



# Catholic Fraternal Bi-Weekly

# Jednota

## THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furdik  
Our Founder

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

Volume 117

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008

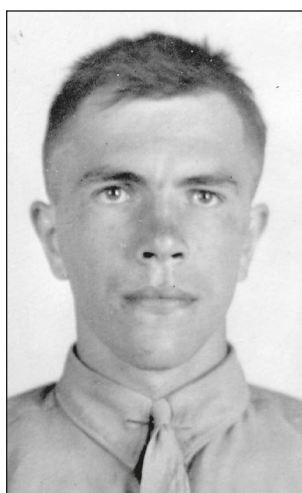
Number 5774

## COMBAT VETERANS OF IWO JIMA ENSURING HISTORIC LEGACY

By John Karch

*“For the Americans who served on Iwo Island,  
Uncommon valor was a common virtue,”*

— Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander,  
Pacific Fleet, 1945



Sgt. Michael Strank

The February 19-March 26, 1945 Battle of Iwo Jima is etched in the memory of every American combatant associated with the invasion of Iwo Jima and the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima (CVIJ) are determined that their and succeeding generations will not forget that over 19,000 Americans were wounded and nearly 7,000 died during those 31 days of ferocious, heroic fighting to conquer that small, but strategic, island in the Pacific. About 21,000 Japanese were killed and 216 were taken prisoner.

**Sgt. Michael Strank**

Making the ultimate sacrifice was Slovak-born Sergeant Michael Strank, one of the flag-raisers of the famous Joe Rosenthal photo, now a monument near the Arlington National Cemetery where the heroic Sgt is buried. The “Sarge” was born Michal Strenk November 10, 1919 in Jarabina, a village in northeastern Slovakia. His father Vasil, as so many tens of thousands of Slovaks from that region, came to the U.S. in search of a better life.

By 1922 the father, working as a coal miner in Franklin Borough, PA, brought his family to America. Three-year-old Michal became Michael and Strenk became Strank. Mike began to learn English, which came easily to him, only when he began school. He learned

*continued on page 5*

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

HOME OFFICE • 6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131  
PHONE: 216-642-9406 • FAX: 216-642-4310  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AND 15, 2008

The Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15, 2008.

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.

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors on Saturday, March 15, 2008.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary at the Home Office located at 6611 Rockside Road Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131, on or before Monday, March 3, 2008.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 3, 2008.

By invitation of the President, Andrew M. Rajec, Society Members who wish to attend the morning session of the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada on Friday, March 14, 2008 may do so. Members interested in attending this meeting should call the Home Office prior to the meeting. Members are responsible for their own transportation, accommodations, meals etc.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at 216/642-9406 or 1-800-JEDNOTA.

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
National President

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Executive Secretary

*From the Desk of the Executive Secretary . . .*

## IRA MARKETING BULLETIN

Traditional and Roth IRA  
Contribution Limits Increase  
Effective January 1, 2008

The Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 made some significant changes with regard to IRA Annuities. Effective January 1, 2008, the maximum contribution to a Traditional and Roth IRA is increased to \$5,000.

- (a) Traditional IRA - provides for contributions that are tax deductible (for qualified taxpayers) and distributions which are taxable;
- (b) Roth IRA provides for after tax contributions (for qualified taxpayers) and distributions which are non-taxable.

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## FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

**Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)**

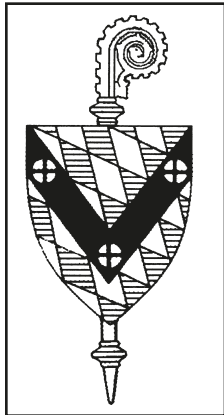
Under the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity, you may make periodic payments into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at, or greater than, the guaranteed rate. You can open the account with as little as \$500.00 and make additional deposits (\$25.00 minimum) as your financial situation allows. Additional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

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

**Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:**

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

# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Fr. Champion P. Gavaler, O.S.B. and Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

March 16, 2008

### Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Matthew 26:14-27:66

#### Gospel Summary

Matthew's passion narrative begins with the plot of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus and continues through the well-known scenes: celebration of the Passover meal; the promises by Peter and all the disciples that they would never lose faith in Jesus; the agony in the garden called Gethsemane; the arrest of Jesus; the abandonment of Jesus by all his disciples; the trial; Peter's denial of Jesus; the suicide of Judas; Pilate's release of Barabbas and condemnation of Jesus to death by crucifixion; the torture and mockery by the Roman soldiers; the crucifixion accompanied by dramatic signs of a new age; the burial of Jesus.

#### Life Implications

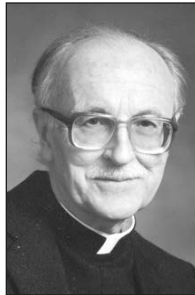
Jesus began his mission with his baptism at the Jordan. The Spirit of God came upon him, and a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:13-17). Immediately following this event, Matthew tells us that from that moment until the end Jesus would undergo temptations to reject his truth of being beloved Son, pleasing to God. The passion narrative presents the last and most severe trial of Jesus' fidelity. Every earthly reason is progressively removed for trusting in God's love, even to experiencing a horrible and shameful death on a cross.

Matthew in his passion narrative gives us some insight into the mystery of how the Spirit enabled Jesus to pray through his experience of suffering and dying. It is in this pattern that the Spirit of Jesus now enables us to pray through the trials of our own life and death.

Jesus begins his passion with the observance of the Passover meal with his disciples. The structure of this sacred ritual meal consists of readings, hymns and psalms of the biblical tradition he knew so well. Through these prophecies and prayers of the Hebrew scriptures, he recognized and accepted his sacrificial role in the divine plan to create a new covenant with all humanity. Matthew mentions that after Jesus sang a final hymn with his disciples, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

With three of his disciples Jesus went to a place called Gethsemane, where he began to feel sorrow and distress. Here again, now foreseeing his imminent suffering and death, Jesus prays, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will" (Mt 26:39).

Finally, Jesus dying upon a cross, cries out in prayer the heart-rending plea of the twenty-second psalm: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Mt 27:46)? In his dark night of the soul, emptied now of every human evidence of God's loving presence, Jesus is sustained in hope through the pure light of faith. Trusting that even in this fearful moment of dying he is beloved Son, Jesus freely gives up his life into God's hands (Mt 27:50).



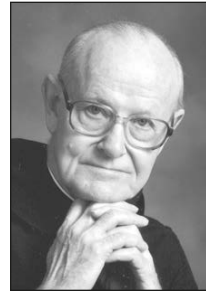
Champion P. Gavaler,  
O.S.B.

March 23, 2008

### Easter Sunday

#### Gospel Summary

John's resurrection account is relatively brief and differs significantly from the Synoptic accounts. Mary Magdalene has a prominent role here and the mysterious "disciple whom Jesus loved" appears again just as he did at the Last Supper. The special attention given to Mary Magdalene suggests that she is a person who embodies the ideal of love that is so evident in the fourth gospel.



Demetrius R. Dumm,  
O.S.B.

After hearing about the empty tomb, Peter hurries there to see what this might mean. But the unnamed "beloved disciple" outruns him, and then defers to him, thus permitting Peter to be the first to enter the tomb. This gesture acknowledges the authority of Peter but it also reveals how fully the beloved disciple has understood the teaching of Jesus about unselfish love. It has been noted that in John's gospel Peter is the unquestioned leader of the Church, (see John 21, 14-17), thus guaranteeing good order, while the "disciple whom Jesus loved" represents the prophetic and mystical dimension of the Church that prevents authority from becoming too authoritarian.

#### Life Implications

Easter is the feast of all feasts. The feast of Christmas did not even exist for the first two centuries of the church's life, but Christianity is inconceivable without Easter. This feast is the contact point between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament for it occurred on the anniversary of the Exodus of Israel from Egyptian bondage and fulfills the promise in that central event in Israel's history. If we do not understand Easter, we do not have a clue about the meaning of Christianity or about its relationship to Israel.

To understand this central feast, we must realize that it is, as it were, the third act in a drama that begins already on Holy Thursday and continues through Good Friday. Missing the first two acts of the drama almost guarantees that one will miss the meaning of the drama. Therefore, to ignore Holy Thursday and Good Friday almost guarantees a misunderstanding of Easter Sunday.

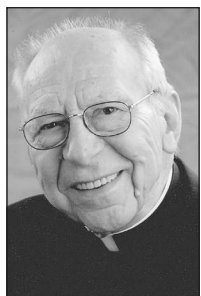
On Holy Thursday, Jesus sums up the whole meaning and purpose of his mission on earth. This meaning is found in the Eucharist in which Jesus offers his Body and pours out his precious Blood for others. In other words, Jesus has come to tell us that the only path to real life and happiness is the path of unselfish love. We must begin our Easter celebration, therefore, with our acceptance of this ideal as the model for our own behavior.

Good Friday tells us that living unselfishly will be very difficult. Every act of unselfish love is a little dying. But in such dying there is also a hint of the happiness and life that are promised to those who are not afraid to walk the path of Jesus.

On Holy Saturday, it seems that the whole universe holds its breath as it waits to see whether unselfish love, which often appears to be so foolish, really does make sense for us. Was Jesus the wisest of all men, or was he just a misguided idealist?

The answer is given on Easter Sunday when the flowers and the bells and the Alleluias attempt to capture the glory of this resounding victory of Jesus over sin and death. The celebration of Easter joy thus confirms the wisdom of believing what Jesus taught on Holy Thursday and of living this wisdom, patiently and trustingly, on the Good Fridays of our lives. Have a happy Easter!

## Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

### Will of God

At the time of Our Lord Jesus Christ, many rabbis held that the most suitable time for marriage for a man was eighteen years of age. A father was advised to marry off his son "while he still had his hand upon his neck." Girls married at the age of twelve and a half. The wisdom of the rabbis also stated that it was not prudent to marry a young girl to an elderly man, nor a small one to a tall man.

The most important institution in Israel life was the family. The family was not only a social entity, it was a religious community. The word "family" had a more inclusive meaning than it does for us. It included cousins and even near relatives.

Israeli women made excellent mothers because they remained with their mothers until their marriage. The fathers taught his sons his trade and this as soon as possible.

Education focused exclusively on morality and was connected with the synagogue. The schoolmaster was regarded as "The messenger of the Almighty." The Torah is what they studied.

The Torah ("Teaching") is the possession of the Israeli people and consists of two teachings, "Torah she-bi-khetav," the written law, that is guidance and teaching given to Israel by Divine Revelation. The other teaching is "Torah-she-be-al-peh," oral Law, specific laws and regulations developed by the Pharisees. We have here the rabbinic exegesis of the biblical text.

There are two stances regarding the education of women, one against this, another for it.

The Blessed Virgin Mary knew the Torah as evidenced from her Canticle as recorded in Luke 1:46-55. Her scriptural references are these: Isaiah 61:10, Psalm 113:7, Psalm 103:17, Psalm 138:6, Job 5:12, Psalm 75:8, Psalm 107:9, Psalm 98:3, Isaiah 41:9, Genesis 13:15, Genesis 22:18. She had to know the Torah to include these so easily in her speech.

*continued on page 4*

## REMINDERS

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057.

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

## JEDNOTA

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# FCSU Reintroduces Senior Promotion Program

The Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union will introduce a number of programs in the coming months for the benefit of our membership. Back by popular demand is our Senior Promotion Program. This program will be available from October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

### Initial Program (Current Members)

The Senior Promotion Program is directed to all current members between the ages of 55 and 80. Each member in this age group, subject to current reasonably good health, may purchase the amount of Whole Life insurance that a \$200.00 annual premium will purchase, based on their current age. See the attached Life Insurance Chart. To help offset the cost for the first year, a special fraternal dividend equal to 50% of the first year premium, amounting to \$100, will be provided to each participating member. This means that if each member takes advantage of the Society's offer, they will not only increase their family's life insurance protection, but will receive a generous fraternal dividend.

### Application

As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting will be waived except for serious illnesses, injury, or medical conditions, which required medical treatment or hospitalization in the last five years. This is not a guaranteed issue program. The FCSU may require the applicant to take a physical exam and /or provide additional medical information.

### New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year allowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

Please allow sufficient time for your branch proposer or secretary to contact you (up to thirty (30) days.) If contact is not made by November 2007, please contact your branch proposer, branch secretary or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

In the coming months, additional programs directed to various groups of members will be introduced. Watch for announcements in future issues of our JEDNOTA.

## FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE 2007

SCHEDULE 1			SCHEDULE 2		
AGE	MALE NON SMOKING	FEMALE NON SMOKING	AGE	MALE SMOKER	FEMALE SMOKER
55	6,498	7,927	55	4,988	6,928
56	6,175	7,413	56	4,760	6,605
57	5,922	7,145	57	4,598	6,359
58	5,677	6,885	58	4,439	6,122
59	5,438	6,627	59	4,282	5,893
60	5,204	6,380	60	4,129	5,671
61	4,979	6,135	61	3,981	5,456
62	4,762	5,898	62	3,839	5,247
63	4,554	5,666	63	3,702	5,043
64	4,353	5,438	64	3,571	4,845
65	4,157	5,216	65	3,444	4,652
66	3,958	4,999	66	3,317	4,465
67	3,784	4,788	67	3,193	4,283
68	3,604	4,581	68	3,069	4,105
69	3,428	4,379	69	2,946	3,932
70	3,257	4,182	70	2,824	3,766
71	3,091	3,990	71	2,704	3,606
72	2,933	3,804	72	2,588	3,451
73	2,780	3,622	73	2,474	3,301
74	2,632	3,445	74	2,365	3,158
75	2,490	3,275	75	2,253	3,018
76	2,352	3,109	76	2,146	2,883
77	2,221	2,948	77	2,043	2,751
78	2,095	2,791	78	1,943	2,623
79	1,975	2,638	79	1,848	2,497
80	1,866	2,577	80	1,758	2,378

## FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008 THRU MARCH 31, 2008

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

The annual yield on a new "Park 2 Annuity" is 4.75% (4.641% APR)

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

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

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact the Home Office!

**1-800-533-6682**

*Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary*

## IRA Marketing Bulletin

*continued from page 1*

1. The increase is effective on amounts credited for the year 2008 and after. The maximum contributions for the year 2007 remain at \$4,000 even if the actual contribution is made in 2008.
2. As in the past, persons age 50 and over can make annual extra \$1,000 catch-up contributions and their maximum is \$6,000 beginning in 2008. This limit is applicable to each individual who reaches age 50 or greater by the end of the taxable year.
3. A regular contribution may be made each year up to the maximum contribution limit or 100% of compensation, whichever is less. This means that if actual compensation earned is less than \$5,000, or \$6,000 for person age 50 to 70, in a year, then the IRA maximum contribution allowed, is actual compensation.

These maximum contribution limits apply through 2008 and will automatically increase beginning in January 1, 2009.

There is no change in 401(k) or 403(b) contribution caps which remain at \$15,500 and \$20,500 for persons age 50 and over. SIMPLE remains at \$10,500 and \$13,000.

Eligibility to make contributions to the traditional and Roth IRA's remain the same as in the past. The excise tax penalties also remain the same as in the past. Briefly, some of the basic rules are:

### Traditional IRA

1. A portion or all of the contribution can be deducted from income, depending on whether the contributors participate in an employer sponsored retirement plan or earned less than \$53,000 for individuals beginning in 2008. Deduction is prorated if income is between \$53,000 and \$63,000.
2. For married tax payers filing a joint return, the contribution can be deducted from income if the contributors earned less than \$85,000. Deduction is prorated if income is between \$85,000 and \$105,000.
3. Contributions cannot continue the year the owner turns age 70 1/2 or in subsequent years.
4. Income tax on the contribution amounts and interest earnings are deferred until the benefits are paid.
5. At age 70 1/2, distributions must begin.
  - a. Failure to take required distributions can result in very large penalties.
  - b. The 2001 tax law changes have reduced the Required Minimum Distribution amounts.

### Roth IRA

1. A non-income-deductible contribution can be made if earnings are less than \$159,000 jointly; even if either spouse is a member of an employer sponsored retirement plan (for single persons the amount is \$101,000); contributions are allowed after age 70 1/2 if contribution is made from earned income.
2. All interest earnings are accumulated tax deferred.
3. All qualified distributions are 100% tax free.
4. Contributions can continue as long as one spouse works.
5. No required minimum distributions at any age.

**Very Important** - IRA Trustees will have to report required distributions to the IRS. This report will be on the form used to notify IRA owners of their year end balances.

# Insights and Viewpoints

## As I See It Rudolph L. Gregus



Rudolph L. Gregus

### Lent: 40 Days of Awakening

Lent is about recognizing we live in communion with all that is. Plants and trees make the air we breathe out of sunlight. Lent is the Church's springtime in which we rediscover the reality of the holiness that abounds and surrounds us, within and around us.

Lent is a yearly awakening to the faith relationship in which we Christians live—the mystery of Jesus self-giving death and life giving resurrection. As earth awakens to spring, Lent calls us to wake up in our lives to new life and cultivate deeper consciousness of God's love at our fingertips.

**Listen attentively** to a spouse or child or friend for 15 to 30 minutes. Make no comments positive or negative; give no advice. Just give the gift of listening. Ask questions to clarify only. Attentive listening can help a person sort out a problem or recognize a desire or direction simply by hearing it aloud.

**Walk with family or friends.** Name the spring plants you see. Visit a garden, a conservatory, a nature center. Pay attention to Earth coming to life, the grass, the flowers, the birds, the lengthening days. Talk about your discoveries and offer thanks together for all you see.

**Claim Brief Solitudes,** moments, minutes, hours of silence. Practice silence by turning off the radio and TV. Extend silence by taking walks. Take time where horizons open your eyes to new possibilities.

**Reach Out** and make life more welcoming for others. Visit a shut-in or prisoner. Take food to a local food bank. Volunteer to serve in a soup kitchen. Who in the parish, neighborhood, or family would welcome a ride to the store, a friendly visit, a call, or an invitation to share a meal?

**Simplify Your Life.** Do you have more clothes than you need? What items in your home can you do without and give to others? How can you concretely share with people in need?

**Compost your life** as earth does when it turns garbage and grass clippings into rich humus for growing flowers and vegetables. Turn little used talents, extra dollars, or new free time into a project that grows benefits for your neighbors, local or global

### Lent: Season of the Cross

The cross expresses the mystery of the death of Jesus out of love for us and the failure of people like us, including his disciples, to recognize who he was. The cross is a place of defeat and despair, yet a place of triumph, a tree of shame and tree of life. Make the cross a Lenten symbol in your home to express your openness to conversion and rebirth.

## Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, Galilee, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph.

When he appeared to Mary, he said, "Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." (Luke 1:28) She was troubled by this and wondered what it meant. "You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus." (Luke 1:31) This must have been even more troubling.

She and Joseph were betrothed (engaged) but not yet married. Will Joseph be the father? No. "The Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God." (Luke 1:35) Not knowing how all of this would be played out, she said, weighing heavily on her faith in the Lord, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." (Luke 1:38)

Enter Joseph who finds Mary with child not his own. In the Book of Numbers, 5:16-31, there is prescribed a test of the woman to discover if she has been unfaithful to her husband. A betrothed woman was subject to the same test. In an earthen vessel, the priest placed some holy water to which he added dust from the floor of the Dwelling. The woman had to drink this mixture. If she was innocent of infidelity, she would be immune to the effects of this drink. If guilty, "May this water, then, that brings a curse, enter your body to make your belly swell and your thighs waste away." (5:22)

If found guilty, the woman was to be stoned to death.

Another alternative for Joseph was to divorce her by a letter of divorcement. In this case, if her fiancé should die, she would be counted as a widow and the child born during the betrothal would be considered legitimate.

Joseph did not want to subject her to the law as described above. He decided to divorce her quietly.

In a dream the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said to him, "... have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21)

Joseph then received Mary into his home as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)

Mary and Joseph, instead of having a personal and quiet relationship ending in marriage and children of their own, found themselves involved in a marriage beyond their wildest expectations. By their faith and trust in the will of God, they survived it to the benefit of us all.

So, too, with us, God's plans for us may be what we wish not and what we feel totally incapable of realizing. Remember Mary's words, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." (Luke 1:38) With those words, the angel left her without any further explanation.

Trusting in the will of God takes faith, "I believe," and patience in awaiting the revelation of that will.

## Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for March 2008

### General Intention

**Forgiveness.** That all may understand the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation between individuals and peoples and that the Church may spread Christ's love.

Appropriate for Lent, Pope Benedict XVI turns our prayers this month to the beautiful practice of forgiveness. Jesus Christ came to take away our sins and to reconcile us to God and each other. As we walk in the faith—sometimes stumbling, sometimes falling—we continue to seek forgiveness. Staying forgiven is the key to living close to God.

The Sacrament of Confession, the Holy Father said in a homily last year, lets one experience "forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with the Church, recovery of the state of grace, ... and an increase of spiritual strength for the struggle of Christian living."

But we make a great mistake if we limit our understanding of forgiveness to ourselves. Jesus made it clear that God forgives us "as we forgive those who trespass against us." Then he himself showed us how it's done when he prayed for those who were crucifying him: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Jesus called us to forgive our brother "seventy-seven" times. It's often hard to forgive those who have injured us, especially when they do not ask for forgiveness. But unforgiveness works like a cancer, destroying our relationships with one another as well with God. If we harbor anger, we must let it go by forgiving as often as it returns. We don't deny our hurt, smooth it over, or rely on our feelings. We will to forgive, and we persist in willing it. Robert Enright, a founder of the International Forgiveness Institute, says that our forgiveness of someone is not complete until from our hearts we wish that person well.

The Pope's vision of forgiveness is wider still. He wants us to understand that without forgiveness, no true peace can exist between peoples or nations. Forgiveness alone can break the cycles of vengeance. Even if the forgiveness is one-sided, it represents the only hope of peace. To spread Christ's love—whether as an individual, group, nation, or Church—means practicing forgiveness.

### Reflection

Is there someone in your life you have not fully forgiven? What steps will you take to do so?

### Mission Intention

**The Persecuted.** That Christians who are persecuted because of the Gospel may be sustained by the Holy Spirit and continue to bear witness to the Word of God.

Persecution is harassment of individuals because of their faith, even to the point of killing them.

Despite occasional discrimination, we are thankful that our country differs greatly from the Roman Empire of the early Church when Christians were routinely ridiculed, hunted, and killed.

