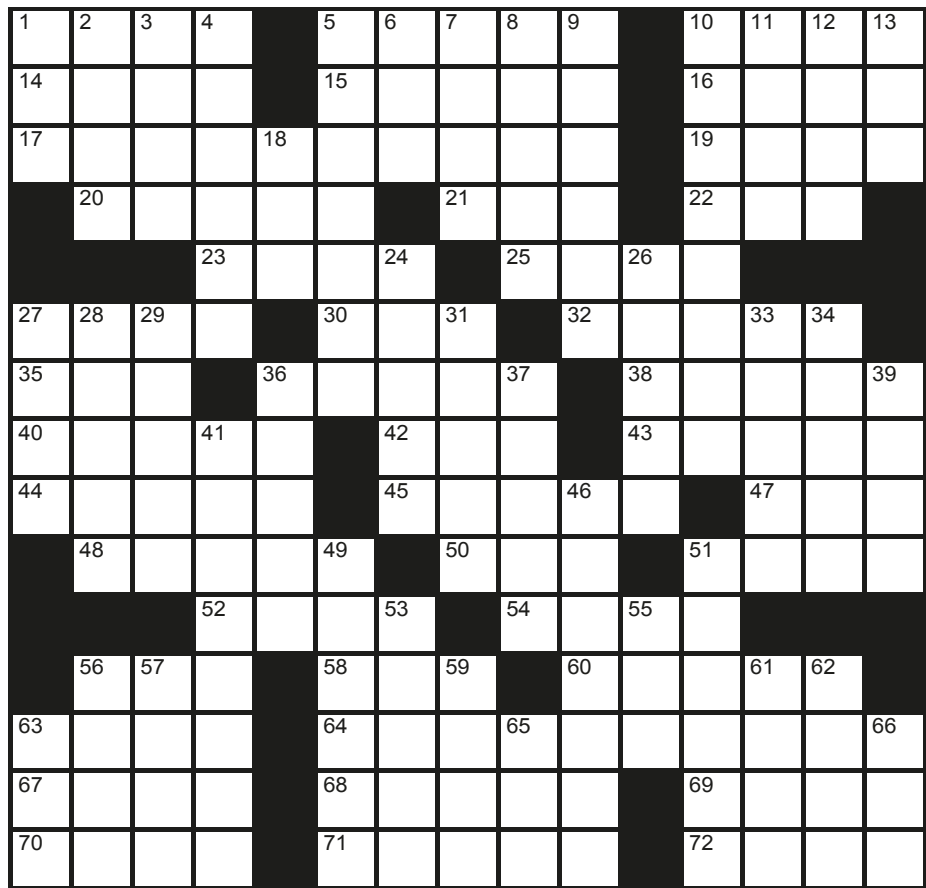
All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to Friday, March 13, 2015.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Barber's supply
- 5 Blind parts
- 10 Ego
- 14 Purlieu
- 15 International court site, with "The"
- 16 Iridescent gem
- 17 Grouse
- 19 Stew bean
- 20 Coil of yarn
- 21 Soak flax
- 22 Chill
- 23 Droops
- 25 Faction
- 27 Afternoon socials
- 30 Bandleader Brown
- 32 Track tipsters
- 35 Gothic author Radcliffe
- 36 Camp shelters
- 38 Parting word
- 40 Devilfish
- 42 Boar's mate
- 43 Medicinal plant
- 44 Fulton's power
- 45 Upright
- 47 Joke
- 48 Kick out
- 50 Ship timetable inits.
- 51 Paltry
- 52 Notable times
- 54 Catch sight of
- 56 Female sib
- 58 Mai _____
- 60 Scouting group
- 63 Links rental
- 64 Gum tree
- 67 Aroma
- 68 Sleep interrupter
- 69 Yen

- 70 Say it ain't so
- 71 Cisterns
- 72 Pepsi rival

Down

- 1 Spigot
- 2 Sciences' partner
- 3 Pipe problem
- 4 Soft touch
- 5 Business hang-out?
- 6 Time delay
- 7 Thickening agent
- 8 Melodies
- 9 Six-line poem
- 10 Isolation
- 11 Large-scale
- 12 Poor, as excuses go
- 13 Neighbor of Ala.
- 18 Soccer star Hamm
- 24 Good judgment
- 26 Seashore
- 27 Woolen caps
- 28 Related maternally
- 29 Building addition
- 31 Shopping target
- 33 Hint
- 34 Sub detector
- 36 Circus employee
- 37 Stockholm native

- 39 Herb in stuffing
- 41 Wall hanging
- 46 Kings' quarters
- 49 Most recent
- 51 Shortsighted
- 53 Spa feature
- 55 Meddle
- 56 Marquis de _____
- 57 Press
- 59 Computer image
- 61 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
- 62 Hockey item
- 63 Atlantic food fish
- 65 Biblical boat
- 66 That girl

VISIT SLOVAKIA---- "THE OLD COUNTRY"



Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as "the old country." Well now is the time for you to go to Slovakia and visit the ancestral homeland and villages of your family.

Join Kay and Jim Bench as they host the 18th annual Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Tour July 13-27, 2015.

See the capital of Slovakia—Bratislava, enjoy award winning folk groups, visit Litmanova where there were documented apparitions of the Blessed Mother appearing to three school children in the 1990's, enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River, the natural border between Poland and Slovakia, visit villages such as Cicmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichy Potok, stay in a beautiful spa in Sliac and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools and other amenities. Visit relatives and enjoy a luncheon reception with our Sister City Spisska Nova Ves. There are many more activities and cities too numerous to mention in this short article. For further information call Jim or Kay Bench.

Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Contact Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-mail Paul@advintravel.com

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2015

- March 18
- April 22
- May 6
- May 20
- June 10
- July 15
- August 12
- Sept 9
- Sept 23
- October 7
- October 21
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- May 11
- June 1
- July 6
- August 3
- August 31
- Sept 14
- Sept 28
- October 12
- October 26
- November 9
- November 30

See Solution on Page 18

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Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks Available for Purchase



The Jednota Memorial is located on the First Catholic Slovak Union's Jednota Estate grounds in Middletown, PA, on a permanently dedicated 1/2 acre of land fronting Rosedale Avenue. This land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage. We are re-bronzing an existing "Doughboy" statue, dedicating it to those who died in any national war. The Memorial also is a great opportunity for our Members to honor and re-

member their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

The materials are high quality granite and intended to last at least 100 years or more.

Bricks are still available for purchase to commemorate loved ones in your branch, district, or family.

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY GRANDMOTHER
THERESA KOVAL

Example of a personal brick

For more information on purchasing a brick, go to our website at www.fcsu.com or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

To view all the Memorial photos, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion.



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Thu	St. Lucia	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Fri	St. Kitts	8:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold their meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2015. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Ave., NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Mass Club is Father Dargay Hall.

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

Faternally,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA.

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

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2015. A Mass in honor of our patron saint, St. Joseph, will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

Following the Mass, members are invited to come to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award will be given to the following members who reached their 16th birthday in 2014:

- Julia Rose Farell
- Matthew Gerics
- Patrick M. Jezierny
- Alex C. Kuruc
- Zachery Piroh
- Connor Joseph Prince
- Rachel Ann Radwill
- Sara Ann Serdy

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

We cordially invite our members to attend this special meeting. Mark your calendars for upcoming branch meetings; we also will meet on April 12, 2015 and June 14, 2015.

Henry Zach, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2015, at 11:30AM at Meloni's Restaurant Conference Room, 105 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given as well as upcoming events for the current year. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and luncheon. Call for reservations by March 1, 2015, and for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at 1:15 P.M., at Hibachi Grill and Sushi Supreme Buffet, Town Square Mall, 2433 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 24, 2015, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 21, 2015. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This past December's meeting saw all Br. 228 incumbents re-elected to their respective office and Louis Palos was elected to fill the vacant office of Br. 228 Vice President. He was also elected to the ASC Board representing Br. 228 and Lisa Trifiletti-Palos was re-elected to serve on the ASC Board.

I appeal to our younger members to become active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting at 1:00PM on March 15, 2015 at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant, 713 Bedford Rd Coitsville, OH 44436. On the agenda: general branch business and activities.

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its first meeting of the New Year on Sunday March 15, 2015 at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. at 1:00 P.M. All officers are urged to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at 11:30AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran t (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 1:00PM at the home of the recording secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St. Allentown, PA.

On the agenda will be a report regarding the fundraiser which was held in November 2014.

We will also discuss ideas for a fundraiser for 2015.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed and Happy Easter!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart Branch 580 will hold a meeting on April 19, 2015, after the 9:30AM Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall at 529 Grant Ave. Ext., West Mifflin, PA, 15122. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Please note that the monthly meeting has been changed. Starting in March, it will now be held on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm, so the next branch meeting will be held at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI, on Sunday, March 15, 2015, at 2pm.

Other events at the Hall:

March 22 Sunday, all you can eat breakfast: \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon best breakfast in town!

There will be no polka dance in April due to Easter. Hope to see you in May.

April 19 Sunday, monthly branch meeting 2pm.

April 26 Sunday, all you can eat breakfast: \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon best breakfast in town!

Susan Hornik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 2:30pm, at MRL Lab, 250 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH. Coming events for the year will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

Andrew Hirt, President

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate our Patron Saint Mass on March 22, 2015. The liturgy is at 11 am at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 735 - PORTLAND, OREGON

The Branch 735KJ Annual Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner will be Sunday, April 12, 2015, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church at NW 19th & NW Savier with the meeting beginning at 1:00 pm and dinner served at 1:30 pm. Turkey breast slices will also be available. Included with dinner will be mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, green salad with dressing, bread, coffee, tea and punch. Please bring a dessert to share. The cost for the dinner will remain the same as last year: \$4.00 per person and \$12.00 for an immediate family of four or more. No reservations necessary.

For more information, contact: Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, P.O. Box 220, North Plains, OR 97133-0220; 503-647-4600 (h); 503-314-5065 (c); 503-647-5840 (f); email: hirst@q.com or chirst811@gmail.com.

Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 22, 2015, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:00 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

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

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include discussion of plans for the fall planned bus trips. Okres meeting will follow at 1:00 PM. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will be hosting a lunch at St. Mary/St Joseph; 131 West Quarry St. Newton Falls, OH on March 22, 2015 at 12 noon. The tentative menu will be baked chicken, parsley potatoes, salad, bread, dessert, coffee and a punch. A free will offering will be accepted.