This month Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that many Christians throughout the world suffer persecution today. He wants us to pray, not for the end of their persecution, but for the Holy Spirit to strengthen them to continue preaching and living the Gospel.

When Jesus faced his own persecution, he sweated blood and prayed to his Father to let him escape the torture that was coming his way. But he was quick to add, "let your will, not mine, be done." He had always known that he would end his earthly life "lifted up" on a cross. From the beginning Jesus "set his face like flint" in his "exodus" toward Jerusalem where the sinners he had come to save would conspire against him, arrest him, accuse him falsely, convict him, and sentence him to a punishment all out of proportion with the alleged offenses. His friends abandoned him. He was whipped, mocked, crowned with thorns, made to carry his own cross through the streets, nailed to the cross, and set up to hang there between two criminals. He forgave his persecutors, and then he died, entrusting himself to his Father. He is the Lamb of God slain for the whole world, proving that God is Love.

He predicted his followers would experience persecutions too. The definition of Christian is that we shall be "other Christs" who carry our own crosses every day. We do it in the firm hope that in this way we are pleasing God. Like Jesus, we show God is Love by forgiving those who hate us. Like Jesus, we will be raised from the dead to live forever with God.

### Reflection

How is persecution a sign that we are living in union with Christ?

**2008 International  
Tournaments**

.....  
:  
:

**Bowling  
April 25-27**

**Wedgewood Lanes ~ Youngstown, Ohio**

**Golf  
July 12-13**

**Tam O'Shanter ~ Canton, Ohio**

# COMBAT VETERANS OF IWO JIMA ENSURING HISTORIC LEGACY

*continued from page 1*

discipline and teamwork from his father and the Catholic faith from his mother.

Mike graduated from High School in 1937, during the continuing depression, joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, and in October of 1939 enlisted in the Marine Corps. On December 7, 1941 he was a Corporal, promoted to Sergeant two months later, became a "Raider" and participated (1942-44) in the landings on Uvea, Pavuvu, and hard-fought, excruciating Battle of Bougainville.

On home leave, Mike revealed his premonition of "not coming back." He was reassigned to the 28<sup>th</sup> Marines, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. After extensive training, Mike was chosen to lead a Squad which landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Five days later, Sarge was told to place another, larger flag on Mount Suribachi, which became the iconic flag-raising photograph by Rosenthal. As heavy fighting continued Sarge, oldest of the six flag-risers, was killed on March 1 as he was preparing action northward with his men.

Michael has been characterized in various positive ways. As a youth, he was praised for his intelligence, photographic memory, and love of music. He was revered by his Marine Corps comrades with expressions such as "Marine's Marine," "Gung-ho," "The old man," "tough, consummate leader."

In addition to his wartime awards, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, with the Iwo Jima and other Memorials in the U.S., he has been memorialized in his native Slovakia. On their visits to the U.S., ranking Slovak officials visit the Iwo Jima Memorial and the hero's grave in the Arlington National Cemetery.

## Reunion and Symposium

This writer is grateful to CVIJ Media Director Cyril O'Brien for sharing the program information with me. On Iwo Jima, he was a Sgt and USMC Correspondent with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima was commemorated by the CVIJ February 15-17 in Arlington, Virginia, with a Reunion, Symposium, Banquet, and visits to USMC National Museum in Quantico VA, and Memorials in Washington, D.C. According to Major General Fred Haynes, USMC, Ret., President of CVIJ, invitations were sent to "Iwo veterans from all services, families, descendants, friends, historians, active duty and retired personnel, and Patriots interested in the historic Battle of Iwo Jima." Over 160 participated, including several St. Albans Episcopal H.S. students with the head of the History Department.

GEN Haynes said that "At this point in history the reunion will not only shed new light on a notably historic event. It will also ensure a broader understanding of this epic battle." On Iwo, CAPT Haynes was one of the planners in the 28<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. Now, he has authored the soon available book THE LIONS OF IWO JIMA. At this reunion, CVIJ members decided to change their name to IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA. The General paid tribute to Sgt Michael Strank. In 1955, GEN Haynes was instrumental in organizing the Veterans of the 28<sup>th</sup> Marines.

## The Program

Following the afternoon Registration on February 15, the participants were given a presentation "Marine Corps Combat Photographers World War II in the Pacific" by Warrant Officer Norman Hatch, Photographic Officer of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division on Iwo Jima, who assigned his still and motion photographers who captured the flag raising on Mount Suribachi, accompanying Joe Rosenthal up the mountain. He also made his own photographs of the first assault wave which showed Marines walking upright on the beach. This was the brief period before the Japanese released their torrent of devastating fire which accounted for nearly 2,500 casualties almost immediately.

On Saturday, GEN Haynes said that the importance of Iwo Jima was difficult to estimate. That it opened the heartland of Japan to the air attacks which ended the war is a given

along with the fact that Iwo Jima was the key navigation point for pilot Paul Tibbets as he headed ENOLA GAY to Hiroshima.

GEN Haynes noted the importance of the U.S. fighter aircraft escorting the B-29s all the way to Japan and destroying 1,068 aircraft which could have become Kamikaze suicide planes. Also, he said that in 36 days of battle on Iwo Jima there were twice as many killed in action as in five years of the Iraqi war.

Admiral Paul Tobin, former retired Director of Naval History, told of the armada of 485 ships that fought the Battle of Iwo Jima and he outlined the pre-invasion bombardment which actually began

with an initial carrier raid in June 1944. Actual pre-H-hour fire showered tons of explosives on that small island until it seemed there could not be a means ashore to resist. But the bombardment did not get to all the defenses as most were under the surface of the island.

The Navy big guns though not as specific as mortars and artillery do sweep the enemy back from the beaches where the troops land, the Admiral explained. Iwo Jima endured the longest and most intensive pre-invasion preparation of any island.

COL John W. Ripley, retired Director of Marine Corps History and Museum, told of a battle whose dimension might still not be measured. There were battles on Iwo Jima that singularly excelled in violence magnitude that of whole island campaigns: There was Hill 362-a, the western anchor of the main cross-island defenses, Cushman's Pocket, the Quarry, the Amphitheatre, Katano Point, Nishi Ridge, and there was Bloody Gorge, a pocket, a ravine, a gulch, carved by countless warrens in which the last of the 22,000 Japanese on the island held out for a full nine days assaulted by equally torn, exhausted and determined Marines. (COL Ripley received the Navy Cross for his hand-over-hand destruction of the bridge at Dong Ha, Vietnam, an action rated as one of the most dramatic and heroic of the Vietnam War.)

LGEN Richard F. Natonski, Deputy Marine Corps Commandant for Plans, Policy and Operations, brought the Marines up to date on the fighting forces and over-the-horizon technology.

And he keenly evaluated the high caliber of the troops, and the training. He commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Larry Smith, for 19 years Executive Director of PARADE Magazine, author of BEYOND GLORY and an upcoming book IWO JIMA, VETERANS REMEMBER THE GREATEST BATTLE OF THE PACIFIC, to be published in May, spoke about several Marines he had encountered in the course of writing the book. He cited Cpl Richard Nummer who had inadvertently shot a hole in the flag as it flew over Mt. Suribachi one night and COL Charles Waterhouse, the famed Marine Corps illustrator, who was wounded on the third day as a Private and was evacuated before he fired a shot.

Among others, he described the resentment felt by Cpl Chuck Lindberg and the other five Marines who raised the first flag when they were ignored by the publicity surrounding the second flag raising made famous by the photograph of Joe Rosenthal of the AP.

In the evening, following a reception, a Reunion Banquet was held, with a Marine Corps Color Guard and Marine Corps Band. The guest speaker was a representative of the Commandant who was out of the country.

General Robert Magnus, USMC, Assistant Commandant, spiritedly told the audience of spirited old veterans how the Corps was just as fine as when they left it and how the troops, 95 percent high school graduates, had made a great impact in the overall developing success in Iraq.

## Museum and Memorials

On Sunday, the participants visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. First, the Invocation was given by CAPT Lawrence P. Greenslit, CHC, USN. Then, LGEN Ron Christmas, President of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, introduced the Speaker, GEN James L. Jones, USMC, Ret., currently President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Energy. He is well-known as the 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps and Commander of the U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

GEN Jones told the veterans at the Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, the broad dimensions of America's role today and the challenges—some not clearly defined—which our leaders face and will face. This was followed by an Honors Tour of the Museum. In mid-afternoon they visited the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), World War II Memorial, and the Air Force Memorial.

During March 7-14, Iwo Jima Veterans of all services will make their 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary return to the island, where they will join with Japanese veterans, and the family members of the fallen, in Joint Reunion of Honor on the "Black Sands of Iwo Jima."

*From the desk of the Executive Secretary –*  
**Visit our web site! [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**

**Exciting News** – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site

Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is [fcsu@aol.com](mailto:fcsu@aol.com) if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements such as our special 2% bonus now being offered through our annuity program, special offers on our insurance products, trips to Slovakia, and our Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet.

**WEB SITE – [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**



**General James Jones addressing Iwo Jima Veterans in Quantico, VA.** Photo courtesy of Col. Paul Ortiz, USMC, retired.



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Requests (based on order received)				
Event	Date	Time	Date	Time
Team				
Doubles & Singles				

# ENTRY BLANK

## 54th Annual Men's and 45th Annual Women's International Jednota Handicap Tenpin BOWLING TOURNAMENT

*Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union*

MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS

**Wedgewood Lanes - S. Raccoon Rd., Youngstown, Ohio**

### ENTRY FEES

PRIZE FEE.....	\$ 6.85
BOWLING FEE (3 games).....	\$ 7.50
TOURNAMENT FEE.....	\$ 4.65
<b>TOTAL EACH EVENT.....</b>	<b>\$19.00</b>
<i>Optional Events</i>	
ALL EVENTS .....	\$ 2.00
SENIOR SINGLES EVENT (60+).....	\$ 5.00

**2008** April 25 • 26 • 27  
ENTRIES CLOSE  
MARCH 14, 2008

Mail Entry Fee Payable To:  
**FCSU Activities**  
Mail to: Susan Ondrejco  
234 Ilion St.  
Pgh., PA 15207

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

ALL EVENTS (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINE-UP (Print or Type)	HGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. (MUST BE FILLED IN)	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					
SINGLES (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HGHEST AVERAGE	<p>★★ SCHEDULE ★★  <b>TEAM EVENT</b>                      Friday, April 25 6 p.m. &amp; 9 p.m.                      Saturday, April 26 9 a.m. (or as needed)</p> <p><b>DOUBLES &amp; SINGLES</b>                      Saturday and Sunday                      April 26 &amp; 27 9 a.m. &amp; 1 p.m.</p> <p><i>PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES &amp; DATES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOWLER CAN BOWL ONLY ONCE IN EACH EVENT</li> <li>• BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK</li> <li>• FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION</li> <li>• INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED</li> <li>• SEE RULES 8-10 BELOW REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION</li> <li>• SEE RULE 6 BELOW REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP</li> </ul>			
	1.					
	2.					
	1.					
	2.					

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

## BOWLING TOURNAMENT - PLEASE READ ALL RULES CAREFULLY

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

1. The 54th Annual Men's and the 45th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Wedgewood Lanes, 1741 S. Raccoon Rd., Youngstown, Ohio. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 25, 26 and 27, 2008.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 14, 2008.

OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 25, AT 5:30 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

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

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

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

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

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

#### MEN AND WOMEN

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2006-2007 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2006-2007 season will use highest league average as of JANUARY 1, 2008 and this must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HIS NAME. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN- The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2006-2007 season. Bowlers with no average for the 2006-2007 season will use highest league average as of January 1, 2008, and must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. will bowl 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2008, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the ENTRY FORM AT TIME OF ENTRY.

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

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

**7. In submitting this entry, THE CAPTAIN AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE TO FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO PRIZE MONEY AS WELL AS THE TOTAL ENTRY FEES IN THE EVENT THAT ANY INFORMATION LISTED HEREIN SHOULD BE FOUND**

**TO BE FALSE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN AVERAGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT OFFICERS

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

**54th Annual Men's & 45th Annual Women's  
JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

**At The Wedgewood Lanes, Austintown, Ohio  
April 25, 26, 27, 2008**

*Hosted by the Reverend Joseph L. Kostik District, FCSU*

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_____ QUARTER PAGE	5" X 2"	\$25	
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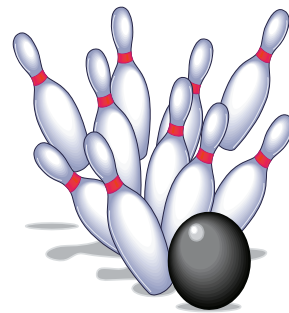
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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AD, APRIL 1, 2008  
TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN: PAUL J. RITZ  
PHONE 330-744-2377**



*Hotel Information  
for  
Bowling Tournament  
April 25, 26, 27, 2008*

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***Slovak League of America to  
Offer Scholarship Grants in 2008***

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, is pleased to announce that it will offer six, \$750 scholarship grants to deserving students for the fall semester of 2008. A student of Slovak ancestry, currently enrolled or who will be enrolled in the fall semester of 2008 in full time study at a college, university or professional school may apply for these grants. These grants are available to students who are on the undergraduate or graduate level of study.

Applicants are asked to write a study paper on some theme from Slovak history or culture of no less than six type-written double-spaced pages. The completed application along with the essay is to be returned by the deadline date of June 1, 2008. Grants will be paid to the individual student in August 2008.

For an application, write: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055, tel. daily, Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 973/472-8993.

The Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc. was established in 1972 as an affiliate of the Slovak League of America to assist students of Slovak ancestry in their quest for higher education. Since then, more than 100 students have benefited from this fund.



**54<sup>th</sup> Men's & 45<sup>th</sup> Women's  
International Bowling  
Tournament**

**Tentative Schedule**

**Friday, April 25, 2008**

4:30 PM .....Registration  
Wedgewood Lanes  
1741 S. Raccoon Rd.  
Youngstown, OH

4:30 - 6 PM .....Hospitality Reception  
Wedgewood Lanes

5:45 PM .....Opening Ceremonies  
6 PM - 11:30 PM.....Team Events

7:30 - 9 PM .....Hospitality Reception  
Wedgewood Lanes

**Saturday, April 26, 2008**

9 AM - 3 PM .....Doubles and Singles Events  
Wedgewood Lanes

5:30 PM .....Mass  
Holiday Inn Boardman

6:30 PM .....Tournament Banquet

**Sunday, April 27, 2008**

9 AM - 3 PM.....Doubles and Singles Events  
Wedgewood Lanes

**NEWSPAPER DEADLINES**

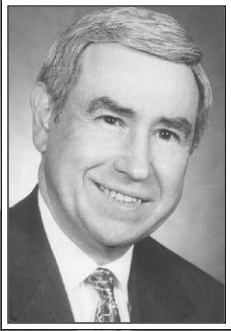
All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Copy Deadline</b>
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19	MONDAY, MARCH 10
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16	MONDAY, APRIL 7
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30	MONDAY, APRIL 21

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:  
Anthony Sutherland, Editor  
"JEDNOTA"  
1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835  
FAX: (717) 944-3107

## MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By **Joseph T. Senko**

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



### Standard Deduction or Itemizing: Which is Right for You?

A key decision taxpayers face when filing is whether to take the standard deduction or to itemize on their tax returns. The standard deduction is a flat amount established by the IRS that you deduct from your adjusted gross income. When you itemize, you deduct your actual qualified deductions.

The best method depends on how much you spend for allowable deductible expenses, including mortgage interest, property taxes, charitable contributions, and medical and dental costs. When your actual qualified deductions exceed the standard deduction, itemizing lowers your tax bill.

#### Standard Deduction Amounts for 2007

For 2007, the standard deduction is \$5,350 for single filers and \$10,700 for married taxpayers filing jointly and for qualified widows and widowers. For taxpayers who file as head of household, the standard deduction is \$7,850. Married taxpayers filing separately are eligible for a standard deduction of \$5,350. The standard deduction is higher for taxpayers age 65 or older and/or blind.

#### Itemizing Takes More effort

Itemizing your deductions is exactly what it sounds like. Using Schedule A, Itemized Deductions, go through each category and list all your allowable expenses. There are six main categories of itemized deductions.

Home mortgage interest on up to \$1 million in home acquisition debt and up to \$100,000 in home equity loan debt. You may also deduct points paid to obtain a home mortgage for the purchase or improvement of a principal residence.

Taxes, including real estate property taxes and state and local income taxes.

Charitable contributions, including contributions of cash and property, to qualified organizations.

Medical and dental expenses, that exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Miscellaneous expenses including unreimbursed employee business expenses, certain investment expenses, and costs you incur while job hunting. Only those miscellaneous expenses that exceed 2 percent of your adjusted gross income may be deducted.

Casualty and theft losses that are more than 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.

If the total of all your itemized deductions exceeds the standard deduction, you should itemize. Remember, the higher your itemized deductions, the lower your taxable income and the smaller your tax bill.

#### New Phase-Out Rules Apply to 2007 Tax Returns

Under current law, the deduction for itemized expenses is phased out when your adjusted gross income exceeds certain levels. Beginning with the 2007 tax year, this phase-out is gradually repealed. Taxpayers will compute their 2007 phase-outs as usual, but may reduce any required reduction by one-third.

#### Not all Taxpayers Have a Choice

Under tax law, some taxpayers must itemize, even if the standard deduction would be more favorable. For example, if you and your spouse file as married filing separately, both must either itemize or claim the standard deduction. If one spouse itemizes, the other spouse must also itemize, even if he or she would get a larger deduction by claiming the standard deduction.

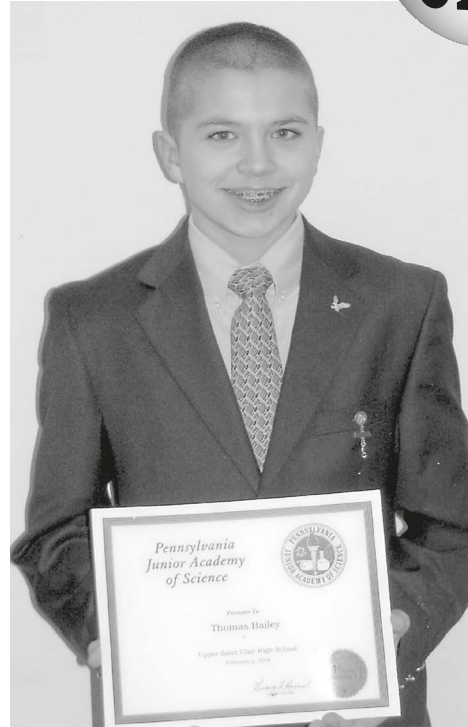
You must itemize if you are a nonresident alien, a dual-status alien, or if you are filing a tax return for less than a full year because of a change in your accounting period. Also, when a married couple chooses to file separate returns, both spouses must take the standard deduction or both must itemize.

## Cookbook Available

The "Carpathian Cookery" cookbook, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> printing, having sold over 10,000 copies, is again available for sale. The 330-page cookbook now has a new look and features a protective plastic cover and includes sections on Easter customs and recipes (and Christmas customs and recipes), traditional ethnic dishes, and many other tried and true recipes of Saint John's parishioners. It contains many paska and kolachi recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of this cookbook is \$13.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. If ordering from Canada, please send a \$20.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order, please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 185 East Main St., Uniontown, PA 15401, or call 724/438-6027 for more information.



# YOUTH ROUND-UP



**Thomas Bailey (Branch #410)** achieved a first place award with a perfect score at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region 7 competition. Thomas will compete at the state level in May. He is the son of Tom and Lillian Zelenak Bailey. He attends St. Valentine School in Bethel Park, PA.



**Regina Marie Turner** celebrated her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday recently. She lives on an organic dairy farm near Gays Mills, Wisconsin with her parents Bill and Mary Turner. All 3 family members belong to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, Illinois. The milk from her family's cows is used to produce the Organic Valley Branch of cheeses, butters and milk found in many health food stores and grocery stores across America.

Robert Tapak Magruder



## Byzantine Catholic Metropolia Established in Slovakia

On January 30, 2008, in Presov, Bishop Frantisek Tondra, Bishop of Spis and president of the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia announced that Pope Benedict XVI had approved the reorganization of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Slovakia making it a "sui iuris" Metropolitan Church.

The Eparchy of Presov for Catholics of the Byzantine Rite was raised to the status of metropolitan see and promoting Bishop Jan Babjak, S.J. to the rank of metropolitan Archbishop. Archbishop Babjak was born in Hazin and Chirouchou, Slovakia in 1953. A Jesuit, he was ordained a priest in 1978 and consecrated a bishop in 2003. The Archeparchy of Presov, established in 1816, currently has 250 priests, 1 permanent deacon, 111 women religious and 137,000 of the faithful. The promulgation of the new Metropolia took place on February 17 during a special hieratical liturgy at the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Presov.

In the reorganization, the Exarchate of Kosice was raised to the status of an Eparchy (diocese). The Eparchy, headed by Bishop Milan Chatur, C.Ss.R., includes 161 priests, 3 permanent deacons, 65 women religious and 81,000 faithful. The Eparchy of Kosice becomes a suffragan of the metropolitan Church of Presov.

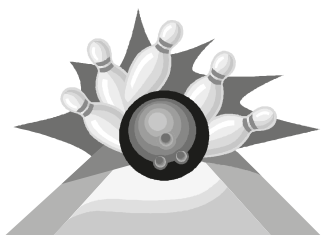
The new Eparchy (diocese) of Bratislava has been established. It becomes a suffragan of the metropolitan Church of Presov. It will include Byzantine Catholics in western Slovakia. The Rev. Peter Rusnak, pastor of the Byzantine Catholic parish of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Bratislava has been named the first bishop of the new Eparchy. Bishop-elect Rusnak was born in Humenne in 1950 and ordained a priest in 1987. He was consecrated a bishop in Presov on February 16. Bishop-elect Rusnak is related to the late Bishop Michael Rusnak, C.Ss. R, first Eparch of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Toronto, Ontario.

We rejoice with our Byzantine Catholic brethren in Slovakia on the establishment of their new Metropolia. The Metropolia of Pittsburgh, which includes the Byzantine Catholic Eparchies (diocese) in the United States, has its ancestral roots in the new Slovak Metropolia as well as in the Eparchy of Mukacevo, which is now geographically in Ukraine.

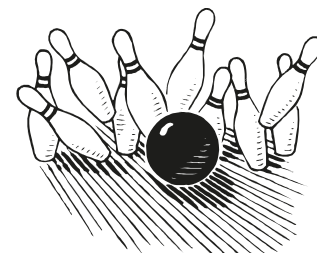
Slovak Catholic Falcon

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

*Think About It!*



# Accent on Activities



## 2008 International Bowling Tournament

March 2008

Plans for the 2008 International Bowling Tournament are well underway. The Tournament will be held in Youngstown, Ohio, the weekend of April 25 - 27. Registration forms can be found in this issue of the *Jednota* paper. Even if your Branch, District, or Region does not send participants to the Tournament, you can still show your support of fraternal activities by placing an ad in the program book or by sponsoring a lane at the bowling alleys. (Information on sponsoring a lane can be found below.)

While the International Bowling Tournament is a USBC certified Tournament, you can still participate by becoming a USBC member at the Tournament. You can also bowl as much or as little as you want by participating in as many events (Teams, Doubles, and Singles) you would like.

Make some new friends or renew old acquaintances this year at the 2008 International Bowling Tournament in Youngstown, Ohio. Hope to see you there!



It's that time of year again! Our Annual Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, April 25, through Sunday, April 27, 2008. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor:                   \$25 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Branch, District, or Region name.

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to "FCSU Activities" to:  
Susan Ondrejco  
234 Ilion St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 11, 2008.

## 2008 Treasures Tours

Jednota members Helene Cincebeaux, Editor of Slovakia and Slovak Pride and Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International, and her mother Helen Zemek Baine will lead four summer tours of Slovakia and neighboring countries. The trips feature cultural immersion in Slovak history, village life and folklore. They have a 98 percent success rate in reuniting travelers with long-lost family members. They can arrange a car, translator for village visits and genealogical services.

Helene and Helen have been visiting Slovakia since 1969 and have many friends there who open their hearts and homes to welcome Slovak-Americans. They love to share the beauty of the country and the rich traditions. People from 47 states and 10 countries have traveled with them over the past 20 years. A third of their tour goers are repeaters, people who have traveled with them before.

Trips include hotels with private bath in room, two large meals a day; bus transport, castle and museum visits, historic towns, quaint villages, craftsmen's homes, festive gatherings. It is a chance to step back in time and glimpse the life of your ancestors 100 years ago. All trips cost \$1,699 per person and are "land only" but roundtrip airfare can be arranged. We have a limited number of group air tickets for each trip JFK-Vienna-JFK.

**Telgart Homecoming June 25-July 4, 2008.** (\$1,699 per person land cost). The group will meet at the Vienna Airport and travel to Budapest for a traditional evening with music, song, dance and foods, and sightseeing. From there they will travel to the beautiful Upper Hron Valley in central Slovakia and learn about the region at the Horehronske Museum in Brezno. Tourists will enjoy the Helpa Festival, sample local foods, see crafts being made and marvel at the spirited folk dancing. There will be a reception in Telgart village and visits to the quaint villages in the region. The group can take an antique logging train, attend Mass in Telgart's historic church, visit homes to meet local people and crafts people and enjoy a

unique bell collection. From Telgart the group will travel to the Tatra Mountains, the Goral region and take a raft ride in Pieniny National Park topped off with a Goral cook out. The group will then travel to Krakow in Poland, dine on Polish specialties, visit the Royal Salt Mine in Wieliczka and then travel back to Slovakia to visit Cicmany and Bratislava. We will finish up the trip with a festive farewell dinner.

**20th Treasures of Slovakia Trip July 11-20, 2008** (\$1,699 per person land cost). The group will meet at the Vienna Airport, travel to a medieval castle for a live performance and historic foods. On the itinerary of this tour are visits to Banska Bystrica historical square and museums, the Slovak History Museum, Detva Folk Festival, Kezmarok international crafts fair, a raft ride down the Dunajec and a Goral picnic. Tourists can ride the lift to Lomnický Peak. Also on the schedule is a meeting of a 4-generation family and one of Slovakia's last sheepskin coat makers. They can explore the Spis Castle, attend a party in a Rusyn village and enjoy the foods, music and wedding customs. The group will see the Stara Lubovna Castle, visit Bardejov, the famed ethnographic museum in Martin, the Trencin Castle and the city of Kosice. The trip will conclude with a day trip to Vienna and a guided tour of Bratislava and festive farewell dinner.

**Four Capitals Trip July 20-28, 2008** (\$1,699 per person land cost).

The group will meet at the Vienna Airport and travel to Budapest for night lights tour, guided tour of the old towns. From there the group will travel to Slovakia's capital of Bratislava. Bratislava is fast becoming a popular tourist destination. From there they will travel to Golden Prague in the Czech Republic where tourists will visit the Prague Castle and take an evening dinner cruise on the Vltava. There will be a guided tour of Prague from the Old Town to the Charles Bridge. The group will then travel to Vienna, Austria where they

*continued on page 9*



## Tours

*continued from page 9*

will visit a traditional wine inn and enjoy a night lights tour. Tourists can attend mass at St. Stefan's cathedral and take a guided tour of the Old Town with its many palaces, statues and fountains. The tour will conclude with a musical dinner cruise on the Danube.

**Immerse in the 4 Countries Trip, July 31- August 8, 2008** (\$1,699 per person land cost). The group will meet at the Vienna Airport and travel to beautiful baroque town of Győr, Hungary on the Danube for some sightseeing and Hungarian specialties. From there they will travel to Miskolc to experience the amazing cave spa pools and the Diogyori Var castle, enjoy a night lights stroll and the waterfall in the heart of the old town. We will explore the amazing Aggtelek Cave, a UNESCO World Treasure, and then cross into Slovakia to marvel at the view from Andrassy's Krasna Horka Castle. From there it's on to Kosice, the Michalovce Castle and Museum, and Humenne's Palace. In Presov tourists will walk through the medieval square to see the Rusyn cathedral, folk art shops and religious stores. From there it's on to Zakopane, Poland and a chance to buy amber, smoke cheese, folk crafts from street vendors and the best potato pancakes. Other sights in Poland to be visited include Krakow and optional visits to Auschwitz and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. The group will travel back to Slovakia and visit a village home for some traditional hospitality. After a stop in Martin, the heart of Slovak culture, the tour will conclude with a cruise on the beautiful Wachau River with the famed Melk monastery and picturesque Durnstein with its charming castle and its apricot specialties.

For a colorful trip flyer with day-by-day trip itineraries call Helene toll free at 888/529-7150 or at 585/342-9383 or write 151 Colebrook Dr., Rochester, NY 14617 or e-mail at helenezx@aol.com. For information go on to the web site [www.Our-Slovakia.com](http://www.Our-Slovakia.com). The trip itineraries can be found along with many comments by former tourists on our web site.

If you would like a sample copy of the SLOVAKIA magazine published by the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International for the past 20 years, send \$2.00 to Helene at the address above and the Winter 07 issue will be sent to you.

To list your surnames in the Slovak Pride data base (now over 27,000 listings of surnames and villages) send info to Helene at the address above. You can access the Slovak Pride list at [www.SlovakPride.homestead.com](http://www.SlovakPride.homestead.com). You are welcome to submit your surnames too.

## Coming Events

### MARCH

- 9 – The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Camberg's Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania.
- 16 – A Meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by the meeting and lunch.
- 16 – A meeting of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District, at 1:00 p.m. at Melonie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.
- 25 – A meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

### APRIL

- 13 – The Msgr. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey.
- 13 – The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Semiannual Meeting at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church, 127 Howard Street, Stowe, Pennsylvania. Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by meeting at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at 1:00 p.m.
- 20 – The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.
- 27 – The Michigan District's Semiannual Meeting at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Mass at 11:30 a.m. followed by refreshments. Meeting and lunch at 1:00 p.m.

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT —

#### Los Angeles, California

The Prince Pribina District will hold a Meeting on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Bosco Chapel followed by the meeting in the cafeteria. After the meeting there will be a period of fraternal fellowship. A gourmet lunch, dessert and refreshments will be served. All members are invited to attend and all branches in the area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting. Children participating in the summer camp in Slovakia and their parents will have the opportunity to meet their guide and become acquainted at the meeting.

**Paul Skuben, President**

### MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT —

#### New Jersey

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its next Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Branch 746 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Mary Kapitan at 732/225-2658 with the number of members who will be attending. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

### JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT —

#### Houtzdale, Pennsylvania

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Camberg's Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania. All branches are urged to send delegates to this meeting. Please notify Rosemary Deliman at 342-5592 if you plan to attend.

**Marcella Kopchik, Secretary**

### FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT —

#### Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at Melonie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. A luncheon will be served at 1:00 p.m. Each member attending is asked to contribute \$5.00 towards their meal. Reservations should be made by Monday, March 10, 2008, by contacting President James Marmol at 724/437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724/438-0697. On the agenda will be the elections of officers and the updating of accounts.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

### REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT —

#### Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches in District II are encouraged to send delegates. A delicious meal will be served. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food and beverages, please contact District II President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 if you plan to attend.

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary**

### REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT —

#### Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008 at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church, 127 East Howard Street, Stowe, Pennsylvania.

Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. followed by the meeting at 10:30 a.m. in the social hall. Dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$10.00. Please make your checks payable to Branch 857 and send it with your credentials by April 7th. Please send your check and credentials on time so I can tell the host branch how many will attend. Directions will be included.

**Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary**

### MICHIGAN DISTRICT —

#### Michigan

The Michigan District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan, located just north of 18 Mile Road.

The day will begin with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. The District meeting will take place in Room 118 at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Branch 743 will be the host branch. Please notify Joe Rimarcik at 586/254-0225 by April 20, 2008 on the number of delegates attending the meeting from your branch.

Spring is beautiful time to renew old friendships and see our new church facilities. Our District President Victor Jiomkowski encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

**Anna Magusin, Secretary**

### REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT —

#### Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik district will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be a discussion of the year's activities. The upcoming Jednota Bowling Tournament scheduled for April 25-27 will also be discussed. Also on the agenda will be the planning for a one-day casino bus trip.

**Charlie Peshek, President**

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## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Branch 3 — MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will have a Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. The 9:00 a.m. Mass will be offered for the living and deceased members.

A breakfast with fellowship will take place in Father Dargay Hall after the liturgy.

**Joseph Matton, Publicity Chairman**

### Branches 5, 240, 263 and 419 — OLYPHANT, NANTICOKE, DUPONT, AND WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branches 5, 240, 263, and 419 held a joint meeting on January 27, 2008 at the home of Joe Obester. The meeting was opened with a prayer by President Marie Gryczko. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Financial Secretary Joe Obester and were approved as read. The auditor's report was read and accepted on a motion by Deanna Obester, seconded by Elaine Yakus.

A motion was made by David Gryczko to retain all officers for the coming year seconded by Al Yakus. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Marie Gryczko, President; Joe Obester, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; and Bella Gryczko, Auditor. A buffet followed the election of officers.

**Joe Obester, Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

### Branch 19 — BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will celebrate the feast day of its patron, St. Joseph, on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 78 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Mass will be offered for the living and deceased members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar, Pastor. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall following the liturgy.

Members of Branch 19 who have reached their 16th birthday in 2007 and have either a term policy of \$5,000 minimum held for at least four years or a reserve policy of \$1,000 minimum held at least for four years will receive the annual Margaret Evancho Award of a \$50 Savings Bond. During the business meeting the following members will receive this award: Stephanie Johnson, Elise Kapitancek, Marie Berarducci, Matthew Lumas, Lisa Ann Mitchell, Lydia Grace Monks, Peter Nielson, Ramon Rodrigues, Kayla Ann Ursini, and Shealeen Worby. This award was established in 1986 in recognition of Margaret Evancho's 40 years of dedication and her concern for the junior members of Branch 19.

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2008. We hope many members will be able to attend the March 9 meeting.

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

### Branch 40 — STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will be offering scholarships to their youth members. There will be one \$500.00 scholarship for a College Student and one \$250.00 scholarship for a Private School Grade Student. To be eligible, you must be a member of the St. Clement Society, Branch 40 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. You must have a minimum of \$3,000 of reserve insurance with the FCSU for at least four years or \$10,000 with the FCSU or more of term insurance for at least four years. Applicants must be attending a Private Grade School or in High School and applied for the fall term to a qualifying institution.

If you fit these criteria and would like more information and an application, please call Theresa at 815/672-6142 (leave a message) or email her at tgraves@crtelco.com for an electronic application. Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2008.

**Andrew R. Harcar Sr.**

### Branch 45 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 89 — MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The Knights of St. Mary and St. Joseph Society, Branch 89, will hold an Easter Duty Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, March 16, 2008. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in St. Margaret Mary Church, 3970 North 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Immediately after the liturgy, breakfast will be held at The Grecian Inn, 14375 West Capitol Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin. The breakfast is complimentary for members. Guests will pay for their own breakfast. Please contact Mike Novak at 414/445-5382 by March 12, 2008, with the number of people attending.

**Michael Novak, President**

### Branch 162 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

### Branch 228 — LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, is canceling the March 2008 meeting due to St. Patrick's Day activities at the American Slovak Club and the commitments of our Branch members

and officers. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio.

Our meetings are held on the 3d Monday of each month except for the months, of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the activities of the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come in and become more active in these fine organizations. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com, and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club!

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

### Branch 260 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril A. Adamko Hall at St. Elizabeth Church. There will be an important discussion on sales and a review of the policy portfolio. There will also be a discussion of upcoming events. Members are urged to attend.

**Charles M. Terek, President**

### Branch 276 — MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold the first meeting of the year on Sunday, March 30, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in St. Martin de Porres Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

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

**Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary**

### Branch 278 — MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Peter Society, Branch 278, will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Seven Sorrows Church, Middletown, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome to attend.

**Andrew Trojcek, President**

### Branch 456 — HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the Lincoln Club Meeting Room. All members are urged to attend.

**Frank Danko, Secretary**

### Branch 580 — WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 580, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary Mary Perun, 3621 Outlook Drive, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the officers' reports and the election of officers. All members are

urged to attend.

**Mary Perun, Financial Secretary**

### Branch 682 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Materials Research Center, Struthers, Ohio. A planning agenda is on the schedule.

**Andrew Hirt, President**

### Branch 716 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary**

### Branch 743 — DETROIT AND STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 16, 2008, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. A Branch meeting will take place in room 118 at 1:00 p.m.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and enjoy fellowship with other members. Any member who has recently moved or requires branch services should contact the branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Drive, 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, April 13, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. This will be an abbreviated meeting prior to the District Meeting at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be a discussion of a spring bus trip, summer picnic, and a fall dinner dance. Refreshments will be served after the District Meeting.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

### Branch 844 — LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

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

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

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

*continued from page 10*

### GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT — Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

The George Onda District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Representatives from each of our branches are expected to attend. A Sales Seminar will be held following the meeting.

**Linda L. Gonta, Secretary**

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2008

### HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN**

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
George F. Matta, Treasurer

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 2007 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**SALES**

The Vice President led a discussion regarding the monthly sales report. He reviewed the District Sales Production Report and Independent Agents Sales Report for the period of January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007 (total sales, number of policies sold, annuity sales) and answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of our new Senior Promotion Program.

The Vice President asked the Executive Secretary to send a letter to all our recommenders to find out if they are licensed in the state where they reside and for them to submit a copy of their license to the Home Office. The Vice President will use this information to develop a possible incentive plan for the recommenders.

**New Programs:**

We will send to selected members after April 1, 2008 another flier on our Single Premium Whole Life Policy. We will also offer the Jednota bear and gift cards to new applicants.

We will look into a possible conversion program for those who have policies of \$2,500.00 or less. The Vice President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available. He asked the Executive Secretary to prepare the list of policy holders with insurance in the amount of \$2,500.00 or less.

The Executive Committee also discussed the possibility of offering a postmortem fraternal benefit to our members. The Vice President will be in contact with our consultant, Ed DePersis, to gather more information.

The Vice President will also contact Ed DePersis regarding the possibility of giving an additional commission to recommenders who have a higher level of sales.

The Vice President gave a report on JEP policies where the 1st year premium was given to policy holders as a fraternal benefit. The Vice President reported that 70% of those policies were renewed.

The President and the Executive Secretary will be interviewing companies who can provide on-site medical exams to potential applicants. The Executive Secretary will give a

report at the February meeting.

The Vice President stated that he is in contact with the Districts regarding the possibility of organizing seminars on a District level in 2008. He stated that so far 3 Districts responded and have shown interest in the seminars.

The Vice President also presented to the Executive Committee the new Insurance Marketing Manual for review. The members of the Executive Committee are to report with their suggested changes to the Vice President before their February meeting.

The Vice President stated that we are advertising more in our Jednota newspaper and with each mailing from the Home Office we are sending some kind of advertisement of our products.

The Vice President also mentioned having a possible Membership Meet in either October or November 2008. He will inquire about the options and rates on a 4 and 5 night cruise to the Caribbean and will report back to the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to accept the Vice President's report as presented. Motion carried.

**RECESS OF SESSION**

At this time the Executive Committee broke for lunch.

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

Meeting back to order.

**TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT**

Treasurer George Matta gave a detailed written report summarizing the investments for the month of December 2007 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee (see attached).

The Treasurer also reported that he is looking into the possibility of purchasing equity funds and foreign investments (Australia or Canada). He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the quarterly statement presented by our custodian Merrill Lynch.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

**December 2007 Treasurer's Report****WACHOVIA SECURITIES**

A1/A+ AMERICAN GENERAL	6.00	12-14-14	100.00	6.00	300K
		NONCALL			
A2/A CIT GROUP	6.50	12-15-09	100.00	6.50	300K
		NONCALL			

**FERRIS, BAKER WATTS INC**

A2/A CIT GROUP	6.50	12-15-09	100.00	6.50	200K
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Following Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke's comments last week that the Fed stands "ready to take substantive additional action as needed to support growth and to provide adequate insurance against downside risks", financial markets have interpreted "substantive additional action" to mean a half-percentage point cut in the fed's funds target rate, (currently 4.25) at the Fed's next meeting, January 30- 31.

Joel Naroff, Chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors stated, "Price pressures may be a little greater than the Fed would like but with economy hitting skids, inflation is not so high to stand in the way of aggressive action, supporting reducing interest rates by a bold half-point when Fed officials next meet on January 30-31."

Consumer prices rose in 2007 at the fastest pace in 17 years since 1990, as motorists paid a lot more for gasoline and grocery shoppers paid higher food bills. The Labor Department reported that consumer prices rose by 4.1 percent for all of 2007, up sharply from 2.5 percent increase in 2006, and food prices jumped by the largest amount since 1990. Prices also were up sharply for healthcare, housing and education.

**Miscellaneous**

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee that he reviewed all the forms posted on our website and stated that adjustments were made for a better and clearer presentation to our website users.

**MIDDLETOWN**

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of leasing our Printery Building in Middletown, PA. He stated that he is in contact with the leasing company, Landmark Realty, and will update the Executive Committee as more information on the lease becomes available.

The President read a letter from Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director of Region 7, about upgrading the Printery Building and the possibility of finding a tenant.

The President stated that he will meet with the realtor to discuss the leasing of the building.

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

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

**MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

Executive Secretary Arendt reported that the following disbursements were incurred and

*continued on page 13*

## the Book Corner

**Kozlowski, Lawrence G., CELEBRATE EASTER... SLOVAK STYLE, 33 pages.**

In this delightful ethnic book, CELEBRATE EASTER...SLOVAK STYLE, Lawrence G. Kozlowski has gathered together a wealth of treasured Slovak Easter time practices, rituals, food, crafts (including egg decorating and palm weaving) and traditions whose usage goes back to antiquity. With early Slavonic origins as a backdrop, CELEBRATE EASTER...SLOVAK STYLE takes the reader on a remarkably realistic six week journey throughout a poignant Slovak Lenten Season, culminating in a majestic Easter Sunday filled with grandeur, glory, radiance and splendor unequal at any time or any place in history.

For those familiar with Slovak Lenten/Easter customs and still observing them, CELEBRATE EASTER...SLOVAK STYLE sets out each custom and each ritual like taking favorite pieces of well-loved jewelry from a jewelry box and looking at them as though seeing each piece in all of its beauty for the first time. It awakens memories of a time when their observance filled the heart with piety, childlike awe and joy. It also offers fascinating, easy reading and has a section dedicated to one's family tree, treasured family traditions and family recipes to personalize the book for future generations.

The book has 33 illustrated pages of holiday traditions, stories, legends, folk craft patterns, recipes, family history and customs. It sells for \$13.50 each. Quantity orders are available at a discount for churches, clubs, gift shops and organizational fund raising. Make checks payable to L.G. Kozlowski. Individual books will be shipped first class for faster delivery. Send checks to: L.G. Kozlowski, Mercyhurst N.E., 16 W. Division St., North East, PA 16428.



# Traditional Holy Week Customs in Slovakia

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.**  
**St. Francis University of Pa.**

Holy Week represented a very solemn time for Slovak villagers, as they commemorated the passion and death of Jesus, and finally concluded it with his joyful Resurrection and triumph over death and sin. The coming of Easter was closely aligned with the coming of spring, and Slovaks hailed it as the victory of new life and a time for reflection and fasting, but ending with a time of jubilant celebration.

After starting the week with the typical customs involving willow branches (bahniatka) on Kvetná nedeľa (Palm Sunday), Slovaks continued the age-old pagan custom of throwing out the winter. This was done in the custom called the Vynášanie Moreny, the tossing out of Morena, the pagan goddess of winter. Long after Christianity had captured the hearts and minds of the Slovak people, they continued to practice this rite of passage to spring.

On Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, the Vynášanie Moreny was the talk of the village. The young men and ladies of the village would gather in groups segregated by gender. Having made a straw dummy of Morena dressed in old clothes, they would

parade around the village with their prize. Then they would gather in a circle and sing a medley of songs before sending the winter witch on her way out, usually into a nearby lake or swamp. When they arrived at the place where they would toss out the witch, they sang:

Ach Morena, Morena,  
 Prekohožeš umrela?  
 My vieme, preto zaspievame:  
 Pre stare dievky,  
 Pre švarné dievky!

Translation:

Oh Morena, Morena,  
 Whom do you die for?  
 We know why you are singing:  
 For the old girls,  
 For the dark maidens?

After singing three verses, the young people stripped the straw witch of her clothing, set the straw lady ablaze with fire, and heaved her into the water. Then they returned home in silence, hoping that the worst days were over and that spring and good fortunes were forthcoming. It was time to prepare for the holy days, and the wicked old witch was dead.