Officers for 2015 were recently elected: Bill Hrusovsky, President; Fred Brunetti, Vice-President; Joy Brunetti, Secretary; and Rosemary Heald, Auditor.

If you are interested in FCSU Annuities with great interest rates, Life Insurance, or Wealth Transfer with Single Premium Whole Life Insurance please call Fred Brunetti at 330-240-4142 or George Yuricek at 330-394-8249.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold its annual Easter Mass on Sunday, March 29, 2015. The celebration begins at 4:00PM with Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Paul II Church Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA, 92886.

Children will enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

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

The meeting will follow in the cafeteria, with a light dinner, dessert and refreshments being served.

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

Faternally yours,

Milan Konkol, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 888 – WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 16, 2015, at 6:00 pm at 6921 Isla Vista Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida 33412. Contact David Rafaidus, President at (561) 776- 0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and further information.

The agenda will include the nomination/election of officers. All Branch members are invited to attend.

David Rafaidus, President

2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 11-20, 2015



Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village visits available.

For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2015. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

Robert Tapak Magruder, District Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. A lunch will be served after the meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm with soft drinks. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the agenda will be officer reports and 2015 by-law changes. Also on the agenda will be information regarding the possible merger of designated "home office branches" in our district.

Branch 774 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 15th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one district meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 35 will host the spring business meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 1PM at Holy Trinity Church is West Mifflin. Branch 35 requests an RSVP by April 1. Please contact Janet Sullivan at 412-824-4185.

Branch 738 will host the Fathers Day brunch on Sunday, June 21. Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. More details will be provided at the spring meeting. Branch 38 will host the annual winter meeting at a date to be determined later.

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees.

** Slovak Day at Kenwood – Thursday, July 16, 2015. Tickets available on Father's Day.

** Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center – see www.pghfolkfest.org/

** Tour of Slovakia with the Senko's – August 23 to September 2, 2015 – Includes Vienna and Budapest. Contact Joe Senko for information about the itinerary.

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

** If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities, some of which have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations.

See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

** FCSU information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

It will be held in the Auditorium of the Wesley Enhanced Living Complex, 8401 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152.

There is private parking available behind the building.

Mass will be at 11AM in the auditorium.

Dinner will be served immediately after Mass.

The meeting will start at 1PM.

Dinner will be catered, therefore reservations are required by March 10, 2015. The cost is \$20.00 per person. That includes the dinner and sandwiches following the meeting.

For directions, please call the Secretary of Branch 55 at 215-637-6530 or the President at 610-356-7956.

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 19, 2015, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Msgr. Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 13 - JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District #13 will hold a semi-annual meeting on March 8, 2015, following a complimentary luncheon. The time is 2:00pm at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, 16666, on Route 53 South from Philipsburg, PA, 16866.

All members from Branches 007K, 149K, 198P, 233K, 299K, 333K, 417K, 456K, 623K, and 667K are welcome to attend.

2015 district dues are due and can be brought to the meeting or sent to Rosemary Deliman, District Financial Secretary, at 203 Dogwood Drive, Philipsburg, PA, 16866.

Please contact via phone or fax: Rosemary at 814 342 5592 or e-mail rosemarydeliman@me.com if you are able to attend.

Rosemary Deliman, District Financial Secretary

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold Meeting on Palm Sunday March 29, 2015. Celebration begins at 4:00 PM with Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Paul II Church, Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886.

The Meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After meeting will be a period of fraternal fellowship and light diner, dessert and refreshments will be served. Children will enjoy traditional Easter Egg hunt.

All members are invited and all branches in our area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting.

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

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, District President

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT

The Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 of Broome County in New York and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in the Shrine Meeting Room of St. Ann's Basilica Parish, 1250 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA.

District treasurer and auditors will meet at 12:30 P.M. to audit the books. The meeting will follow at 1:00 P.M.

On the agenda will be the following: auditors' report, Commemorative Memorial Brick, District dues, District summer picnic, donations for 2015, and the Regional Director's Report.

Refreshments will be served.

All branches are urged to send a branch representative. To confirm attendance, branches should contact President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 by Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., District President



(L – R) The CCD children, Santa (Bill Speshock), and parish priest Fr. Jamie S. Ozoa.

Branch 367 Treats CCD Children of SS Cyril & Methodius

The Saint Joseph Branch 367 of Fairchance, PA, treated the CCD children of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church of Fairchance with a visit from Santa and a box of candy for Christmas.

- Submitted by Patty Speshock

11th CONSULAR TOUR TO SLOVAKIA

August 23, 2015 to September 2, 2015 Escorted by Joseph & Albina Senko



Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko has visited Slovakia 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. His wife, Albina, was born and raised in Slovakia. With their experience, they have created a customized tour for 2015 which will take you across Slovakia. Each night, we will stay at a first class hotel. Over 270 people from the United States have enjoyed these tours with Joe and Albina.

In addition to touring many historic towns in Slovakia, we will also visit famous historic sites in neighboring countries - Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. Our tour of Slovakia will take us from west to east through Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Trnava, known as the "Little Rome" of Slovakia; Modra, where we will be seeing a demonstration in a ceramic factory; the world famous spa town of Piešťany; historic Banská Bystrica; the High Tatras; the famous town of Levoča; Bardejov, which is included in the UNESCO list; Presov, the sister city or Pittsburgh; and Kocise, the second largest city in Slovakia.

In addition to visiting several famous castles and museums, we will enjoy listening to live folk music, touring many historic churches, and dining in several typical Slovak restaurants.

Unique to this tour is: receiving a spa treatment; attending a mock Slovak wedding; rafting on the Dunajec river; several wine tastings and meeting with several Slovak dignitaries.

As we travel through the various regions of Slovakia, we can make arrangements for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages at an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour. The 11 days you will spend with us will be enjoyable, educational and you will be pleasantly surprised what Slovakia has to offer visitors.

For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. For a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule and restrictions, contact Joe Senko.

OBITUARIES

MARGARET D. RILEY BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



Margaret D. Riley, age 86, passed on peacefully to Heaven on Jan. 23, 2015.

Member of Catholic Relief Services, Crystal K of C 3656 Auxiliary & St. Anne's Women's Society. Former parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish, Robbinsdale, MN. Margaret and her husband have been strong Pro-Life advocates for both young and old. Survived by her husband, James Sr.; daughter, Anne M. Riley; son, James Jr.; daughter, Kathy R. (Harlan) Riley-Daudt; grandson, Joshua N. Daudt; granddaughter, Sarah A. Daudt; sister, Agnes Comte. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 am Sat., Jan. 31, 2015, at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Catholic Church, Sun Prairie, WI. Visitation was held Sat. from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at Tuschen-Newcomer Funeral Home, Sun Prairie. Burial followed on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015, at 1 p.m. in Gethsemane Cemetery, New Hope, MN.

- Submitted by James F. Riley, Sr.

JOSEPH MATTHEW GAYDOS BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA



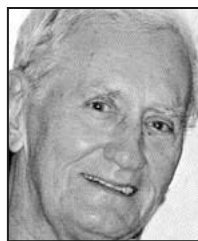
Congressman Joseph Matthew Gaydos, Sr., 88, of Elizabeth Twp., PA, died Saturday, February 7, 2015. He was born July 3, 1926, in Braddock and was the son of the late Joann (John) Gajdos (Gaydos) and the late Helen (Elena) Megella Gaydos. He was the husband of the late Alice Ann Gray Gaydos who died March 19, 2001. Joseph served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theatre during WWII. He attended Duquesne University and received his bachelor of law degree at Notre Dame University Law School. He began his career as General Council to the United Mineworkers District 5. He was a Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General and was also Assistant Solicitor for Allegheny County. He became a State Senator for the 45th District and became a Congressman, represented the 20th Congressional District from 1968-1992 and served on the Printing Committee, Labor and Education Committee, House Administration Health and Safety Sub-committee. Congressman Gaydos was instrumental in drafting the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, (ERISA). This legislation helped to guarantee basic pension rights for workers. Throughout his political career, his primary legislative concerns were focused on the welfare of working people. He founded the Congressional Steel Caucus in the 1970s and was the first to recognize that "dumping" was a problem in the steel industry, and was also involved in many policies regarding Clean Air. He is survived by his son, Attorney Joseph M. (Lisa) Gaydos, Jr., of Elizabeth Twp.; daughters, Kelly M. (Tony) Gaydos-Constantino of Greenock, Attorney Kathleen M. Gaydos of Grand Ledge, MI, Coleen Gaydos (Jeff) Tomcik of Venetia, and Tammy L. (William) Caye of Oakdale; sister, Mildred Barry of Kennerdale; grandchildren, Lauren, William, Robert "RJ", Joseph III, Madison and Adam, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in

death by his brother, Frank Gaydos; and sisters, Ethel Gaydos, Margaret Cooper, Helen Murray, and Elsa Finn. Friends were received on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, from 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday February 11, 2015, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Gilbert Funeral Home and Crematory, Elizabeth Township. Services were held in the funeral home chapel on Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. Interment with Military Honors followed in the Good Shepherd Cemetery, Monroeville, PA.

For more on Mr. Gaydos, go to a recent article in the Post Gazette: <http://tinyurl.com/nyylo2e>

- Submitted by Gary Matta

PAUL JOHN ZOHORSKY, JR. BRANCH 165 – ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA



Paul John Zohorsky, Jr. of Winston-Salem, NC, passed away Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center after a brief illness. Born January 23, 1925 in Erie, PA, he was the son of the late Paul John and Pauline Zohorsky. Mr. Zohorsky graduated from Penn State University and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War. He retired from Royal Insurance Company and was a member of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, Winston-Salem, NC. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four sisters. Mr. Zohorsky is survived by his wife of 58 years, Margaret Seli Zohorsky; his children, Anne Flaherty and husband, James of Northport, NY, Paul J. Zohorsky, III and wife, Claudia of Ellicott City, MD, Peter J. Zohorsky and wife, Stephanie of Chesapeake, VA, Julie Pinder and husband, Jonathan of Winston-Salem and Joan Betts and husband, Erin of Katy, TX. He is also survived by 20 grandchildren and one great-grandson. A funeral Mass was held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 22, 2014 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church with Father Brian Cook officiating. The family received friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Sunday, December 21, 2014, at Salem Funeral Home, Winston-Salem.

AGNES (MONKA) MARINO BRANCH 175 – READING, PENNSYLVANIA



Agnes M. Marino, 87, of Mohnton, PA, passed away January 9, 2015, in St. Joseph's Hospital.