## Minutes of The Executive Committee Meeting

*continued from page 12*

paid during the month of December:

Disbursements for the month of December 2007	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$131,128.77
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 20,130.55
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	\$ 2,131.00

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

### FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President updated the Executive Committee on the possibility of having some of our fraternal activities together with those of another fraternal organization. He stated that our Director for Fraternal Activities, Susan Ondrejco, will meet with the Director of Fraternal Activities of the other fraternal organization regarding joint events in 2008 and 2009. The President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

### MISCELLANEOUS

The President led a discussion regarding our March Annual Board of Directors Meeting. He stated that he and the Executive Secretary will inform the Board of Directors with the dates and place of all the meetings for 2008 in the near future.

The Vice President stated that he has an ongoing list of activities for 2008 (Slovak picnics, festivals etc.). He stated he will get a booth and pass out literature advertising our products at some these Slovak functions.

The President stated that later this year he will ask the Board of Directors for their suggestions on convention sites. The President and the Executive Secretary will gather more information and present to the Board of Directors for further evaluation.

The Executive Secretary gave a report about the notices sent to the Branches regarding the Branch stipend. He said that the notice was also published in our newspaper. The Executive Secretary also stated that new forms were sent to Branches for completion and that he will report on their progress.

### REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests 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 closed the meeting with prayer.

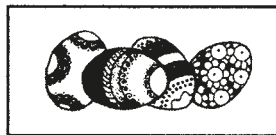
**Andrew M. Rajec**  
 President

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
 Executive Secretary

## Blessing of Easter Foods is a Rich Tradition of Our Heritage

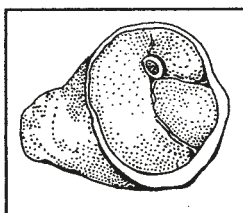
When our Slovak ancestors arrived in this country a century ago, they brought with them many beautiful and meaningful traditions. Among the most popular of these was the age old tradition of blessing Easter food.

After a Lent of strict fast and abstinence, specially prepared foods to be eaten on Easter morning would help the family celebrate the great feast of Jesus' Resurrection. The foods, prepared in advance, were placed in a basket, covered with a special hand crocheted cloth and taken to church to be blessed by the priest on Holy Saturday. The cloth often had an Easter emblem or the Easter words, "Christ Is Risen" crocheted on it. Each of these foods had a special significance.



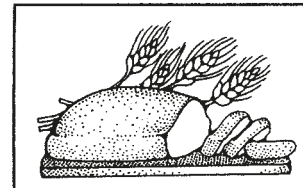
**EGGS** — Brightly decorated eggs are a symbol of New Life, the life Jesus gave by rising from the dead.

**PASCHA** — This is a sweet, rich, yeast bread. It is usually a round loaf baked till it has a golden brown crust. Sometimes a cross of dough is placed



on top circled by a plait. This symbolizes the crown of thorns encircling the cross. Other breads to be blessed are nut and poppyseed rolls, known as "kolac" and "makovniky."

**KLOBASA and HAM** — After a Lent of fasting, this meat is well roasted or cooked to be used as the main dish. It symbolizes the great joy of Easter and to



Slovaks this dish of meat is a sign of abundance. Some people may prefer lamb or veal.

**CHEESE** — The Easter cheese is known as "syrek" and has a rather bland, but sweet taste. It is indicative of the moderation Christians should have in all things. Cream cheese may also be used.

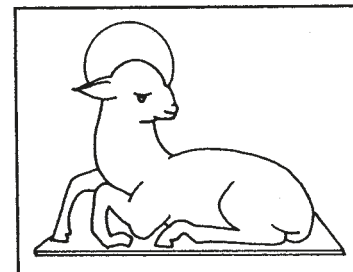
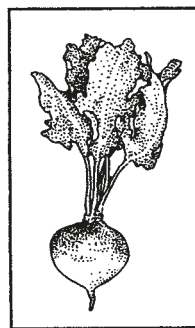
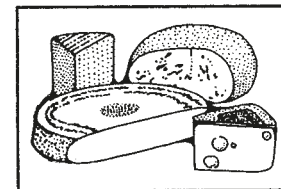
### HORSERADISH

— This is a tall plant with a white, hot-tasting root. This root is ground and mixed with ground beets, a mixture then called "chren." The taste of chren is to remind us of how bitter life would be without Jesus, and also of the bitter drink given to Jesus on the cross.

**BUTTER** — This favorite dairy product was shaped into the figure of a lamb because Jesus is the Lamb of God.

**SALT** — Salt is also blessed because salt was used to preserve food and this symbolizes the fact that Jesus preserves us to eternal life.

Many Slovak and Slavic churches today in the United States and Canada continue to observe this custom of blessing Easter foods.



## Lenten Retreat

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius will again host their annual Lenten Retreat on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 9, 2008, at the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania. The retreat will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Advance registration is necessary. An offering of \$30.00 is requested. Discounts are granted for groups of three or more. For more information and for registration contact Sister M. Philothea, SS.C.M., Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698; Phone: 570/275-3581.



## Lenten/Easter Items Available

The Jankola Library has items available for Lenten reflection. Hymns for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter sung by the Slovak Heritage Society Festival Choir are on cassette tapes and CD's. Cassette tapes are \$12.00; Cd's are \$15.00. Easter Cards with Slovak inscriptions are also available through the Jankola Library. Assorted packets of ten are \$5.00 each. Postage and handling are additional.

Orders may be placed by phone, mail, or e-mail to: Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698; Phone: 570/275-5606; E-mail: SSCM2734@yahoo.com.

*It's Time You Get Involved - Attend Lodge Meetings!*

## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### In memory of Stephan Robert Dorich December 15, 1973- January 2, 2008



Stephan Robert Dorich

A long time active member of Jednota Branch 785 Toronto, Ontario Canada, Stephan Dorich, with family by his side, passed away on January 2, 2008 at the age of 34, leaving wife Mary and children, four year old Adam and eighteen month old Nicholas. A loving husband, a caring father, a friend who was taken before his time from his loved ones... a man who touched everyone's heart with his smile, his laugh, his love for his family. He will always live through us; he will always be in our hearts. We will always cherish every moment of his friendship.

On Saturday, January 5, 2008 a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Stephan Robert Dorich at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Roman Catholic Church in Mississauga, Ontario. The church was overflowing with those who came to pay tribute to Stephan: family, friends, neighbours and co-workers of Stephan and wife Mary.

Stephan's brother Dusan, nephews Michael Kapitan, Mark Doric, Andrew Dorich and brothers-in-law Eddie Bajus, Michael Wasilewski, Milan Popik and Michael Bettencourt served as pall-bearers. At the altar Father Miro Vercimak was the main celebrant assisted by concelebrants Father Gregory Nowicki, Father Jozef Mucha, pastor of Usnutia Bohorodicky Slovak Byzantine Catholic Church in Hamilton, as well as Mary Dorich's God-father Deacon Frank Chowhan of Simcoe, Ontario. Altar servers were niece, Kristen, God-son Steven Popik and Stefan Slovak Jr. Members of the parish choirs led the music including cantor Ed Uhraney, soloists Sylvia DaCunha and Miro Letko accompanied by organist Catherine Slovak.

Stephan is the youngest son of Maria and Stefan Doric, brother of Ruzena Kapitan, Mary Burger, Igor, Dusan and Michal Dorich. He became an uncle to thirteen nieces and nephews and great uncle to two grand-nieces on the Dorich family side, and seven nieces and nephews on the Bajus family side.

On the Feast Day of the Assumption August 15, 1998 Stephan was married to Mary Ann Bajus and became the fourth son-in-law of Mary and Ed Bajus, and brother-in-law of Monica Wasilewski, Catherine Popik, Christine Bettencourt and Eddie Bajus. Stephan became a very proud and happy father of two sons, Adam on December 3, 2003 and Nicholas on July 14, 2006.

On January 4 over 800 family, friends, neighbours, co-workers of Stephan, Mary and the Dorich and Bajus families visited Turner and Porter Funeral Chapel to express their condolences.

Following the Mass of Christian Burial over two hundred relatives and friends went to Assumption Cemetery, Mississauga for

Stephan's interment. All were invited to the parish hall where God-child, Steven Popik expressed a few thoughts about his Kresni Stephan. No eulogy was needed to be said for Stephan, for his actions and his life were expressed through all who have expressed their appreciation for the gift of Stephan by visiting him at the funeral home, attending the funeral Mass of Christian Burial and coming to Assumption Cemetery for the interment, bidding him his final farewell.

To all who came to express their condolences, particularly to Stephan's and Mary's many co-workers, parishioners, relatives and friends, the Dorich and Bajus families are very grateful for your over-whelming support and for attending the Mass of Christian Burial, for your prayers, Mass intentions and flowers for Stephan. Specifically for and on behalf of Adam and Nicholas, Mary and our families want to express our appreciation to the out-pouring generosity and support of all who contributed to the Trust Fund established for Stephan's and Mary's children. We give thanks to God for his gift to us, Stephan. We look forward to be with him in our eternal life. Stephan we love you. Rest in peace until we meet again!

#### Elizabeth Orlosky Petro Branch 380 Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

Elizabeth (Betty) Orlosky Petro, 85, formerly of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, February 9, 2008, in Vincentian Regency Skilled Care, Allison Park, following a lengthy illness.

She was born in Washington, a daughter of the late Stefan and Mary Katrenich Orlosky.

On June 14, 1941, she and Nicholas Petro, her husband of over 66 years, were married in St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Canonsburg.

She was formerly employed at the former Radio Corp. of America plant in Canonsburg and Meadow Lands.

A lifelong member of St. Michael Church, she was active throughout most of her adult life as a volunteer with the church's pirohy and nut roll fundraising projects. She enjoyed cooking, baking and spending time with her family.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children, Father John G. Petro, rector of Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, Frederick M. (Mary Ellen) Petro of Brighton Township-Beaver, and Barbara (John) Modzelewski of New City, New York; two grandchildren, Gregory J. Modzelewski of Pittsburgh and Katherine L. Modzelewski of New City; a sister-in-law, Cecelia Petro of McMurray; and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a sister, Anna Orlosky, and a brother, John Orlosky.

Friends were received at the Noll Funeral Home, Beaver. Services were held in St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church, Beaver. A Parastas service was celebrated in the funeral home. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh or House of Prayer, Mount Macrina, Uniontown.

Margaret Graytok

#### Joseph J. Yanci Branch 484 Graceton, Pennsylvania

Joseph J. Yanci, 95, of Coral, Pennsylvania, died Friday, February 8, 2008, at St. Andrew's Village, Indiana, Pennsylvania.

A son of Stephen and Johanna (Konkoly) Yanci, he was born March 9, 1912 in Youngstown, Ohio.

Joseph was a member of St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, Coral and a member of Branch 484 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He was the oldest living member of the branch. He was a retired coal miner and also Dietrich Industries.

He is survived by his children, Joan Palmer of Shady Plain, Pennsylvania, James and his wife, Sandy, of Cortland, Ohio, Clara Lazor and her husband, Vincent, of Coral, Joseph and his wife, Chris, of Manassas, Virginia, and Kathy Yanci and Bill Rowe of Coral; 10 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; and a sister Ann Rabatin of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Catherine, who died February 1, 2005; three brothers, Steve, Tom and Andy; and six sisters, Kate Rabick, Gertrude Yorschak, Julia Dobras, Verna Chomiczweski, Mary Sporick and Helen Leffets.

Friends were received Sunday, February 10 at the C. Frederick Bowser Funeral Home, Homer City, where a vigil service was held that evening. A blessing service was held at the funeral home Monday morning, February 11, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Francis Catholic Church with the Msgr. Larry Kiniry as celebrant. Interment was in the church cemetery where committal services were conducted by Branch 484 members.

Joseph E. Rura

#### Lawrence V. Altman Branch 831 Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Lawrence V. Altman, 94, a lifelong resident of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, December 9, 2007, at his home. He had been ill for the past 18 months.

Born February 3, 1913, in Creighton, Pennsylvania, he was a son of the late Anton and Cecelia (Metz) Altman. Prior to retiring in April 1978, he was employed as a millwright by PPG, Creighton, with 30- plus years of service. He also worked as a security guard for Cauley Security for 10 years.

He was a member of Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum, and graduated from the former Tarentum High School. Community service was his life. Larry was a volunteer firefighter at Creighton Volunteer Hose Company for 10 years before joining Summit Hose in January of 1946. He became 2nd lieutenant two years later and held that position until he became fire chief in 1950. He held the fire chief position until 1957. At that time, he stepped down and became assistant chief due to his active participation as a councilman. He served on Tarentum Borough Council for 16 years as chairperson of the fire committee. He was an active member of Summit Hose until 1987. At 75 years old, he was still driving the engine to alarms. He continued to help the company by assisting with weekly bingo games and the yearly carnival until he was in his late 80s. Mr. Altman was also a member of Western Pa Firemen's Association, Allegheny Valley Firemen's Association,

Tarentum Fire Department, Pa. Firemen's Association, Allegheny County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Allegheny County Fire Chiefs Association, Westmoreland Fire Chiefs association, Past presidents and Old Timers Association of Western PA, vice president of Tarentum Firemen's Relief Association, and served on Tarentum Borough Council from 1955 to 1971.

Larry is one of the two surviving members of the January 9, 1961, Louie's Garage explosion, which claimed the life of Frank Goralko. Larry was in the hole with Frank when his glasses became steamed up. He told Frank he was going to get an air pack on and he'd be right back. He exited the hole just seconds before the explosion. The other surviving member is Honorary Parade Marshal Ed Lettrich.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Theresa (Dubac) Altman; two daughters, Rose Ann (Francis) Faber of Frazer Township, and Becky Dubovsky of Brookville; a son, Lawrence D. (Melissa) Altman of Boalsburg; six grandchildren, Francis (Karen) Faber, Christine (Drew) Bertha, Mike (Amy) Faber, Rachel Johnson, Alex Whiteman and Adam Whiteman; and nine great-grandchildren. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Leo, John and Sam Altman.

Friends were received at the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum. A blessing service was held in the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated in Holy Martyrs Church by the Rev. Aaron J. Kriss, pastor. Burial was in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township. Memorial donations may be made to Four Corners Cancer Society.

Kathleen Persun

#### Lawrence J. Kuniak Branch 831 Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Lawrence J. "Larry" Kuniak, 55, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, February 5, 2008, in Alle-Kiski Medical Center, Allegheny Valley Hospital, Harrison Township, after being ill for the past year.

He was born September 30, 1952, in Tarentum, a son of the late Andrew J. Kuniak Sr. and Marie (Brzynski) Kuniak. He was a lifelong resident of the Tarentum area. He worked as a coordinator for Tarentum Depot for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for 24 years and prior to that 15 years at the Valley News Dispatch.

He was a member of Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum, president of Jednota Branch 831 in Tarentum, Tarentum Slovak American Club and Tarentum Eagles. He was a choir member for many years and former lector at St. Clement Roman Catholic Church. He was a 1970 graduate of Highlands High School.

Larry was an avid Penguins fan, enjoyed golf, baseball, softball and bowling and was a star pitcher in Little League.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Rosemary (Dubnicay) Kuniak; children, Matthew Kuniak of Tarentum, Douglas (Andrea) Kuniak of Fawn Township. Kristen (Joel) Demharter of Tarentum, and Gregory Kuniak and Nikki Allenberg of Buffalo Township; two granddaughters, Morgan Kuniak and Kaylee Demharter of Tarentum; three brothers, Andrew (Marion) Kuniak Jr. of Lower Burrell, Frank (Darlene) Kuniak of Natrona Heights, and Edward (Rose) Kuniak of Tarentum; and

continued on page 17

# News From Slovakia

## New Slovak Language Textbook for Foreigners Published

A new modern Slovak language textbook for foreigners has appeared on the market. The book, which is for complete beginners and is called "Criss-cross" (Krizom Krazom), also contains a double CD.

According to Slovak as a foreign language specialist Jana Pekarovicova, the book, which costs about Sk600 and has been published in 900 copies so far, is an attractive way of learning Slovak. "We want to attract as many people interested in our language from all continents," she told SLOVAKIA. "They could be university students or foreigners working in our country who need Slovak for daily use.

According to her, learners who study all ten chapters of the book will absorb the basics of the language. "They will learn certain phrases, how to react, understand and orientate themselves a little in grammar."

Renata Kamenarova, one of the book's six authors, explained the unconventional name of the textbook by saying that it contains a little bit of everything.

TASR

## Foreign Tourists Mostly Visit High Tatras and Bigger Cities

Foreign visitors to Slovakia most often visit the High Tatras and the Spis region, Presov region, Kosice and Bratislava, it was reported recently based on information from the official Slovak Statistics Office data.

The statistics, however, are not exact, as they only register tourists staying for at least one night in hotels and guest houses. There is no information on those who don't spend the night. The Slovak Association of Travel Guides (SSSCR) pointed this out at a press conference in Bratislava recently organized on the occasion of the World Guide Day on February 21.

SLOVAKIA was told by the SSSCR Chairman Marian Bilaci that while there are enough guides in big cities, certain areas of interest, such as the Gemer area in the Kosice region, need more guides. However, they should have the requested qualifications and certification for guiding tourists.

Bilacic noted that guides are also wanted in spa locations, mountains and big cities. According to Bilacic, guiding is often provided by people who aren't certified to carry out this kind of activity, but SSSCR is not against such a practice, as it supports free competition in the guide market.

TASR

## Pittsburgh to be Focus of Family History Conference

The 2008 Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) Conference will be held August 1-3, 2008, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel, 777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

The theme will be "Pittsburgh: The East European Magnet", reflecting the vast number of immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe who came to the city and its neighboring towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The conference will feature presentations from leading experts in the fields of Central and East European Genealogy, DNA testing, Online Databases, one-on-one research consultations and more! The keynote speaker on Friday morning will be Dr. Stephen P. Morse, Creator of the "One Step Web Pages." The Saturday evening banquet will feature the talk, "Don't Stop for Red Lights: The Story of the Creation of the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning" by Joseph Bielecki. On Sunday, August 3rd, an optional event, The Rivers of Steel "Babushkas and Hard Hats Tour" will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vendors specializing in East European merchandise are welcome.

The full 2-day FEEFHS member or nonmember fee entitles registrants to attend any of the sessions on Friday and Saturday, both Friday and Saturday lunches, the Friday evening reception and cultural event, and the opportunity to sign up for individual consultations with participating conference speakers. Registrants will also receive a copy of the Syllabus.

An "Early Bird" registration discount (\$120 for FEEFHS members and \$150 for nonmembers) is available until June 1, 2008. Early registration is highly recommended. Additional information is available at [www.feefhs.org](http://www.feefhs.org), or by calling 412/848-1394.

## Fico: Not All Slovaks Welcome Euro Adoption

Slovakia has a long way to go until it is able to adopt the euro as scheduled on January 1, 2009, as not all of its citizens welcome this aim, said Prime Minister Robert Fico recently.

"We face serious worries, especially on the part of pensioners and lower earning people," noted Fico, adding that euro adoption doesn't mean only meeting the Maastricht criteria, but also applying control, preventive and restrictive measures that will guarantee that the changeover from the koruna to the euro won't lead to unjustified price increases.

TASR

## Food and Motor Fuels Continue to Accelerate Inflation in Slovakia

The prices of foodstuffs and motor fuels continue to be dominant in the growth of consumer prices in December in Slovakia.

"The overall prices of foodstuffs increased annually by almost 7.6 percent. It's the biggest annual increase since 2001," Tatra bank analyst Juraj Valachy told SLOVAKIA recently.

In 2007 prices grew by 3.4 percent, while the average tempo of inflation growth amounted to 2.8 percent. "Compared to last year, when the overall inflation reached 4.2 percent, and the average inflation reached 4.5 percent, this represents a slowdown. The inflation in 2007 was attributed to mainly to the growth of the prices of services connected with housing, followed by foodstuffs and various goods and services.

TASR

## President Ivan Gasparovic Appoints 32 New University professors

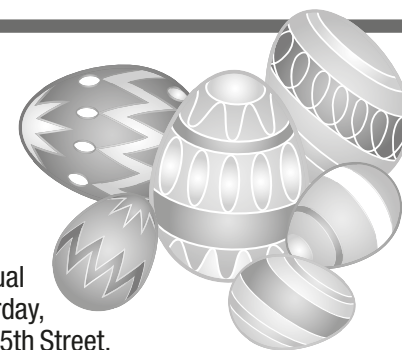
President Ivan Gasparovic of Slovakia recently appointed 32 new university professors, seven of which teach at the Slovak Technical University in the capital.

In his address, Gasparovic said that a successful society doesn't necessarily last, and more has to be done in order to achieve success than in the past. Even after joining international structures, Slovakia cannot allow itself to be paralyzed in the face of rapid progress, but should actively engage in international projects.

Since becoming president in 2004, Gasparovic has presented letters of appointment to more than 400 professors based on recommendations from the education ministry. The only such ceremony last year took place in June, when 44 professors were appointed, most of them specializing in the natural sciences and research.

TASR

## Slovak Easter Customs Programs Saturday, March 15



Prince of Peace Parish will host the 18th Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street, on Pittsburgh's South Side. Come share in the celebration of the rich Slovak religious culture and traditional Easter customs. The day will begin at 10:45 a.m. with recitation of the rosary followed by Mass at 11:00 a.m. with prayers and hymns sung in Slovak. Afterward, everyone is invited to the Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) to sample a Slovak Easter breakfast and experience the A B C's of beautiful Slovak Easter traditions:

**Authentic Slovak treasures and artifacts** – costumes, crystal, pottery and embroideries;

**Bake sale** featuring homemade kolachy -- nut and poppy seed rolls, and cookies;

**Craft demonstrations** -- dyeing colorful Easter eggs (pysanky), weaving palms;

**Delicious traditional foods** -- paska (sweet bread), sunka (ham), sirek (cheese) and hrin (beets and horseradish).

Everyone is always welcome at the Prince of Peace Slovak Easter Program and **ADMISSION IS FREE**, but donations are always welcome! We want to be adequately prepared, so please call ahead.

A basket filled with Slovak delights, topped with a hand-embroidered basket cover will be raffled, and a "Slovak Auction" is also planned. Imported gifts of Slovakia will also be available for sale. Call the Prince of Peace Parish office at (412) 481-8380 to let us know we can expect you, to make a donation, or for further information.