She was the widow of Michael A. Marino. Born September 17, 1927 in Wilkes-Barre, she was the daughter of the late Paul and Veronica (Petro) Monka.

Agnes was a member of St. John Baptist De LaSalle R.C.C., Shillington, PA.

She was survived by one son, Michael A., Jr., husband of Jennifer Marino, MD; and six daughters: Carol, wife of Joseph Devaney, Bloomsburg, Janice, wife of Dr. Thomas Burguiers, MD, Susan, wife of Robert Serdensky, MD, Mary M., wife of David Secor, Reinholds, Margaret Lebo, Reading and Linda, wife of Kevin Abell, NC.

Other survivors include sixteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, January 16, 2015, 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Villa, Reading, PA. Edward J. Kuhn Funeral Home, West Reading, PA, handled arrangements.

- Submitted by Mary Secor

EUGENE P. HVIZDAK, SR. BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO



A prayer service was held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, at the Kirila Funeral Home Inc., Struthers, OH, and a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. at the Christ Our Savior Parish, Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, for Eugene P. Hvizdak Sr., who died on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, at Select Specialty Hospital.

Eugene was born June 19, 1929, in Youngstown, OH, the son of the late Joseph and Elizabeth (Dluhos) Hvizdak.

He was a graduate of Struthers High School, a member of the Holy Trinity Church and served in the U.S. Army. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service, in Struthers, OH, as a clerk, retiring after 35 years of service. Eugene enjoyed playing golf and bowling in many local leagues. He also belonged to many local seniors groups, the VFW Post 3538 and was on the Advisory Board in Coitsville Township.

He is survived by five children, a son, Eugene P. Hvizdak Jr. and his wife, Diane, of Sharon, PA; four daughters, Patricia J. Longmore and her husband, David, of Struthers; Cynthia D. Mostoller and her husband, Adrian, of Bastian, VA; Susan M. Latarski and her husband, Daniel, of Broadview Heights, OH; and Monica L. Hvizdak, who lived with her father in Campbell; and two grandchildren, Christopher Hvizdak of Austin, TX; and Kenneth Longmore of Struthers.

In addition to his parents, Eugene was preceded in death by his wife, Delores (Rockwell) Hvizdak, whom he married on Jan. 22, 1952. She died on July 21, 1999; two sisters, Mary Cifra and Catherine Hvizdak; and two brothers, John Paul and Michael Hvizdak.

Visiting hours were held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Kirila Funeral Home. Burial took place at St. John Cemetery.

MARGARET ANN MALLETTS KUNTZ BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA



Margaret Ann Malletts Kuntz, from Hillsboro Beach, FL passed away unexpectedly and peacefully on December 18, 2014, immediately after swimming with the stingrays in Grand Cayman Island while on a cruise with her husband, Bob. Born on January 7, 1940 in Hazelton, PA to John Malletts and Margaret Maruscak Malletts of Jim Thorpe, PA, Margaret was 74 years old when she passed away suddenly from congestive heart failure.

A 1957 graduate from Marian High School in Lansford, PA, Margaret attended St. Joseph School of Nursing in Reading PA,

where she graduated and was capped in 1960. Soon afterwards she worked as an intensive care nurse at George Washington Hospital in Washington, D.C. Margaret married Robert Paul Kuntz on September 1, 1962 in Lansford, PA and as a Navy wife, followed him to Pensacola, FL where she worked as a nurse. Then to Norfolk, VA and San Diego CA. After 6 years of marriage and traveling for the Navy, they settled down in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Boca Raton, FL in July of 1981 and has been in south Florida since. On their journey together, they had two sons, Michael and Mark and a grandson Malec.

After raising her sons, Margaret become re-certified and practiced geriatric nursing for 13 years at ACTS Home Health Care Communities in Boca Raton, FL. Margaret, (or Peggy, as she was best known to her friends) was a woman of grace. She was a very spiritual Catholic woman whose life was dedicated to showing love and compassion to those she encountered, both professionally and personally.

She will be remembered for her selflessness, patience and understanding. Peggy was a Cenacle Sister companion, a member of St. Ambrose Church in Deerfield Beach, FL, and belonged to The St. Ambrose centering prayer group and the Southhouse 8, a group of women artists who practiced spirituality through art. Peggy was also a member of the Boca Raton Artists Guild. Peggy enjoyed traveling with her husband Bob, cruising and playing cribbage. She loved spending time with her family and growing Bonsai trees. In addition to being an artist, Peggy was a consummate reader and an author of spiritual writings that she shared with her family, art group, and close friends.

Peggy is survived by her husband Robert, two sons, Michael and Mark and grandson, Malec. She also leaves behind her sister and brother-in-law, Jane Malletts Busavage and John Busavage, a niece and nephew, John Busavage and Sarah Jane Kinzer and a sister-in-law and brother-in-law Mary Anne Kuntz and Wayne Hildebrand.

Memorial services were held at Saint Ambrose Church in Deerfield Beach at 9:30 AM on Saturday, January 24, 2015. Peggy will be interned this summer in the Columbarium at The United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

BERNADINE A. GERHARD BRANCH 567K – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Bernadine A. Gerhard, 83 years of Whitehall, PA passed away early Sunday morning, September 21, 2014 at home surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Allentown to the late Cyril J. and Anna A. (Krisch) Surovy, she was the wife of Frank C. Gerhard for 39 years at the time of his passing in 1994.

Bernie was a dedicated member of St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church, Allentown, where she was very active with many social events. She was a Past President of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 567KJ; Chairperson of Auditors of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District of Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington DC; member of the former Greater Lehigh Valley Slovak Association and the former Whitehall Senior Citizens.

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015 • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer
Henry Hassay, Regional Director

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 2014 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

The Executive Secretary gave a summary of all stock and bond transactions and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**INVESTMENT UPDATES:**

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

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

The President led a discussion on our current annuity rates. It was decided to keep the rates the same and review them again at the February meeting.

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 2014:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 277,767.22
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 31,747.64
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented his extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via web ex and telephone. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President asked Larry White about the economic conditions with the Euro in Europe and how it could impact our current investments and the bond market in general. Mr. White gave an extensive overview of the market and answered the Committee's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President presented a written detailed sales production report to the Executive Committee on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents and now have 190 agents. The Executive Secretary stated we are beginning a program to recruit new agents in the states we are newly licensed. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Executive Secretary stated we have continued advertising on Facebook with

material being added daily as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including ad material in our home office mailings.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President gave a progress report on the Middletown Memorial Project and stated the project is 2/3 completed. The project has been halted at this time due to weather conditions and will resume as soon as the weather improves. The engraver is processing the bricks that have already been ordered. The Executive Secretary stated we are still accepting memorial granite brick orders. Order Forms are available on our website, in our newspaper, or through the home office.

The President stated we are still in the planning stage for the 2015 special events including the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Rev. Stephen Furdek, which will be celebrated as a joint event. The 50th anniversary of the dedication of our Sorrowful Mother Chapel at the National Shrine in Washington DC will be held on September 12, 2015 jointly with the Slovak Catholic Federation. The Executive Committee will be kept informed as details are completed on both events. The President has suggested the districts may also hold local celebrations honoring these special events.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

OBITUARIES

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She was a table worker at Bru-Mar Manufacturing in Allentown for over 20 years retiring in 1987.

Survivors: daughter, Margaret P. Gillespie and her husband Jerome of North Catasauqua; granddaughter, Tina Keenan and her husband Zachary of Northampton; great grandchildren, Ava and Owen; niece, nephews and their families. She was predeceased by brother Joseph J. Surovy and his wife, Lois.

Services: Her viewings were held on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 from 6 to 8 pm and Thursday, September 25, 2014 from 9:30 to 10:30 am in the Gilbert Funeral Home 444 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall, PA.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00am on Thursday, September 25, 2014 in St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church in Allentown, PA. Interment followed in the parish cemetery.

- Submitted by Loretta Dashner,
Branch 567KJ

AGNES MAJERNIK (HAKY) KEMPF BRANCH 618 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Agnes Majernik (Haky) Kempf of West Mifflin, PA, passed away on October 9, 2014, at the age of 90. Beloved wife of Glenn Kempf and the late John Majernik; loving mother of Barbara (Patrick) Miller, Joanne Majernik, Theresa (Albert) Urasek and John Majernik; stepmother of Kevin Kempf; proud grandmother of Colleen, Monica, AJ, Dan, Jonathan, Matt, Nick and Max; also survived by her 11 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her four brothers and three sisters. Family and friends were received at the Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home, Munhall, PA, on Sunday, October 12, 2014, from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, October 13, 2014, at 10 a.m. at Holy Spirit Church, West Mifflin.

- Submitted by Theresa Urasek

Address Changes?

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

International Vocation Conference Held in Rome



Sister Deborah Marie serves as NRVC Director of Member Relations and Services.

In honor of the 2015 Year of Consecrated Life, the National Religious Vocation Conference hosted a gathering in Rome, February 23-27, 2015, of select national vocation and religious leaders from the developed world. Sister Deborah Marie Borneman, SS.C.M., participated in the conference.

The goals of the gathering were to share vocation-related information, identify common needs and challenges, and explore future areas for worldwide collaboration in promoting vocations to consecrated life.

"The Year of Consecrated is the perfect opportunity to explore how Catholic vocation conferences can work together to promote and strengthen religious life on a global level," says Holy Cross Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Executive Director of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC)

and host of the international gathering.

The conference will was held at the Istituto Maria Santissima Bambina located just outside of St. Peter's Square.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable

District 15 Celebrated Christmas at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, Ontario, California



Fr. Ladislav Ostrak, ThDr. from Bratislava was the main celebrant, con-celebrating the Slovak Holy Mass with Fr. Pavol Sochulak, S.V.D. In the back-round are musicians participating with Slovak Christmas music.



Sofia Vadkerti after reciting her poem taking to St. Nicolaus represented by Mr. Joseph Jasik.

- Submitted by Paul Skuben, District 15 President

FOR SALE

Embroidered Easter Basket Covers
Three types of basket covers are available to bring your Easter Foods to Church for blessing on Holy Saturday
Each embroidered cover is \$30 plus \$5 shipping



- 1st Slovak words "Kristus vstal zmrtvych"
"Christ is Risen"
 - 2nd English words "Alleluia! Christ is risen"
 - 3rd Byzantine Slovak words "Christos voskrese"
"Christ is risen"
- Each cover is approximately 27" x 17"

Keep the traditions alive and pass these treasured covers from generation to generation.