**Please note:** the location of the mass - at St. Adalbert Church - is changed from previous years. St. Matthew Church, once a hub of local Slovak families in South Side, was closed in the fall of 2004.



# Our Favorite Recipes



## BASIC SWEET DOUGH

2-1/2 to 3 cups flour, divided  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 package active dry yeast  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup each milk and water  
1/4 cup butter, cut in chunks  
1 egg, at room temperature  
In large mixer bowl mix well 1 cup flour, sugar, yeast and salt; set aside. Heat milk, water and butter until liquids are very warm (120°-130°); butter need not melt. Gradually beat into flour mixture. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes scraping bowl occasionally. Add egg and 2 cups flour. (See note). Beat at high speed, scraping bowl occasionally, 2 minutes or until dough is thick and smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Turn out on lightly floured surface. Knead 5 to 8 minutes or until dough is smooth and elastic. Shape in smooth ball; place in greased bowl; turn to grease top. Cover; let rise in warm, draft-free place 1 to 1-1/4 hours or until doubled. Punch down; knead lightly, cover; let rest 5 to 10 minutes. Shape as desired on baking sheet. Cover; let rise until doubled. Bake in preheated 350° oven about 15 minutes for small breads (12 per piece dough) or about 35 minutes per single loaf. Makes 12 servings.  
**NOTE:** Add special spices, fruits and nuts at this point.

## HOUSKA

Use Basic Sweet Dough recipe above.

1/4 cup raisins  
1/4 cup chopped candied citron  
1/4 cup chopped blanched almonds  
1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water  
1/4 cup whole blanched almonds for garnish  
Prepare dough, adding raisins, citron and chopped almonds. Let rise about 1-1/2 hours or until doubled. Punch down; turn out on lightly floured surface. Cover dough; let rise 30 minutes. Divide in half; wrap one half in plastic wrap. Divide other half in thirds; roll each third in a 14-inch rope. Place ropes side by side, on large greased baking sheet. Starting at the middle, braid to one end. Flip dough over; braid remaining ropes to other end. Pinch ends to seal. Cover. Divide two thirds of remaining dough in thirds. Roll each piece in a 12-inch rope. Braid on lightly floured surface as above. Place on top of first braid. Cover. Roll remaining dough in three 10-inch ropes. Braid as above; place on second braid. Stick long picks or bamboo skewers through braids to secure. (Use picks at least 6 inches long). Cover dough; let rise in warm draft-free place about 1 hour or until doubled. Brush egg mixture gently on braids. Decorate with almonds, pressing gently in place. Bake in middle of preheated 375° oven 35-40 minutes or until golden brown. Cover with foil if it is browning too quickly. Remove to rack to cool; remove picks. Makes 12 servings.

## LEMON ICING

In small bowl stir 1-1/2 cups confectioners sugar, 2 tablespoons lemon juice and 1 to 2 tablespoons water until smooth.

## KULICH

3-3-1/2 cups flour  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 package active dry yeast  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup milk  
1/4 cup butter, cut in chunks  
2 eggs plus 2 yolks  
1-1/2 tablespoons grated lemon peel  
1/4 cup each raisins and chopped blanched almonds  
1/2 recipe lemon icing (on this page)  
Chopped mixed candied fruits for garnish (optional)  
In large bowl mix well 1 cup flour, the sugar, yeast and salt; set aside. In small saucepan, heat milk and butter over low heat until very warm (120° to 130°); butter need not melt. Gradually add to flour mixture; beat at medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Add eggs, yolks, peel and 1 cup flour; beat at medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Add raisins, almonds and enough remaining flour to make soft dough that leaves sides of bowl. Turn out on lightly floured surface, knead 8 to 10 minutes, adding flour as necessary, until dough is smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl; turn to grease top. Cover; let rise in warm draft-free place about 1 hour or until doubled. Generously grease one 1-pound coffee can and one 1-pound fruit can (remove paper label). Punch down dough; place in cans, half filling each. Cover; let rise in warm draft-free place about 1 hour or until doubled. Bake in preheated 350° oven 25 to 35 minutes (check fruit can after 25 minutes) or until tops are golden brown. Remove immediately from cans; cool upright on racks. Frost tops with lemon icing, letting it run down sides. Sprinkle with candied fruits. Makes 12 servings.

## WHOLE WHEAT NUT BREAD

1-1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour (sift before measuring)  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup unsifted whole wheat flour  
1 egg, beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
3/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
1-1/4 cups milk  
1 cup finely chopped walnuts  
Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 9x5x3-inch loaf pan. Sift all-purpose flour with baking powder and salt. Stir in whole wheat flour. In large bowl combine egg, vanilla, sugar and butter. Using wooden spoon or portable electric mixer, beat until well blended. Add milk, blending well. Add flour mixture, beating with wooden spoon just until combined. Do not overheat. Stir in nuts. Pour batter into prepared pan; bake 60 to 65 minutes or until cake tester inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool in pan 10 minutes. Remove from pan; cool completely on wire rack. To serve, cut into thin slices. Makes 1 loaf.

## APRICOT BREAD

3 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
4 tablespoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup white sugar  
1/4 cup butter  
1 cup (8 oz.) very finely chopped dried apricots  
2 eggs  
1 cup milk  
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind  
Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is fine. Stir in apricots. Beat together eggs, milk and lemon rind until just blended. Add to dry ingredients. Stir until well mixed. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan. Makes 1 large or 2 small. Bake in 350° oven for 1 hour or until tests done. Turn out on rack. Best when sliced and served one day after baking.

## NO-YEAST RAISIN BREAD

1/4 cup, or more, sugar  
3-1/2 cups flour  
4-1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1-1/2 cups milk  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon melted butter  
1 cup chopped raisins  
Sift dry ingredients together, reserving a little flour. Add milk, egg and butter, beating mixture thoroughly. Sift reserved flour over chopped raisins and stir these into mixture. Place into greased pan and let stand 20 minutes. Bake in moderate 350° oven 45 minutes to 1 hour. Chopped dates or figs may be substituted for raisins.

## SLOVAK FANKY (Cheregi)

4 egg yolks  
1 whole egg  
4 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Pinch of salt  
Flour  
Beat egg yolks until creamy. Add whole egg

and beat again adding sugar and salt. Add enough flour to make a sticky, dough. (A tablespoon of rich cream may be added). Roll out very thin; cut in diamond shape. Make a slit in the center of each. Fry in hot oil until brown, turning immediately after being placed in oil. Do not over fry. Drain on paper toweling. Dust with powdered sugar.  
**NOTE:** Adding too much flour will take away the crispness.

## PASKA (Easter Coffee Cake)

1 tablespoon dry yeast  
1/4 cup warm water (105-115°)  
1 stick unsalted butter, melted  
1/2 cup sugar  
4 egg yolks  
3-1/2 to 4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 teaspoon rum  
3/4 cup warm milk (105-115°)  
Fine dry bread crumbs  
Confectioners' sugar  
Dissolve yeast in warm water. Set aside for 5 minutes. Cream butter and sugar in mixing bowl. Add egg yolks, 1-1/2 cups flour, and mix thoroughly. Add yeast mixture, salt, vanilla, and rum. Add milk and enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth - about 10 minutes. Place dough in greased bowl, turning to coat top. Cover, let rise in warm place until double, about 1 hour. Punch down dough. Generously grease 10 inch bundt pan. Lightly coat pan with bread crumbs. Put dough into prepared pan. Cover, let rise in warm place until double, about 45 minutes. Bake in a preheated 350° oven 45 minutes or until done. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Then remove from pan. Cool on rack. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar before serving.

# Our Favorite Recipes

## Easter Breakfast

*Sausage • Baked Ham • Hard Boiled Eggs (Pisanky) • Beet Horseradish Sweet Butter • Paska • Círák/Syrek or Easter Cheese • Nut Rolls • Poppy Seed Rolls • Rosbky*

## NUT OR POPPY SEED ROLL

6 cups flour  
1 cup shortening  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 large can evaporated milk  
3 egg yolks  
1 tablespoon vanilla  
1 cake yeast  
1/4 cup lukewarm water

### Nut Filling:

1 pound walnuts, ground  
1/4 cup milk  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 cup sugar

### Poppy Seed Filling:

1 pound poppy seed, ground  
1 cup sugar  
Juice of 1/4 lemon or 1 tablespoon lemon extract  
3 tablespoons shortening  
1 cup milk

Mix flour, shortening, salt and sugar as for pie crust. Combine milk, egg yolks and vanilla and add to first mixture. Add also the yeast which has been dissolved in warm water. Work together a few minutes until dough forms into a ball. Set aside for 2-1/2 hours to rise. Divide dough into four pieces and

*continued on page 17*

# Easter Breakfast continued from page 16

roll out on slightly floured board. The dough should be about 1/4 inch thick. Spread with desired filling and roll. Bake immediately at 350° for 50 minutes.

**Filling:** Combine all ingredients for nut filling. For poppy seed filling, combine ingredients and cook for 5 minutes.

## ROSHKY

- 6 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 1 pound shortening
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1/2 pint sour cream
- 1 cake yeast
- 6 eggs beaten

**Filling:**

- 1 pound nuts, ground
  - 3 small apples, grated
  - 1 cup sugar
  - 3 egg whites, stiffly beaten
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Sift flour, salt and sugar. Cut in shortening. Add sour cream and eggs. Soften yeast in a little cream and add to first mixture. Put in refrigerator over-night. Divide dough into 4 parts. Roll out 1/4 inch thick, cut in 2-inch squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square, roll and shape into crescents. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 400°.

## PASKA (Easter Bread)

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup scalded milk
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1/4 cup sugar

- 1 cake yeast (large)
  - 4 eggs, well beaten
  - 5 cups flour (approx.)
  - 1/2 cup seedless raisins (color optional)
- Add shortening to hot milk, then salt and sugar. Dissolve and cool to lukewarm. Add crumbled yeast; stir in eggs; add flour and raisins, and knead well (about 20 minutes) until smooth and elastic. Dough should be lighter than for bread. Let rise until double in bulk. Punch down and let rise again. After it has risen for the second time put dough on board and let rest for 10 minutes. Form into round loaf to fit a 2 quart greased casserole or pan. Let rise for about 45 minutes, or until double in size. Top can be decorated with a cross made of strips of dough, braided and each end of braid pressed firmly into dough. Bake about 45 minutes at 350°.

## EASTER CHEESE (Cirak)

- 6 eggs
  - 1 quart milk
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 tablespoon sugar (more if desired)
  - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- Pour milk into saucepan and break eggs into milk, making sure each yolk is broken. Add salt, sugar and vanilla and mix. Do not cook over direct flame since this mixture scorches easily. Use a double boiler, on low heat and stir frequently. Cook slowly until mixture looks like scrambled eggs. Pour mixture into cheesecloth and tie tightly. Hang and let drain for about 1 hour. Gently squeeze cheesecloth bag to remove any excess liquid and hang for about 3 hours. Remove cheese from bag and refrigerate until cool. Decorate with cloves or pepper balls.



# Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Annual Coloring Contest

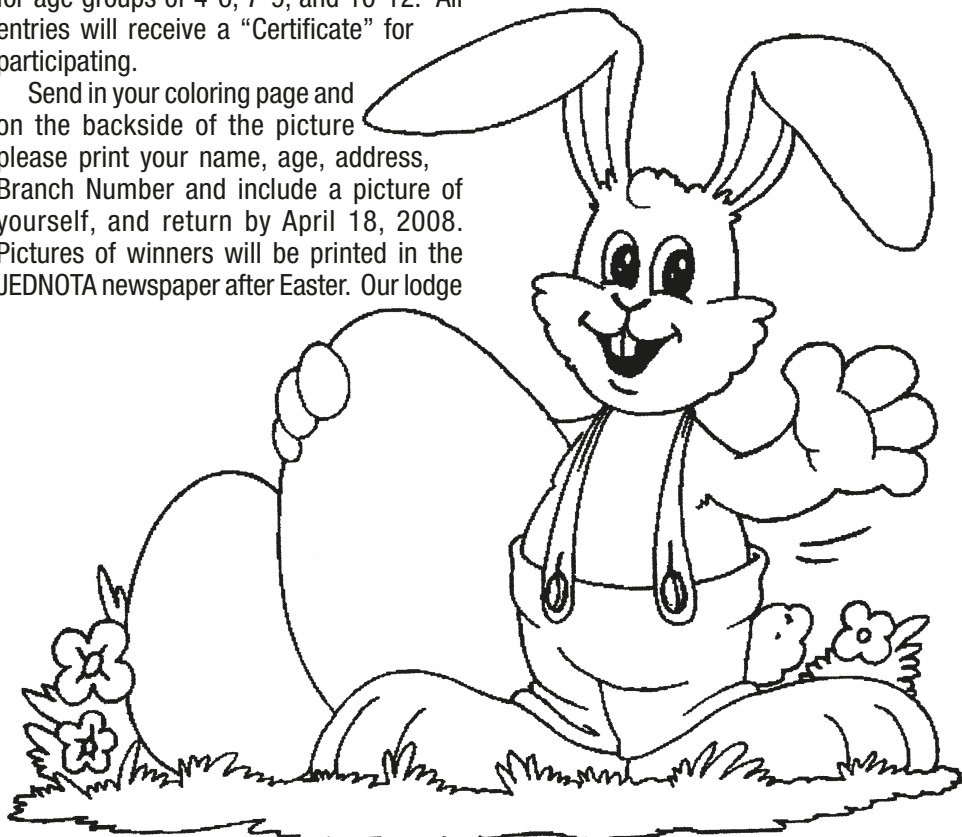
The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin is sponsoring an Easter Coloring Contest for all boys and girls from ages 4 through 12 who are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd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

Send in your coloring page and on the backside of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself, and return by April 18, 2008. Pictures of winners will be printed in the JEDNOTA newspaper after Easter. Our lodge

members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on April 20, 2008.

Mail your entries to Mrs. Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311. Good luck to all.

**Barbara Fayta, Chairperson  
Easter Coloring Contest**



# REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

continued from page 14

a sister, Connie (Tom) Cornman of Freeport. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two infant sisters, Deborah and Gabriella Kuniak.

Friends were received at the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum.. A blessing service was held at the funeral home followed by a Christian Funeral Mass in Holy Martyrs Church with the Rev. Aaron J. Kriss, his pastor, officiating. Burial was in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 320 Bilmar Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

**Kathleen Perun**

## Josephine D. Husar Branch 831 Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Josephine Delores Husar, 85, of Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, January 29, 2008, at Belaire Nursing Home, Lower Burrell.

She was born April 8, 1922, in Na-

trona, a daughter of the late Adam and Hele (Kaniecki) Rzomp. She had been a lifelong resident of the local area and was a member of St. Margaret Mary Roman Catholic Church in Lower Burrell. She enjoyed bingo and spending time with her family especially her great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her sons, John (Christine) Husar of Virginia, and Joseph (Jayne) Husar of Cape May, New Jersey; grandchildren, Justin and John Husar, Kristen (Tom) Dalrymple and Kari (William) Brown; and three great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Husar; son, James Husar; brothers, Frank and Cazimere Rzomp; and sisters, Sovie Benkie and Wanda Rzomp.

Friends were received at the Rusiewicz Funeral Home, Lower Burrell. A Christian Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Margaret Mary Church. Burial was in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell.

**Kathleen Perun**

*From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:*

## Attention: All Jednota Michigan Members Residing in Michigan

The Michigan Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program.

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is **1-800-533-6682**.



Michigan Fraternal Congress  
College Scholarship Program  
16185 Markese Avenue  
Allen Park, MI 48101-1937

Three \$500.00 non-renewable College Scholarships shall be awarded each year. The Michigan Fraternal Congress Scholarship Committee will use their discretion in selecting the honorees that are chosen. The Scholarship recipients are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

### Rules and Regulations

1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a fulltime student (minimum 12 credit hours) in an accredited two or four-year College, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following the receipt of proof of enrollment, which must be received by November 1, 2008. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible, or at the Annual MFC Meeting Banquet.

### Selection Criteria

1. Applicants must have a minimum Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 out of a 4.0. A transcript request form must be filled out and sent along with an official high school transcript (with affixed seal by the deadline).
2. An essay (maximum 100 words) will be submitted detailing volunteer activities that the individual has participated in, including dates, with their Fraternal Benefit Society and/or the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

Submit applications to **Brian Medved, Scholarship Chairperson, Michigan Fraternal Congress, 27620 Elba Drive, Grosse Ile, MI 48128 and postmarked by April 1. The winner will be notified by May 1.**

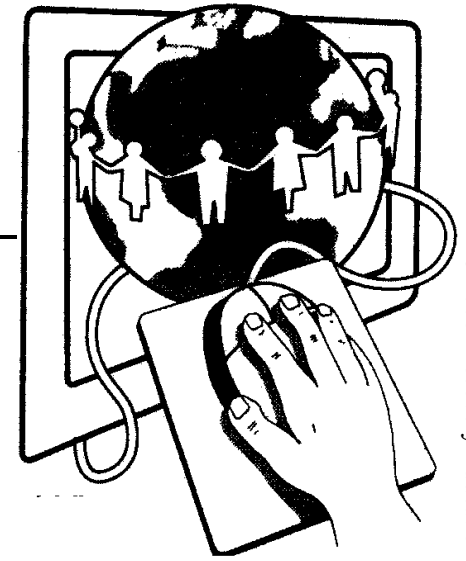
Forms are also available on our Web site: [MIFRATERNALCONGRESS.COM](http://MIFRATERNALCONGRESS.COM).





# UR\_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities Holidays

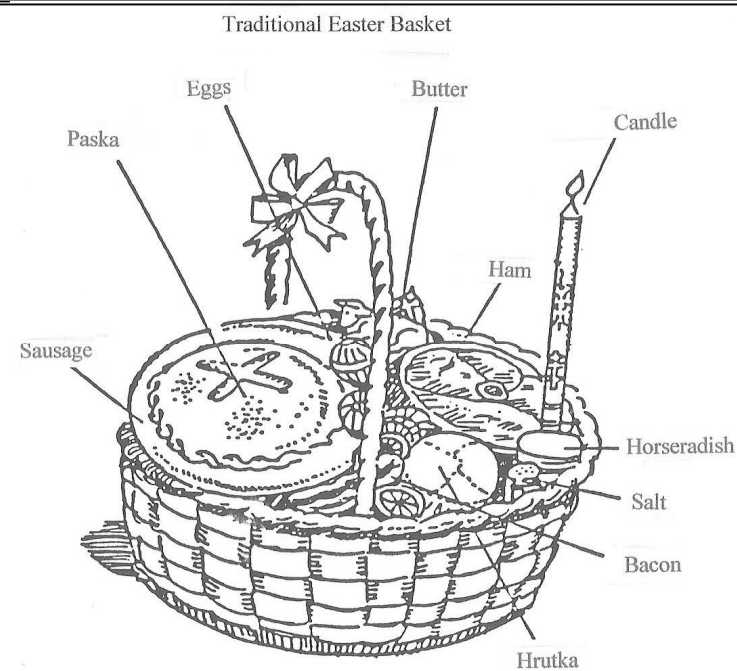


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## Holiday Space

*Prajem vám veselú Veľku noc!  
(I wish you a happy Easter!)*

This month's ur\_space.jrs will be devoted to some of the many Slovak Easter customs.



Blessing of the Easter food is traditionally done early Easter morning. The young girls take the baskets to be blessed by the parish priest before it is eaten. Special foods are placed in the baskets, each having a special meaning. This is the first meal eaten with meat since the beginning of Lent.



Easter Monday, boys wake up early in the morning. They go from house to house in the village knocking on girls' doors. When she answers, they douse her with water or sprinkle her with perfume. At the end of this little ceremony, called "oblievačka," the girl and her family present the boys with tokens of appreciation such as cookies, "kraslice," or a shot of homemade plum brandy ("šlivovica"). The "oblievačka" lasts from early morning until evening. The boys are expected to come to the girls' homes. Not coming is considered an insult to the girl and her family!

## Trivia Space

March 2008

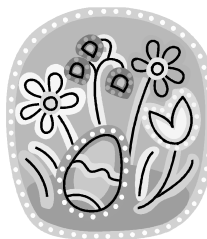
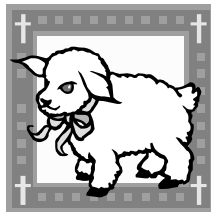
### Did you know...?

- More than 1 billion Easter eggs are hunted in the United States each year in parks, back yards, and on the White House Lawn.
- Americans spend 2 billion dollars on Easter candy, and eat 7.1 billion pounds of Easter candy each year!
- Most children (74%) eat the ears of their chocolate bunny first. 13% eat the feet first, and 10% eat the tails first.
- 60 million chocolate bunnies are sold each Easter.
- The most popular Easter candy is chocolate eggs.
- After chocolate, the most popular Easter candy is marshmallow peeps. 600 million are sold each year!
- The most favorite jellybean flavor is cherry (20%), followed by strawberry (12%), grape (10%), lime (7%), and blueberry (6%).
- 70% of kids, ages 6-11, say they prefer to eat Easter jellybeans one at a time, while 23% say they eat several at once. More boys (29%) eat a handful than girls (18%).
- 118 million Easter cards will be exchanged this year.

In Slovakia, a lot of work is put into decorating eggs. "Kraslice," as they are called, are sometimes dyed using wax to make the designs on the eggs. In some parts of Slovakia, they are also decorated with straws, yarn, and even wire.



Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR\_Space.jrs  
234 Ilion St.  
Pgh., PA 15207  
sueo99@yahoo.com



## Challenge Space

### Know your Slovak Easter Words:

Veľka noc - Easter  
Veľkonočný pozdrav - Easter greetings  
Kvetná nedeľa - Palm Sunday  
Zelený štvrtok - Holy Thursday  
Veľký piatok - Good Friday  
Biela sobota - Holy Saturday  
Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych - Jesus Christ rose from the dead.  
Šunka - ham  
Kraslice - colored Easter eggs  
Baranok - little lamb  
Križ - cross  
Paska - Easter bread  
Syrek - Easter cheese  
Klobasa - kolbassi  
Chren - horseradish  
Pôst - Lent  
Svätená Voda - holy water  
Svätenie košíkov - blessing of Easter baskets

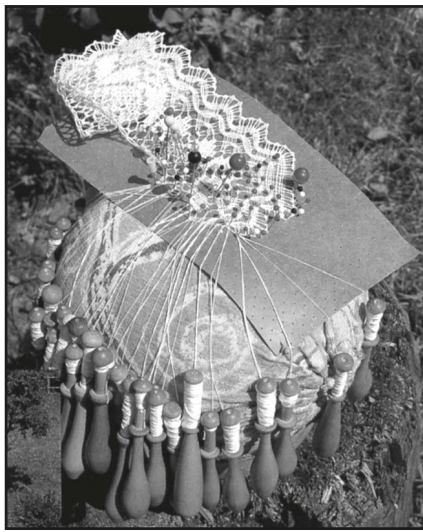
Approximately 16 billion jelly beans are produced for Easter each year. As you enjoy your jelly beans this year, think about the Jelly Bean Prayer, which goes like this...

RED is for the blood He gave,  
GREEN is for the grass He made,  
YELLOW is for the sun so bright,  
ORANGE is for the edge of night,  
BLACK is for the sins we made,  
WHITE is for the grace He gave,  
PURPLE is for His hour of sorrow,  
PINK is for our new tomorrow.



## Čipkárstvo na Slovensku nezanimá, rozvíja sa aj v mestách

Bratislava (TASR) – Čipkárkou nemusí byť len žena z dediny, pretože mnohé čipkárky môžete dnes nájsť aj v mestách. Na Slovensku existuje viac ako 40 klubov, v ktorých sa stretávajú a zdokonaľujú sa v tomto viac ako 400-ročnom remese. "Ľudia majú ľudové umenie alebo zvyky spojené s niečím, čo bolo v minulosti a čo sa spája s vidieckym alebo dedinským prostredím, ale netreba sa obávať, že ľudová kultúra zanikne," myslí si etnológ Juraj Zajonc z Ústavu etnológie Slovenskej akadémie vied. Rozdiel je podľa neho v tom, že čipkárstvo voľakedy slúžilo ako súčasť domácej výroby na zdobenie odevov a v dnešnej dobe je to skôr hobby v rámci využívania voľného času a spôsob seberealizácie. "Treba si uvedomiť, že tak, ako sa zmenil spôsob života, menia sa aj zvyky, ale určite nezanimajú," dodáva Zajonc.



Tradičná paličkovaná čipka zo Španej Doliny

V posledných desiatich rokoch vznikli na Slovensku viaceré skupiny, ktoré sa venujú paličkovaniu. Organizujú rôzne stretnutia, kurzy a výstavy a svoju prácu prezentujú aj v zahraničí. "Čipkárstvo ako také existuje dodnes na celom území Slovenska. A to nie len v tradičných centrách paličkovanej čipky ako napríklad Gemer, Spiš či Hont, ale aj mimo nich" vysvetľuje etnológ. Podľa jeho ďalších slov je toto umenie nevyčerpatelným zdrojom inšpirácií, pretože práve na Slovensku sa od jeho vzniku stretávajú podnety z celej Európy. Čipka ako taká nemá totiž svoj pôvod na Slovensku, dostala sa sem najmä zo západnej Európy. "Spojením viacerých prvkov, ktoré sem prišli z Belgicka, Nemecka, ale aj iných štátov, vznikli jedinečné a špecifické čipky," upozorňuje Zajonc. Slovensko je zaujímavé tým, že tu v minulosti bolo až 18 špecifických typov paličkovanej čipky. Tieto neboli viazané len na banícke prostredie ako napríklad v Nemecku, ale aj na roľnícke. "Práve v dnešnej dobe sa snažia čipkárky dopátrať ku koreňom tohto textilného remesla a zisťujú, že podobné vzory, aké poznajú zo slovenských ľudových čipiek boli známe pred sto alebo aj štyristo rokmi v Belgicku či v Taliansku. To znamená, že mnoho vecí nevzniklo na území Slovenska, ale boli sem prinesené," konštatuje ďalej Zajonc s tým, že dnešné čipkárky ich začínajú rozvíjať, vďaka čomu vznikajú nové jedinečné veci, ktoré už možno označiť za slovenské. Rozvoj paličkovania však neprebíha len v amatérskej tvorbe. Napríklad výtvarníčka Elena Holeczyová vytvorila samostatnú líniu textilného umenia, tzv. paličkované tapisérie. Podľa vysvetlenia etnológa ide neraz o obrazy s rozmermi aj niekoľkých metrov. "Škoda len, že aj ona je známa skôr v zahraničí ako doma," uzatvára Zajonc.

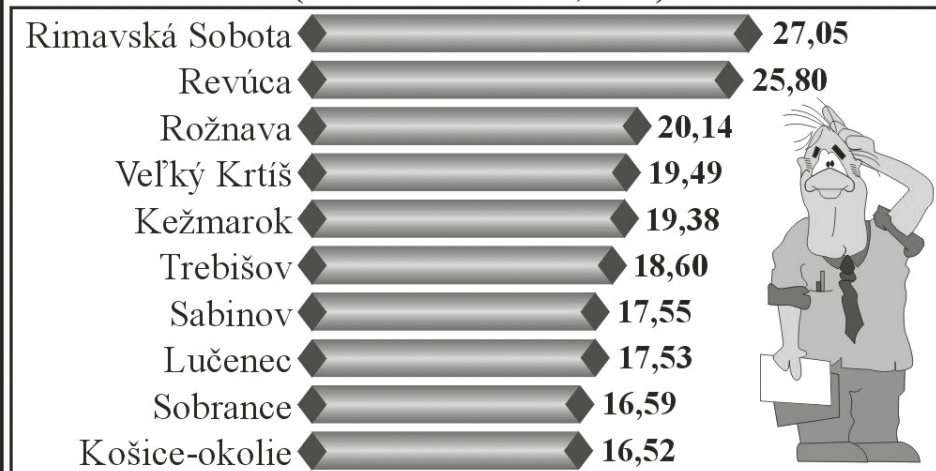
## Pri piesni Kto za pravdu horí vztýčili vlajku prvej SNR

Bratislava (TASR) – Pred Národnou radou (NR) SR 28. januára za spevu hymnickej piesne Kto za pravdu horí slávnostne vztýčili červeno-bielu vlajku prvej Slovenskej národnej rady. V tomto roku si Slováci pripomínajú 160 rokov od jej vzniku v dome vdovy Koleniovej na Myjave.

Slávnostnému aktu predchádzalo stretnutie koordinačného výboru zloženého z reprezentantov kancelárie NR SR, Slovenskej akadémie vied, Slovenského národného múzea, Matice slovenskej, Vojenského historického ústavu a mesta Myjavy. Spoločne vypracovali zoznam podujatí, ktoré by mali lemoviť rok 2008. Ten chce predseda parlamentu Pavol Paška na nadchádzajúcej schôdzi vyhlásiť práve rok prvej SNR. Paška sa nazdáva, že práve parlamentné zriadenie, pri ktorom sa moc vykonáva prostredníctvom zástupcov ľudu, je ideálne pre ochranu ľudských práv a demokracie.

## Okresy SR s najvyššou nezamestnanosťou

(za december 2007, v %)



Graf: TASR

Zdroj: ÚPSVAR

TASR 16. januára 2007

Okresy Slovenskej republiky s najvyššou nezamestnanosťou (za december 2007, v %)

## Fašiangy sú pre Dolnosúčanov tradičnou oslavou

Dolná Súča (TASR) – Oslava fašiangov v Dolnej Súči v okrese Trenčín patrí už k niekoľkoročnej tradícii. Občania môžu pri tejto príležitosti ochutnať aj zabijačkové špeciality a varené víno, skonštatoval starosta obce Dolná Súča Marián Vaško. "Dnešné fašiangové odpoľudnie je o to vzácnejšie, že sa koná zároveň aj pri príležitosti pripomenutia si na 800. výročia od prvej písomnej zmienky," uviedol starosta. Napriek tomu, že oslava fašiangov mala v minulosti menšiu prestávkou, obecný úrad v spolupráci s kultúrnou komisiou túto tradíciu opäť obnovili. "Ide už o šiesty ročník takéhoto podujatia," uviedol Vaško.

Ani tento rok na oslavách nechýbal folklórny súbor Latovec, ktorý prešiel spolu s maskami v sprievode okolo námestia. S fašiangami sa lúčili občania

Dolnej Súče už v minulosti. Na fašiangovej zábave museli chlapi dievčatá dobre vytancovať, aby narástlo veľké konope. Chudobnejší ľudia chodili po dedine s ražňami a ľudia im na ne napichovali slaninku. Nasledovalo slávnostné pochovanie basy so sprievodom. V minulosti boli takéto oslavy sponzornejšie a menej strojené. V súvislosti s výročím obce boli zaradené do programu aj rôzne súťaže napríklad v rezaní dreva a jedení koláčov. Na podujatí vystúpili folklórny súbor Latovec z Dolnej Súče, dychová hudba Drotárik z Dolnej Súče, dychová hudba Večernica z Trenčianskej Turnej a mužský spevácky zbor z Hornej Súče. Celý program pokračoval večernou zábavou na ktorú prišli ľudia oblečení v krojoch a maskách.

## Mladí prekladatelia získajú pobyt v Bruseli

Bratislava (SITA) – Dvadsaťsedem mladých prekladateľov, výhercov súťaže "Jvenes Translatores" z členských štátov EÚ, navštívi v marci Brusel. Slovenskou víťazkou tejto súťaže sa stala Martina Mašanová z Obchodnej akadémie v Trnave. Mladí študenti získajú v Bruseli diplom priamo z rúk komisára EÚ pre viacjazyčnosť Leonarda Orbana. Navštívia EK a stretnú sa s profesionálnymi prekladateľmi európskej legislatívy a politických dokumentov. Osobitné uznanie udelia aj tým študentom, ktorých preklady boli hodnotené ako výnimočne kvalitné, aj keď vo svojej krajine nezískali prvenstvo.

Pilotný projekt Jvenes Translatores sa uskutočnil v novembri minulého roka vo všetkých členských štátoch EÚ. Súťažiaci si mohli vybrať jeden z 23 rôznych textov venovaných tematike

cestovného ruchu, ktorý mali za dve hodiny preložiť do ktoréhokoľvek ďalšieho úradného jazyka EÚ. Kombinácie vybraných východiskových a cieľových jazykov tak spolu pokryli až 134 jazykových kombinácií. Súťažná porota, pozostávajúca zo 126 prekladateľov Generálneho riaditeľstva pre preklad, sa usilovala nájsť najlepšie preklad z každého členského štátu - dokopy posúdila viac ako 1,300 textov. Keďže všeobecná úroveň prekladov bola veľmi dobrá, hodnotenie poroty nebolo vôbec ľahké, uvádza sa v tlačovej správe. Zoznam víťazov spolu s ich víťaznými prekladmi je zverejnených na internetovej stránke. <http://ec.europa.eu/translatores>.

## Keď sa povie: Za našich čias

Stará mama tu už so mnou dnes nie je. Jej slová a skutky však ostávajú stále živé. Akoby to bolo dnes, čo som sedela starej mame na kolenách a počúvala jej rozprávanie. "My sme žili úplne ináč ako teraz. Nemali sme toľko možností, ani vzdelávať sme sa nemohli, lebo bolo treba doma robiť." Často ma rozčuľovala tá jej veta: "To za našich čias..." Vždy som sa zmohla iba na: "Ale teraz je iná doba." S odstupom času, keď sa nad jej slovami zamýšľam, vidím veci v úplne inom svetle.

V dnešnej dobe si môžeme kúpiť mobil iba "za korunu", máme počítače a ďalšie výtobytky moderných technológií. Chýbajú nám však hodnoty, ktoré sú cennejšie pre našu duchovnú radosť a šťastný život. "Aká bola tá ich doba?" Život bol oveľa ťažší, ale naši starí rodičia skutočne žili, a nie iba prežívali. Nemali mobilné telefóny, boli si však navzájom omnoho bližší ako my dnes. Kedysi sa ľudia stretávali pri práci na poli, pri spoločnej modlitbe pri zábave, naozaj komunikovali.

A čo naše domovy? Máme príbytky akoby z rozprávky, ale sú prázdne. Každý sa zatvorí za dverami svojej izby a s nápisom: Nepovolaným vstup zakázaný. V minulosti ľudia žili v malých domčekoch, niekedy aj viac rodín spoločne. Nechýbalo im však šťastie a vzájomná blízkosť. To boli skutočné domovy, z ktorých sálalo rodinné teplo. Mnohí z našich starých rodičov nemali ani základnú školu, ale ich múdrosť ducha je s nami dodnes. Boli nevzdelaní, ale ako potom vznikali ľudové rozprávky a mnohé stavby, ktoré sú dnes kultúrnymi pamiatkami? Tieto diela sú školou našich starých rodičov.

Nikto od nás nechce, aby sme sa teraz odsťahovali do jaskyne, zahodili svoje mobily a žili ako v dávnych časoch. Naopak, táto doba prináša nové možnosti od nás sa žiada, aby sme ich správne využívali. Konajme tak, aby sme aj my mohli raz odvážne povedať: "Za našich čias..."

Zuzana Romančáková  
Katolícke noviny

## Cirkev na Slovensku už vyše 1100-ročná

Bratislava (TASR) – Cirkev na Slovensku má v spoločnosti čestné miesto už vyše 1100 rokov. Prvá diecéza bola zriadená v Nitre. Po niektorých misionárskych aktivitách pochádzajúcich najmä z franského územia a po príchode byzantskej misie pápež Ján VIII. v roku 880 na žiadosť kniežaťa Svätopluka zriadil v Nitre diecézu, ktorej biskup bol sufragánom (podriadený) arcibiskupa metropolitu Metoda. Po jeho smrti (v roku 885) bola s najväčšou pravdepodobnosťou podriadená sv. Gorazdovi, ktorého si sám Metod vybral za nástupcu. Aj keď Katolícka cirkev na Slovensku jedno tisícročie administratívne závisela od biskupov sídlacích na území dnešného Maďarska (na slovenskom území bol iba biskup v Nitre), na mnohých biskupských stolcoch v Uhorsku pôsobili biskupi pochádzajúci z nášho územia. K Ostrihomskému arcibiskupstvu patrilo územie západného a stredného Slovenska až po Spiš a Gemer. Východné Slovensko patrilo k biskupstvu v Jagri (Eger). Tento stav cirkevnej jurisdikcie na slovenskom území trval skoro bez zmeny do druhej polovice 18. storočia. Dňa 15. marca 1776 pápež Pius VI. na žiadosť Márie Terézie zriadil tri nové biskupstvá na území Slovenska - Banskobystrické, Spišské a Rožňavské. Zároveň sa upravili hranice Nitrianskeho biskupstva. Biskupstvo v Košiciach zriadili 10. augusta 1804. Pred vyše 30 rokmi, 30. decembra 1977, pápež Pavol VI. zriadil

Slovenskú cirkevnú provinciu a povýšil Trnavskú apoštolskú administratúru na stupeň diecézy a zároveň ju vyzdvihol na hodnosť metropolitného sídla. Podriadil mu diecézu banskobystrickú, košickú, nitrianskú, rožňavskú a spišskú. Pápež Ján Pavol VI. zriadil 31. marca 1995 na Slovensku novú cirkevnú provinciu so sídlom v Košiciach.

Prešovské gréckokatolícke biskupstvo vzniklo v roku 1818 vyčlenením z Mukačevského biskupstva. Na základe rozhodnutia pápeža Benedikta XVI. vznikla 30. januára 2008 na území Slovenska aj gréckokatolícke provincia. Prešovská eparchia bola povýšená na arcibiskupstvo, Košický apoštolský exarchár na eparchiu a vznikla aj nová Bratislavská eparchia.

Rímskokatolícka cirkev na Slovensku sa člení na dve cirkevné provincie - Západnú provinciu a Východnú provinciu. Podľa najnovšej reorganizácie cirkvi zo 14. februára 2008 sú v Slovenskej republike tri rímskokatolícke arcidiecézy (Bratislavská, Trnavská a Košická). V diecézach je spolu 1,482 kňazov. Podľa cirkevnej štatistiky z roku 2006 v Katolíckej cirkvi aktívne pôsobi 18 biskupov, 2,397 diecéznych kňazov, 577 rehoľných kňazov, 18 trvalých diakonov, 511 seminaristov (387 diecéznych a 124 rehoľných), 722 rehoľníkov - nekňazov a 2,649 rehoľníčok, informovala Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS).

## Obavy zo zdražovania po zavedení eura na Slovensku

Bratislava (TASR) – Obava občanov, že po zavedení eura v roku 2009 ceny na Slovensku výrazne vzrastú, je podľa riaditeľa Odboru výskumu Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) Martina Šustera sice legitímna, ale do veľkej miery neopodstatnená. Ľudia sa podľa neho obávajú najmä toho, že po priamom prepočítaní cien dôjde k ich zaokrúhleniu nahor, alebo že obchodníci po zavedení eura neprimerane zvýšia ceny. Často však ide o neopodstatnené obavy, keďže po zavedení eura dochádza najmä k subjektívnemu vnímaniu zvýšenia cien. "Odkedy sa euro zaviedlo, v eurozóne je v priemere inflácia okolo 2%," povedal Šuster pre TASR. Ceny podľa neho stúpnu najmä v sektoroch, kde je nižšia konkurencia. "Konkrétne sú to kaviarne, hotely, reštaurácie, niektoré služby, kde ceny po zavedení eura rástli o 8 až 10% v porovnaní s dvojpercentnou infláciou v priemere," povedal.

Naopak, po zavedení eura by nemali vzrásť a možno aj poklesnú ceny elektroniky a nemali by sa zvyšovať ani náklady na bývanie. K zvýšeniu inflácie po zavedení euromeny často dochádza najmä kvôli tomu, že ceny sa pred zavedením umelo tlačia nadol. "V tých

prvých 12 krajinách eurozóny, keď vyčíslíme, koľko mohol byť príspevok zavedenia eura k inflácii, tak je to niekde medzi 0.1 až 0.3%." To je podľa Šustera číslo, s ktorým sa bude musieť vyrovnáť aj Slovensko. V Slovinsku, ktoré zaviedlo euromenu v roku 2007, prispelo euro k inflácii až 0.5%. "Nedá sa ešte presne povedať, čo v Slovinsku spôsobilo to, že prechod na euro mal vyšší vplyv ako inde, ale podľa dostupných štúdií to bol dôsledok toho, že tam konkurencia napríklad v maloobchode nebola taká silná," uviedol Šuster a dodal, že na Slovensku takáto situácia nehrozí. V Slovinsku to bolo podľa neho aj kvôli veľkej vlne nadšenia, ktorá spôsobila, že obchodníci sa na chvíľu prispôbili a ceny nezvyšovali, čo následne kompenzovali po zavedení novej meny. SR pred nárastom inflácie po zavedení eura varovala aj Európska komisia (EK). Dôvodom sú zvyšujúce sa ceny potravín a energií, silný hospodársky rast a slabnúce vplyvy posilňovania koruny v uplynulom období. Zatiaľ čo minuloročná miera inflácie v SR bola 1.7%, tento rok sa očakáva jej nárast na 2.5% a v budúcom roku na 3.0%.

'Keď sa tešíš, otváraš srdcia; keď nariekaš, zatváraš ich. Boh je Bohom radosti. Radosť je teda pravým postojom nábožného človeka.'

Sv. František Saleský

## Čo vieme o veľkonočných symboloch?

### OHĚŇ

Oheň je symbolom nadšenia, zapálenia sa za niečo, lásky. Boh sa zjavil Mojžišovi v horiacom kri (Ex 3,2). Ján Krstiteľ hlása: "Po mne príde ten, ktorý bude krstiť ohňom" (Lk 3,16). A napokon zoslanie Ducha Svätého zažijú apoštoli vo forme "ohnivých jazykov" (Sk 2,3).

Oheň je čistý, spáli všetko, čo je zlé. Ak si od neho odpálime, odoberieme, nezmenší sa. Má aj liečebnú silu (vypaľovanie rán). Jeho plameň svieti, hreje a smeruje vždy nahor.

Kedysi ľudia zhášali v dome na Veľký piatok všetky svetlá, ba aj oheň v peci a nový oheň si prinášali zo slávnosti vzkriesenia. Od ohňa, sväteného vo veľkonočnú vigíliu sa zapaluje veľkonočná svieca a od nej všetky sviece prítomných, kráčajúcich v sprievode do chrámu, ktorý bol tiež zahalený do tmy.

### VEL'KONOČNÁ SVIECA (PAŠKAL)

Veľkonočná svieca symbolizuje samého Ježiša Krista. Zdobí sa znakmi jeho rán - podľa rán ho učeníci spoznali po zmŕtvychvstaní. Horí na oltároch až do Nanebovstúpenia a pri všetkých slávnostiach.

### VODA

Voda je symbol života. Bez nej život nie je možný. Voda rozpúšťa niektoré látky, čistí, občerstvuje. Nemá pevnú formu, je tekutá, preto je symbolom ľudskej pomínuteľnosti. (Kňaz mieša vodu s vínom pri sv. omši, aby splynula pri premenení s Ježišovou božskou prirodzenosťou.)

Ježiš Kristus vstúpil do vôd Jordánu a dal sa pokrstiť. Odvtedy voda, symbol zachovania pozemského života, stala sa aj symbolom zachovania človeka pre život večný, symbolom milosti Božej.

### KRÍŽ

Kríž je symbol nášho vykúpenia, hoci Peržania urobili z neho (pre podobnosť tvaru so stavbou ľudského tela) nástroj smrti. Pre kresťanov je symbolom víťazstva nad smrťou, odpustenia hriechov, a teda nielen telesného zmŕtvychvstania na konci čias, lež aj vyslobodenia z moci hriechu.

### BARÁNOK

Baránok je vrchol všetkých veľkonočných symbolov. Predstavuje nevinnosť tichosť. Odkedy sv. Ján Krstiteľ poukázal na Ježiša Krista slovami "Ajhľa, Baránok Boží, ktorý sníma hriechy sveta!", je baránok symbolom kresťanstva vôbec.

K veľkonočným symbolom patria ešte iné veci a zvyky, ktoré však dnes už nemajú nič do činenia s liturgiou Bielej Soboty.