Order by phone at 724-562-0782 or 724-277-4236
Or use order form below

ORDER FORM

_____ Total Number of Covers ordered

_____ "Kristus vstal zmrtvych" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]

_____ "Alleluia! Christ is risen" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]

_____ "Christos voskrese" [\$30 plus \$5 s & h]

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Kindly make checks payable to: Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
Send this order form and check for \$35 to:
Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
St. Aloysius Church
459 Ranch Road, Dunbar, PA 15431

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Branch 24 Helps Represent Slovakia at EU Event in Washington, DC

On February 19, 2015, in Washington, DC, the Delegation of the European Union to the United States hosted "Exploring Slovakia's Folkloric Traditions" in their facility as part of its Conversations in Culture Series. The FCSU's own Branch 24 Members Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, featured vocalist, and Alexander-Fedoriouk, on cimbalom, helped showcase the rich history and artistic expressions of folk music throughout Slovakia.

Born in Eastern Slovakia, Beata attended a music high school in Prešov and received her music degree from J. P. Safarik University in Slovakia. While still a student, she was featured as a soloist on many recordings and radio broadcasts and received numerous awards in folk song competitions. A featured soloist with the professional Rusyn ensemble Dukla in Prešov, she toured Europe and North America with the renowned folk ensemble Šarišan.



The February Conversations in Culture Event was held in conjunction with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic. (L - R) Slovak Embassy Staff Members Martin Babiak and Dagmar Timurova, Featured Vocalist Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Jana Hranaiova, Bassist Branislav Brinarsky, Zuzana Babiakova, and Violinist Pavol Cekan.

She and her husband Alexander currently perform with the Cleveland, OH-based Harmonia, a group that has been called a "musical gem" by National Public Radio. At the age of seven, Alexander began playing the cimbalom, a concert hammered dulcimer commonly found in Slovak and other Eastern European folk bands. He studied music in his native Ukraine at the Kolomyia Music School, Chernivsty Musical College and received his Bachelor's degree in music from the Kiev State Conservatory. He has performed as a soloist with the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Columbus Symphony, the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, the Johnstown Symphony, the Youngstown Youth Orchestra, the New York Chamber Ensemble, the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra, the Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra, and others.

The February event, held in conjunction with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, highlighted Slovakia as part of a diverse series of programs on culture from European Union countries, including music, visual art, theater, culinary art, and literature.

Branch 24 Member and Home Office Staffer Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk performs with her husband Alexander Fedoriouk, also a member of Branch 24, in the Delegation of the European Union's facility in Washington, DC.



PITT STUDENT SLOVAK CLUB SLOVAK STUDIES PROGRAM

University of Pittsburgh

Cordially invites you to

The Thomas Kukucka Memorial Lecture

Robert Dvorchak

Birds of Passage: Achieving the American Dream

Sunday, March 22, 2015, 2:00 P.M.

1700 Posvar Hall, Pitt Campus, Oakland

Robert Dvorchak worked for 47 years as a journalist, including eight years as a national writer for the Associated Press in New York City. He has covered such stories as the original outbreak of Legionnaires Disease, the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, the Jeffrey Dahmer serial killings and the Oklahoma City bombings. During the first Iraq War, he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division as a war correspondent, and he last worked for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. A resident of Penn Hills, he is the grandson of Slovak immigrants who came to America from Spiš County, and he has taught Slovak culture to his two daughters and five granddaughters.

Refreshments will be served

St. Thomas A'Becket 2015 Fish Fry Underway



During the Lenten Season, St. Thomas A'Becket Church at 138 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA, will hold their Fish Fry on each Friday of Lent, including Good Friday. This will be held in the School Building at 139 Gill Hall Road. The hours are 3:30PM - 7:00PM. Take outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

The menu includes: hand-breaded cod, baked cod dinners, fried shrimp dinner, combo platter (fried fish and shrimp), tuna melts, and baked or fried fish sandwich. We also have soup, fries, pizza, homemade mac-n-cheese, and haluski. Dinners include: 2 sides and a beverage. Children's menu available. Special additions: March 6 and 27 - Homemade Crab Cakes. The Special for Good Friday will be pierogies (pirohy).

All are welcome! For more information, call 412-655-2885 or 412-653-4322.

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN

District II Annual 2015 Brunch and Play

On Sunday, May 17th, 2014, a Brunch and Play is scheduled at the Center for Performing and Arts, Theatre at the Center, located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Brunch starts at 12:45 pm, the play following brunch at 2:30 pm. The play is called "Big Fish". It is a deeply moving, fantastical new Broadway musical adapted from Tim Burton's film of the same name. If you have been to the brunch/play before, the price is \$31.50. If you have never attended the brunch/play, District II Members pay \$36.50. Non-members pay full price.

For more information, call Lynda Tanis at: 1-630-247-7521. Make check payable to: Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II and mail to Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618. The deadline is March 31, 2015. Checks will not be honored after this date.

PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY

Members attended last year	\$31.50 x _____ = _____ total
Members not attended last year	\$36.50 x _____ = _____ total
Non-members	\$56.50 x _____ = _____ total

Member's Name _____ Branch # _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

List all names on a separate sheet and mail together to Lynda Tanis (see above for address) with check.

A Recap of The 22nd Annual Slovak Ball

The Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC) or as it is known in Slovak, Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SAKS), organized its 22nd successful Slovak Ball, a black tie event, for the first time in New Jersey at the Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ. Among the many attendees were distinguished guests of the diplomatic community including H.E. Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, Peter Kmec and his wife Monika and Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Jana Trnovcova. FCSU was represented by Honorary Consul Joseph Senko and Chairman of Friends of Slovakia and his wife Albina (both of Branch 254), and Home Office Staffer Andrew Rajec and Daniel Rajec (both of Branch 89). Representatives of various Slovak organizations also came to support the efforts of SACC, including Mr. and Mrs. John Duch, Chair of the Slovak Heritage Festival, Mr. Holy – former Publisher and editor of Slovak in America, and President of Slovak League and Mrs. Nina Holy – Secretary General of Slovak League in America and Co- Chair of the Slovak Heritage Festival. Father Martin Kertys who is serving to the Slovak community at Sts Cyril and Methodius in Clifton, NJ, and member of the New York Oratory of St. Philip Neri as well as Marek Marcin, a student at the oratory, also attended the Ball.

The Slovak-American Cultural Center, a non-profit organization started in 1969, has been active in organizing a variety of cultural, artistic, sporty, and scientific oriented events in the NJ, NY, and CT area. The New York City based organization has been pivotal in raising awareness and funding for many causes throughout its long existence. The largest fundraising endeavor is the Ball which sustains the activities of S-ACC as well as provides scholarships to students in Slovakia studying at City University.

The Slovak-American Cultural Center each year honors someone for their achievements in bringing together the Slovak community. This year's guest of honor was founder of SlovakInfo.com, Oto Racek, who in 2001 along with two other friends founded the organization to promote networking opportunities for Slovak professionals and Slovak students working and living in the tri-state area. The virtual organization connects young professionals to activities in the tri-state area, organizes events and different forums for Slovak young professionals to gain insight into various fields and provides opportunities for networking, developing, and connecting the Slovak professional community.

The evening highlighted a young opera singer of Slovak descent, Andrew Pulver who captivated the audience with his interpretation of Caccini's "Ave Maria" and Mikulas Schneider-Trnavsky's "Keby som bol vtackom" performed in Slovak. Andrew Pulver recently made his debut with the Washington National Opera in the Title Role of The Little Prince at the Kennedy Center in December 2014 and in 2013 Andrew made his Metropolitan Opera debut as "real Jake" in the Met's premiere of Nico Muhly's opera Two Boys. Over the past two years Andrew has performed in twelve operas. Andrew, a native of New Jersey, studies piano and voice privately and has been performing since the age of three, when he first sang for St. Nicholas at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City.

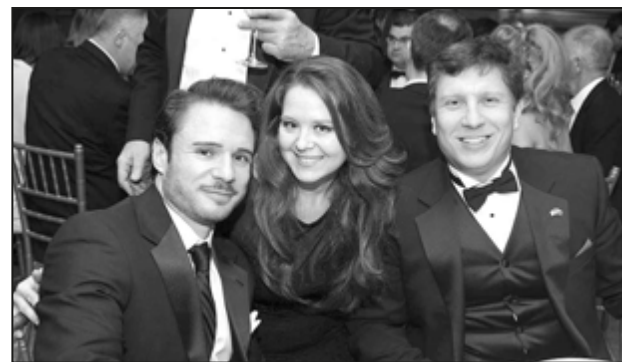
Guests at the Slovak Ball were treated to a taste of Dancing with the Stars with two riveting performances by Slovak professional dancer Vanda Polakova and her partner Edgar Ostorio. Vanda, a native of Bratislava, is an accomplished dancer with an extensive list of dance accomplishments including first place winner at Open Professional Rhythm, American Star Ball in Atlantic City, NJ, two time Slovak Republic National Champion in Latin American Dances-Bratislava, Slovak Republic, (Europe, World Representative), (5th Place), World Rhythm Championship. Her partner Edgar has been participating in many Professional and Pro Am competitions throughout the United States and has gained many National titles since 2000 including finalist in the open American rhythm, the most prestige competition in the United States in 2010, National USDCS, United States Dance Championship titles, U.S. Mambo Championship and the World Salsa Championship held in Miami and Puerto Rico.

In addition to the program, guests danced all night long to the brilliant live music of the talented band, Express led by Marek Soltis. Many genres of music were covered from Slovak folk to Michael Jackson "Thriller". The evening wouldn't be complete without the chance to win wonderful Raffle prizes such as a round trip air ticket to Vienna; a weekend stay for two at the luxurious Hotel Elysee donated by HK Hotels; Dinner at the residence of H.E. Frantisek Ruzicka, Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and a variety of autographed memorabilia including hockey sticks and pucks signed by NYR players donated New York Rangers organization. Among other prizes were beauty care baskets courtesy of NovaKera Healthy Skin Care and Blue Horizon Skin Care. The raffle wouldn't be complete without some Slovak products: wines by Matysak and new to the market, Goral Vodka Master, produced in Stara Lubovna and winner of many international awards.

The Ball's success is attributed to the many devoted members and volunteers of the Slovak-American Cultural Center that worked tirelessly to make the event possible. The most important note of gratitude goes to each and every person that supported the organization through their attendance at the event. SACC hopes to continue the wonderful tradition of the Slovak Ball--- join us for an amazing evening filled with tradition, culture, and fun at the 23rd Slovak Ball on Saturday, January 30th, 2016! For more information about the organization and other events please visit: www.slovakamericanc.org.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director and Branch 746 President

Editor's Note: For more pictorial coverage of this event, please see page 21 of Jednota's Slovak section.



22. Slovenský ples SAKS-u najväčší v histórii

Pokračovanie zo str. 24



Výbor SAKS - Na snímke sú zľava: pokladníčka SAKS Zuzana Harvis, podpredsedníčka Rosemary Golia, veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone, D.C. Peter Kmec s manželkou Monikou, Oto Raček, predsedníčka Sabína Sabadoš, podpredseda Matúš Čulen, generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku Jana Trnovcová, tajomník Peter Krajňák, podpredsedníčka Zuzana Krčmárová.

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko pre New York a okolie (SAKS) usporiadalo svoj 22. ples po prvý raz v New Jersey, v podniku Royal Manor v meste Garfield, N.J.

Ples sa konal v sobotu 24. januára t.r. Začal sa bohatou recepciou a pokračoval večerou a potom tradičným plesovým programom. Ples formálne otvorila krátkym príhovorom predsedníčka SAKS-u Sabína Sabadoš. Ďalší program viedol konferenciér Matúš Čulen. Príhovory mali veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone Peter Kmec a generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku Jana Trnovcová. Obaja vyslovili poďakovanie SAKS-u za udržiavanie tradície formálnych plesov v oblasti New Yorku.

Úvodný tanec v juhoamerickom štýle predviedol profesionálny tanečný pár Vanda Poláková a Edgar Rosario. Program večera spestril aj 14-ročný spevácky talent Andrew Pulver, ktorý už vystupoval na viacerých profesionálnych scénach, medzi nimi aj v Kennedy Center vo Washingtone a v Metropolitan opera. Na klavíri ho doprevádzal pianista Eric Hunter.

Počas prestávky predsedníčka Sabína Sabadoš a podpredseda Matúš Čulen odovzdali Ocenenie SAKS-u Otovi Račekovi, ktorý založil SlovakInfo a zorganizoval skupinu novších prisťahovalcov zo Slovenska vo voľnom združení Slovak Young Professionals. Oto Raček prijal ocenenie s poďakovaním a vysvetlil ciele a programy ním založeného združenia.

Program plesu, ktorý sa skončil o 1. hod. po polnoci, obohatila aj tombola. SAKS si zaslúži vďaka slovenskej verejnosti za organizovanie slovenských plesov, čím udržiava takmer polstoročnú plesovú tradíciu v oblasti New Yorku.

Ján Holý



Predsedníčka Sabína Sabadoš a konferenciér M. Čulen počas otvárania plesu.



Veľvyslanec Peter Kmec pozdravil účastníkov.



Generálna konzulka Jana Trnovcová počas príhovoru.



Mladý spevák Andrew Pulver s pianistom Ericom Hunterom.



Zľava: člen výboru SAKS-u Stanislav Krčmár, predsedníčka Sabína Sabadoš, čestný konzul SR v Pittsburghu Jozef Senko s manželkou Albinou.

Vyhlásenie KBS k referendu o ochrane rodiny

K referendu o ochrane rodiny, ktoré sa v sobotu 7. februára 2015 uskutočnilo na Slovensku, vydala Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS) vyhlásenie. Prinášame ho v plnom znení:

“Konferencia biskupov Slovenska sobotňajšiemu referendu vyjadrila svoju podporu. Chceme sa v tejto chvíli poďakovať všetkým občanom, ktorí sa do verejného hlasovania zapojili. Úprimne si to vážime a veľmi to oceňujeme. Ďakujeme Aliancii za rodinu a všetkým dobrovoľníkom, ďakujeme našim štátnym predstaviteľom a predstaviteľom politických strán, ktorí referendum podporili. Skutočnosť, že sa na referende nezúčastnilo požadovaných aspoň 50 percent oprávnených voličov, je bezpochyby dôvodom na analýzu a zamyslenie. Opakovane povzbudzujeme k vzájomnej úcte voči všetkým ľuďom a ku konkrétnej pomoci rodinám v našom okolí. Veríme, že starostlivosť o rodiny zostane aj naďalej dôležitou témou pre verejný život i pre celú našu spoločnosť.”

TK KBS



Na Slovensko prídu cvičiť stovky zahraničných vojakov

Na Slovensko príde v prvom polroku 2015 cvičiť niekoľko stoviek zahraničných vojakov. Pôjde najmä o ozbrojené sily z USA, Česka, Poľska, Maďarska či Rakúska. Vláda 18. februára odobrila ich prítomnosť na území Slovenska.

Vo výcvikových priestoroch sa zahraniční vojaci zúčastnia vyše tridsiatky naplánovaných cvičení. Od 24. februára do 15. marca bude napríklad v Žiline, Kamenici nad Cirochou a v Centre výcviku Lešť cvičiť do 110 vojakov zo špeciálnych amerických jednotiek. Až do 500 amerických vojakov príde na Slovensko v marci. Na Lešti budú nacvičovať zásah v zastavanej oblasti. So sebou si privedú aj techniku s výzbrojou. Zásahy v obývanej zóne budú nacvičovať u nás aj Poliaci, ktorých v dvoch termínoch príde do 150.

Cvičenie na Slovensku majú naplánované napríklad aj maďarskí vojenski potápači či Česi, ktorí budú precvičovať zásah pri živelných katastrofách a spoluprácu v rámci leteckých operácií. Okrem toho sa uskutočnia na Slovensku cvičenia vojenských chemikov.

Aj slovenskí vojaci sa v prvom polroku tohto roka zúčastnia na viacerých cvičeniach v zahraničí. Vycestujú najmä do Čiech, Poľska a Maďarska

Naplánované majú napríklad spoločné cvičenie ženijných jednotiek či cvičenie jednotiek, ktoré sú pripravené pre operáciu ALTHEA v Bosne a Hercegovine. Vojenski piloti zas v máji odcestujú do Poľska, kde sa uskutočnia ostré strelby na vzdušné ciele. So sebou si zoberú 12 kusov leteckej techniky.

Vláda schválila aj prítomnosť zahraničných vojakov a vyslanie slovenských vojakov do zahraničia na základe medzinárodných zmlúv a dohovorov v oblasti kontroly zbrojenia, odzbrojenia a budovania dôvery a bezpečnosti.

TASR



Púť slovenských hnutí a združení opäť k hrobu sv. Cyrila

Rím privítal opäť púť slovenských hnutí a združení k hrobu sv. Cyrila. Zúčastnili sa na nej delegáti z takmer dvadsiatich hnutí a združení, desať delegátov z mládežníckych organizácií a iniciatív pôsobiacich v rómskych komunitách získalo finančnú podporu na púť z rezervy predsedu vlády SR.

Putovanie slovenských pútnikov začalo 13. februára 2015 v Benátkach. Na tomto mieste mali duchovnú obnovu s arcibiskupom Cyrilom Vasil'om, sekretárom Kongregácie pre východné Cirkvi. V Bazilike San Pietro di Castello bola v roku 2013 odhalená pamätná tabuľa venovaná sv. Cyrilovi a Metodovi, spolupatrom Európy.

Benátky boli významným medzníkom v misijnom príbehu dvoch svätých, bratov Konštantína-Cyrila a Metoda. V roku 867 cestou do Ríma sa zastavili v Benátkach, kde sa konala verejná diskusia s miestnym klérom a ich misia zaznamenala veľký význam. Prišlo k dôležitej zlomovej epizóde, uvedenej aj v historickom dokumente “Vita Constantini” pod názvom “Benátska dišputa”. Následne im pápež Hadrián II. udelil súhlas s používaním staroslovienciny v liturgických obradoch, a to i napriek zaužívanej tradícii (hebrejčina, gréčtina a latinčina).

Na príprave benátskej časti putovania sa podieľala partnerská organizácia Katolícka akcia v Benátkach. Pútnici potom pokračovali do Ríma, kde ich čakal program bohatý na vzácne stretnutia a možnosť duchovne prežiť týždeň v atmosfére odkazu sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Už 14. februára 2015 sa zúčastnili na oslave sv. Cyrila a Metoda. V Bazilike sv. Klementa v Ríme sa zapojili do slávenia svätej omše. Svätej omši, predsedal kardinál Josip Bozanić, arcibiskup Záhrebu a člen Pápežskej rady pre laikov. Po svätej omši nasledovala tradičná procesia a modlitba pri hrobe sv. Cyrila, pochovaného v podzemí baziliky. Slávnosť tento rok organizovalo Pápežské chorvátske kolégium sv. Hieronyma v Ríme. Delegátov slovenských hnutí a združení prijal aj predseda Pápežskej rady pre laikov kardinál Stanislav Ryško. Na stretnutí sa zúčastnil aj veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky pri Svätej stolici Peter Sopko. Púť viedol bratislavský eparcha Peter Rusnák, predseda Rady pre laické a apoštolské hnutia.

TK KBS

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Národný slovenský spolok oslávi 125. výročie

Národný slovenský spolok (NSS) je najstaršou slovenskou fraternalistickou organizáciou v Amerike. Založený bol 16. februára 1890 v Pittsburghu. Medzi dnešnými slovenskými fraternalistickými organizáciami je na 3. mieste v hodnote majetku.

V súčasnosti má NSS sídlo vo vlastnej budove Na adrese 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, Pa, v predmestí Pittsburghu. Predsedníctvo NSS oznámilo, že jubilejná oslava sa bude konať v sobotu **7. marca 2015** v hoteli Hilton Garden Inn na južnej strane Pittsburghu. Oslavy budú zahŕňovať slávnostný banket a iné aktivity.

Spomienkova oslava Slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New York City za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 a Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu Slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa **15. marca 2015** o 1.00 hodine odpolednia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East a 66st Street New York City. Spomienkovú oslavu zahájí slovenská svätá omša o 11.00 hodine doobeda v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, obetovaná za Dr. Jozefa Tisu a obeť slovenského národa. Ako prvým bodom programu bude Výročná členská shôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC. Za tým bude pokračovať oslava Slovenskej štátnosti, ktorej hlavný rečník bude mať príhovor o minulosti Slovenska, ktoré dosiahlo samostatnosť dvakrát a to 14. marca 1939 a po dlhom čase boja za slobodu opäť dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie slovenského národa na ceste k sebaurčeniu a štátnej samostatnosti. Po programe sa bude podávať občerstvenie a v bare bude možnosť zakúpenia nápojov. Vstup je voľný! O bližšie informácie volajte: Milan a Henrieta Dait: (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 353-654.