Eva Plešková, "Mladý Slovák"

## Minister Ján Kubiš ukončil pracovnú návštevu USA

Bratislava (TASR) – Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš ukončil v piatok 15. februára pracovnú návštevu Washingtonu pracovnými stretnutiami s generálnym tajomníkom OSN Pan Ki-munom, a ministerkou zahraničných vecí USA Condoleeou Riceovou. Rozhovor s najvyšším predstaviteľom OSN sa týkal aktuálnych otázok súvisiacich s riešením statusu Kosova a vývoja v Afganistane. Generálny tajomník OSN sa v rozhovore vrátil ku svojej nedávnej návšteve Slovenska, pričom vysoko ocenil jej priebeh a úroveň rozhovorov, ktoré so slovenskými predstaviteľmi absolvoval.

S ministerkou Riceovou slovenský minister zahraničných vecí taktiež hovoril o najaktuálnejších zahraničnopolitických otázkach, s dôrazom na vývoj v Kosove a Afganistane. Vo vzťahu ku Kosovu minister Kubiš priblížil partnerke pozíciu SR. Debatovali aj o problematike bezvízového programu USA. V tejto súvislosti spomenuli, že SR je na dobrej ceste v plnení kritérií požadovaných na zaradenie krajiny do programu a povzbudivý je aj klesajúci trend percenta zamietnutých žiadostí o víza.

Vo štvrtok 14. februára absolvoval minister Kubiš rokovania so zástupcom poradcu prezidenta USA pre otázky národnej bezpečnosti Jamesom Jeffreyem a tiež s viacerými členmi Kongresu USA, vrátane predsedu podvýboru pre Európu zahraničného výboru Snemovne reprezentantov Roberta Wexlera. Okrem zahraničnopolitických otázok bola zo strany ministra Kubiša na všetkých stretnutiach s americkými partnermi otvorená tiež otázka začlenenia Slovenska do bezvízového programu USA.

V rámci programu pracovnej návštevy USA sa minister Kubiš v Agentúre pre protiraketovú obranu pôsobiacej pod americkým ministerstvom obrany podrobnejšie oboznámil s aspektami projektu protiraketovej obrany, ktorej komponenty plánuje americká strana vybudovať aj v strednej Európe. Na pozvanie združenia Friends of Slovakia absolvoval Ján Kubiš aj pracovnú večeru s predstaviteľmi viacerých amerických firiem (US Steel, Boeing), s ktorými diskutoval o možnostiach vzájomnej spolupráce.

*Kristus je nám vrcholom aj v láske k vlasti.*

*Bez Krista by sme sa stali v láske k vlasti*

*iba pažravými nacionalistami.*

*Láska k svojej sa musí vyhnúť nenávisťi  
oproti príslušníkom inej národnosti a iného štátu.*

*Jozef Tiso, 1941*

## Zahraniční turisti najčastejšie navštevujú Tatry a veľké mestá

Bratislava (TASR) – Zahraniční turisti najčastejšie na Slovensku navštevujú Vysoké Tatry a Spiš, Košice a Bratislavu. Dokazujú to oficiálne štatistické údaje, ale tie sú nepresné. Vyjadrujú totiž iba registrovaných turistov v ubytovacom zariadení, kde strávia aspoň jednu noc. Zvyčajne ich sprevádzajú sprievodcovia cestovného ruchu (CR), aj keď Košice potvrdili, že dopyt po službách sprievodcov nestúpa adekvátne rýchlo. Zabúda sa však na individuálnych turistov, ktorí prichádzajú na Slovensko iba na niekoľko hodín alebo pol dňa a nikto ich neviduje. Uviedli to zástupcovia Slovenskej spoločnosti sprievodcov pre cestovný ruch (SSSCR) 18. februára na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave. Jej témou bol Svetový deň sprievodcov, ktorý spadá na 21. februára.

Predseda SSSCR Marián Bilačič uviedol, že kým vo veľkých mestách sprievodcovia nechýbajú, Gemer už signalizuje nedostatok sprievodcov. Preto hľadajú sprievodcov, ktorí by mali čas a disponovali požadovanou kvalifikáciou a osvedčením na sprevádzanie

návštevníkov v tejto lokalite. Pripomenul, že značný dopyt po sprievodcoch vykazujú kúpeľné zariadenia, vysokohorské oblasti a veľké mestá. Tam sprievodcovia ponúkajú prehliadky konkrétneho mesta alebo destinácie spojené popularizáciou ich kultúrneho a prírodného dedičstva. Neraz túto prácu vykonávajú aj osoby bez osvedčenia sprievodcu. Tomu sa SSSCR nebráni, ide o voľnú súťaž na trhu sprievodcov, dodal Bilačič.

Okrem peších a panoramatických výprav sprievodcovia vybavujú aj individuálnych návštevníkov, ktorí sa chcú oboznámiť iba s jedným špeciálnym produktom, napr. miestnou architektúrou, vinárstvom či remeslami. Zástupcovia SSSCR upozornili, že vytváranie malých skupín turistov alebo jednotlivcov s požiadavkou na špeciálneho sprievodcu je svetovým trendom. Ide o ústup od hromadnej turistiky k individuálnej. Aj na Slovensku fungujú dopravcovia nepravidelnej dopravy a sprievodcovia, ktorí dokážu takéto požiadavky cudzincov splniť, dodal Bilačič.

## Prerozdelenie rímskokatolíckych diecéz na Slovensku

Bratislava (TASR) – Na Slovensku vznikne z poverenia pápeža Benedikta XVI. nová Bratislavská metropolitná arcidiecéza, na ktorej čele bude stáť Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Na čele novej Žilinskej diecézy bude pôsobiť Mons. Tomáš Galis. Na brífingu to 14. februára predstavila Konferencia biskupov Slovenska. Osobitný vyslanec a legát pápeža Benedikta XVI. kardinál Jozef Tomko informoval, že pápež v rámci ďalších zmien ponechal Trnave titul arcidiecéza, schválil zmeny hraníc diecéz a dvoch cirkevných provincií - Bratislavsko-trnavskej a Košickej. Bratislavskej metropolitnej bude podriadená arcidiecéza Trnavská a diecézy Banskobystrická a Žilinská. "Biskup dnes musí sídlieť tak, aby bol dostupný a prístupný pre veriacich. Na Slovensku to bolo o to viac potrebné, že naša cirkevná organizácia je stará," uviedol Tomko. Podľa Mons. Rudolfa Baláža sa delenie rímskokatolíckych diecéz pripravovalo od roku 2002 a pri zvažovaní alternatív bol jedným z dôvodov pastoračný rozmer - teda prístupnosť biskupov, otcov, pastierov diecéz, aby neboli "hradným pánom, ktorý sa ukáže len na veľké sviatky," uviedol Baláž, ktorý bol koordinátorom akcie.

## Láska zahraničného Slováka k národu

Michal Švoňavec

Slovensko, drahá rodná vlasť moja, srdce a duša sú mi pýchou naplnené, kedykoľvek sa vrhám do urputného boja, aby obhajoval tvoje meno zhanobené.

I keď som ťa stratil pre zlobu ľudí a potom sa túlal svetom bez matky, aj po rokoch ma láska k tebe budí, lebo po utrpení už nie je pamiatky.

Zadlho som upieral zrak k Tatrám, z ich veľkoleposti som sa chcel učiť. Doteraz po dejinách národa pátram, lebo s jeho hrdinami treba sa nám zlúčiť.

A rodoľubov bolo v minulosti neúrekom, len pre ich obeť sa ľud zachránil. Stáročia boli poznačené matiek nárekom, veď mŕtvy už slobodu národa nebránili.

Keď zora slobody zasvitla nad Slovenskom, vtedy sa liali slzy radosti každému. Z úpenlivej túžby, nie ozbrojeným vojskom vznikol štát a potom rozhodnutím snemu.

Na čelo štátu bol zvolený Jozef Tiso, jeho spolupracovníci verili v jeho um.

Ak sa Nemeč v Berlíne pýtal: "Wie so?!"

Slováci mu na to: "Auch jetzt sind Sie dumm?" \*\*

Prezident Tiso chránil národ od ujmy, vytvoril predpoklady hospodárskeho rozmachu. Preňho národ a štát boli rozdielne pojmy, sebedomie ľudu povzniesol z prachu.

Keď komunistické hordy zdeptali štát a vláda s prezidentom sa dostala do Rakúska, celý národ v nových pomeroch sa začínal báť, lebo pravdy a mravnosti nezostalo ani kúska.

Slovač v zahraničí sa domáhala slobody pre národ od mocnárov Západu, ktorí ju mali brániť. Tí však na mysli mali utečencov "prerod", aby prestali konečne "demokraciu" raniť.

Dlho trvalo, kým pravda vyšla na povrch a politici sa vymotali zo svojich predstáv. Po zrútení sa Sovietskeho zväzu exulantov tok donútil zástancov "demokracie" vzdať sa svojich obáv.

Útek pred komunizmom značil lásku k slobode, ktorá bola krute potláčaná za Železnou oponou.

Len teraz sa javí, že Slovač je v akejsi zhode s politikmi, čo ju fotografovali s tmavou clonou.

\* Ako je to možné?

\*\* Aj teraz ste hlúpy.

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Členská schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Pozývame všetkých členov ako aj delegátov spolkov v našom okolí na členskú schôdzu Okresu Princa Pribinu v nedeľu 16. marca 2008. Slávnosť sa začne o 11:00 hodine ráno slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni.

Deti, ktoré sa zúčastnia poznávacieho putovného tábora na Slovensku a ich rodičia, budú mať príležitosť sa zoznámiť s pedagogickým vedúcim skupiny z Los Angeles.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

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

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu 6. apríla 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New Yorku City.

Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a diskusia o návrhoch na ďalšiu činnosť. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto schôdzi zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku, že v nedeľu dňa 20. apríla 2008 o 12:30 hodine sa uskutoční po slovenskej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66-tej ulici členská schôdza. Láskaovo žiadame všetkých našich členov o hojnú účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

## Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v N.Y.C.

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku pripravuje za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Spolku sv. Štefana, Spolku sv. Matúša, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických slovenských spolkov, Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti na ktorú si dovoľuje srdečne pozvať širokú slovenskú verejnosť z New Yorku a okolia. Oslava sa bude konať 30. marca 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66th Street, New York City.

Program sa začne modlitbou farára Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Rev. Martina Svitaňa, americká a slovenská hymna zaznie v podaní skupiny Kontakty. Program otvorí a pred-

stavi hostí predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy, Milan Dait. Básne prednesie Henrieta Daitová - Andrej Sládkovič: Naša haňba ľud môj; Gorazd Zvonický: Naš Prvý prezident. Slávnostná reč zaznie na tému: Právo Slovákov na sebaurčenie národa a štátnosti. O hudobnú vložku sa postarajú Renáta Jurášiová spolu s Jozefom Ivaškom. Za tým odznejú pozdravy oficiálnych hostí a diskusia. Na záver prehovorí tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá. Na koniec programu sa zaspieva God Bless America a Hej Slováci. Po programe bude otvorený bar a možnosť zakúpenia dobrého slovenského občerstvenia. Vstup je voľný. O bližšie informácie volajte na telefónne čísla: Milan Dait: (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bílik: (718) 463-2084.

## Vo Zvolene pracovisko Univerzity OSN

Zvolen (TASR) – Výskumno-vzdelávacie pracovisko Univerzity OSN (UNU), ako zatiaľ jediné v strednej a východnej Európe, by malo vzniknúť onedlho vo Zvolene. Jeho odborným zameraním bude krajina a zdravé ekosystémy. Ako pre TASR povedal rektor Technickej univerzity (TU) vo Zvolene Ján Tuček, Univerzita OSN je medzinárodné združenie akademikov, podieľajúcich sa na výskume, postgraduálnej výučbe a šírení informácií na podporu mierových a rozvojových snáh OSN. "Zriadenie pracoviska Univerzity OSN vo Zvolene podporila aj slovenská vláda," pripomenul rektor. Zvolenské pracovisko by malo mať približne desiatku zamestnancov. Ich úlohou bude predovšetkým organizovať v krajine doktorandské pobyty študentov z rozvojových krajín. TU by pri naplňaní

tohto cieľa mala spolupracovať aj s ďalšími slovenskými univerzitami ako Poľnohospodárskou univerzitou v Nitre či Univerzitou Komenského v Bratislave, ale aj so Slovenskou akadémiou vied. Vznik pracoviska by sa mal zmluvne ukotviť v dohľadnej dobe po návšteve rektora UNU na Slovensku. Charta UNU bola prijatá v roku 1973 a univerzita začala činnosť o dva roky neskôr. UNU dnes disponuje 14 výskumnými a školicimi pracoviskami v rôznych častiach sveta. Financovaná je výlučne z dobrovoľných príspevkov vlád, nadácií a súkromných darcov. Podľa výročnej správy UNU za rok 2006 príspevky na rok dosiahli 24,5 milióna USD. Univerzita mala 353 zamestnancov. Jej centrálné sídlo je v Tokiu.

# Gréckokatolíci slávilí povýšenie svojej cirkvi na metropolitnú

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Babjaka do úradu uviedol a homíliu predniesol kardinál Leonardo Sandri, prefekt Kongregácie pre východné cirkvi. Novému arcibiskupovi odovzdal ikonu Krista a žezlo metropolitu. Sandri zdôraznil, že gréckokatolícka cirkev bola na niekoľko desiatok rokov na Slovensku umlčaná, paralyzovaná, avšak ako veľmi skúšané spoločenstvo prežilo rôzne prieky svetskej moci. Po roku 1990 došlo k nevídanej obrode cirkvi a napríklad traja zo štyroch novodobých svätcov na Slovensku sú z tohto spoločenstva - biskupi Pavol Peter Gojdič a Vasil Hopko a rehoľník Metod Dominik Trčka. Súčasťou slávnosti bola archijerská sv. liturgia sv. Bazila Veľkého, ktorá sa slávi len pri výnimočných udalostiach v liturgickom roku gréckokatolíckych veriacich. Časť obradu viedli knazi v staroslovienskom jazyku na znak vernosti cirkvi byzantskému ritu. Účastníkmi slávnosti boli ďalší traja kardináli Ľubomyr Huzár, Stanislav Dziwisz a Jozef Tomko, vyše 30 arcibiskupov a biskupov aj z Rumunska, Ukrajiny a USA vrátane predsedu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska Františka Tondru a vrcholných predstaviteľov Pravoslávnej cirkvi na Slovensku a Východného dištriktu Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania so sídlami v Prešove.

Ján Babjak sa narodil v roku 1953, v poradí ôsmym prešovským biskupom sa stal v roku 2003. Za heslo svojej misie si zvolil slová zo Svätého Písma Vy ste chrám živého Boha. Je mníchom, študoval v Bratislave a Ríme, pracoval aj vo Vatikánskom rozhlasu v Ríme. Na múre haly, v ktorej sa liturgia konala, je pamätná tabuľa na znak toho, že v júli 1995 tu pod holým nebom pred státisícmi veriacich slúžil sv. liturgiu vtedajší pápež Ján Pavol II. Súčasťou slávnosti bola v sobotu 16. februára v Prešove vysviacka prvého gréckokatolíckeho bratislavského eparchu Petra Rusnáka. V pondelok 18. februára bola v katedrále Narodenia Presvätej Bohorodičky v Košiciach pripravená slávnosť povýšenia exarchátu v Košiciach na biskupstvo a uvedenie doterajšieho exarchu Milana Chautura do úradu biskupa. Gréckokatolícke vyznanie má podľa sčítania obyvateľstva v roku 2001, 219 831 ľudí v SR, z toho 121 188 v Prešovskom kraji a 84 002 v Košickom kraji.

## Kardináli videli živú cirkev, plnú sily a aktivity

Živú cirkev, plnú sily a aktivity videli na slávnosti povýšenia Gréckokatolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku na metropolitnú štyria kardináli. Na tomto dojme sa zhodli počas tlačovej konferencie po skončení liturgických obradov. Kardinál Leonardo Sandri, prefekt Kongregácie pre východné cirkvi, ktorý intronizoval v mene pápeža Benedikta XVI. arcibiskupa metropolitu prešovského Jána Babjaka, pochválil aj priebeh ceremónie. Pripomenul, že predchádzajúci Svätý Otec Ján Pavol II. podporoval gréckokatolícku cirkev aj v časoch, keď bola v nemilosti komunistického režimu. Preto cítil istú vďačnosť účastníkov slávnosti Svätému Otcovi. Podľa neho v tejto miestnej cirkvi zostane prvok vernosti Rímu naďalej prítomný. Na vzťah poľského pápeža ku gréckokatolíkom si spomenul aj krakovský arcibiskup kardinál Stanislav Dziwisz, ktorý bol s ním v Prešove v roku 1995. Podčiarkol túžbu Jána Pavla II. po kresťanskej jednote Európy, ktorú prirovnal k plúciam zloženým z dvoch častí - východnej a západnej. Kardinál Ľubomyr Huzár, kyjevsko-haličský vrchný gréckokatolícky arcibiskup vyjadril radosť z toho, že mohol byť pri susedoch počas takej historickej udalosti. Obdivoval entúziazmus veriacich v hale, ktorá sa zmenila na duchovný chrám. Organizátori odhadli počet na tejto slávnosti prítomných na okolo osemtisíc veriacich. Gréckokatolícka cirkev by mala v budúcnosti podľa kardinála Jozefa Tomka zo svojej silnej viery dať aj racionalistickému Západu Európy. "Nech prídu obdivovať vaše liturgie, vaše drevené kostoly," povedal. Ako Jozef Tomko dodal, v tejto časti Slovenska "keď sa verí, tak sa verí naplno", je to prejav srdca. Babjak považuje slávnosť za zázrak, pretože gréckokatolícka cirkev odsúdená na zánik sa stala živou, kvitnúcou. Dúfa, že slávnosť upevní veriacich vo viere, vo vernosti cirkvi.

## Dôležité oznámenie

Ako sme už predtým oznámili v prvom štvrtroku 2008 zvyšujeme počet našich členov, ktorí skoro stopercentne dostanú časopis JEDNOTA. Aby sme udržali v súlade naše celkové náklady musíme znížiť počet vychádzajúcich čísel z 26 za celý rok na 21.

Veľkosť a kvalita časopisu Jednota zostane nezmenená.

Dôvod k týmto zmenám je jednoduchý. JEDNOTA je náš hlavný komunikačný prostriedok s našimi členmi. Mnoho z našich členov ani nevie, že vôbec existujeme.

Chceme komunikovať s našimi členmi. Odkedy je náš časopis na internete na [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), nietorí hádam dajú prednosť si ho prečítať na internete, miesto doručenia poštou. Ak sa rozhodnete pre JEDNOTU len na internete, oznámte nám to láskave telefonicky 1-800-JEDNOTA (1-800-533-6682) alebo e-mailom: [fcsu@aol.com](mailto:fcsu@aol.com) aby sme mohli vaše meno vyňať z nášho zoznamu Jednoty zasielanej poštou.



FOTO TK KBS  
V Prešove sa konala 17. februára 2008 intronizácia arcibiskupa a metropolitu Jána Babjaka SJ (na snímke).

# Kvetná nedeľa

Posledná pôstna nedeľa, známa pod menom Kvetná nedeľa, alebo Nedeľa utrpenia Pána, je prvým dňom Veľkého týždňa. Kvetná nedeľa nám pripomína rozhodnutie židovskej rady o Ježišovej smrti a kresťania si počas nej pripomínajú triumfálny vstup Ježiša Krista do Jeruzalema. V tento deň sa svätia palmové alebo olivové ratolesti, na Slovensku najčastejšie bahniatka, tie sa potom spália na popolec, ktorý bude použitý pri obradoch Popolcovej stredy budúceho roku. Bahniatka si na posvätenie prinášajú aj ľudia, tie si potom nosia domov ako posvätenú vec a zakladajú ich za obrazy, zapichujú do tráv, dávajú do vázy a kedysi ich dávali aj do poľa či do maštale. Svätenie zelených ratolestí zaviadla cirkev ešte v 7. storočí.

Obrady Kvetnej nedele sa skladajú z dvoch častí: zo spomienok na Pánov vstup do Jeruzalema a zo svätej omše zasvätenej pamiatke Kristovho utrpenia, v ktorej sa prednášajú pašie - časť evanjelia, v ktorom sa opisuje Pánovo umučenie. Pašie (lat. passio - utrpenie)

- opis utrpenia a smrti Ježiša Krista od Poslednej večere až po jeho smrť na kríži, ako ho podávajú evanjelisti.

Kvetnou nedeľou sa začína Veľký týždeň. Jeho hlavnou myšlienkou je Pánovo umučenie, ktoré sa slávi tri dni už od 4. storočia, z toho je názov Veľkonočné trojdnie. Ono je vlastne vyvrcholením Veľkého týždňa. Začína sa omšou Večera Pána na Zelený štvrtok a končí sa večerami Veľkonočnej nedele. Veľký týždeň - slovenské pomenovanie obdobia známeho v liturgii ako Habdomada sancta (Svätý týždeň).

Posledné tri dni Veľkého týždňa - tzv. (Veľkonočné) posvätné trojdnie alebo triduum - Zelený štvrtok, Veľký piatok a Biela sobota, majú bohatý liturgický obsah a symboliku. Je to spoločné pomenovanie troch dní, v ktorých si Cirkev pripomína udalosti nášho vykúpenia v ich historickom poradí: Kristovu smrť na Veľký piatok, Krista uloženého v hrobe na Bielu sobotu a Kristovo zmŕtvychvstanie na Veľkonočnú nedeľu.

TK KBS

## Svetoznámy tenorista Andrea Bocelli vystúpi na Slovensku

Bratislava (TASR) - Po vypredanom turné v USA sa svetoznámy taliansky tenorista Andrea Bocelli po prvý raz predstaví publiku na Slovensku. Pred plánovaným turné po Austrálii sa zatiaľ jediný európsky koncert Bocelliho uskutoční 7. mája 2008 v Steel Aréne v Košiciach.

Sen jedného z najslávnejších spevákov sveta sa začal v Toskánsku. Narodil sa s nevyliciteľnou očnou chorobou, ktorá spôsobila, že v 12 rokoch oslepol. Miloval hudbu, inšpirovali ho operné árie z Pucciniho a Verdiho tvorby, preto začal chodiť na súkromné hodiny spevu k známemu talianskému tenoristovi Frankovi Corellimu. Od barového piana sa v priebehu niekoľkých mesiacov dostal na svetové spevácke nebo.