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedeľu 22. marca 2015** o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši – pokladníčka

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať schôdzu na Kvetnú nedeľu **29. marca 2015**. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou v kostole St. John Paul II, Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886, o 16:00 hod., ktorú bude sláviť Fr. Pavol Sochulák z Ontária, CA. Po svätej omši bude ľahká večera so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa už tradične budú zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni. Na programe je plán aktivity a informácie o postiení prostredníctvom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Pozývame na posedenie všetky spolky v okolí.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Na Slovensku možno bude pôsobiť tím vojenských plánovačov z NATO

Na Slovensku možno bude pôsobiť tím vojenských plánovačov z NATO. O vytvorenie tzv. styčného tímu NFIU (NATO Force Integration Units) požiadala Slovenská republika Alianciu. SR je už ôsmim členským štátom NATO, ktorý žiada o vytvorenie takéhoto tímu na svojom území.

„Ide iba o tím plánovačov. Ich prítomnosť vo všeobecnosti uľahčí potenciálne prijatie posíl zo strany NATO pre danú členskú krajinu. Počas mieru by podporovala plánovacie aktivity,“ vysvetlil minister obrany SR Martin Glváč. Zdôraznil, že nejde o vytvorenie bojovej jednotky či základne.

Ako informovalo ministerstvo obrany, tento tím by malo tvoriť okolo 40 ľudí, pričom polovica z nich bude slovenská a polovica z iných členských krajín NATO. „Tieto tímy by zároveň koordinovali mnohonárodné cvičenia a preverovali prepojenie domácich a mnohonárodných síl NATO. Ide o opatrenie na ochranu našich záujmov a celistvosti územia Slovenskej republiky,“ ozrejmila hovorkyňa rezortu obrany Martina Balleková.

Ako dodala, Slovenská republika má ako členský štát NATO, v prípade potreby garantovanú pomoc jednotkami rýchleho nasadenia (NRF). Tie sa na základe štvrtkového (5.2.) rozhodnutia ministrov obrany z členských krajín NATO rozšíria až na veľkosť divízie a v niektorých prípadoch budú schopné zasiahnuť už do 48 hodín. Do síl rýchleho nasadenia prispieva aj Slovensko.

Po vlnajšom septembrovom summite NATO vo Walese sa uvažovalo aj o vytvorení logistickej základne v Poprade pre potreby Aliancie. Rezort obrany však upozorňuje, že prítomnosť styčného tímu nemá akúkoľvek súvislosť s vytvorením logistickej základne v Poprade.

TASR



Zástavy členských štátov Severoatlantickej aliancie (NATO) vejú pred sídlom aliancie v Bruseli.

Slovakia will provide half of the personnel (40 people) as part of the new NATO division, NATO Force Integration Units (NFIU), while the other half will come from other member states. In the photo are the flags at the headquarters of NATO in Brussels, Belgium.

Slovenská liga oznamuje

In Memoriam – Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo

Čestný predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo zomrel v Bratislave po dlhej chorobe dňa 21. decembra 2014. Bol predsedom Slovenskej ligy od roka 1993 do 2006, kedy bol zvolený za čestného predsedu. Predtým zastával niekoľko termínov funkciu podpredsedu pre východoanglické štáty. Bol oddaný národovec a štedrý podporovateľ slovenských programov.

Jeho pohreb sa konal 29. decembra v kaplnke bratislavského krematória. Ďalšie pohrebné obrady boli v jeho rodisku, v Michalovciach, kde je aj pochovaný.

V mene Slovenskej ligy sme vyslovili kondolencie jeho manželke Tatiane a rodine a na pohreb sme poslali veniec kvetov s nápisom Slovenskej ligy. Súčasne Slovenská liga dostala kondolencie od viacerých verejných činiteľov na Slovensku.

Čeť jeho pamiatke. Nech odpočíva v pokoji v jeho rodnom meste.

Kniha Slovaks in America



Oznamujeme slovenskej verejnosti, že ešte máme na sklade malý počet kníh SLOVAKS IN AMERICA. Je to najväčšie dielo o histórii Slovákov v Amerike, ako aj o histórii našich fraternalistických organizácií, kultúrnych inštitúcií a tiež aj významnejších miestnych združení a slovenských náboženských inštitúcií. Kniha je veľkého formátu, je bohato ilustrovaná a obsahuje skoro 500 strán.

Pôvodne sa táto kniha predávala za \$39.00. Teraz ju ponúkame záujemcom za \$26.00 vrátane poštovného a balenia. Objednávky majú byť poslané na dolevedenú adresu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike.

Ďalšie ponuky

Máme tiež na sklade viaceré posledné vydania SLOVAKIA. Sú to publikácie na akademickej úrovni, ktoré Slovenská liga vydáva už vyše 60 rokov, aby ich prostredníctvom informovala o slovenskej kultúre a histórii amerických kultúrnych a politických činiteľov. Je v našom spoločnom záujme, aby sa čo najväčší počet týchto kníh dostal do verejnosti. Preto ponúkame Slovakiu za zľadené ceny.

Posledné vydanie, dvojčíslo 66-67 (má 211 strán) si môžu záujemci objednať za \$8.00, vrátane poštovného. Predchádzajúce čísla ponúkame za \$3.00 plus poštovné \$2.00. Pri objednávkach štyroch a viac Slovakií poštovné uhradí Slov. liga.

Pri objednávkach kníh šeky (odpočítateľné z daní) majú byť vystavené na Slovak League of America.

Máme tiež na predaj 105-minútové VIDEO Slováci v Amerike (v anglickej verzii Slovaks in America). Video predstavuje v skratke históriu Slovákov v Amerike a zachytáva významnejšie udalosti v našej histórii. Predáva sa za \$8.00 vrátane poštovného.

Staňte sa členmi Slovenskej ligy

V posledných desaťročiach sme stratili v Amerike veľký počet kostolov a farností. A s nimi naše komunity stratili spoločenské centrá a spolkové miestnosti, v ktorých sa udržoval slovenský život. V tomto procese zaniklo aj veľa miestnych zborov Slovenskej ligy. Mnohí oddaní členovia týchto zborov si aj naďalej udržiujú členstvo v SLvA a členský poplatok posielajú priamo do ústredia. Členský poplatok za rok je \$10.00. Doživotné členské je \$200.00. Doživotní členovia majú na kongresoch SLvA práva zvolených delegátov. Členské poplatky sú odpočítateľné z daní.

Adresa Slovenskej ligy: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison Street, Passaic, NJ 07055. Tel. 973-472-8993.

Daniel F. Tanzone
Predseda

Nina Holy
tajomníčka

Kúpele krajín V4 budú mať vlastný portál od 1. apríla

Zahraniční klienti slovenských kúpeľov sa podľa štatistík zdržia na Slovensku v priemere 12,8 dňa. Asociácia slovenských kúpeľov (ASK) napriek tomuto pomerne priaznivému číslu považuje za nevyhnutné Slovensko neustále zviditeľňovať predovšetkým v Európe. Napomocť tomu má nový spoločný portál krajín V4, ktorý bude predstavovať jednotlivé kúpele na Slovensku, v Čechách, v Maďarsku a v Poľsku.

„Mnoho zahraničných návštevníkov slovenských kúpeľov vníma Vyšehradský priestor ako spoločný, na Slovensku zotrávajú pomerne dlho. Stáva sa aj, že klienti sú pri čítaní ponúk v kúpeľníctve dezorientovaní, dostávajú sa tam aj produkty, ktoré s kúpeľníctvom nemajú nič spoločné. Ponuky zverejňujú aj také subjekty, ktoré na ponúkané služby nemajú licenciu,“ povedala predsedníčka ASK Janka Zálešáková.

Projekt, ktorý financoval Vyšehradský fond, je už vo finále. Portál www.V4medicalsace.eu bude dostupný od 1. apríla. Predstaví regióny každej krajiny V4, medicínske produkty, produkty v oblasti medical wellness. Každý kúpeľný podnik bude na stránke prezentovať významné turistické atrakcie, prírodné krásy, kultúrne podujatia a pamiatky v okruhu 50 kilometrov. Zámerom portálu je urobiť produkty čitateľnejšími. Držiteľmi grantu, okrem ASK, sú český Balneologický výskumný ústav, maďarská Asociácia podnikateľov v oblasti zdravotného cestovného ruchu a poľská Asociácia kúpeľných miest.

TASR

Prezentácia slovenského folklóru „Conversation in Culture“

Zastupiteľský úrad Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone v spolupráci s Delegáciou Európskej únie zorganizoval 19. februára 2015 večer zameraný na prezentáciu slovenského folklóru a tradícií. Akcia sa konala v rámci série podujatí „Conversation in Culture“, počas ktorých majú hostia možnosť spoznať jednotlivé krajiny EÚ prostredníctvom umenia, hudby, divadla, literatúry. Slovensko sa v rámci tejto série predstavilo prvýkrát, a to vystúpením talentovanej speváčky Beaty Begenieovej-Fedoriovou s ľudovým orchestrom. Americké publikum malo možnosť zoznámiť sa s folklórom a ľudovými tradíciami jednotlivých regiónov Slovenska. B. Begenieová sprevádzala skupina Pajtáši z New Yorku, ktorí hosťom predstavili ľudové nástroje ako fujara, koncovka, gajdice, cimbal.

B. Begenieová, ktorá pôsobí v USA (Cleveland) pochádza z Prešova a účinkovala ako sólistka v ľudových súboroch Dukla a Šarišan. Vyštudovala hudbu na Univerzite J.P. Šafárika a ešte počas štúdií nahrala viacero hudobných nosičov a získala množstvo ocenení v súťažiach ľudových piesní.

MZV SR

Správy zo Slovenska

Rakúšania budujú nákupné stredisko špeciálne pre Slovákov v Hainburgu

Nebýva často zvykom, aby si európske mestá vybudovali nákupný park priamo v centre. A už vôbec nie v Rakúsku. Aj preto bol projekt FMZ Hainburg špecifický. Všetko sa začalo tým, že tu pred štyrmi rokmi zavrela brány továreň na výrobu tabaku. Tabak Austria prepustila síce 200 zamestnancov, mnohým obyvateľom mesta však urobila radosť. Továreň v centre nebola ideálnym riešením. Už po pár mesiacoch skončili lukratívne pozemky v rukách spoločnosti Halpin. Tá si na tomto mieste nakreslila mix obchodov a bytov. S rozpočtom asi 40 miliónov eur sledoval investor hlavný cieľ - pritiahnúť ľudí do centra. Množstvo malých obchodíkov totiž v Hainburgu v posledných rokoch zavrelo, resp. presťahovalo sa do iných centier. Komplex počíta s vytvorením 150 bytov. Výrazne sa však rozšíria aj nákupné možnosti mesta. Na 14.000 štvorcových metroch by malo nájsť domov asi 25 obchodov. S nadnesením sa dá povedať, že Bratislavčania získavajú ďalšie nákupné centrum.

Zmluva o diplomoch meškala

Pod novou zmluvou o vzájomnom uznávaní dokladov o vzdelávaní medzi Slovenskom a Českom už chýba len podpis prezidentov. Takmer dva roky slovenskí vysokoškoláci čakali na zmeny v zmluve o uznávaní dokladov medzi Českom a Slovenskom. Česká strana schvaľovací proces predlžovala. Vysokoškoláci zbaví mnohých zbytočných administratívnych úkonov spojených s poplatkami. Doterajší systém uznávania českých dokladov o vzdelaní v praxi znamenal, že každý absolvent českého štúdia musel mať rozhodnutie o uznaní štúdia, či už z vysokej školy, alebo z ministerstva školstva. To po podpise zmluvy odpadne. „Pôvodná zmluva spred štrnástich rokov je zastaraná,“ povedala Eva Kaczová, riaditeľka Strediska na uznávanie dokladov o vzdelaní ministerstva školstva.

Na Slovensko mieri americká internetová televízia Netflix

„Joj a Markízu ohrozí televízny predátor“. Na Slovensko mieri americká internetová televízia Netflix. Televízia má 50 miliónov predplatiteľov v 57 krajinách a svoje služby na Slovensku ponúkne na budúci rok. Netflix si zakladá na tom, že za jeden poplatok môžu diváci pozerat' neobmedzené množstvo hodín programu bez prerušovania reklamami. „Ak budú chcieť televízie konkurovať, budú musieť ponúkať viac áčkových filmov,“ povedal odborník na elektronické médiá Ondrej Macko. Televízia chce podľa informácií vysielat' aj slovenské seriály.

SACR: Kampane o Slovensku videlo vlni viac ako 100 miliónov ľudí

Vlaňajšie kampane, ktorými Slovenská agentúra pre cestovný ruch (SACR) propagovala Slovensko, videli desiatky miliónov ľudí. Napríklad kampaň na medzinárodnej televíznej stanici Eurosport si podľa hovorcu SACR Martina Šebestu pozrelo viac ako 100 miliónov ľudí v 50 krajinách.

„SACR v minulom roku v rámci propagácie Slovenska ako atraktívnej celoročnej destinácie vytvorila doma i v zahraničí mediálne kampane v hodnote 2,77 milióna eur,“ vyčíslil Šebesta.

Agentúra pokračuje v propagácii aj v tomto roku. „Aktuálne sa sústreďujeme aj na nové zdrojové trhy, ktoré majú potenciál nahradiť výpadky cestovateľov z tradičných krajín,“ doplnila generálna riaditeľka SACR Marta Kučerová. Agentúra tak pokračuje v reklamnej kampani, ktorá propaguje zimnú dovolenku na Slovensku.

Tento rok bude totiž podľa SACR dôležitý na zmiernenie poklesu počtu turistov spôsobeného kurzom eura, ukrajinským konfliktom či slabou zimou na Slovensku. Aktuálna kampaň je zameraná na trhy okolitých krajín a tiež Veľkú Britániu. Podľa Šebestu ju do začiatku februára videlo 14,5 milióna ľudí. SACR zároveň nadviazala spoluprácu s novými vlakovými a leteckými dopravcami, ktorí premávajú na Slovensko.



Štrnásty marec 1939

Róbert Letz:

Štrnásty marec 1939 vnímam ako križovatku stretu viacerých záujmov a vplyvov. Pre vznik štátu mala rozhodujúci význam dominancia nacistického Nemecka v priestore strednej Európy po Mnichovskej dohode veľmoci z konca septembra 1938. Po dvoch desaťročiach prestal platiť versailský mierový systém. Hranice sa opäť začali meniť. Hitler pri novej organizácii strednej Európy dospel k záveru, že existencia česko-slovenského štátu v akejkol'vek podobe je zbytočná a môže byť nebezpečná pre expanzívne nemecké záujmy. Samostatné Slovensko preňho znamenalo vyriešenie problému existencie Česko-Slovenska, a to bez významnejšieho nasadenia vojenských síl. Na druhej strane si vytvoril priestor pre manévrovanie voči Poľsku a Maďarsku. Slovensko najprv ponúkol Poľsku ako výhodný územný obchod a potom ho reálne využil pri vojenskom nástupe proti Poľsku. Na celú vec by sme sa však mali pozrieť aj zo slovenskej perspektívy. Na Slovensku existovalo silné autonomistické hnutie, ktoré zastávalo svojbytnosť slovenského národa voči teórii čechoslovakizmu a ponúkalo legislatívnu autonómiu v rámci česko-slovenského štátu ako alternatívu voči pražskému centralizmu. Reprezentovala ho najmä Hlinkova slovenská ľudová strana (HSĽS). Toto hnutie bolo všetkými prostriedkami potláčané, k čomu sa využíval aj štátny aparát. To viedlo nielen k poškodzovaniu pri riešení slovenskej otázky, ale aj k radikalizácii v jeho lone. Koncom tridsiatych rokov už môžeme hovoriť o tom, že slovenská otázka bola prezretá. Slováci sa sformovali na politický národ a strnulý centralizmus ich veľkú väčšinu neuspokojoval. HSĽS sa odmietla autonómie vzdať. Dostávala sa do čoraz väčšej izolácie, kam ju tlačili najmä socialistické centralistické strany. Radikálne krídlo, ktoré zosilnelo od polovice tridsiatych rokov, začalo viac poškľuovať do Poľska a Nemecka, kde hľadalo inšpiráciu. Po mnichove sa prekvapujúco rýchlo rozšpala demokratická politická štruktúra. Hoci bola vyhlásená autonómia Slovenska, radikálni slovenskí autonomisti zactivilí príležitosť s pomocou Nemecka vyhlásiť samostatný slovenský štát. Chýbala im však dostatočná vnútorná jednota a podpora širšej verejnosti. Stret záujmov radikálov s nemeckými záujmami znamenal z jednej strany využitie šance na dosiahnutie vlastného štátu, ktorá sa už v dejinách nemusí opakovať (a to pomerne bez rizika s podporou Nemecka), na druhej strane inštrumentalizáciu slovenského autonomistického hnutia na dosiahnutie vlastných geopolitických cieľov. Zaujímavé je však to, že slovenskí radikáli nedokázali uskutočniť prevrat, ku ktorému ich nemeckí činitelia vyzývali. Ktovie, ako by to celé dopadlo, nebyť vojenského zásahu česko-slovenskej ústrednej vlády na Slovensku z 9. na 10. marca 1939, ktorý zosnovali niektorí českí ministri. Bol to priamy impulz s veľkým vplyvom na zmýšľanie slovenskej verejnosti, zaktivizoval slovenskú politiku a viedol aj k nemeckému rozhodnutiu konať. Vývoj udalostí tak vyústil do vyhlásenia samostatného Slovenska 14. marca 1939. Stalo sa to nenásilnou cestou, prostredníctvom autonómneho slovenského snemu, takmer pol roka pred začatím vojny. Naplnilo sa tak základné právo slovenského národa na sebaurčenie. Nie všetci poslanci boli pri hlasovaní presvedčení zástancovia samostatného slovenského štátu. Hlasovali však za jeho vytvorenie, lebo chceli zachovať integritu územia Slovenska, aj tak už vážne narušenú Maďarskom po Viedenskej arbitráži. Hovoriť o tom, že tu boli iba zahraničné faktory, je skresľujúce, rovnako ako hovoriť, že tu bola iba vlastná iniciatíva bez súvislosti so zahraničím.

SNN

NBS: Rast ekonomiky SR naďalej stabilný a dynamický, prekvapila zamestnanosť

Rast slovenskej ekonomiky bol na konci minulého roka naďalej stabilný a pomerne dynamický, analytikov Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) však prekvapil vývoj zamestnanosti. Uvedli to vo svojom nedávnom komentári k rýchlemu odhadu, ktorý zverejnil Štatistický úrad (ŠÚ) SR.

Celková zamestnanosť na Slovensku vo 4. štvrtroku 2014 dosiahla 2,242 milióna osôb, medziročne teda vzrástla o 2,1 %. V porovnaní s predchádzajúcim kvartálom sa zvýšila o 0,6 %. Analytici centrálnej banky sa domnievajú, že zamestnanosť neťahala iba samotná výkonnosť ekonomiky. „Pravdepodobne kombinácia zastabilizovania solídneho ekonomického rastu, priaznivých poveternostných podmienok v stavebníctve a čiastočne aj prijatých administratívnych opatrení,“ zdôvodnili.

Zastabilizované tempo rastu ekonomiky na medziročnej úrovni 2,4 % a 0,6 % medzikvartálne podľa nich upevnilo pozitívne nálady na trhu práce a umožnilo zamestnávateľom výrazne prijímať nové pracovné sily napriek neistotám plynúcim zo zahraničných trhov. „Ani tieto faktory však nedokážu vysvetliť robustný rozdiel v predstihu zamestnanosti pred výkonom ekonomiky v národnom účtovníctve,“ upozornili analytici.

Lyžovanie: Zuzulovej gratuloval po životnom výsledku na MS minister Glváč

Minister obrany SR Martin Glváč zablahoželal slovenskej lyžiarky Veronike Velez-Zuzulovej k jej doteraz najlepšiemu výsledku na majstrovstvách sveta v americkom Beaver Creeku. Športovkyňa Vojenského športového centra Dukla Banská Bystrica 14. februára finišovala v slalome na štvrtom mieste a medaila jej unikla iba o pár stotín.

„Veronika išla fantasticky a je naozaj veľká škoda, že ani najlepši čas v druhom kole jej nestačil na medailu. Napriek tomu môžeme byť hrdí, ako reprezentovala nielen naše vojenské športové centrum, ale celé Slovensko,“ povedal šéf rezortu obrany.

Veronika Velez-Zuzulová je juniorskou majsterkou sveta v slalome z roku 2001. Na majstrovstvách sveta dospelých sa do soboty najlepšie umiestnila na 7. mieste v roku 2013 v rakúskom Schladmingu.