Superhviezda menom Bocelli sa zrodila v roku 1992, keď taliansky spevák Zuccheru hľadal druhý hlas do duetu piesne Miserere, ktorá sa dodnes spieva po celom svete. Zuccheru pôvodne ponúkol naspievať Miserere Pava-

rottimu, ten však odmietol so slovami: "Ďakujem za krásnu pieseň. Ale vy ma nepotrebuje, nech Miserere naspieva Andrea Bocelli. Lepšie to nikto nedokáže. Druhý veľký úspech prišiel o dva roky neskôr, keď zvíťazil na festivale San Rémo s absolútne najväčším počtom bodov v histórii tejto súťaže. Objavil sa zo dňa na deň, svojím výnimočným hlasom zmietol všetkých európskych konkurentov a zapáčil sa publiku na celom svete.

Bocelli nahral viacero duetov s hviezdami ako Luciano Pavarotti, Jose Carreras, Sarah Brightman, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Bryan Adams, Eros Ramazzoti, Christina Aguilera a Celine Dion. Spieval pre Jána Pavla II., Billa Clintona, Georgea Busha či anglický kráľovnú. Počas svojej nie dlhej speváckej kariéry predal viac ako 55 miliónov platní. Pieseň Con te partiro sa viac ako pol roka držala na najvyšších priečkach svetových hitparád a stala sa najpredávanejším singlom v histórii gramofónového priemyslu.

## Katolícka cirkev je pripravená rokovať o odluke cirkvi od štátu

Bratislava (TASR) - Z pohľadu katolíckej cirkvi odluka cirkvi od štátu vlastne už je, pretože bola prijatá Základná zmluva medzi Slovenskou republikou a Vatikánom. V tomto dokumente je jasne zafinancované, aké sú kompetencie štátu a cirkvi a odluka to je vlastne dohoda, uviedol pre TASR hovorca Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) Jozef Kováčik.

Ako ďalej konštatoval, keď sa spomína odluka cirkvi od štátu, týka sa to väčšinou ekonomických otázok. A ekonomická otázka je zachytená v Základnej zmluve medzi SR a Vatikánom s tým, že bude naplnená v čiastkovej

zmluve. "Je na štáte, aby pristúpil k rokovaniu o tejto zmluve. My sa hlásime k jej prijatiu. Ekonomicko-právne oddelenie KBS už dlhší čas študuje modely financovania cirkvi v zahraničí a možnosti ich aplikovania v podmienkach Slovenskej republiky. Naši zástupcovia budú na rokovania so štátom o týchto otázkach pripravení," povedal Kováčik. Pokiaľ ide o návrh, ktorý pripravili v Českej republike, podľa slov hovorca KBS nie je to model financovania cirkvi, ale forma reštitúcie, nakoľko sa tam reštitúcie majetku cirkvi neuskutočnili.

# Krátke správy zo Slovenska

**Bratislava (TASR)** – Hrubý domáci produkt (HDP) Slovenska vzrástol v 4. štvrtroku minulého roka o rekordných 14.1%. Za celý rok 2007 slovenská ekonomika rástla o 10.3%, čo bolo tiež najviac v jej histórii. Vyplýva to z rýchleho odhadu, ktorý 14. februára zverejnil Štatistický úrad (SÚ) SR.

**Najvýznamnejšiu** pozíciu za Ozbrojené sily (OS) SR v histórii samostatného Slovenska zastával v zahraničí brigádny generál Pavel Macko. V rámci hlavného veliteľstva ISAF International Security Assistance Forces - Medzinárodné sily pre podporu bezpečnosti) v Afganistane tam pôsobil ako náčelník Štábu riadenia a koordinácie operácií. Macko odchádza plniť úlohy do Heidelbergu, kde by ho mali v lete vystriedať. Macko, ktorý pôsobil na veliteľstve pozemných síl NATO v nemeckom Heidelbergu, vyslala Severoatlantická aliancia do Afganistanu v auguste 2007.

**Poskytovať** inžinierske a konzultačné služby pre firmy oceliarskeho, petrochemického, energetického, ťažobného a automobilového priemyslu a stavebníctva je zámerom novej americkej spoločnosti Globex Slovakia, ktorá sa etablovala v Košiciach. Ide o dcérsku spoločnosť americkej firmy Globex Corporation. Globex Corporation je inžiniersko-konzultačná a projekčno-poradenská spoločnosť založená v roku 1980 v štáte Ohio v USA. Počas viac ako 28 rokov existencie zabezpečuje inžinierske služby pre klientov v rôznych priemyselných oblastiach v USA a Európe. Okrem americkej centrály v štáte Ohio je Globex Corporation zastúpená v Európe svojou prvou dcérskou spoločnosťou so sídlom v Srbsku. Pri investícii v Košiciach ide o vytvorenie niekoľkých desiatok pracovných inžinierskych pozícií.

**Postup** Slovenska na ceste k bezvízovému styku so Spojenými štátmi americkými je podľa ministra zahraničných vecí Jána Kubiša dobrý, čo mu potvrdili aj výroky niektorých predstaviteľov USA počas jeho návštevy krajiny. "Americkí partneri mi potvrdzovali, že robíme dobrú prácu, čo sa nakoniec odráža aj v pozitívnom trende pokiaľ ide o plnenie kritéria desať percent odmietnutých žiadostí o vízum," povedal Kubiš po stretnutí s prezidentom SR Ivanom Gašparovičom. Konštatoval, že Slovensko je jednou z krajín, pri ktorej sa môže uvažovať, že v prípade splnenia spomínaného kritéria dôjde k posunu ohľadne zrušenia víz.

**Historické** knihy, ktoré ukradol zlodej z knižnice z Kláštora pod Znievom neďaleko Martina, našli maďarskí policajti. Informoval o tom 20. februára policajný hovorca Martin Korch. O krádeži kníh zo 16. až 19. storočia v hodnote asi 56,000 korún informovala slovenská polícia v prvej polovici januára. Zlodej ich ukradol ešte vlni pravdepodobne počas návštevnych hodín. Policajti zaznamenali na Slovensku v poslednom období niekoľko prípadov krádeže historických či umeleckých diel. Ročne krajina príde podľa dostupných informácií asi o 150 pamiatok. Väčšina z nich smeruje do zahraničných súkromných zbierok.

**Mesto** Poprad sa bude rozširovať. Nedostatok voľných stavebných pozemkov v zastavanom území mesta núti investorov zaujímať sa o pozemky v extraviláne mesta. Najväčší záujem je v súčasnosti o pozemky medzi Svitom a Popradom. Bratislavská spoločnosť BZ Group, s.r.o. kúpila od mesta Poprad pozemky na hranici s katastrom Svitu s celkovou rozlohou vyše 226,000 štvorcových metrov. Toto územie pripravujú ako dlhodobjšiu investíciu s orientáciou na logisticko-obchodnú zónu až po individuálnu bytovú výstavbu. Záujmové územie spoločnosti BZ Group v tejto lokalite je oveľa väčšie, keďže spoločnosť vykupuje ďalšie pozemky od súkromných vlastníkov. Novú výstavbu v extraviláne Popradu plánuje aj spoločnosť RoTTel Management, s.r.o. Poprad. Spoločnosť kúpila od mesta Poprad pozemky s rozlohou vyše 36,000 štvorcových metrov pod lesom v mestskej časti Kvetnice. Tento rok by chceli začať s výstavbou inžinierskych sietí a na budúci rok už so samotnou výstavbou rodinných domov.

**Vysťahovalectvo** z Horehronia sa prehľbuje. Z tejto hladovej doliny odchádzajú najmä mladí ľudia za prácou mimo mesta, regiónu a v mnohých prípadoch aj mimo Slovenskej republiky. Primátor centra Horehronia, Brezna Jaroslav Demian tvrdí, že počet obyvateľov klesá od roku 1995, ale posledné dva roky ich ubúda aj napriek tomu, že sa viac detí narodí ako starých ľudí umrie. Za obdobie posledných desať rokov nevstúpil do oblasti žiadny výrazný investor a nevytvorili sa nové pracovné príležitosti motivujúce mladých ľudí k snahe pracovať vo svojom rodisku. Breznianska samospráva preto začala aktívne spolupracovať s ministerstvom hospodárstva a agentúrou SARIO na získavaní investorov do prepravovaného nového priemyselného parku Brezno - Rohozná, na ktorý tento mesiac vláda SR vyčlenila 200 miliónov korún.

**Priemyselný** park v Kechnici v okrese Košice - okolie, kde sa už etablovali traja významní investori s americkým kapitálom, navštívil 22. februára veľvyslanec USA v SR Vincent Obsitnik. Prvým investorom v Kechnici bola v roku 2000 spoločnosť Molex, ktorá už zamestnáva približne 1,000 ľudí za ňou prišla v roku 2003 spoločnosť Plastipak a napokon strategický investor Getrag Ford Transmissions. Ten vlni v novembri otvoril v Kechnici moderný závod na výrobu prevodoviek a vytvoril zatiaľ 450 pracovných miest. Obsitnik sa tretel s manažmentom a prezrel si prevádzky firiem a ocenil aj celkovú koncepciu priemyselného parku a jeho prepojenie na rozvoj obce. Prísľúbil pomoc v rámci svojich možností a kompetencií pri ďalšom rozvoji parku a súvisiacich investícií, ako je pripravovaná výstavba rýchlostnej cesty z Košíc cez Kechnec na maďarskú hranicu, či Integrovaná európska škola. Priemyselný park Kechnec je všeobecne považovaný za jeden z najlepších na Slovensku. Etablovalo sa v ňom už 16 slovenských a zahraničných spoločností a svoje prevádzky plánujú postaviť ďalší investory. Od svojho vzniku pritiahol investície v celkovej výške takmer 15 miliárd Sk a dokázal vytvoriť približne 2,500 priamych pracovných príležitostí.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## Uctili si pamiatku 120. výročia úmrtia J. M. Hurbana



FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Podpredsedníčka NR SR Anna Belousovová ( tretia zľava), premiér SR Robert Fico (štvrtý zľava), prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič (piaty zľava) a poslanec NR SR Tibor Mikuš (šiesty zľava) počas pietnej spomienky pri mohyle Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana 22. februára 2008 v Hlbokom pri príležitosti 120. výročia jeho úmrtia.

**Hlboké (TASR)** – Rok Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana bol skvelou príležitosťou pripomenúť si jeho zásluhy pre slovenskú politiku, kultúru a duchovný život. V slávnostnom prejave pri príležitosti ukončenia roku J. M. Hurbana pri jeho mohyle v Hlbokom to povedal 22. februára prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič. Premiér Robert Fico v tejto súvislosti povedal, že rozumný historizmus je oficiálnou súčasťou politiky. "Chceme pripomínať slovenskej verejnosti nielen významné udalosti, ale predovšetkým aj vynikajúcich predstaviteľov slovenského národa. Netreba o tom pochybovať, že Hurban medzi tieto významné osobnosti nepochybne patrí. Ďalej uviedol, že v roku 2008 bude veľa príležitostí na takéto podujatia.

Oslava J. M. Hurbana sa konala pod záštitou predsedu Trnavského samosprávneho kraja Tibora Mikuša. Na pietnej spomienke pri príležitosti 120. výročia úmrtia Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana sa zúčastnili aj podpredsedníčka Národnej rady SR Anna Belousovová a Pavel Delinga, generálny dozorca evanjelickej cirkvi ausburského vyznania na Slovensku.

Jozef Miloslav Hurban bol významný kňaz, teológ, filozof, politik, publicista a veľký bojovník za práva slovenského národa. Bol vydavateľom a redaktorom najstaršieho literárneho periodika v strednej Európe - Slovenských pohľadov. Asistoval pri tvorbe novej spisovnej slovenčiny. V júli 1843 na fare v Hlbokom prijali spolu s Ľudovítom Štúrom a M. M. Hodžom rozhodnutie o uzákonení spisovnej slovenčiny na základe stredoslovenského nárečia. Rok Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana vyhlásil predseda parlamentu Pavol Paška vo februári 2007. Počas tohto obdobia sa konalo množstvo akcií, ktorých cieľom bolo uctiť si tohto významného Slováka.

## Štipendiá vlády SR pre krajanov na roky 2008-2009

Vážení krajanovia, v prílohe zasielame potrebné informácie Ministerstva školstva SR súvisiace s ponukou štipendií vlády SR pre krajanov ako sú: podmienky poskytovania štipendií vlády SR v troch jazykových mutáciách, list MŠ SR a informáciu o finančných podmienkach poskytovania štipendií vlády SR. Všetky ďalšie informácie týkajúce sa štipendií vlády SR vrátane formulárov žiadosti o poskytnutie štipendia vlády SR sú dostupné na internetovej stránke MŠ SR: [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) alebo [www.studyin.sk](http://www.studyin.sk). V prípade záujmu o zaslanie formulárov žiadosti o poskytnutie štipendia vlády SR prosíme oznámiť tento záujem OKSK - Odbore kultúrnych stykov a krajanov (Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí Slovenskej republiky, Hlboká cesta 2, Bratislava, Slovakia).

Ďalej informujeme, že brožúra MŠ SR "Ako na vysokú školu" pre akademický rok 2008/2009 nebola vydaná v tlačenej podobe, ale je dostupná v elektronickej forme na [www.portalvs.sk](http://www.portalvs.sk), kde sú informácie o možnostiach štúdia na verejných vysokých školách

v SR. Zahraničným partnerom odporúčame prístup cez [www.studyin.sk](http://www.studyin.sk), kde sú informácie v anglickom jazyku.

Kompletné osobné materiály (pozn. - čo je potrebné priložiť k žiadosti o štipendium vlády SR je uvedené na poslednej strane formulára žiadosti) uchádzačov o štipendiá - krajanov z jednotlivých krajín spolu s odporúčaním krajanovej organizácie je potrebné doručiť na MZV SR (OKSK) do 30. mája 2008. Žiadosti nespĺňajúce potrebné náležitosti a žiadosti doručené po 30. 5. 2008 nebudú zaradené na zasadanie výberovej komisie.

Pozn. - Príslušné krajiny môžu nominovať aj viac uchádzačov o štipendium vlády SR ako je schválená ponuka pre danú krajinu na rok 2008/2009 s tým, že o týchto uchádzačoch pokiaľ budú spĺňať všetky potrebné náležitosti môže rozhodnúť výberová komisia MŠ SR v prípade nenaplnenia schválených kvót zo strany iných krajín.

Ďakujem za pochopenie a spoluprácu

Stella Kukučková  
Veľvyslanectvo SR, Washington DC



# Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

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## Gréckokatolíci slávilí povýšenie svojej cirkvi na metropolitnú

Prešov (TASR) – Zadosťučinením pre Gréckokatolícku cirkev na Slovensku sa stala 17. februára slávnosť v Prešove na počesť povýšenia cirkvi na metropolitný stupeň. Niekoľko tisícok zhromaždených veriacich prečítali dve buly z tohoročného 30. januára, ktorými pápež Benedikt XVI. vyhlásil nové územné členenie tejto cirkvi v SR a menoval za arcibiskupa metropolitu prešovského doterajšieho prešovského eparchu Jána Babjaka.

Rozhodnutie Benedikta XVI. korunovalo niekoľkoročné úsilie o nové územné usporiadanie tejto cirkvi. Nové členenie obsahuje nielen vytvorenie novej metropolie so sídlom v Prešove, ale aj nového biskupstva so sídlom v Bratislave a povýšenie doterajšieho apoštolského exarchátu v Košiciach na biskupstvo.



FOTO TK KBS  
V Košiciach 18. februára 2008 sa konala intronizácia Mons. Milana Chautura na post 1. Košického eparchu. Na snímke štvrtý sprava.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

## U.S. Steel prispel na kabinet bezpečnosti práci

Košice-Šaca (TASR) – Približne jeden milión korún vyčlenila vlni hutnícka spoločnosť U.S. Steel Košice na svoj grantový program V školách bezpečnejšie. Jeho hmatateľným výsledkom je aj špeciálna učebňa - Kabinet bezpečnosti a ochrany zdravia pri práci, ktorú otvorili 20. februára v SOU hutníckom v Košiciach -Šaci.

Na jeho zriadenie poskytla spoločnosť U.S. Steel 263,000 Sk. Je prvý svojho druhu v odbornom školstve na Slovensku a môže poslúžiť ako príklad pri príprave kvalifikovaných absolventov pre potreby výrobných firiem.

SOU hutnícke totiž zo svojich 750 žiakov až 550 pripravuje pre potreby U.S. Steel Košice. Ako uviedol prezident spoločnosti David Lohr, súťaž V školách bezpečnejšie je len pokračovaním ich prioritného programu Profesionáli pracujú bezpečne. Aj vďaka jemu sa v U.S. Steel podarilo znížiť za posledné

roky pracovnú úrazovosť o 80 percent.

Podľa viceprezidenta U.S. Steel pre Ľudské zdroje Martina Pitoráka je to aj ich príspevok do diskusie pri príprave nového školského zákona. "Legislatíva by mala zvýhodňovať a motivovať investorov a firmy, ktoré finančne podporujú prepojenie školskej výchovy s praxou," povedal Pitorák.

Žiaci SOU Hutníckeho v Košiciach -Šaci majú v novom kabinete s kapacitou pre 30 žiakov najmodernejšiu didaktickú a audiovizuálnu techniku a ochranné pomôcky, ktorými si môžu modelovať rôzne situácie ohrozujúce zdravie a priblížiť si výrobný proces predtým, než nastúpia na prax do hutníckej fabriky. Problémové a nebezpečné situácie môžu aj sami nakrúcať. Kabinet podľa Šablatúru môže slúžiť aj ostatným odborným školám v Košiciach.

## Americký veľvyslanec v SR na Ekonomickej univerzite v Bratislave

Bratislava (TASR) – Americký veľvyslanec v Slovenskej republike Vincent Obsitnik 27. februára na Ekonomickej univerzite v Bratislave prednášal na tému prezidentských volieb v USA. Odpovedal tiež na otázky študentov, ktoré sa okrem volieb sústredili aj na problematiku zrušenia víz, slovensko-amerických vzťahov, Iraku a Kosova. Veľvyslanec vyzdvihol dôležitosť memoranda o porozumení v oblasti zrušenia vízového režimu, ktoré nedávno podpísali vo Washingtone ministri vnútra USA a Českej republiky Michael Chertoff a Ivan Langer. Zdôraznil pritom, že Slovensko je na rovnakej ceste k bezvízovému styku s USA ako Česká republika. "Slovensko je na rovnakej ceste. Ideme správnym smerom. V prípade podpísania všetkých dokumentov a poklesu počtu zamietnutých žiadostí o vízum pod desať percent môže Slovensko byť silným kandidátom. Som veľkým optimistom," konštatoval počas diskusie so študentmi Obsitnik.

Americko-slovenské rokovania pokračovali minulý týždeň rozhovormi o bezpečnostných otázkach spojených so zrušením víz, za týmto účelom do SR pricestovala delegácia americkej administratívy. Veľvyslanec označil priebeh diskusií za úspešný. Obe strany budú v blízkej budúcnosti rokovať aj o texte podobného memoranda o porozumení, aké podpísala ČR. Podľa Obsitnika je kritérium poklesu percenta zamietnutých žiadostí o vízum jediným závažnejším problémom, ktorý by mohol skomplikovať zaradenie Slovenska do bezvízového styku.

Americký diplomat hovoril so študentmi Ekonomickej univerzity prevažne o novembrových prezidentských voľbách v USA. Stručne im objasnil systém výberu kandidátov v primárnych voľbách, aktuálnu situáciu v predvolebnej kampani a načrtnol aj profily jednotlivých kandidátov. Obsitnik varoval pred predčasným stiahnutím amerických vojakov z Iraku a zdôraznil, že takýto krok by mohol viesť k zhoršeniu bezpečnostnej situácie vo svete. V súlade s politikou administratívy prezidenta Georgea W. Busha tiež podporil vyhlásenie nezávislosti Kosova.

## Bratislavský hrad čaká rekonštrukcia za 2 miliardy Sk

Bratislava (TASR) – Som prvý Košičan, ktorý za jednu zo svojich priorit považuje rekonštrukciu Bratislavského hradu. Aj takto komentoval predseda Národnej rady (NR) SR Pavol Paška na tlačovej konferencii 21. februára zámer obnovy tejto národnej kultúrnej pamiatky. Kancelária NR SR vyčlenila zo štátneho rozpočtu už na tento rok takmer 300 miliónov Sk. Celkovo si rekonštrukčné práce v období asi piatich rokov vyžadujú až 2 miliardy Sk. Práve v tento deň bol aj konečný termín verejného obstarávania, v ktorom mohli záujemcovia o rekonštrukčné práce predložiť cenové ponuky. Víťaz bude známy koncom marca. Samotná rekonštrukcia Hradu ráta s 2 etapami. Prvou bude obnova hradného paláca a druhou celého hradného areálu. Podľa Pašku je zámerom rekonštrukcie sprístupnenie Hradu širokej verejnosti tak, aby prestal plniť len štátne a reprezentačné funkcie, ale predovšetkým sa stal živým, kultúrno-spoločenským centrom pre občanov a zahraničných turistov. Rekonštrukčné práce na hradnom paláci uzavrú areál v prvej fáze asi na dva roky. Po obnove vzniknú nové priestory pre hradnú obrazáreň, sprístupnia sa depozitáre Slovenského národného múzea, pribudne pôvodná francúzska záhrada a zimná jazdiareň sa premení na multifunkčné kultúrne centrum. Návštevníci si budú môcť prezrieť aj suterénne priestory, ktoré sú kvôli narušenej statike Hradu dosiaľ uzavreté. Ráta sa aj s výstavbou podzemných garáží pre vyše 200 vozidiel. Hradný areál spestria rekonštrukcie severnej časti a hornej východnej terasy. Budú tu situované historické nálezy osídlenia z čias Veľkej Moravy a mala by pribudnúť aj jazdecká socha Svätopluka.

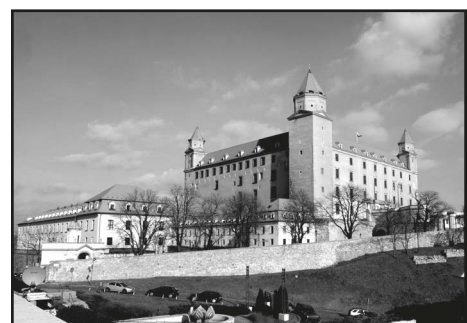


FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškáš  
Pohľad na Bratislavský hrad 7. februára 2008.