„Zlákali ho Špicberg a medvede!“

Exprezident SR Rudolf Schuster chystá riskantnú výpravu. Výpravu plánuje uskutočniť už toto leto. Náročné poveternostné podmienky neberie na ľahkú váhu a už teraz získava kondičku. Exprezident už v minulosti absolvoval hneď niekoľko dobrodružných výprav. Cestovateľskú vášeň zdedil po svojich predkoch. Jeho otec aj starý otec vycestovali už v tridsiatych rokoch minulého storočia do Brazílie k Indiánom, kde natáčali film o ich živote, kultúre a zvykoch.

VLÁDA: Schválila podmienky navracania nezákonne vyvezeného kultúrneho bohatstva

Zabezpečiť navrátenie všetkých predmetov kultúrnej hodnoty na územie štátu, z ktorého boli nezákonne vyvezené, či už sú súčasťou verejných, alebo iných zbierok. Taký je cieľ zmien v zákone o archívoch a registratúrach, ktoré pripravilo ministerstvo vnútra.

Návrh preberá vlaňajšiu smernicu Európskeho parlamentu a Rady EÚ o navrátení predmetov kultúrnej hodnoty nezákonne vyvezených z územia členského štátu. Podmienkou navrátenia je, že tieto kultúrne predmety sú označené ako národné kultúrne bohatstvo. Návrh zákona zavádza úľavy pre podnikateľské subjekty na úseku správy ich registratúry. Snaží sa skvalitniť služby subjektov podnikajúcich v oblasti správy registratúry, sprisňuje výkon živnosti v tejto oblasti.

Prináša však aj povinnosti ministerstvu vnútra, najmä vo vzťahu k posudzovaniu trvalej dokumentárnej hodnoty registratúrnych záznamov, výkonu štátneho odborného dozoru, ako aj vedeniu novej ústrednej evidencie pečatí a pečatidiel.

Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenskej tlače



Prezident Kiska otvoril Výskumné centrum STU

Hrdosť nad skutočnosťou, že sám je absolventom Slovenskej technickej univerzity (STU) a jej niekdajšej Elektrotechnickej fakulty, vyjadril v príhovore 17. februára pri príležitosti slávnostného otvorenia výskumného centra spoločnosti ESET na pôde STU, prezident SR Andrej Kiska. Ocenil najmä skutočnosť, že využívanie centra pomôže výrazne skvalitniť prípravu budúcich IT špecialistov vďaka spojeniu výskumu a praxe.

Rektor STU Robert Redhammer okrem iného podčiarkol, že v Mlynskej doline sa postupne buduje centrum slovenského

znalostného priemyslu. “Dnes tu spoločne pristúpime k formalizácii dlhšie pripravovanej spolupráce jedného z najúspešnejších podnikov Slovenska všetkých čias, spoločnosti ESET pôsobiacej globálne v oblasti ochrany pred škodlivým softvérom a dvomi najväčšími, výskumne orientovanými univerzitami na Slovensku,“ zdôraznil rektor.

Vyjadril tiež nádej, že tento krok inšpiruje ďalšie spoločnosti k podpore snaženia v rôznych oblastiach, a to v budovaní univerzitných vedeckých parkov, intenzívnej medzinárodnej vedeckej spolupráci, vo vzdelávaní kreatívnych študentov a v podpore ich podnikania už popri škole.

Spustenie nového výskumného centra znamená, podľa rektora UK Karola Mičietu, profit pre študentov, učiteľov a pre ESET, ale aj pre Bratislavu, celú našu spoločnosť a Slovensko. “Výskumné centrum je prvým krokom, na ktorý chceme nadviazať, uvedomujúc si význam informačnej bezpečnosti pre spoločnosť. V spolupráci so štátnymi orgánmi, akademickou obcou i komerčnou sférou chceme preto vybudovať širšie koncipované Centrum excelencie pre informačnú bezpečnosť,“ uviedol rektor UK.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke prezident SR Andrej Kiska (vľavo) počas návštevy Slovenskej technickej univerzity (STU) v Bratislave 17. februára 2015.

President Andrej Kiska officially opened the new technical research center at the Slovak Technical University (STU) in Bratislava on February 17, 2015. President Kiska is an alumnus of STU.



Počas 22. Slovenského plesu Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v NYC, ktorý sa konal v sobotu 24. januára 2015 v Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ, bol ocenený aktívny pracovník, zakladateľ SlovakInfo a združenia Slovak Young Professionals, Oto Raček. Na snímke zľava: Veľvyslanec Peter Kmec s manželkou Monikou, Oto Raček, Sabína Sabadoš a generálna Konzulka Jana Trnovcová. *Viac o podujatí sa dočítate na str. 21*

Generálna audiencia Svätého Otca:

Deti sú nádejou spoločnosti, nie zát'ážou

Pri generálnej audiencii, ktorá sa už konala opäť pod holým nebom 11. februára na Námestí sv. Petra, Svätý Otec pokračoval v cykle na tému rodiny. Po predchádzajúcich katechézach venovaných materstvu a otcovstvu sa Svätý Otec zameril na úlohu detí v rodine.

Svätý Otec František pripomenul, že byť synom či dcérou predstavuje základnú skúsenosť človeka byť milovaný ako prvý, ešte skôr, než si to mohol niečím zaslúžiť. To, že každé dieťa je jedinečným a neopakovateľným Božím darom, ilustroval spomienkou na svoje detstvo, keď jeho mama prirovnávala svojich päť detí k prstom jednej ruky, z ktorých každý je rovnako vzácny a jeho zranenie spôsobuje rovnakú bolesť.

Svätý Otec ďalej poukázal na Božie prikázanie úcty k rodičom a na úzky súvis medzi vzájomným súladom generácií a nádejou národa do budúcnosti. Ako povedal, spoločnosť, ktorá si necíti rodičov, je spoločnosťou bez dôstojnosti. Spoločnosť, ktorá sa neteší z detí a považuje dieťa iba za zát'áž, je spoločnosťou v depresii. Pripomenul aj ťažkú situáciu Európy zápasiacej s nízkou pôrodnosťou. O otvorenosti rodičov pre darovanie života hovoril s poukazom na učenie bl. pápeža Pavla VI. o zodpovednom rodičovstve.

TK KBS, RV



Pan Ki-mun vymenoval Jána Kubiša za šéfa misie OSN v Iraku

Premiér Robert Fico 25. februára zablahoževal Jánovi Kubišovi k jeho vymenovaniu za osobitného predstaviteľa generálneho tajomníka OSN v Iraku a vedúceho Pomocnej misie OSN v tejto krajine.

Označil to za významnú pozíciu, ktorá potvrdzuje, že Slovensko má veľa vynikajúcich diplomatov. Spomenul napríklad predsedu Medzinárodného súdneho dvora v Haagu Petra Tomku či súčasného šéfa slovenskej diplomacie Miroslava Lajčáka.

„Náš diplomatický korpus má jednotlivcov, ktorí sú neuveriteľne silní,“ uviedol na výjazdovom rokovaní vlády v Banskej Bystrici. Na otázku, či súčasná pozícia Kubiša môže byť krokom k jeho prípadnej kandidatúre za generálneho tajomníka OSN, Fico reagoval, že momentálne by nechcel komentovať voľbu generálneho tajomníka. Súčasnému Pan Ki-munovi končí jeho funkčné obdobie v decembri budúceho roka. V súvislosti s jeho možnými nástupcami sa skloňuje aj meno Kubiša a Lajčáka.

Fico zopakoval minuloročné stanovisko, že pokiaľ Lajčák prejaví záujem kandidovať do významných medzinárodných pozícií, tak získa plnú nepodmienečnú podporu SR.

TASR

Fašiangy končia a začína čas pôstu

Tradičným pochovávaním basy alebo iných hudobných nástrojov sa 17. februára o polnoci skončilo obdobie plesov, bálů a karnevalů - fašiangy. Popolcovou stredou (18. februára) sa pre rímskokatolíkov a veriacich iných cirkví začína obdobie štyridsaťdňového pôstu pred najväčšími kresťanskými sviatkami cirkevného roka - Veľkou nocou.

Tento rok trvali fašiangy relatívne krátko, napríklad v roku 2014 pripadla Popolcová streda na 5. marca, čo bolo o dva týždne neskôr. Na budúci rok 2016 však začiatok pôstneho obdobia - Popolcová streda bude už 10. februára, čiže ešte o týždeň skôr ako v tomto roku.

Popolcová streda je streda v siedmom týždni pred Veľkou nocou. Môže pripadnúť na niektorú stredu v období od 4. februára do 11. marca. Termín Popolcovej stredy je pohyblivý rovnako ako Veľká noc, ktorá môže pripadnúť na obdobie od konca marca do konca apríla. Slávi sa v prvú jarnú nedeľu po splne Mesiaca. Kresťania si počas veľkonočných sviatkov pripomínajú umučenie, smrť a vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista.

V Rímskokatolíckej cirkvi je Popolcová streda prvým dňom 40-dňového pôstu. Je to deň pokánia a veriaci sa zdržiavajú mäsitých pokrmů. Počas svätých omší na Popolcovú stredu kňaz alebo diakon robí znak kríža popolom na čelá veriacich.

Obrad sypania popola na hlavu v prvý pôstny deň sa praktizoval už od 8. storočia. Pôvodne to bol obrad vyhradený len pre veľkých a verejných hriešnikov, ktorí v tento deň začínali svoju cestu pokánia. Vstupovali do chrámu bosí, zaodetí vrecovinou a sypali si popol na hlavu. Neskôr podobným spôsobom začínali svoje pokánie nielen verejní kajúnci, ale aj ostatní veriaci a sypanie popola na hlavu sa stalo všeobecným symbolom pokánia. V 10. a 11. storočí bol už tento obrad udomácnený v mnohých oblastiach západnej Európy. Koncil v Benevente v roku 1091 ho zaviedol pre celú cirkev, pričom sypanie popola na hlavu sa nahradilo značením na čelo.

Pôstne obdobie trvá od Popolcovej stredy do Veľkonočnej nedele, ktorá v tomto roku pripadne na 5. apríla.

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FOTO TASR – Štefan Puškáš

Prezentácia kníh Bratislavský hrad a Kronika Jána z Turca sa konala 19. februára 2015 v Hudobnej sieni Bratislavského hradu za účasti predsedu Národnej rady SR (NR SR) Petra Pellegriniho (uprostred).

The presentation of a book on the Bratislava Castle and another on the chronicler Jan of Turca was held on February 19, 2015, in the Music Hall at the Bratislava Castle.